

a continual Fire from Four Field Pieces, which were well served & directed, and an Heavy Column advancing on the Marsh must have cut our People off, their Guns being wet and muddy not one of them would have fired, but having drawn up the Musquetry and disposed of some Rifle Men conveniently, with orders to fire on them when they came within Shot, however the Latter began their Fire rather too soon being at 200 yards Distance, which notwithstanding had the desired Effect, for the Enemy immediately retreated to the Fast Land, where they continued parading within 800 yards till our Troops were brought over, most of those who swam over, and others who attempted to cross before the Covering Party got down, lost their Arms and Accoutrements in the Mud & Creek, and some Poor Fellows their Lives, particularly two of the Maryland, two of the Delaware one of Attleys Pennsylvania and two Hessian Prisoners were drowned. Thomas's Men contributed much in bringing over this Party—have enclosed a List of the Kill'd & Missing amounting to 256 officers inclusive. it has been said the Enemy during the Action, also attacked our Lines, but this was a Mistake, not knowing the Ground one of their Columns advanced within Long Shot, without knowing they were so near and upon our Artillery & part of the Musquetry's Firing on them, they immediately fled—The 28th during a very hard Rain there was an Alarm that the Enemy had advanced to attack our Lines, which alarm'd the Troops much, but was without Foundation.—The 29th it was found by a Council of War that our Fortifications were not tenable, and it was therefore judged expedient that the Army should retreat from the Island that Night, to effect which notwithstanding the Maryland Troops had had but one Days respite, and many other Troops had been many Days clear of any Detail of Duty, they were ordered on the Advanced Post at Fort Putnam, within 250 yds of the Enemy's Approaches and join'd with two Pennsylvania Reg^{ts} on the Left, were to remain and cover the Retreat of the Army, which was happily compleated under cover of a thick Fog & a South West Wind, both which favored our Retreat, otherwise the Fear, Disorder, and Confusion of some of the Eastern Troops must have retarded & discovered our Retreat and subjected Numbers to be cut off.—After remaining two Days in New York, our next Station was at Harlaem, 9 Miles above at an Advanced Post opposite Montresore's and Bohana's Islands, which in a few Days the Enemy got Possession of without opposition, from the former of which we daily discoursed with them, being within two Hundred yards and only a small Creek between—It being judged expedient to abandon New