Journal of Oliver Boardman of Middletown: 1777 Burgoyne's Surrender

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Middletown Septembr 2d A D 1777.

Set out on a March in Capt. Blagues Company of Melitia, to Join General Arnold's Division in the Northern Army.

We march'd away about Noon. I Bought a Dinner at the New-fields where we made a little halt for 1s.

We March'd forward to Great-Swamp. I Got Supper. Lodging & Breakfast for 1s/6d.

[Wednesday 3rd. March'd from Great Swamp to] Farmington, I Bought a Dinner for 1s/ | | March'd forward to West-Britton | | Bought a Supper got Lodging & Breakfast for 2s.

Thursday 4th. We March'd from West Britton to Litchfield I Bought a dinner for 1s/ the Afternoon we Drew Provision to carry to Canaan. I Cook'd Supper & Breakfast at Doc' Smith's.

Friday 5th March'd from Litchfield to Gothan, I Bought a Dinner there for | then March'd to Cornwall & Cook'd our own Provision & put up that Night.

Saturday 6th March'd from Cornwall to Canaan, I Bought a Breakfast for 2s/3d.

then March'd on to Sheffield, & Cook'd our own Provision.

Sunday 7th. We March'd from Sheffield to Nobletown & put up that Night.

Monday 8th. We March'd from Nobletown to Canter-Hook, Mills,
Tuesday 9th We March'd from Catter Hook to Green-Bush, where our Wagg[en] Pretending to go after Pasture left[ed] I Bought three Pints of Milk for 9d.

Wednesday 10th About Noon we Cross the Ferry & Marched through the City of Albany, up to the Flats. There Cook'd a Supper.

I Bought a Breakfast for 9d.

Thursday 11th We March'd from the Flats to Half-Moon, & put up, this Evening a large Number of Waggons passed along here with Provision for the Army. We Cross'd London's Ferry

Friday 12th We March'd from Half-Moon to Beemahights at Still-water, there we join'd General Arnold's Division, & Pitch'd our Tents.

Satur'dy 13th This Morning our Scout took three or four British Prisoners diging potatoes, within Gun shot of their Camp.

Saturday 14th A heavy Scout went out to Day Consisting of 1600 Men

Monday 15th We hear the Indians drove In a part of our scouts, 100 Rifle Men were immediately sent after them.

Tuesday 16th This Morning we were paraded at three O'Clock with our Packs for a March. But Retir'd.

A melancholy Accident hap'd this Day a Soldier that had been sick at the Hospital Came into Camp & eat a hearty Meal of Pot Pie that was not well cook'd & Died In half an Hour after—a Couple of French Doctor's Cut him open, & found what he eat lay like a Clog in his Stomach. this I saw

 Likely the Means of Sudden Death

Wednesday 17th At Three O'Clock this Morning we were Paraded for a March But soon Retir'd.

Friday 18th This Morning at three, O'Clock Struck our Tents, took our Packs, & the whole of General Arnold's Division March'd on towards the Enemy by Columns through the woods till our Right was in full view of their Camp, our advance Party upon the Left, fire'd upon a Number, that was a diging potatoes Wounded some, & took four or five Prisoners. Then we retire'd to the Brow of a great Hill & Lay in the Bulches for them. Our Generals, saw them Paraded & March forward, we carried a while & then march'd to Camp, (9 Miles)

Friday 19th The Enemy came to Pay us a Visit, when they arriv'd within a Mile & a half, Our Men attacked them A heavy fire began & lasted about four Hours & a half, we hear the Enemy have lost a great Number Besides Wounded 46 were taken Prisoners.

Satur'dy 20th Diserters come In who say the Enemy are in as great Confusion as ever Militia was without Commanders.

The return of Colo'n Cook's Reg'n after the Battles.

The Return of the Battle first 61 Killed, 26 Wounded on Tuesday the Seventh of October 2 Killed & 5 Wourn

Sunday 21st This Morning Struck Tents & Paraded, Gen'l Arnold come to the Head of the Reg'n & gave News that our Men had taken some out works at Ticontarogga with three Hundred Prisoners at least a Hundred of our own & 3 Hundred Battues Loaded with Baggage then we gave three Cheers after it had all gone through the Camp. Thirteen Cannon were fired for the thirteen united States then three Cheers were given through the Camp. This Afternoon a scout of our Indians took a Tory, the Gen'l gave him to them for a
while they took him & Buried him up to his Neck & had their Pow wow around him; after that, they had him up and Laid him a side of a great fire & turned his head & feet a while to the fire, hooting & hollowing round him then he was hand Cuff'd & sent to Albany Goal.

Mon'y 22nd A sad Accident happened Yesterday of one Centrie who shot another being out of his Post Belonging to the same Picquet.

Tues'day 23rd A Scout of our Indians took two Regulars Centries yesterday after taking their hats from them they Painted their Faces & Brought them in.

Besides, Our Indians Brought eight other Prisoners in — that were a going an Express to Montreal, one of them was a defeter from our Train of Artillery at Quebec.

Wedns'day 24th Our Indians went out & Brought in three Prisoners with a Rope round the Neck of each of them. We also hear that Gen'l Washington, has had a smart Action, to the Southward.

Besides another sad & Melancholy Accident happened of one Centrie's Shooting another Belonging to the same Picquet.

Thirs'day 25th A Party of our Men went out to take the Regulars, advanced Picquet. Our Men in surprise upon them demanded of them to lay down their Arms which they were about, till an Officer stepped up & Damn'd them off hearty they directly took their arms made one fire & took'd to their heels. Our Men kill'd Six & took one, Hessian Officer.

Friday 26th This Morning Our Indians & Rifle-Men Brought in three Hessians & two Sailors.

About noon they Brought in one Tory & one Sculp About Twenty taken & Deferted to Day.

Satir'y 27th A Few of our Men were beyond the out Centries diging potatoes, went Captivated by the Enemy.

Sundy 28th Our Indians took two British soldiers Prisoners they inform us that their Army is very short out for Provision.

Mon'y 29th Last Night a Colo'n Guard went out to take the Enemy's advanced Picquet. They being aprild of it doubled their guard & put themselves in readiness for Defence, Our Men came up & Exchanged a few Shot one of our men was killed & three or four wounded.

Our Rifle men took Six Prisoners to Day five of them Hessians & one Tory Besides this, One serjant one Corporal & one Drummer. Of the Hessian Troops Deserted, to Day they Inform us that a Captains Company of the Hessians were a coming off but was discover'd.

Tues'day 30th Our Scout took five Canadians & two Hessians up at Saratoga that were on their Journey for Canada we learn they Left Burgoyne because of their hard fare.

Four Deserter's have came In to Day.

Wednes'day October y* 1* 1777.

Two deserter's came this Morning we learn from them, that the Enemy are very scant for Provision, Bread in particular.

Thirs'day 2nd A Major a Captain & a Lieutenant with a Number of Privates were taken to Day.

Also a large Number of Cattle Sheep & Horses were brought in with them. Two Hessian Rifle Men have Deferted to Day.

The whole taken Prisoners last night & to Day are Thirty Six.
Friday 3rd. Two Deserters have come in to Day.

Satir. 4th. We hear that Six of our Men were kill'd & Sculpt at Scatta Cook on their Journey to Bennington.

Sun. 5th. One Hessian deserted this Morning, he informs that several of his fellows were waiting the first opportunity to come off.

Also that they are very scanty for Provisions.

This Afternoon, two of the British Soldiers deserted, they bring the same News about Provisions. Taken and deserted Seventeen to Day.

Mon. 6th. Four Hessians deserted this Morning.
One Tory was taken.
Twenty two have deserted to Day.

Tues. 7th. Five Prisoners were taken this Morning with a Number of Cattle, Sheep &c.

This Afternoon about three O'Clock Burgoyne's flying Camp, commanded by Frazer, advanced within about half a Mile of our advanced Picquet to Drive them from a Hill where Capl. Blague and fifty men & myself, one of the Number were posted, at which they kept a smart Cannonade for a Quarter of an Hour, while our Men mustered along & sent a party to come upon their Backs, where they soon fell at it on all sides, & drove the Enemy from their Artillery upon the hill, go to the Hessians Camp where our Genl. Little thought of Danger, for't his way through & spared none till a Ball broke his Leg & killed his Horse.

But his Brave Men not Discourag'd with their Misfortune, drove them from their Camp & took it, with their Tents Standing & Pots Boiling, besides three Pieces of Brass Cannon. Eight Brass Cannon in the whole two Twelves, the others Sixes & Nine Pounders, taken to Day. Fraser was kill'd.

Wednesday 8th. Our Men kept a Constant Cannonade all Day into their other Incampment.

Genl. Lincoln by a Chance that had his Leg Broak (I hear)

Genl. Burgoyne's Aid de Camp with a Number of others were taken Yesterday.

Our Men Return'd home to Camp about Dark.

Thurs. 9th. About Thirty Deserters came in last Night, they inform that Burgoyne began his retreat last Night as soon as our Men cease'd firing & left three Hundred Sick & Wounded.

We learn Genl. Burgoyne wrote to Genl. Gates to take care of his Sick & wounded, as he would be glad to have his Suppoit himself was routed & obliged to make the best of his way.

A very Rainy Day, but few of our Army follow'd their retreat.

Friday 10th. This Morning we paraded & march'd after the Enemy up at Saritoga, & paraded over Night, upon a great Hill about South East from the Enemy.

Genl. Scyllers House with the rest of ye Buildings, Mills, Barracks &c at Saritoga were Burnt to Day.

Satir. 11th. Genl. Fellows, took hundred Rafter's last Night, with five hundred Barrels of Pork, a quantity of Porter, & other Rich stores with a Guard of a Sergeant & fifteen Men.

About Noon we mov'd to the North-West of the Enemy in the Woods, & built fires, & turn'd in upon the Ground.

Upwards of Fifty taken & Deserted to Day.

Genl. Burgoyne sent one to answer it.
Genl. Gates sent the Second.
About Thirty in the whole taken & Deserted to Day.

Mon 13th A Scout of Rifle Men saw a Scout of the Hessians & Canadians, one of our Men call'd to one of the Hessians in his Language to come to him, he Directly through down his Gun & run to him he inform's us that they Drew all their Provision, which is to Last Seven Days.

Genl Gates himself says, that the accompt from every Defeter & Prisoner agree so well that he has reason to Believe it, & contradicted by none.

Nine prisoners were taken to Day with their seven Days provision they were slighty wounded in the Battle, & moving on slowly for Ticonaroga, so as not to be a hindrance to the Body of Troops.

Tues 14th A Flag of Truce came in at Twelve O Clock, last Night Genl Gates answer'd it by one in the Morning.

Burgoyne sent his Second Flag I learn for two Major Generals to go in & agree with him upon the Articles of Capitulation.

A Sesfation of Arms to Day.

Wednes 15th A Sesfation of Arms to Day.

Some of the Britifh Soldiers come to our Centuries to get them some water.

We are inform'd by our Officers that the Articles are agreed upon Between Genl Gates & Genl Burgoyne.

Thurs 16th A Party was beat at Midnight last Night, our Men answer'd it.

By what we can learn his honour was about to Fall from his agreement with Genl Gates.

We also Learn that he Delt our Sixty Rounds of Cartrages to the Britifh Soldiers, In order to try to do his Bell & work once more & ordered as many for the Hessians But they refused to take them.

Our Generals are together taking the Matter into Consideration. Orders to Strike Tents immediately & everything put up.

Our Generals sent in at Eleven O'Clock that they would give his Honour one Hour to Consider the Matter of his Agreement Yesterday And gave Orders for every man to be ready at the Minute after Twelve O'Clock when three Cannon will be fired, if he will not sign the Articles of Capitulation.

Colo Morgan received Orders for his Rifle Men to march immediately & Scale their works & Spare no Man they could find, & The Army to follow & carry it through.

Our Scout took a Tory that Deserted from us at Ti. & has been with them ever since the Retreat till now he see how it was Like to Turn with them he Began to make his way off. But fell asleep & was taken, & without any trial they put a Rope round his Neck & tied it to a Staddle & told him they would hang him, he Beg'd & pray'd they would Shoot him, then they tied him to a Tree & gave him a Hundred lashes, then he Beg'd they would Hang him. Now he is to receive two Hundred more which two Morning's will Complete & then to be Tried by a Court Martial for his Life.

Fri 17th 1777 The Hand of Providence work'd wonderfully In favour of America this Day.

According to the Agreement of Genl Burgoyne Yesterday he march'd his Army out of his works at Ten O'Clock In Brigades & Paraded their Arms on the Meado at Saratoga At Three O'Clock in the After-
noon they March'd through our Army that was paraded on the Right & Left, with a Guard for Bolton.

Saturday 18th We Struck our Tents Our Army March'd from Saratoga to Albany before they Slept which was about thirty Seven Miles.

Sunday 19th Towards Night, we Picht our Tents on Albany Hill.

Monday 20th I was one of Fifty that was call'd out of the Regm to Guard 128th Prisoners of war to Hartford.

This afternoon Gen Burgoyne's Aid de Camp was Buried of the Wounds he receiv'd in the Battle on Tuesday the Seventh.

Att Evening we Cross the Ferry & put up at Green Bush, I Bought a Supper for 1/6.

Tuesday 21st We March'd from Green Bush, to Canter Hook, I Bought a Supper for 1s.

Wednesday 22nd We March'd from Canter Hook, to Nobletown, I Bought a Supper for 1s.

Thursday We March'd from Nobletown, to Sheffield, I Bought a Supper for 5/4d.

Friday We March'd from Sheffield to Rockwell's about the middle of the Green woods.

I Bought a Supper & Breakfast for 1/6.

Saturday 23rd We March'd from Rockwell's to Simsbury, I Bought a Supper & Breakfast for 2s/6d.

Sunday 24th We March'd from Simsbury, to Hartford & Deliver'd 123 Prisoners to the Sheriff, five of them Left us on the March

Monday 25th This Afternoon I March'd Home.

Oliver Boardman &c.

Articles of Convention between Lieutenant General Burgoyne & Major General Gates.

Article 1st. The Troops under Lieutenant General Burgoyne are to March out of their Camp with the honours of War, & the artillery of intrenchments to the verge of the river where the old Fort stood, where the arms & Artillery are to be Left, the arms to be piled by words of command from their own officers.

Article 2nd. A free passage to be granted to the army under Lieutenant General Burgoyne to Great-Britton upon condition of not Serving again in North America, during the present contest, & the Port of Boston is assigned for the entry of transports to receive the troops whenever General Howe Shall order.

Article 3rd. Should any cartel take place by which the army under Lieutenant General Burgoyne, or any part of it may be exchanged the foregoing article to be void, as far as such exchange Shall be made.

Article 4th The army under Lieutenant General Burgoyne to March to the Massachusetts Bay by the easiest, most expeditious & convenient rout, & to be quarter'd in, near or as convenient as possible to Boston, that the March of the troops may not be delayed when transports arrive to receive them.

Article 5th The troops to be supplied on the march & during their being in quarters, with provisions, by General Gates's orders at the same rate of rations, as the troops of his own army, & if possible the officers horses & Cattle, are to be supplied with forage at the usual rates.

Article 6th All officers are to retain the carriages, bar-horses & other cattle & no baggage to be molested or searched. Lieutenant General Burgoyne giving his
honour there are no public Stores secreted therein, Major General Gates will of course take the necessary measures for the due performance of this article. Should any carriages be wanting during the march for the transportation of officers' baggage, they are if possible to be supplied by the Country at the usual rates.

Article 7th. Upon the march & during the time the army shall remain in quarters in the Massachusetts Bay, the officers are not, as far as circumstances will admit to be separated from their men. The officers are to be quartered according to rank, & are not to be hindered from assembling their men for roll calling & other purposes of regularity.

Article 8th. All corps whatever of General Burgoyne's army whether composed of Sailors, batteuxmen, artificers, drivers, independent companies & followers of the army of whatever Country, Shall be included in the fullest Sense & utmost extent of the above articles, & comprehended in every respect as British Subjects.

Article 9th. All Canadians & Persons belonging to the Canadian establishment, consisting of Sailors, batteuxmen, artificers, drivers, independent companies, and many other followers of the army who came under no particular description, are to be permitted to return there, they are to be conducted immediately the shortest route to the first British post on Lake George, and are to be supplied with provisions in the same manner as the other Troops, and are to be bound by the same conditions of not serving during the present contest in North-America.

Article 10th. Passports to be immediately granted to three officers not exceeding the rank of Captains, who shall be appointed by Lieutenant General Burgoyne, to carry dispatches to Sir William Howe, Sir Guy Carlton, & to Great Britain, by the way of New-York and Major General Gates engages the public faith that their dispatches shall not be opened. The Officers are to set out immediately after receiving their dispatches, & are to travel by the shortest routes, & in the most expeditious manner.

Article 11th. During the stay of the troops at Massachusetts Bay, the officers are to be admitted on parole, & are to be admitted to wear their Side arms.

Article 12th. Should the army under Lieutenant General Burgoyne, find it necessary to send for their clothing & other Baggage to Canada, they are permitted to do it in the most convenient manner & the necessary passports granted for that purpose.

Article 13th. These articles are to be mutually signed & exchanged tomorrow morning at nine O' Clock and troops under Lieutenant General Burgoyne are to march out of their incampment at three in the Afternoon.

John Burgoyne.

It was a glorious sight to see the haughty Britons march out & Surrender their arms to an Army which but a little before, they despised & called paltrons, they however before the surrender were convinced of their error, having in two engagements previous seen the greatest bravery that ever was displayed, & the most consummate Generalship exercised. The enemy acknowledge the Spirit and bravery of our officers & men, and do not hesitate to Say, that the idea held up to them of the Americans, was false.

We have taken in the whole, Six Generals viz.
Lieutenant General Burgoyne; Major Generals, Phillips & Reidel, Brigadiers, Hamleton, Spright and another German whose name I do not recollect.

General Burgoyne & Staff, among which are six members of Parliament 12

British Troops by capitulation 2442
Foreign Troops, ditto 2198
Canadians Volunteers &c sent to Canada 1100

Total included in the Capitulation 5752
Prisoners taken at different times 450
Sick & wounded 928
Defeters 300

Loot at Bennington 1220
Killed since the 17th of September 600
Killed & taken at Ticonderoga 413

Amounting the whole killed & taken prisoners 9213

The wonderful goodness of God in delivering so many of our cruel unnatural Enemies into our hands, & with so little loss on our Side. I hope every heart will be suitably affected with. And may that God who has granted such Signal Success here vouchsafe to grant similar Successes to our arms in the Northern Department.

37 Brass cannon, royals, mortars, with empliments & Stores complete.
5000 Stands of Arms.
400 Sets of Harness.
A considerable Number of Ammunition waggons & Harness.

Six Field Pieces taken at Bennington
Two & 4 Royals at Fort Scouler.

In 1776 I was in Colo. Mathew Talcots Regt at New York, & on Long Island & we lay near the Battle at flat Bath, where our People were overcome, our Capt. with a small platoon of us was ordered out. On the left wing, the Hessians from an adjacent Hill fired upon us we were ordered to lie down on the ground while the Bullets passed us, then returned to Camp, or entrenchment.

The Houses in flaming fire, & that Evening & Night was the Memorable retreat from Long Island which was completed very Early next Morning & our Regiments encamped Turtle Bay Calle, below Harlem here among many others I was sick, & was discharged by Brigadier General Douglas to recover Health & returned to Middle-town. 1777 the next year as the above Journal shews I was at the Northward in Genl. Arnold's Division & see the marching of Burgoyne Army on their way for Boston. The Year 1780 May, I was called out again for Six Months to Join the Army on North River. My Colo's Major, Capt, all are Dead. My wages when Rec'd would not pay the expense of food on my road to the North & back. One of my Company Mates gave $100 Dollars for 1/10th Flax, 3 Coppers would buy a Dollar.