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JOURNAL

OF THE

CAMPAIGN AT NEW YORK

1776-7

[BY BENJAMIN TRUMBULL.]

(175)

[Cover leaf missing, with the beginning of the diary.]

... and apparent Friendship, earnestly invited you on Board the Fleet, and intimated that Lord Howe had Instructions enabling him to reconcile all Matters, if there were in us any Disposition to reconciliation. The American Officers had no Instructions to go on Board and therefore declined it. Lord Howe said General Washington's Message contained Matters of so Serious a Nature that he wanted Time to give an Answer, and desired they would not expect it till Tomorrow.

The same Day a Flag was sent to Amboy with Letters to the Governors of the Continent, excepting those of New England, with Lord Howes Proclamation of Pardon to all such as would lay down their Arms, and swear Allegiance to his British Majesty; and intimating the ample Powers with which his Lordship was vested to receive any Governments, Bodies of men, or Individuals into the Kings Protection on their Laying down their Arms and asking Pardon. These Letters were sent to General Washington, and by him forwarded to the Congress. By these Letters it appears, That, we are not to expect any Thing from them but Devastation and slaughter unless we absolutely submit to their Will.

July 16th 1776. Towards Night the Flag expected from Lord Howe came up brought two Letters one to Lieut. Colonel Camel,* in answer to his at Boston, and another Directed to George Washington Esq^r. &c; &c; &c. As it did not give the General his Title he would not receive it.

* Sir Archibald Campbell, taken prisoner in Boston Harbor just after Howe left it. March 17 previous.

Friday July 19th. A Flag came from Lord Howe desiring a personal interview with some principal Officers of the Army. General Washington appointed the Next Day for an Interview with their Adjutant General.

On Saturday July 20th Adjutant came up again and was Met by Genral Washington and several of the other Generals of the united States. His Tarry was about 15 Minutes. Nothing very material passed between them.

Saturday July 20th. General Washing[ton] had an Express bringing a Letter from General Lee, acquainting him with the Defeat of the British Fleet and Army before Charlestown. Several Capital Ships were much Damaged, a frigate 28 Guns abandoned, burnt and blown up. 172 of the Enemy killed and wounded. Among these were several Officers of Consequence.

Lords Day July 21st. There was some firing between the British and Continental Troops at Bergens Point, but nothing very material happened.

Tuesday July 23rd an Account arrived from Philadelphia, that Lord Dunmore was driven from Gwyns Island: Three Tenders fell into the Hands of the Americans, Three vessels, two small ones and one large one Supposed to be the Dunmore was burnt by the Enemy. Several of the Enemys soldiers and officers were killed or wounded. 150 Graves and 12 Dead Negroes were found there, one Piece of Cañon, one Tent &c.

Some of the Regulars who went up the River, some Time Since, attempted to pass the Battery at the High Lands, but received Damage and returned. They landed some of their men at Peeks Kill, burnt the House of Mr John Lilly and a field of corn: A Number of the Militia attacked and killed Seven of them without any Loss, on their Side.

July 24th. This Day the Declaration of Lord Viscount Howe of the Kingdom of Ireland* was published in one of the New York Gazette's. Five Died Sabbath Day and Monday out of the General Hospital.

July 25th. Yesterday a Man Died out of Colonel Gay's Regiment in Brigadier Wadsworths Brigade, three more I understand out of the General Hospital.

Saturday July 27th. Timothy Cadwell of Cap^t Sedgewicks Company departed this life. He belonged to Hartford West Division, and was about 21 Years of Age.

The same Day one Died out of Colonel Seldens Regiment.

Monday July 29th. Abraham Ives of Wallingford Aged about 22 years died. He was in Cap^t Brockets Company in Colonel Douglasses Regiment.

Saturday 7, Sabbath Day 5 or Six and Monday 10 Sail came up through the Narrows and joined the Fleet at Staten Island. The Latter Part of Last Week and the Beginning of this Three Row-Gallies from Connecticut, and Two from Providence arrived at New York.

A Considerable Number of Troops arrived also from Massachusetts Bay.

This Day Two large Fire ships were ordered round into the North River. Three Gallies also put round into the Same River; and Captain Stanton took out two Nine Pounders, and took in two eighteen D^o and began to get in Readiness to move into the said River after them.

† July 30th the Two Row Gallies from Connecticut which had been Stationed about the City of New York having taken in Heavy Guns and being Supplied with

* Sic.

† "June" in text: an obvious slip.

all Necessaries for Action halled round into the North River and sailed up the River in the Night.

August 1st. The Two Gallies from Providence got round into the North River, and Sailed up the River. The New York and 2 of the Connecticut Gallies went up as far as Kings Bridge some Days before.

August 1st. Between 20 and 30 Sail of Ships came up the Narrows, and joined Lord Hows Fleet.

The Same Day the Chevaux De Frize, and Four Large Ships were got down some in to the North River, and some off against Governors Island South of the Town. This Day Sergeant Phinehas Hough of Wallingford in Col. Douglasses Regiment Departed this Life, in the 31st Year of his Life, leaving a bereaved Widow and three Children.

The Evening of the same Day Joined in Wedlock Anderson and Mary Ann Cooper.

August 2nd. A Regiment of Soldiers came in from the Massachusets.

3rd D^o. The Chevaux De Frize was got round into the North River.

August 3^d. The Six Row Gallies Engaged the Kings Ships up Hudsons River for about one Hour and an Half. Receiving Some Damage they drew off in order to refit and engage them again. They Lost one or two men and had several Badly wounded.

D^o. 4th. 15 Sail of the Enemies Ships came up and Joined Lord Howes Fleet on Staten Island.

D^o. Eliab Hall of Wallinford belonging to Cap^t Bunnels Company departed this Life Aged about 21 Years.

The 4th. and fifth the Chevaux De frize's were got up the North River about as far as Fort Washington, &

about the 6 & Seventh were sunk in the Chanel off against that Fort. From the third to the 10 Ships and Chevaux De frizes were Halling round, and making up the North River to Said Place and men were constantly employed in Sinking them.

August 6th. A Man died out of Colonel Sages Regiment, belonging to Killingley.

Toward the Evening of the 8th Three Frigates fell down through the Narrows, and in the Night it is said about 30 Sail of Transports went out with them. This occasioned an Alarm in the Army about Midnight. It is Supposed that these Ships and Transports are going round into the Sound in order to Stop our Communication that Way, and to land an Army on the East of us above King's Bridge to act in concert with the Fleet [and] Army which are to go up North River, and so cut off the Retreat of the whole Army if they can.

August 9th. 900, or a 1000 men arrived from Mary Land, in the Evening One Company arrived from the New Jersey, Part of General Herd's Brigade.

The Same Day a Soldier Died in Colonel Sages Regiment, and another in Colonel Douglasses Regiment. One a more Regiment has arrived from the Massachusets. Three in the whole have arrived from thence.

August 10th. Part of A Regiment arrived from New Jersics.

Sunday August 11th. A Fleet of Sixty Sail appeared at the Hook and off at Sea.

Monday 12th. between Sixty and Seventy Sail of Ships of War and transports arrived at Staten Island, and Many Canon were fired from the Ships.

They have now a large Fleet and Army. Our Fire Ships are all ready and we are waiting for a Suitable Wind to run down with them.

Monday 12th. Isaac Ford of Captain Isham's Company in Colonel Chesters Regiment Died of a Byleous Fever.

Two died the Same Day in Colonel Selden's Regiment, and one in Colonel Silliman's.

Thursday August 15th. One Dickinson Died out of Colonel Douglasses Regiment. He was of Cap^t Higgin's Company, and belonged to Hadam.

The Enemy this Day were discovered to be very Busy in getting men on board their Ships. 40 Transports were moored and lay off receiving men on board down towards the Narrows. Boats were seen so thick on the Waters and there was so much passing & repassing that it seemed almost as though there had been a Bridge of Boats a forming across the Waters. Deserters which come from the Enemy represent that they despise the America[n] Army, and expect to make an easy Conquest of them at once. They the report that they Care neither for our Numbers, nor our Preparations. They Bost themselves on Conquering us as though they had put off the Harness.

O God plead our Cause against them; humble their Pride and Save thy People with the Right Hand of thy Power.

The Evening before the 15th the General expected, that the Enemy would attack us the Nex[t] Morning and gave orders for the Form of Battle. But a heavy rain and contrary wind probably prevented their attacking us.

Friday Morning 16th. The Wind is against the Enemy.

Two Small Fire Ships which had been sent up the North River in order to burn the Ships and Tenders on

the River made an attempt upon the Enemy, grappled one of the fire vessels to the Phenix, and the other to one of the Tenders. The Tender took fire and burnt up, the Phenix Cut herself Loose and got away not much Damaged. The fire vessel was too Small and the Season was very Still or She would have Shared the Same Fate with the Tender.

Many Troops are arriving in Town. Two or three Battalions from the Southward came in yesterday and to Day, and part of Several Regiments from Connecticut, of the Militia of y^e State.

Saturday 17th. The Wind holds Still against the Enemy and Troops arrive fast from Connecticut.

Sunday 18th. Rainy and Wind at North East Fresh against the Enemy. The Ships up the River came down with a Smart Wind and Tide were fired upon from all our Batteries very briskly but got by, apparently without any great Damage they Fired very Smartly upon the Batteries and Town but hurt no man, nor did any Damage except firing through a few Houses, w^{ch} did very little Mischief.

Monday 19th. The Rain abates, but the Wind remains yet unfavourable for the Enemy, and The Army have another Day for Business. They are employed in raising Breastworks, and in Sinking Ships in the Narrow Channel between the City and Governor's Island. More of the Militia come in to Day. A Regiment From old Windsor and the adjacent Towns came in towards Night, and also Col^l Wadsworth's Regiment.

This Day Sergeant Oliver Treat, and Oliver Stevens both of Colonel Chester's Regiment died at the Regimental Hospital.

Tuesday August 20th. A Calm pleasant Day, the

Wind right to bring on the Enemy, though hardly brisk enough. We expect them this Morning. The Day passeth without any Disturbance from the Enemy. Some Companies of Militia come in this Day from Connecticut, a Number of Ships were Sunk this Day between the City and Governor's Island.

21st. a Pleasant Day and wind fair for the Enemy. But they do not attack us. a great Number of their Ships and Transports fall down through the Narrows and make dispositions as though they would Land on the Island which is doubtless their Design.

This Night about 8 o'Clock comes on a most terrible Storm of Thunder and Lightning. Several Houses in the City were Struck with Lightning. The old City Hall in Particular and a large House in w^{ch} were a Number of the Connecticut Militia. One man was killed outright and three more much hurt. Several Boxes of Catridges took fire by the Lightning in the Same House and blew up. Three Officers, One Captain, one Lieutenant and an Ensign of Colonel MacDougalls Battalion were killed together in one Tent. Lieut Homes of *Ashford in Colonel Chesters Hospital, aged 53 years* departed this Life, and John Goodyear of Colonel Douglas's Regiment died the Same Day.

August 22. There is this morning a great Motion of the Enemy. Many Transports and Some Heavy Ships fall down through the Narrows and before noon begin to Land on Long Island. The out Posts of the Continental Army Set Fire to the Corn buildings &c before the Enemy which make a great Smoke and Show. The Account this Day is that four or five Thousands are landed on the Island. It is probable to me that more than double that Number have or will soon Land there,

as it appears to me that half the Transports or more are gone out through the Narrows. Huntingtons, Tylers, & Silimans Regiments were ordered on to Long Island with a Regiment of Riflemen, and were Transported across with much Expedition.

Colonel Sages also passed over to Governors Island. Colonel Chesters was ordered to be in readiness to pass over to the Island, and Colonel Wyllys's and one Battalion of the New Yorkers.

August 23. There were Colonel Wyllys's and Colonel Chesters Regiments ordered to march for the Island and between Twelve and one O'Clock they Passed over to said Island. Colonel Lashers Battalion the 1 Battalion of the New York Militia soon crossed after them; and the third Battalion of New Yorkers also passed over to resist the Enemy.

This Day Ebenezer Cook died out of Col^l. Douglasses H[ospital]. Several Rencounters happened between the Enemy and the Troops of the united State[s] this Day. In the Forenoon 300, or 400, advantageously posted were driven from their Post by the continental Troops 20 or 30 Cattle taken from them and Some Grain and buildings burnt which y^e had taken possession of. In the Afternoon a more general Firing happened with the Enemy in w^{ch} they were worsted and retreated about half a Mile. A number of Officers hangers were taken and one Dead Body. A Number of Houses were deserted by the Enemy, and fired by our Troops, with Stacks of Grain &c

Saturday August 24th. Our Troops and the Enemy Canonade and Fire at each other; but nothing very material happens. Their Camp appears Large, consisting of many Thousands, it Seems of a great Part of the

Enemies Army. Two or three Regiments more from the Continental Army were ordered onto the Island, and passed over in the Afternoon. Some few were wounded both yesterday and to Day by the Enemy. One died of his Wounds this Day. Colonel Martin of one of the Jersey Battalions very badly wounded.

Sabbath Day August 25th. Several Battalions pass over to Long Island; and advanced Parties keep Skirmishing with each other, and Some few are killed and wounded on either Side. The Enemy appear to be entrenching in the Plain Country and our Troops fortify on the Hills around y^m. We had at New York a quiet Sabbath I preached three Sermons. The Evening and Night were very rainy. We have had of late much wet Weather. This Day Sergeant Curtice Died out of Colonel Chesters Regiment.

Monday August 26th. The Regulars began in the afternoon to advance in Large Columns up towards flat Bush, and some were seen to file off towards the Grand Road to New-Town &c. Some Skirmishing happened but nothing very material passed.

27. Tuesday Morning as early as three o'Clock Our Out Posts were some of them attacked, and it Soon appeared that the Enemy by a Strategem, had passed a road on our Left and brought on their [?] Light Horse and Light Infantry, so, as to surround our Men, and Lord Sterling with a considerable party of Men, who went out to his Assistance, were flanked and in a manner Surround them so that many of them were killed and taken, Lord Sterling is missing, and General Sullivan, Colonel Was Killed, Colonel Clark is missing and many other officers. Colonel Huntingtons Regiment a great Part of them are missing. All our out Posts were Lost, and the Enemy advanced near the Lines.

Aug. 28. Wednesday Morning about 3 o'Clock General Parsons got into our Lines having made his Escape from the Enemy with Seven men only. He had to fight through the Enemy as he says Six or Seven Times.

Thursday August 29th, it was determined by a Council of War to attempt a Retreat from Long Island if possible. Orders were out in the afternoon for the Regiments* that had been on the Lines for Several Days to Parade at Seven O'Clock at the Head of their Regiments,* when they Should be relieved by a Number of Troops w^o it was represented were to arrive under General Mercer.

All the afternoon Things were embarking on Board out of the Sight of the Enemy and as soon as ever the Dusk of the Evening favoured the regiments began to embark in vessels Boats &c. for N. York, and passed with great Expedition and they kept embarking and passing all Night as fast as possible and passing with Stores Ammunition &c., &c. The Same was done from red Hook.

Were not discovered by nor had any Disturbance from the Enemy until Morning at Eight O'Clock all was still and Quiet.

August 30 Friday. About nine o'Clock the Kings Troops advanced to the River and got possession of all Lines & Forts on the Island. Some of the Shiping moved up towards the town, one Large one was towed on near to Governors Island, and demanded a Surrender and as it was represented forbid the Commanding officer to send off any man to the City. However boats were towards evening sent down to the Island and the Troops

* Sic.

began to come off. Upon this the Kings Troops began to Canonade them from the Fort we built on long Island, and from the Shore further down and from red Hook but to very little Effect. The Troops were almost wholly brought off by dusk in the Evening and many of the Tents and in the Night many other Things were brought off. The Heavy Pieces of Canon both on Long Island and on Governors Island I suppose fell into the Hands of the British Troops. Several large Ships in the Evening came up near the Town but did not Fire up on it, nor did our Batteries on them. the Night was quiet and undisturbed.

Saturday August 31st Was for the most Part quiet. Our Boats were manned with volunteers who employed themselves in getting off Tents Provisions, Chests Small Canon &c which had been left the Day before when our People precipitately abandoned it. Colonel Sage Comanded on the Island who did himself no great Honour. But volunteers this Day kept on the Island perpetually and this brought on a Smart Fire between them and the Ships at Times especially towards Night. A Number of Ships got up near the Town off against the Island this Day.

Yesterday the 30 a young man died out of Colonel Douglass's Regiment, and two have died with Sickness out of Colonel Chester's, and Eight or Ten Slain or taken by the Enemy, this Week.

Sabbath Day September 1st. The forenoon was quiet and undisturbed and my Regiment attended publick Worship. In the interim of public Worship the Regiments had orders to hold themselves in immediate Readiness for marching, this prevented our Meeting in the afternoon.

This Day it was determined that the Army Should consist of three grand Divisions, the Right Wing lying at New York, the Centre division to take post at and about Harlem. The Left wing to be placed at and near Kingsbridge. The Left wing to consist of about 10,000 men the others of about 8, or 9,000 each. The Right Wing to be commanded by General Putnam, the Centre by General Spencer, and the Left by Generals Heath and Mifflin. The Number of Brigades to compose each Body was fixed. As Some Generals had been taken and others were unwell it was determined to fix on a Number as Commandants to have the Management and Conduct of a Number of Regiments. Colonels Silliman, Douglas and Chester were appointed for this Purpose, and had four or Five Regiments each assigned to their Command.

Monday September 2nd The Regiments under the Command of Silliman, Chester and Douglas remained under orders to be ready to march at the Shortest Notice, but not to march till further orders. The ships and Transports drew up nearer and nearer the Town, a Frigate of about 20 Guns run up between Red Hook and Governors Island, and about 2 or three o'Clock in the Morning came up by the Town, which occasioned a considerable fire from our Battery on the East River for a Short Time.

Tuesday Morning the Ship coming to Anchor at Turtle Bay near the Stores, Two heavy Canon and a Hobjtz were drawn over on to the Hills to fire upon her.

In the Mean time Colonel Douglas with his Regiment was ordered to Turtle Bay, when with great Expedition they got out of the Stores Some Thousand

Barrels of Flower and rolled them over the Hill out of the Way of the Canon from the Shipping as Soon as the Stores were cleared and the Stores got off out of the Fire of the Shipping Colonel Douglas gave Notice of it to the Major who Commanded the Artillery, and between 8 and 9 o'Clock in the Morning Major Cary began to Fire on the Frigate from an 18 and 12 Pounder, and an 8 Inch Hobitz, which put them into the utmost Confusion. They soon got out many of their men and y^s pushed off for long Island Cut of their Cable, and got out Boats to tow her up the River the Tide favoured her design and there was a Small breeze up the River, so that She got up Slowly out of the Reach of our Canon. The Artillery fired Exceeding well, and put a great many Shot into her. They hit her once Seven Times running. The Frigate got up behind an Island where her hull was Secured almost wholly from the Shot of our Canon. The Canon were soon drawn round opposite to it in the most advantageous Place that could be found and fired a number of Time but could not move her from y^t advantageous Situation.

Wednesday 4. Some Considerable Firing was kept up between the Ship and our Canon on the Shore, but nothing very material was effected.

Thursday September 5th. The Frigate left her Station behind the Island and moved down the River about one Mile, where She came to an Anchor, in a Wide place in the River close off against the Long Island. In the afternoon Several Pieces of Canon were got onto the Opposite Shore, and began to fire on the Ship, but her Distance was so great that they could not force her from her Station. Major Cary had his Foot shot off near the root of his Toes.

There was this Day much Firing and Canonading all round us, but no Damage was done worth mentioning, except the Wounding of Major Cary. It was said three of the Enemy were killed at Hell gate and one wounded.

Friday September 6th 1776. The Last Night and the forenoon entirely still and Quiet, and so it remained the whole Day.

Saturday S. 7th. This Day there was considerable Canonading at Hell Gate and Some at the City but nothing very material Happened.

Sunday September 8th. This Morning the Enemy opened Two three Gun Batteries, and a Bomb Battery upon our Fort at Hell Gate and kept up an heavy Canonade and bombardment upon it most of the Day, killed one man and slightly wounded some others; but nothing very material has happened. This Day about Midnight Sergeant Abraham Basset died very Suddenly. I have been Told that one of Colonel Douglass Men died on Some of the Posts with Sickness since I left the City. There is much Sickness and Indisposition among the Militia. They behave in General at a most Miserable Rate.

Monday September 9th. Our Fort is Strengthened with more Mortars at *hell Gate* and our People ear[l]y this morning begin a very Heavy Canonade and Firing of Shells upon the Enemy which they return Smartly. Towards Midday the Fire abated and there was very little in the Afternoon. Things seemed to be very Still and quiet in all Parts. About nine o'Clock General Spencer Sent orders to his Brigade, intimating that there was a motion of the Enemy, and directing them to lie upon their Arms ready for Action.

Tuesday September 10th. 20 Boat Loads of Regulars landed this morning on an Island above Hell Gate near White Stone. Some Canonading and Bombarding this Day at Hell Gate but not so smart as it was yesterday. The Island mentioned above is Montresours off against Harlem Church, much on this Side of White Stone.

Wednesday September 11th. The ministerial Troops continue the Canonade and Bombardment of the Fort at Hell Gate; but are not able to silence or much Damage it. The Numbers this Day on the Island near Harlem much increase and it appeared as though the Design of the Enemy was to make good a Landing on Harlem Plain. Our People take possession of the Heights, and make some Works for Defence. Colonel Chesters Brigade is ordered to Harlem.

Thursday Sep^r 12th. The Canonade and Bombardment at Hell Gate is very heavy from Morning till near mid Day. 'Tis expected that the Regu[lars] will attempt a Landing this Day at Harlem, the Brigades near at Hand are ordered to be in readiness to march immediately, in case there should be an Attack.

The Firing at Hell Gates abates in the afternoon, three or four of the Canon in the Fort were damaged or Dismounted by the Enemy.

Friday 13th. Towards Night Four Frigates came up, by Town in the East River, and Anchored off against New Town Bay. There was much Firing from our Forts and Batteries upon them, but they passed the Town without firing at it at all. This Night we Expected an Attack, and the Generals, Officers and Soldiers lay in the entrenchments under arms all Night.

* See slip of pen — Montresour's.

However the Enemy, did not attack us, or Show any disposition to do it immediately.

Saturday Sep^r, 14, 1776. The forenoon was calm and Quiet, but Saturday towards Night there was a Smart Canonade from a Number of Ships which Sailed up the East River, from our Batteries on them, and from their Batteries on Long Island and on Governour's Island on our Forts in the Town. The Ships which moved up the East River, four or Five in Number, came to Anchor where the other Ships had lain off against New Town Creek. The Shipping below the Town moved up towards it and Several heavy Ships came up in about a Strait Line with the Town. All things wore the Aspect of a furious attack Soon. The Enemy by this Time had landed many Troops on Montresours Island just by the Plains at Harlem, and had almost Silenced our Fort at Hell Gate, and crowded down towards the Water in considerable Bodies.

At the Same Time our Sick, Tents, Canon Baggage &c were removing with the utmost Expedition out of the Town, and many of the Troops were ordered up to and over Kings Bridge, and others up to Harlem, all the Field Pieces and most of the valuable Canon were removed, but about Five Brigades remained in and about the Town some on one Side and the other of the River. Those on the East River lay all Night in the Entrenchments.

A Little after Day Light on Sunday Morning Sep^r, 15 Two Ships of the Line and three Frigates drew up near the Shore within Musket Shot of the Lines and entrenchments and came to Anchor there in a proper Situation to fire most furiously upon our Lines. In this Situation they lay entirely quiet till about 10 o'Clock.

During this Time boats were passing from the Island to the Ships and men put on Board, and about 100 Boats full of men came out of New Town Creek and made towards the Shore. When Things were thus prepared, The Ships about 10 o'Clock after Firing a Signal Gun began from the mouths of near an 100 Canon a most furious Canonade on the Lines, which Soon levelled them almost with the Ground in some Places, and buried our men who were in the Lines almost Sand and Sods of Earth and made such a dust and Smoke that there was no possibility of firing on the Enemy to any advantage, and then not without the utmost Hazzard, while the Canon poured in Such a tremendous Fire on the Lines the Ships from their round Tops kept up a Smart Fire with Swivels loaded with Grape Shot which they were able to fire almost into the entrenchments they were so near. The boats all this Time kept out of the reach of the Musquetry and finally turning off to the Left a little north of the Lines in the Smoke of the Ships made good their Landing without receiving any annoyance from our Troops. They soon marched up to the main Road and formed across it and on the hills above our Troops in order to cut off their Retreat. The Continental Troops now Left the Lines & there being no General orders given how to form them that they might Support Each each other in a General Attack, or any Disposition made for it, they attempted an escape round the Enemy in the best manner they could, and generally made their Escape.

Colonels Selden, Hart, and Tompson were taken with Major Porter, and Brigadier Major Wyllis and an 150, or 200 men, were either Killed or taken. Some Canon, Tents, Flower and a great Deal of Baggage fell into the

Enemies Hands. This on the whole was an unfortunate Day to the American States. The loss was owing principally to a Want of Wagons & Horses to remove the Guns and Baggage and to the Situation of the Troops Left behind, and the neglect in the officers, in not forming some proper plan of Defence.

The Army was principally called off to the Northward and had been in a State of Retreat from the City for some Days all the Field Pieces had been removed out of the Town and most of the Artillery Companies. And though few Canon had been left in the Forts to keep up the Farce of Defence and Opposition, yet there was not one that could annoy the Shipping or be brought on to the Assistance of the Infantry. They could see nor expect any Assistance from the Troops above as y^e were all retreating. Officers and men had Expected that their Retreat would be cut off unless they could fight their Way through them w^{ch} y^e thout very dangerous and precarious. In such a Situation it was not reasonable to expect that they would make any vigorous Stand. The men were blamed for retreating and even flying in these Circumstances, but I image the Fault was principally in the General Officers in not disposing of things so as to give the men a rational prospect of Defence and a Safe retreat should they engage the Enemy. And it is probable many Lives were saved, and much to the Army prevented in their coming off as y^e did tho' it was not honourable. It is admirable that so few men are lost.

Monday Sep^r 16. A large body of the Enemy advanced towards our Lines, Supposed to be three or four Thousand, and a little before Twelve o'Clock a very Smart and Heavy Fire Commenced between them

and our Rangers and riflemen on the Advanced posts. This was sustained by the Rangers bravely till they were reinforced from the Lines, when the fire grew more sharp and Heavy on both Sides, and continued in the whole for 2 or three Hours, in which Time the Enemy were several Times considerably broken and formed anew, and finally were driven by the Americans about 2 miles, though they were often reinforced. Our men by this Time were much Fatigued, and had some of them *almost Spent their Ammunition, and the General Thought best to order them to retreat.* But few men were Killed and wounded on the Side of the Provincials considering the Heat and duration of the Action. It was Supposed after the Action that not more than 20, or 25 men were killed and about 50 Wounded, but by the Returns afterwards, as far as I could learn about were killed, and about wounded.

It appeared by the blood and trails of the Enemy where they retreated that their Loss was considerable. Our Troops had the honour of behaving well, and the *issue of the Battle gave Spirit to them.*

Tuesday and Wednesday September 17 and 18 Nothing very material happened. The Troops were employed in guarding and Strengthening the Lines at Harlem. Towards Night on y^e 18th a Ship or two moved up the River towards our Lines.

Thursday Sept^r. 19th. Nothing very material today; Our Engineers mark out New Lines between the 10 and 11 mile Stones begin to Fortify the Heights on those Lines, and the men keep constantly at Work to strengthen and compleat the Lines first begun about half a mile below.

Friday Sep^r 20th. Good weather and no Disturbance

from the Enemy. About 10 o'clock at Night New York took fire in various Places and burnt with great fury till near mid Day the next Day. About one third of the City according to the best Accounts are consumed. It is Supposed y^t it was sent on fire by evil minded Persons left in the City, 6 or Seven it is said have been put to Death for it.

Saturday and Sabbath Day 21st and 22^d. No movements of the Enemy worth notice.

Monday Colonel Dudgee retreats from Powlis Hook brings off his Canon Tents &c.

Tuesday and Wednesday 24th. and 25th. Pleasant good Weather our People work at our Lines Prepare Barracks &c. have no Disturbance from the Enemy.

Thursday 26th. A pleasant charming Day for Business, and we have no Disturbance from the Enemy.

Friday 27th. all is Still and quiet.

Saturday 28 the Weather Still remains good and the troops are every Day at work with the greatest Diligence in perfecting our Lines Preparing Barracks &c.

Sabbath Day 29th. A Number of the New York Troops who had enlisted into the Service of the King of Great Britain and were attempting to make their escape last Night to the British Army were taken up by our Guards and this morning confined. Reports are y^t about 20 of the New Yorkers who engaged in the Service of their Country have perfideously enlisted under Major Rogers into the Ministerial Service. Nine were taken last night in attempting to Join the British Army. Two tenders it is said halled up near Shore not far from Morissania to take them in.

Monday 30th. A Pleasant Day and the Troops busily employed in fortifying the Lines.

Tuesday October 1st. Nothing material.

Wednesday Oct^r. 2nd. This Day a great Number of Wagons with about 1,400 Hundred men go down to Harlem to bring off Wheat Hay Corn &c near the Advanced Posts of the Enemy, the Enemy were put into great Motion by it Struct their Tents and manned their out Posts. Great Numbers of the Continental Troops were order on to the Plains afterwards and the Lines were manned and all things prepared for an action; but the Enemy tho' they had a fair Challenge never advanced beyond their Advanced Posts and remained acting wholly on the Defensive. The Wagons Loaded and came off without any Molestation.

Thursday 3rd great Numbers of Wagons go on to the Plains again and come of Loaded with Hay Wheat &c. The Enemy remain Quiet. Towards Night 3 Ships moved up the North River as far as the Advanced Lines of the Enemy, and cast Anchor near the east Shore, where there are now Five Ships of Force and a Tender or two. Two Frigates lie in the East River of against Montrossures Island, against the Enemies Lines on the Right, one of them took her Station there about the Time the Enemy took possession of the Island, the other came up and joined her about two Days since. This has been the Manner of the Enemy to keep their Army constantly flanked with their Ships in all their motions.

Friday 4th. a great Many Loads of Hay Grain &c probably 30 or 40 were brought off from Harlem.

Saturday 5th. A Small Number of the Enemy Landed under the Fire of their Shipping and levelled a Small redoubt our People threw up there before our Retreat from New York. When they had effected it they re-imbarked.

Sabbath Day 6th. our People Left their Post at Bergen and marched up to the Batteries on the Rocks on the West Side of North River a little below Fort Washington. They brought off Canon Tents &c.

Monday October 7 Governor Skeen and Governor Brown were Exchanged for General Lord Sterling and M^r. Lovel. Sanford was this Day taken Sick.

Tuesday 8th. Nothing special to day.

Wednesday 9th. Three 20 Gun Frigates and Two Tenders sail up the River this Morning favoured with Wind and Tide Past our Forts and Chevaux De Frize without any Stop, notwithstanding a most terrible Canonade from all our Batteries. They take two of the Row Gallies and a Sloop and Schooner or two, and come to an Anchor off against Dobbs's Ferry.

Thursday 10th. A Quiet Day. 500 of the Militia from the State of Massachusetts are Stationed at Present at and near Dobbs's Ferry to watch the motion of the Ships and to defend the Coast.

Friday 11th. This Day three men were killed by an unhappy accident. A Number of Men coming down the River in General Washingtons Barge the Artillery at Fort Washington thinking them to be Enemies fired upon them and killed three Private Soldiers and wounded a Captain only with a Single Ball from a 12 Pounder.

Saturday 12th. This morning we had an alarm; The regulars we hear are landing in a large Body near Frogs Point. The Army at the South Lines were ordered to their Posts and drawn up at the Advanced, and South Lines. A great Part of the Army on the other Side of Kings Bridge marched for West Chester, to attract the Enemy. The Enemy landed about 2,000

men on the Point which is a Peninsula; but did not come off from the Point. Our Troops Pulled up the Bridge to prevent their coming off, and the Riflemen fired at them over the Marsh and killed some few men. About 30 Sail of Transports, principally, went up the Sound the Same Day as far as Frogs Point.

Sabbath Day 13th. There is some firing of Field Pieces at Frogs Point but no movement of Importance. A Number of Transports this Day come down the Sound. The Day is Pleasant and the Camp at the Lines quiet.

Monday 14. A Pleasant Day a Brisk wind to the north or rather North east entirely unfavourable for the Enemy. Accounts are that the Enemy are almost all moved off from Straten Island, and that they are thined much at the Lines. The Generals were together yesterday in counsel and are of Opinion that the Enemy are about to make a bold and decisive push, and that a great Part of their Army are on the Move to the Eastward off us to Land above us, and dispositions are making in the Army Accordingly. General MacDougals Brigade were ordered over Kings Brige Yesterday, & Some Regiments are ordered over from the Jersey Side; It is said that the Enemy have abandoned Bergen and Powlis Hook.

Tuesday 15th. Nothing Special happens: it appears that the Enemy are moving their main Body up to Frogs Point and East & West Chester. Our Generals understand that General Howe is there himself. General MacDougals Brigade are ordered over Kings Bridge or Congress Bridge, and a Brigade or two from the Jersey Side are ordered over on this Side and march towards the Enemy. About the Same Time two Regements of

Militia were ordered over the Bridge to take Post about the 17 Mile Stone.

Wednesday 16th. Generals are all together in Counsel. Scarce any Fatige men out, and the Waggons Generally employed in moving the Baggage Tents &c. of the Brigades ordered to march.

Some preparations are begun at the Lines for Barracks.

Thursday 17th. General Spencers Division have orders to march and form on the left of General Lincoln's Brigade.

General Wadsworth's and General Fellows Brigades march between one and two o'Clock, and encamp in the Evening near the 16 Miles Stone.

Friday 18th. March to Philip's Burg the Place of Destination. General Lord Stirling & his Brigade march this Day early from the Lines and towards Night pass us and Encamp on our Left, at Some distance to the North West, between us and the North River. The Enemy this Day land men East of Frogs Point on another Point of Land, and advance a mile or two from the Water, and the light Horse and large Bodies of them move on towards New Rochel. There was a considerable firing of Field Pieces and Small Arms between Scattering Parties but no geral Engagements of any large Bodies but the Enemy falling into a sort of Ambush sustained much loss.

Saturday 19th. The Enemy this Day we find by Scouting Parties, have advanced as far as New Rochel and have Spread out Some little Distance from the Water to the Westward; but it does not Seem that they are advancing towards our main Army or are making any disposition for a general attack.

Sabbath Day the 20 is peaceable and Quiet; General Wadsworths Brigade attended public Service about midday. I preached to General W's Brigade from Ecclesiastes 11. 9. Rejoice O young man &c. Nothing material happened in our Army; but General Washington this Day received the Melancholly News of the Destruction of the Continental Fleet on the Lake Champlain, by the Enemy on the general Waterbury was taken Prisoner.

Monday the 21st. Marched about 10 o'Clock at Night for the White Plains, Carried our Tents on our Backs Packs Pots Kettles and provisions &c. The Army Marched all Night excepting Some small Halts, almost fainted under their Burdens and were greatly fatigued. Arrived early next morning at the Plains.

Tuesday 22nd. lay on our Arms in the high Way till after 12 o'Clock as no Place was determined upon for an Encampment. The Men slept on the ground in the Streets had nothing to cook with or to cover them, and many of y^m, were exceeding hungry as well as Sleepy and Weary. In the afternoon were ordered to a Place of Encampment back on the Road towards a mile and had to tread back with Weary Steps the ground we had before in vain with so much labour travelled over. Our ground was marked out for the Encampment and the men got up their Tents just as it began to be night, & in the Evening built Fires for cooking, &c. The men are worried in a manner to Death and are treated with great hardship and Severity, and in my Opinion are put to much unnecessary Hardship and Fatigue. On the Night of the 22nd, 36 of the Enemy Rogers's Rangers were taken by one of our Scouts, and this Morning were brought in to Lord Stirling at the White Plains. This

Day Commedant Chesters Brigade marched from the Lines for the White Plains, continued their March the most of the Night; a very considerable Part of the Army marched from Kings bridge and that Way for the White Plains and Canon Baggage and Troops were passing the most of the Night.

Commedant Chesters Brigade and a great Number of Troops arrived at the White Plains the Latter Part of the Night and early in the Morning, and Wagons and Troops are constantly coming on.

Wednesday Oct 23. This Day there is much Canonading and a Smart firing of Small Arms between Several Parties of the Enemy & our People, down to the Southeastward between Some of General Lees Division and the British Troops. The Enemy were beaten in this Rencounter Left 13 Men Dead on the Ground, had a Lieutenant taken and one Private; One Majors Commission was taken. We had not so much as one man killed right out; one an Indian Fellow was thought to be mortally wounded.

Thursday 24th. A very Pleasant Day and Nothing very special seems to be going on.

Friday 25th. Still warm and Pleasant: Towards Night we have an alarm all go to our Posts, & it is Said that the Enemy are within a few Miles. A little after Sun Set we were ordered to return to our Tents and prepare provisions for the Morrow. In less than an Hour we had orders to Strike Tents and move our Camp. Moved our Camp about One mile, and got our Tents pitched about Midnight. Between 11, and 12 o'Clock at Night orders are given for one Regiment out of each Brigade to parade at Head Quarters, at Midnight. The Enemy have advanced this Day two or three Miles, and

it seems that an action must come on soon or we must make a New movement.

Saturday 26th. The Army are all called out to their Respective Posts by Day Light or before; and there is Expectation of Something considerable today, but all things remain Quiet.

Sabbath Day 27th all things Still in the Army but a Smart Canonade all Day at Fort Washington, occasioned by the attempt of Some of the Kings Ships to lie up near the Fort to Stop the Ferry Way. It ceased just at Night, but what was the event of it is not yet known.

The Journal of the Campaign in the State of New York in 1776 continued.

October 28th. The Enemy this Day advanced early towards the Lines, and Part of General Wadsworth's Brigade were sent out to Skirmish with their Advanced Parties; about nine o'Clock our Scouts and Guards to push in towards the Camp, and the Enemy soon made their Appearance on the Road, and on the high grounds opposite to them, and soon came on briskly, and their Field Pieces and Hobits began to play upon us soon almost as they made their Appearance. They were extremely Numerous, and they most cautiously avoided meeting us in Front: when they came upon us in Front and received our fire they would break and retreat immediately out of the Reach of Musket shots and would wait all in order till their Field Pieces came up and their bits and mortars, from which they threw Shot and Shells very terribly, and they would throw them so as to kill and wound our men on the Hill where y^e could see them, and when they lay over the hills beyond them: at the Same Time they would keep out Parties to flank

and Surround us, and so they drove on till they reached the Heights opposite our Lines; Where they halted and threw Shot and Shells. The number out to Skirmish with this numerous body were not more than 800, or 1000 men. Numbers were killed and wounded on both sides, but I believe there was nothing very Bloody on either Side.

This Day I understand General Washington had an Express from Fort Washington acquainting him that the Enemy attacked our Lines on Sunday below fort Washington and that the Shipping drew up in a Line below the Fort; and that the Enemy were repulsed at the Lines and y^t the Shipping was much Damaged, obliged to Ship their Cables and to fall down the River. We were obliged to strike all our Tents and lay so till 8 or nine o'Clock, when they had liberty to set y^m up again.

Tuesday Oct^r 29th at 2 o'Clock the Troops in General Spencers Division had orders to Strike their Tents and Carry them out about one mile and an half by hand and then to return to the Lines. The men went out and carried on their Tents, and then returned and brought on their Cooking Utensils, and then went back again to the Lines. Many of the Men though they had been engaged almost all Day with the Enemy and had been obliged to Wade through a River and were very wet had no sleep at all. I was afraid I should be sick for I had been in the River almost all over, and could not change me, was much fatigued with the Action of the Day preceeding; but I am to Day well and vigorous, which with the Salvations I experienced yesterday in the Field demand my renewed Praise and Thanksgiving to God and lay me under new obligations to live wholly to God and to seek his honor & glory the Little Time I

have to live in the World. O that I might have Grace to return according to mercies received.

This is my Duty, will be my Honor & Happiness.

Wednesday October 30th. The Enemy this Day are Still and give us no trouble nothing very material happens.

Thursday Oct. 31st. Rainy this Morning, but warm for the Season of the Year. Several Deserters come to us this Day and a Sergeant, a very Intelligible Fellow was taken. He had a Plan of the Enemics Lines and Camp; and by Accounts which seem to agree General Howe had given orders for a General attack upon us this Morning but the Rain prevented. Nothing Special Happened. The Enemy appeared to be erecting five Batteries to play upon the Hill where we lay.

Friday November 1st. This Morning Our Guards come off and leave the Lines in the Centre of the Town called White Plains, and to distress the Enemy burn all the Barns of Hay and Grain and Houses, where the Inhabitants had Stores of Wheat and Corn and also Stacks and Barracks of Hay and Grain. The Enemy advanced on to the Hills we left in the Fore Part of the Day, and came on about mile in Pursuit but were soon Stopped by our Canonade from the Hills. The Wind comes round in the North West, and the afternoon is Sower and blustering, and the Night is much the coldest we have had this Year. Things feel and look as though Winter was at Hand.

Saturday November 2nd. A Still quiet Day, but cold; our Brigade have no Fatigue this Day but fix their Tents build Small Chimneys in them to warm them with a Little Fire, and recruit themselves after enduring almost a Weeks constant Fatigue by Night and Day.

This morning sent a Letter to Gov^r Trumbull containing an Account of the movements of the Army from the 15th of October to the present Day.

Sabbath Day Nov^r 3rd is Pleasant for the Season, & the Enemy give no Disturbance. Colonel Siliman's and Douglas's Regiments attend public Worship both Parts of the Day. I preached from John 3. 36. Had usual Freedom and found it good to draw near to God. A Party of the Enemy to Day caried off Two loads of Flower from The Saw Pits, our People came upon them and took 2 Prisoners.

Monday Nov^r 4th a very Pleasant Day. It was reported that an Attack was to be made at the Saw Pits by the Enemy, and General Persons with a considerable Force marched that way to oppose them, but the Enemy did not appear there, and nothing happened Material.

Nov^r 5th Nothing Special to Day. There was a considerable Cononade at New York or Fort Washington but the Occasion of it not yet known. Towards Night it was discovered that the Enemy were leaving our Lines and that even their guards were moving off. The main body Retreated 4 or 5 Miles. Our People took the ground again which we had a few Days before Occupied, and Some officers and men wantonly set fire to the State House and the most of the other Buildings that were left Standing. The General was greatly displeased at this Conduct.

Nov^r 6th. Enemy appear indeed to be gone from us and Parties were sent out in the morning to bring in their Stragling Parties and to make discoveries. The Day was very pleasant. Some of the Light Horse which had been killed or wounded in the Action lay dead about in the Field and there were some Poor sort of Breast

Works, or Batteries left by the Enemy. Three Wagons were taken from the Enemy Supposed to be Torry Wagons.

Thursday Nov^r. 7th very Pleasant indeed. Nine of the Enemy were this Day brought in by our Scouts.

Friday Nov^r. 8th. *The Brigade under General Wadsworth* had orders to March at Break of Day and to Take the Ground where Lord Stirling had been encamped, about two miles West of where we lay before. Had our Tents loaded and marched before Sun rise. It appears by an Express from Fort Washington, That the Occasion of the Firing at Fort Washington on the 5th instant, was the Passing one of the King's Ships and a Transport vessel or two by that Fort up the North River, and though the Chevaux Defrize. The Enemy lie all below us in a Body not far from Dobbs's Ferry.

Saturday Nov^r 9th a Pleasant Day: about one O'Clock P. M. A Canonade begins at Fort Washinton. But it seems to be nothen very Special not many Guns are fired. General Washington moves Head Quarters to day up towards Peek's Kills. Generals Heaths & Stirlings Divisions moved that Way.

Sabbath Day 10th. Nothing very special to Day the Weather is Pleasant, and we attend public Worship both Parts of the Day. Their Honours Generals Spencer and Parsons, With Esq^{rs} Sherman and Davenport and Some other Gentlemen from Connecticut attend in the Forenoon. General Washington did not move head Quarters as related above till this Day. Esq^{rs} Sherman Davenport, young M^r Davenport and M^r Bur came as a Committee from Connecticut to Confer with officers, appointed to serve in the Continental Army to see whether y^s accept their appointments or not.

Monday 11th. The Enemy continue along on the River near Dobbs's Ferry and Seem to be attempting nothing very Special. General Lee takes the Command of the Army on this Side the River. Under him are Major Generals Spencer and Sullivan, and Lincoln. In General Lees Division are Generals Nixon, Mac-Dougal, and Commedant Glover, with their Brigades and Commedant Hand with the Rifle Battalions.

Under General Spencer are Generals Wadsworth and Fellows with their Brigades.

Under General Sullivan are General Salstontals Brigade, and the Brigade Commedant Chester, commonly termed Sargeants Brigade.

General Lincoln Commands the Massachuset Militia. General Parsons is marched for Peek's Kills.

Tuesday N. 12. Nothing material.

The Commissioners from Connecticut return, finding that many of the Officers appointed for the New Army will not accept their Appointment: That New appointments are necessary: They have Nominations for that Purpose.

Wednesday 13th have orders that all our heavy Baggage should be put and ready for a remove by eleven o'Clock to Morrow. The Enemy appear to be moving down fast towards Kings Bridge: their Rear Guard are at Philips's House. They Sweep the Country clean taking Cattle Grain, Clothing all Household furniture and stripping the Inhabitants entirely of Support and clothing. Grain and Stores which y^s cannot carry off they burn: Some Barns and Barracks are burned on these Principles. Large Families of Women and Children are Striped of Bedding, Clothes, Shoes and provisions of every kind. Such undistinguished rain and Distress is

spread among Characters without Regard to whig or Tory.

Thursday Nov^r 14th. The Enemy appear still to be retreating and the Accounts of their Ravages and Depredations are confirmed. By an Express from the Jersey Side we are informed that General Washington is arrived at Fort Lee opposite to fort Washington. That Said fort is Strong, has a good Number of heavy Canon: That the Communication between the Forts and Batteries on the East and west Side of the River is kept entirely open: and that our Troops are arrived on the Western Side of the North River and form along on the Shore opposite to the Enemy. We have no orders to move our Heavy Baggage to Day; but some other Brigades move theirs to the Northward.

Friday 15th. very Pleasant for the Season. Nothing happens material.

Saturday 16th. an unfortunate Day to Americans: The Enemy attack Our Lines at Harlem and about Fort Washington carry them, and the Fort and Garrison are surrendered. The Garrison Capitulate as Prisoners of War, according to present Accounts. The action was severe on the north Part of the Eminence above the Fort, and the Accounts are that 4 or 500 of the Hessians were slain in the Field, and great Numbers wounded: the British Troops suffered little; and as the Americans Fought under cover of their Works not many of ym were either Killed or wounded; but about 12 or 1400 made Prisoners.

Sunday 17th. The Militia of the Massachusetts State begin to march homeward.

Monday and Tuesday 18th. and 19th nothing special.

Wednesday 20th. The regulars Land in a large Body

on the Jersey Shore about 4 miles above Fort Lee. There was some considerable Firing but the Event unknown. Our Troops began to move off the Stores ordnance &c. on Sunday the 17th and had been preparing for a Retreat. We have great Fear lest the Army will be cut off or the Tents and many of the Canon Taken. O that God would grant that better News may come from thence than we fear!

Thursday 21st. We hear to Day that most of the Boats have made their escape from Fort Washington, and are got up to Kings Ferry. Ensign Shailer came this Day into Camp who was commander of the Boats And has brought off much Baggage, and a Small Party have been ordered off to Dobbs's Ferry to bring it into the Country.

Several Brigades were ordered last Evening to be ready to march to day with three Days Provisions. But y^e Wetness of the Season has prevented it.

Friday 22nd. A Wet Day prevents all military operations on this Side the River. We have in the evening very bad Reports from the Army on the Jersey Side, That they have been so crowded and pushed by the Enemy, that they been obliged to Leave their Tents Standing their Canon, Baggage, &c at Fort Lee and were obliged to throw away their Packs and make their escape with the greatest hast in order to prevent their being entirely cut off. That their Provisions and Stores are gone. Sorrowful Tidings indeed, I fear that Things go ill in that Quarter.

Saturday 23rd. Nothing special Takes Place on the West Side of the River; but the News from the other side yesterday w^{as} so unfavourable; as to the Substance of it appears to be true. General Washington by

the Artful movements of the Enemy thought that y^r were about to Land at New Brunswick and therefore ordered about 7000 of the Troops that Way and left about 300 at Fort Lee and on the Jersey Shore to effect the compleat evacuation of Fort Lee from w^o. Stores began to be moved with a great many Teams and Wagons on Sabbath Day. The Enemy Landed about 700 men above this Body before they had effected the Work, and pressed y^m so y^t y^r took all their Canon Stores and Baggage, and Scattered them very much.

Sunday N^o. 24th a Cloudy Warm Day, rains some, and the ground is very wet on account of the heavy rain w^o. fell the two preceeding Nights. The Troops of General Wadsworths Brigade marched just at Sun Set for Some Expedition which y^r had, orders to be in readiness for for Several Days Past, but the Wet Weather prevented their Effecting what was designed.

Monday Nov^r. 25th. Towards Night general Wadsworths Brigade marched on an Expedition with the Piquets of some other Regiments.

Tuesday 26th the Brigade Returned with great Numbers of Cattle Sheep and Hogs.

Wednesday Nov^r 27th. A rainy Day and the weather is unsettled as it has been all this Week. I have this Day a Prospect of returning to my Family. Heard from them last evening that they are well, which demands my Praise. Towards Night the Rain abating I set out on my return Home. The Night is pleasant for the Time of year but very wet and muddy under Foot.

Thursday November 28th a pleasant Day for the Season. Just about 8 o'Clock in the Evening I arrived at my own House in Safety, found all my Family alive and

in usual Health. While Sickness and Death has wasted all around them and while the Sword and the Pestilence have wasted on my right Hand and on my Left, God has preserved us, and brought us together in Health and Safety. This Demands of us Praise and Thanksgiving: O may it be our Study what we shall render unto the Lord for all his Benefits. May our Souls and all that is within us Bless the Lord & may we not forget any of his Benefits.

JOURNAL OF THE EXPEDITION WITH MY VOLUNTEERS.

Lieut Gilbert marched with 20 men January 14th 1777 Lieut Bradley marched on the 15th with 22 men. I set out from New Haven on the 16th Joined Lieutenant Gilbert at Horse neck on the 17th and marched on with the first Division to Rye. Put up at —

on the 18th Marched to New Rochel found y^t our Army had marched the Evening before for the Bridge and about the Break of Day invested fort Independence. Took one Light Horse, some Provisions and Blankets without any Loss on our Part.

19 Sunday Morning Lieut Bradley joined me at N. Rochel. After refreshing ourselves and drawing Provision we marched to Williams's and after spending Some Time there returned back on the Road to Butler's of East Chester where we lodged. Had orders in the Evening to march on my men to Williams's by Eight o'Clock in the Morning of the next Day.

Monday 20th rallied the men at half after 5 refreshed y^r viewed their Arms, saw how far y^r were equipt for Action. About Sun rise marched on towards Williams's, and on the Way received orders from the General to

draw flints Cartridges Rum &c which took up most of the forenoon. A large Body of men Were collected and paraded near Williams's for Action, and after noon marched round Fort Independance to Colonel Courtlands, where we arrived in the Dusk of the Evening.

On this March Levi Cooper put out his Ankle and was rendered unfit for Service. We lodged most of us at Dr. Courtland's; some lodged in the Woods. Sat Centries all round us against the Fort and on the Creek over to the North River. I had to go the Grand rounds that Night, had no Sleep Scarcely at all, but I am well and Hearty.

Jan^y. 21 Lay on our Arms the most of the Day, towards Evening had orders to return to our Quarters. The Reason why we did not go to action, was, I suppose, that the River was not passable, and would have rendered the attempt very Hazardous, and the Event uncertain. The Enemy appeared this Day to be building a Battery at the Bridge; before we came off a Large Body of men took the Ground back of us towards the North River and with a Number of Field Pieces Poured in a Smart Fire upon the Enemy near the Bridge, returned to Butlers about 8 o'Clock where the men were well refreshed and covered. I had a good Bed for myself.

Jan^y. 22. On Fatigue all Day with my whole Company cutting fachines and making Frames for Batteries. There was a considerable Firing this Day between the Enemy and our Troops, *one of the Enemy were Killed.* We have lost only one man from the Army, as yet, in our Expedition against the Enemy this Way, and have taken a large Tract of Country from them, forage &c to a considerable Amount. And have fair Prospects of re-

gaining the Bridge and all the Fortifications on this Side very Soon. *Boats are collecting, Cannon ordered on and all things preparing with Expedition for an Attack on the Enemy.*

January 23rd 1777. Towards Night, a Party of the Americans went over the Swamp to take a view of a Place to fix the Artillery in order to anoy the Enemy and went on even to the Houses where they were which rallied y^m at once and brought on a Skirmish, in which two or three men were killed and several wounded. In my Opinion the Affair was managed with the greatest imprudence and Ended in a very foolish manner. It was a long Time before any Body came out from Head Quarters to our Assistance. Thousands of men might have been cut off had there been so many, and had the Enemy been sufficient to attempt it before any assistance came to us, and orders were given in the most confused manner in the World.

January 24th. A most Stormy Tempestuous Day; Snow in the Morning which Turned to rain in the afternoon, and grew into a Tempest towards Night very heavy rain.

General Lincoln and his Troops who had no cover were by it driven from their Posts and marched in the Storm to philipps's.

My Company through the Goodness of God were all well covered the whole of the Day, not one of them were so much as on Guard.

Saturday 25th. This Day was designed for an Attack on the Enemy, but the River at Williams's was raised to Such an Height and ran with such Rapidity that there was no passing it with Canon, and it was with much Difficulty that men could cross it in Bataux. The

Guards were much Exposed. Had the Enemy made a Sally it would have been very Difficult for the Army to have Supported y^m or for y^m to have Retreated.

Sabbath Day January 26th 1777. Towards Morning Rogers's Rangers crossed the Mill pond down at West Chester and Surprized the Guards and Colonel Whittings Regiment on y^t. Station. The Troops ran off and left their Baggage. Some of the Officers came off alone without a man and even without a Wig. It is said they undressed and went to bed as at home. The Enemy in the morning Came on upon the Guards before y^s could be reinforced and drove y^m from their Posts, and carried the Redoubts near the fort and all that went to y^t. Assistance y^s put to the Rout till y^s reached the Lines near Williams's. Here y^s were all giving Way when the 2^d Battalion of volunteers came up in good order while others were retreating all round y^m, and took the Lines. On this the Enemy Retired and we took our old posts and set our Guards as usual.

Monday January 27th. The whole Army were paraded very early in the morning, the Artillery was all in Readiness to move with the Army, and about 9 or ten O Clock the Army marched with all the Parade and pomp of War to invest the Fort, and dispositions were made with a design to draw out the Enemy from the Fort and to cut off their Retreat. The Artillery was brought to the Redoubts near the Forts and there was some firing of Canon and a few Shells from a Hobits, but to little Purpose indeed not one of the Shells reached the Fort nor did one of them so much as burst. We only shewed our Weakness: the Enemy had too much Sense to venture out of the Fort, and in Dusk of Evening the Army retreated from the Fort and got into y^t

Quarters about 8 or 9 o Clock, having taken only two Prisoners and thoroughly Fatigued y^mselves.

January 28th nothing Special happened.

29th. The Army had orders to retreat as soon as it was dark with the utmost Silence and good order to Rye and New Rochel. The 2nd Battalion of volunteers to compose the van Guard then Colonel Whittings, Enoughs and Cook Regiments wer to follow, and the 1st Battalion of volunteers were to bring up the Rear. We marched about 7 o Clock and about 9 the Guards were called in and large fires left to amuse the Enemy the Night was very Stormy, a heavy Fall of Wet Snow, with the wind in our Faces. The troops were much wet & Fatigued, and about midnight the advanced Guard halted by order of the General at Burts's (?) at Maroneck. The other Regiments broke order and went on further and broke the order of Retreat and gave the General much uneasiness.

30th. The Second Battalion marched to Rye and the other Regiments were obliged to move back towards to Maroneck. But for want of Baracks and cover, all the Regiments got much Scattered. A large Fleet passed us to day and by Accounts near 30 Sail lie off against Frogs neck, Strung across from thence to Long Island. The General before our Retreat had Intelligence that General Howes whole Army were collecting at new York both from new Port and from the Jersey's which was undoubtedly the Case.

31st. The 1st Company of the 2nd Battalion march to Byram River and take Post at Lyons near the Bridge. The other companies Quarter along in the Same Street and in Kings Street. Nothing Special happens to Day.

February 1st. Some Tories are brought in this Morn-

ing to the Provo Guard. Most of the Companies in the Second Battalion of volunteers were this Day discharged. My Company was discharged just at Night. I returned our utensils cartridges &c. and the men got Ready for a march in the Morning. I rode up in the Evening after attending Worship with my Company, to Mr. Murdock's where I kept the Sabbath.

Sunday Morning February 2nd soon after Day my Company came on to Horseneck, & attended Prayers in the Meeting House and then Continued their March. I preached all Day at Horseneck, and had the Privilege of attending the Sacrament.

February 23rd* reached my own House about 10 o'Clock at Night, found my Family all as well as usual through the Goodness God. The most of my Company got home to Day.

* Probably an error for 3rd.

BENJAMIN TRUMBULL'S COMPANY.

(From original in possession of James Terry, New Haven.)

Whereas his Excellency General Washington has entered the Jerseys, and had a second Engagement with the British Troops, in which he routed them, and killed and took between five and Six hundred of the Enemy together with Six Field Pieces and a large Number of Wagons, in addition to those taken on the 26th of December, and as the Militia of New Jersey have attacked and routed a Party of Waldeckers, and taken about 40 Prisoners, and there is a happy Prospect of utterly ruining the Ministerial Army would men now exert themselves and spring forward to the Help of their Country; and as General Parsons hath wrote a most pressing Letter for Volunteers to turn out and march immediately before the week is out to Horseneck or Maroneck to serve for 9 or 10 Days which he thinks will be as long as they will be wanted. The Volunteers to choose their own Officers. We whose Names are underwritten willing to expose our Lives and Fortunes for the Public Good, engage, on this great Occasion, in Order for raising a Company in the Parish of North Haven, that we will undertake the Service for three Weeks from the Time of our marching from this Place, if it shall be necessary to serve so long, depending on the Generosity of the Assembly of this State to give us the same Wages and Incouragement proposed by them to raise volunteers

about a month since in order to assist General Lee in Distressing the Enemy.

North Haven January 10th 1777.

Benjamin Trumbull	Abel Tuttle	
Jacob Sharp	Soloman Tuttle	
John Gilbert	Isaac Brocket	
Caleb Tuttle	John Brockett	
Moses Sharp	Jared Barns	
Jared Hill	Ezekiel Jacobs	} Gun & Cartridge
Jesse Todd	John Smith	
Enos Todd	Lemuel Tuttle	
Gideon Todd	Monson Brocket	
Clement Tuttle	Jacob Hitchcock	
Obed Blakslee	Thomas Cooper	
Ebenezer Todd	Enos Brocket	
Peter Eastman	Yale Todd	
Jonathan Tuttle	Levi Ray	
William Tuttle	David Bishop	} Gun & Cartridge Box
Joel Thorp	Benjamin Bassett	
Reuben Tuttle	Jacob Brocket	
Jared Blakslee		
Levi Cooper		
Thomas Pierpont		
Isaiah Brocket		
Jonathan Dayton		
Calvin Heaton		} Gun & Cartridge Box
Solomon Jacobs		} Gun and Cartridge
Jared Tuttle		
Joseph Sperry		
Stephen Ives		} Steward of the Company

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