

...near 15 miles distant, on the South Branch of the island, he ordered the whale-boats, with as many men as could be transported, across the bay, over-land to the bay, where they embarked to the number of 130, and about 12 o'clock arrived safe across the bay, within about 4 miles of the harbour, where having secured the boats in the wood under the care of a guard, col. Meigs formed his little remaining detachment in proper order for attacking the different posts and quarters of the enemy, and securing the vessels and forage at the same time. They marched in the greatest order and silence; and at two o'clock arrived at the harbour: the several divisions, with fixed bayonets, attacked the guards and posts assigned them; whilst capt. Thro p, with the detachment under his command, secured the vessels and forage lying at the wharf: the alarm soon became general, when an armed schooner of 12 guns and 70 men, lying within 150 yards of the wharf, began a fire upon our troops (which continued without cessation for about three quarters of an hour) with grape and round shot; but the troops, with the greatest intrepidity, returned the fire upon the schooner, and set fire to the vessels and forage, and killed and captivated all the soldiers and sailors, except about six, who made their escape under cover of the night. Two ve brigs and sloops, (one an armed vessel with 12 guns) about 120 tons of pressed hay, oats, corn, and other forage, 10 hhd. of rum, and a large quantity of other merchandize, were entirely consumed. It gives me great satisfaction to hear the officers and soldiers, without exception, behaved with the greatest bravery, order and intrepidity. Col. Meigs having finished the business on which he was sent, returned safe with all his men to Guilford by 3 o'clock, P. M. yesterday, with 50 prisoners; having, in 25 hours by land and water, transported his men full 90 miles, and succeeded in his attempt beyond my most sanguine expectations; without having a single man killed or wounded. It gives me singular pleasure to hear no disposition appeared in any one soldier to plunder the inhabitants, or violate private property, in the smallest degree; and that, even the cloathing, and other articles, belonging to the prisoners, the soldiers, with a generosity (not learned from British troops) have, with great cheerfulness, restored to them where they have fallen into their hands.

Major Humphry, who waits on your excellency with the account, was in the action with col. Meigs, and will be able to give any further necessary information. A list of the prisoners is inclosed.

I am, your excellency's most obedient humble servant,
S. A. M. H. PARSONS.
His excellency general Washington.

A list of prisoners taken at the east end of Long-Island, by colonel Meigs.

1 captain (Raymond) 2 commiffaries (Chew and Bell) 20 m. d. t. of vessels; 3 serjeants; 1 corporal; 45 privates; 27 seamen; 1 soldier sick, whose parole was taken; in all 96 prisoners; and 6 killed.

June 2, 1777. Published by order of congress,
CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

Extrall of a letter from a place called Mount Pleasant, near Bound-Brook, May 29.

"On Monday last a party of our men gave the enemy a pretty little threshing: The number on the enemy's side was superior to ours. Gen. Lincoln, who commands at this post, had information the night before of their marching a body of between 6 and 700 men towards Bound Brook, we were immediately ordered to face them, which was done in a regular manner; we met them about 100 yards from the bridge, and drove them near three miles, till they got within their lines: They left seven men and three light-horse, dead in the field; we had three men wounded, one of them mortally. We expect every moment to receive orders to attack them, or to hear they are moving towards us; we are very easy which way, as we flatter ourselves we are strong enough for them, and dare meet them when and where they please."

From New-York we are informed, that the Hessians continue very sickly and die fast.—That those persons, who are friends to American independence, are severely treated, especially by the renegade Americans (alias Tories)—that the Frenchmen, taken at sea, in French or American vessels, are confined in the Provost guard, and treated with great cruelty;—and that they now sell the cargoes of the several French vessels heretofore taken.

We can with pleasure inform our readers, that gen. Washington has now received such supplies of men, &c. that he has removed his head quarters from Morris-Town to Middle-Brook, on the east side of the Rariton; within seven miles and an half of Brunswick, where his army (which is not composed of soldiers, whose times of service are continually expiring, but of those enlisted for the war) are now encamped, and make a show that must please every person who is not a Tory.

From our posts, near Middle-Brook, we are able to see and watch the movements of the enemy, who are encamped on Brunswick hills, the west side of Rariton.

By a gentleman from Charlestown, South-Carolina, we learn, that seven armed French vessels, one of them mounting 20 guns, arrived there about the 5th of May.

We hear the enemy at Brunswick have lately been reinforced with three brigades from Rhode-Island and New-York.

In CONGRESS, May 23, 1777.

The board of war reported, "That the board have had a conference with major-general Arnold, concerning the imputations upon his character contained in an hand-bill, dated Pittsfield, April 12, 1777; and subscribed John Brown, laid before congress by the general, in his letter to the President; that the general laid before the board a variety of original letters, orders, and other papers, which, together with the general's account of his conduct, confirmed by the relation of Mr. Carroll, one of the late commissioners in Canada, now a member of this board, have given entire satisfaction to the board, concerning the general's character and conduct, so cruelly and groundlessly aspersed in the publication aforesaid."

Resolved, That this said report stand confirmed.
Extrall from the minutes,
Published by order of Congress,
CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

In CONGRESS, May 29, 1777.

Resolved, That no persons, horses, or carriages, going to the army with provisions, and returning from thence, be pressed on any pretence whatever.

Extrall from the minutes,
CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

Ordered, That this be published and continued in all the news papers.

In CONGRESS, February 25, 1777.

TO the end that the most speedy stop may be put to the pernicious and unfoldierly practice of deserting, and that such offenders who receive the public money for services that they design not to perform, may be certainly and speedily carried back to the corps they have deserted from, it is earnestly recommended to the committees of observation or inspection in these United States, that they cause diligent enquiry to be made in their respective counties or districts, for all deserters that may be lurking and harboured therein, and cause such, whenever found, to be immediately secured and conveyed to the nearest continental officer, and all such officers are hereby directed to receive and secure such deserters, that they may be safely delivered to their respective regiments, and brought to a speedy trial and exemplary punishment; and farther to pay to the persons delivering such deserters, eight dollars for each deserter so brought and delivered, and twelve ninetieths of a dollar, in lieu of expences, for every mile from the place where the deserter was taken up, to the place where he is delivered to the officer.

ARTICLES OF WAR. SECTION VI.

Art. 1. All officers and soldiers, who having received pay, or having been duly enlisted in the service of the United States shall be convicted of having deserted the same, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as by a court-martial shall be inflicted.

Art. 2. Any non-commissioned officer or soldier, who shall, without leave from his commanding officer, absent himself from his troop or company, or from any detachment with which he shall be commanded, shall, upon being convicted thereof, be punished according to the nature of his offence, at the discretion of a court-martial.

Art. 3. No non-commissioned officer or soldier shall enlist himself in any other regiment, troop, or company, without a regular discharge from the regiment, troop or company, in which he last served, on the penalty of being reputed a deserter, and suffering accordingly: And in case any officer shall knowingly receive and entertain such non-commissioned officer or soldier, or shall not, after his being discovered to be a deserter, immediately confine him, and give notice thereof to the corps in which he last served, he, the said officer so offending, shall by a court-martial be cashiered.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolve, and the three articles of war, be published in the several news-papers for six months, and the several printers are hereby requested to publish them accordingly.

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

WILLIAMSBURG, May 30.

Upwards of forty gentlemen and ladies of the Cherokee nation are now here on a negotiation of peace, which it is hoped will be lasting, and to request a boundary line may be drawn to prevent encroachments on their lands. They have had an audience, and it is expected a compact will be settled with them in a few days. Among them are Oconostoto, the Little Carpenter, the Pigeon, and other headmen and warriors. After the talk was concluded, they favoured the public with a dance on the green in front of the palace, where a considerable number of spectators, both male and female, were agreeably entertained.

The capes are now blocked up by the Phoenix, capt. Parker, the Senegal, the Raleigh armed brig of 12 guns and a sloop of 10. They are so situated that it is almost impossible for vessels bound in or out to escape them. Capt. Parker has determined not to send or receive any more flags.

The passengers bound to Great-Britain in the ship Albion, which in custody of the Phoenix man of war, lying at cape Henry, are to have permission to carry on board their baggage and necessaries, and proceed on the voyage; an event the passengers have not only long and impatiently wished for, but have also been at much trouble and cost in fitting out the vessel, and preparing themselves for departure.

The Brune and Merlin frigates were cruising on the coast of North-Carolina the beginning of this month, having taken nine vessels between Ocracock and cape Fear, which they immediately burnt. They landed some of their prisoners at cape Fear, who say the ships are not half manned, that they met with great insults and savage usage from the officers and seamen, and were stripped of their money and cloaths.

Wednesday Thomas Davis (late adjutant Davis) and six other Tories and traitors, mounted in a waggon, under a proper guard, making a very decent appearance, passed down the street on their way to the public gaol, from Alexandria, where they are to remain for trial.

A certain capt. Murphy, in a sloop from York river, was a few days ago detected in attempting to get to sea without a clearance, having forged a permit. It appears likewise that he has defrauded the public of considerable sums by forged draughts, which were so ingeniously executed as to leave no reason to doubt their being genuine.

The following is taken from HUGH GAINE'S New York paper of May 5.

By accounts from Albany we learn, that the committee of that city and county still continue to persecute the friends of government with unremitting industry: They have filled the City-hall, Fort-Orange, and the Presbyterian Meeting-house, with those who refuse to take part in their rebellion, where they suffer every inconvenience and insult that the implacable malice of those daring imps can inflict.

We are informed, that Joyce, jun. mentioned in our last, under the Boston head, about two weeks since, appeared early in the morning, masked and armed, cap-a-pee, and paraded the streets of that town, with a number of his heroic associates, dragged six torjes out of their beds, placed them on a cart, and drove them out of town; then tilting the cart suddenly, drew his warlike sword; and with the voice of a Stentor, swore

he would put every one of them to death if they ever entered again to enjoy their estates, or support their families.

In consequence of information received of the rebels having collected large magazines at Danbury, in Connecticut, a detachment of 250 men from each of the following regiments, 4th, 15th, 23d, 27th, 44th, and 64th, a subaltern's command of dragoons, 300 of governor Brown's corps, and six 3 pounders, under the command of major-general Tryon, and brigadiers, generals Agnew and sir William Erskine, proceeded up the East-River, and on Friday evening last, at 6 o'clock, landed at Compo-Point, near Norwalk. The debarkation being completed about ten, the troops got in motion, and after a march of 25 miles, arrived without opposition at Danbury, at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The remainder of that day, and part of next morning, were employed in destroying the stores, which were found to exceed their expectation. At nine o'clock they began their march back to the shipping, and proceeded without interruption until they approached Ridgefield, where they found a body of the rebels under the command of Mr. Arnold, who had fortified the entrance of the town, which they carried after small opposition, with considerable loss on the side of the rebels; the rear repulsing another body, who attacked them at the same time, under Mr. Woolfer. The troops continued their march next morning at four o'clock, the rebels firing on their flanks and rear, but from such a distance as to do them little injury. About half a mile from the ships where the troops halted, part of the rebel army, which consisted of at least four thousand, kept up a heavy fire from behind stone walls, whilst two columns made a shew of attacking; but part of the detachment charged them with fixed bayonets, and put them to a total rout, with considerable slaughter. The troops, after remaining some time upon the ground, embarked with the greatest order and regularity, without further interruption from the rebels, who never shewed themselves more.

The spirit and firmness shewn by the troops on this occasion, does them infinite honour.

The loss sustained was 14 men killed, 10 officers and 80 men wounded, most of them slightly.

An account of the stores, ordnance, provisions, &c. as nearly as could be ascertained, found at the rebel stores, and destroyed by the king's troops at Danbury, &c. in Connecticut, April 27, 1777.

- A quantity of ordnance stores, with iron, &c.
- Four thousand barrel of beef and pork,
- One thousand barrels of flour,
- One hundred large tierces of biscuit,
- Eighty nine barrels of rice,
- One hundred and twenty puncheons of rum,
- Several large stores of wheat, oats, and Indian corn, in bulk, the quantity therefore could not possibly be ascertained.
- Thirty pipes of wine,
- One hundred hogheads of sugar,
- Fifty ditto of molasses,
- Twenty casks of coffee,
- Fifteen large casks filled with medicines of all kinds,
- Ten barrels of saltpetre,
- One thousand and twenty tents and marquees,
- A number of iron boilers,
- A large quantity of hospital bedding, &c.
- Engineer, pioneer, and carpenters tools,
- A printing press complete,
- Tar, tallow, &c.
- Five thousand pair of shoes and stockings.

At a mill between Ridgeberry and Ridgefield.
One hundred barrels of flour, and a quantity of Indian corn.

At the bridge over the west branch of Norwalk river, and in the woods contiguous.

- One hundred hogheads of rum,
- Several chests of arms,
- Paper cartridges,
- Field forges,
- Three hundred tents.

ANNAPOLIS, JUNE 12.

Mr. PRINTER,
TO encourage commerce, and to reduce the present exorbitant prices of the necessaries of life, I would propose that this state should establish an INSURANCE-OFFICE, at the risk of the public, on a fund of 60,000l.

The following calculations are submitted to show the benefit that would arise from such an institution.

Suppose that 20 vessels are insured, in the year, at an average of 3,000l. for ship and cargo	60,000
Suppose the premium of insurance to be fixed not to exceed 35 per cent.	21,000
	81,000
Suppose one-third of those vessels are taken by the enemy, or lost by accidents at sea	20,000
	61,000
Suppose two commissioners, salary at 400l. per ann. each	800
Clerk to commissioners, his salary	200
	60,000

If two-thirds of the vessels arrive safe, their value would be 40,000l. one half of which I suppose to be in goods for sale.—Under the present circumstances of our trade, they would sell at the enormous advance of 500 per cent. at the least
Suppose the importers of those goods were obliged, by law, to sell them at 300 per cent. advance on the prime cost. Profit to the vender, say 40 per cent. clear
Saved to the consumers of those goods 40,000

The difference in the prices of goods imported and sold agreeable to the above estimate, would leave a clear gain to the public of 40,000l. per annum. Whenever foreign goods can be sold here at 100 per cent. advance, all kind of country produce will be sold at a reduced price, in proportion to such advance on goods.—If Maryland alone, or in conjunction with the neighbouring