

Skeensborough, and had cut off all our boats and armed vessels. This obliged me to change my route, that I might not be put betwixt two fires, and at the same time be able to bring off col. Warner, to whom I sent orders, if he found the enemy too strong, to retreat to Rutland, where he would find me to cover him, that place lying nearly at an equal distance from both: Before my orders reached him his party was dispersed, after having for a considerable time sustained a very warm engagement, in which the enemy suffered so much that they pursued but a small distance:—Our loss I cannot ascertain, but believe it does not exceed forty killed and wounded. About two hundred of the party have joined me at Rutland and since, but great numbers of them are still missing, and I suspect have got down into New England by the way of Number-Four. After a very fatiguing march of seven days, in which the army suffered much from bad weather and want of provisions, I joined general Schuyler the 12th instant.

It was my original plan to retreat to this place, that I might be betwixt gen. Burgoyne and the inhabitants, and that the militia might have something in this quarter to collect to; it is now effected, and the militia are coming in, so that I have the most sanguine hopes that the progress of the enemy will be checked, and I may yet have the satisfaction to experience, that although I have lost a post, I have eventually saved a state.

Perhaps I may be censured, by those who are unacquainted with the situation I was in, to not sooner calling the militia to my assistance. I think I informed congress that I could not do that for want of provisions; and as soon as I got a supply I did call for them, and was joined by near nine hundred the day before the evacuation, but they came from home so ill provided that they could not, nor did not propose to stay with me but a few days. The two Massachusetts regiments of militia likewise, which composed part of the garrison, gave me notice, that their time expired in two days, and they intended then to go home. In vain did I beg of their officers to exert every influence they had over them, and from their subsequent behaviour, I am fully persuaded the officers are most to blame. I they kept with me, however, for two days on the march, but their conduct was so licentious and disorderly, and their example beginning to affect the Continental troops, I was constrained to lead them off.

Inclosed is a copy of the council of war, in which you will find the principles upon which the retreat was undertaken. As I found all the general officers so fully of opinion that it should be done immediately, I forbore to mention to them many circumstances which might have influenced them, and which I should have laid before them, had they been of different sentiments; for I was, and still am, so firmly convinced of the necessity, as well as the propriety of it, that I believe I should have ventured upon it had they been every one against it.

I have the utmost confidence in the candour of congress, and persuade myself, notwithstanding the loss they have sustained, when they have impartially considered, that I was posted with little more than two thousand men in a place that requires ten thousand to defend it; that these two thousand were ill equipped, and worse armed, not above one bayonet in ten, an arm essential in the defence of lines; that with these two thousand I have made good a retreat from under the nose of an army at least four times their numbers, and have them now betwixt the enemy and the country, ready to act against them, that my conduct will appear at least not deserving censure.

I have the honour to be, &c.

AR. ST. CLAIR.

P. S. The enemy's force, from the best accounts, is 3,500 British, 4,000 Brunswick and Hesse-Hanau, 200 Indians, and 200 Canadians.

The honourable JOHN HANCOCK, Esq.

At a council of general officers held at Ticonderoga, July 5, 1777.

P R E S E N T,

- Major-general ST. CLAIR,
Brigadier-general DE ROCHE FERMOY,
Brigadier-general POOR,
Brigadier-general PATTERSON,
Colonel commandant LONG.

GENERAL St. Clair represented to the council, that as there is every reason to believe that the batteries of the enemy are ready to open upon the Ticonderoga side, and that the camp is very much exposed to their fire, and to be enfiladed on all quarters; and as there is also reason to expect an attack upon Ticonderoga and Mount-Independence at the same time, in which case neither could draw any support from the other; he desires their opinion, whether it would be most proper to remove the tents to the low ground where they would be less exposed, and wait the attack at the Ticonderoga lines, or whether the whole of the troops should be drawn over to Mount-Independence, the more effectually to provide for the defence of that post.

At the same time the general begged leave to inform them, that the whole of our force consisted of two thousand and eighty-nine effective rank and file, including one hundred and twenty-four artificers unarmed, besides the corps of artillery, and about nine hundred militia that have joined us, and cannot stay but a few days.

The council were unanimously of opinion, that it is impossible with our force to defend Ticonderoga and Mount-Independence, and that the troops, cannon and stores should be removed this night, if possible, to Mount-Independence.

Whether, after the division of the army at Ticonderoga have retreated to Mount-Independence, we shall be in a situation to defend that post, or in case it cannot be defended, if a retreat into the country will be practicable.

The council are unanimously of opinion, that, as the enemy have already nearly surrounded us, and there remains nothing more to invest us completely but their occupying the neck of land betwixt the lakes and the east creek, which is not more than a quarter of a mile over, and possessing themselves of the Narrows, betwixt us and Kenilborough, and thereby cutting off all communication with the country; a retreat ought to be

undertaken as soon as possible, and that we shall be very fortunate to effect it.

Signed,

- A. ST. CLAIR, Maj. Gen.
DE ROCHE FERMOY, B. G.
ENOCH POOR, B. G.
JOHN PATTERSON, B. G.
Colonel Commandant LONG.

Isaac BUDD DUNN, A. D. C.

Published by order of Congress,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Bourdeaux, to his friend in this city, dated May 17, 1777.

"I have the honour of advising you of our arrival in this city in good health, after having been two months on the road, and suffered all those blasts Neptune when irritated is capable of inflicting.

"We took a prize the 18th of April, the other side of the Azores, that left Glasgow the 4th of the same month, she had on board two passengers, one of which was a minister, going to lake Champlain, the ship was going to Quebec, this same minister told us news the most disagreeable, viz.

"That the count d'Artois, the king's brother, was in London very well received at that court, and probably was adjusting measures to reduce the continent of America; that Mr. Deane had wrote a very spirited letter to lord Stormont, ambassador at our court, proposing to him an exchange of some prisoners he named, for others detained in England, and that the terms of this letter being very spirited, the said lord had sent the same to his court, who returned it to him, ordering him to shew it to M. de St. Jermain, and demand satisfaction for so great an offence offered an ambassador; that in this interval Mr. Deane had been assassinated in his coach between Paris and Versailles; upon which Mr. Franklin having solicited the court to make search after the murderers, he had received orders to leave Paris in 24 hours, and France in four days, in consequence, it was believed, he was gone to Vienna; moreover, that all American vessels had received orders to go out and evacuate all the ports of France, and that all that might in future arrive should not stay more than twenty-four hours.—We believed, Sir, this news, the rather, because the Glasgow Gazettes were produced, which positively asserted it: The remainder of our voyage was passed in the greatest sorrow, but we were agreeably surprised, when, upon our arrival, we learned the contrary, and that all the news was as favourable as could be expected, a declaration of war expected.

"The news is, that Messrs. Franklin and Deane are well, and always well received at court, both by prince and lords. Your gentlemen at Paris have commissioned three privateers, and one of them has taken a packet-boat, so says a private letter from Amsterdams, a merchant shewed me yesterday on the exchange.

"We did not know to what to attribute the detention of the letters of the 29th of April from London, but we just learn, that the packet-boat, which carried them, was taken the 2d of this month, at half after eight at night, by an American privateer, as high as Gravesend, near the southern point of Holland. He discharged the passengers and crew, but he has brought in the vessel, effects, and mail, directed for this country, Germany, and the north. The mail was escorted by an officer of the American privateer, and conducted to Paris, where it is supposed it was given to the American envoys there."

Extract of a letter from the same place, dated May 17.

"I have just seen a private letter, dated the 12th of this month, from Brest, which says, to-morrow a fleet of 13 sail of the line will leave this port, their destination unknown."

Extract of a letter from France, dated May 19, 1777.

"There are two prizes taken by capt. Gutavus Cunningham, and sent into Dunkirk, one of them a Harwic packet, bound to Helvoet, on board of which they took the mail and a king's messenger, also 70,000 sterling, in specie, all which they took proper care of. Several merchant vessels are arrived here and at Bourdeaux, loaded with tobacco, their names I do not know."

Extract of a letter from general WASHINGTON to CONGRESS, dated, camp at the Clove, July 16, 1777.

"SIR, I beg leave to congratulate congress on the captivity of major-general Prescott, and one of his aids.—I he particulars of this fortunate event you will find in the enclosed extract of a letter this minute received from general Spencer, which, I presume, are at large in the packet Mr. Greenleaf will deliver. Lieut. col. Barton, with the small handul under his command, who conducted the enterprize, have great merit."

Extract of a letter from major general Spencer, dated Providence, July 11, 1777.

"SIR, I have the pleasure to congratulate your honour, and the honourable continental congress, on the late success of lieut. col. Barton, who with the number of forty, including captains Adams and Phillips, and a number of brave officers, last night went on Rhode-Island and brought off major-general Prescott, and major William Barrington, one of his aid-de-camps, and the sentry at the general's door, all that were at the general's quarter. This was done with such prudence that no alarm was given to the enemy until our party had got near to the main, on their return. They are now in this town.

"Col. Barton went with his party in four whale-boats from Warwick-Neck, about ten miles by water to the west side of the island, landed about half way from Newport to Bristol-Ferry, then marched one mile to the general's quarters, returned again to Warwick, and had the good fortune to escape the discovery of the enemy's guard boats, although several ships of war lay round in those parts. Several attempts of this nature have been made without any loss on our side, and with some small success. The above named capt. Phillips, some time since, with a party of about twenty, brought off one ensign Clark of the 43d regiment, now a prisoner. Another party attacked one of the enemy's guards, dispersed them, killed three, and wounded one. We have had several deserters from the British regiments."

Published by order of congress, CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

We hear from Georgia, that col. Elbert made descent upon East-Florida, with the brigade under his command, and after some successful skirmishing with the enemy, in which he took some prisoners and recovered of the wounds he some time ago received in an engagement with the enemy, and lately in a road state had lately taken four prizes, one of which had a large number of dollars on board.

Extract of a letter from Middletown, July 20.

"This morning at half past 10 o'clock the enemy's fleet appeared in New-York Narrows, on their way to Sandy-Hook. This evening at sun-down there were sail, as near as we could count, it is beyond a doubt that some of them have troops on board, but so what amount cannot pretend to say. I shall carefully attend their motions till they sail, and as long as they continue in fight; should they bear to the southward, shall give you the earliest intelligence."

By a gentleman from Boston we are informed, that captains Manly and M'Neil, in two continental frigates, have taken the Fox frigate of 36 guns, on the banks of Newfoundland. M'Neil's ship is put into Boston to refit. They manned the Fox immediately, and fifty of her hands entered on board the two American ships.

Extract of a letter from Shrewsbury, dated July 25.

"On Sunday the 20th inst. I had the honour of informing you that 160 sail of the enemy's fleet had come from the Watering-Place, and lay in Sandy-Hook Bay. On Monday morning fifteen transports and men of war joined them, and about ten o'clock eighty small brigs, schooners, and sloops came out of the Narrows, and joined the grand fleet. On Tuesday they lay still. But this morning, at half past six, the signal gun for sailing was fired, the wind N. W. and at seven they began to get under way, and stood for sea. After they got clear of the Hook, they steered a S. E. course, under a very easy sail, in three divisions. I attended their motions until fun down, and perceived very little difference in their course, sometimes appearing to bear a little to the eastward, and at other times somewhat to the southward.

"By a deserter from on board the transport ship America, I am this morning informed, that some part of general Howe's army, which crossed from this state to Staten-Island, have been sent to New-York. He cannot say what number, but thinks not exceeding five hundred. He also informs that the remainder, except two Hessian regiments, which are left as a guard upon the island, are embarked on board this fleet."

Camp, Morris-Town, July 8, 1777.

EXTRACT from GENERAL ORDERS.

The court, of which col. Broadhead was president, appointed to enquire into the conduct of the artillery officers, viz. capt. Eustace, and his officers, and capt. lieut. Archibald, whose pieces were lost in the action of the 26th ult. report, that having examined officers (whose names they mention) relative thereto, they are of opinion that capt. Eustace and his officers behaved with becoming bravery and good conduct during the whole action, and that the loss of the field pieces was inevitable, they being left in the rear unsupported. Also, that capt. Gibbs Jones, and the officers under his command, behaved with becoming bravery and good conduct during the whole action; and the loss of the piece commanded by capt. lieut. Edward Archibald was inevitable, it being in the rear unsupported.

The officers concerned beg the printers to publish this through the United States.

(Continued from our last.)

In CONGRESS, June 10, 1777.

RESOLVED,

XI. That the purchasing commissaries deliver live stock, and other provisions, required by the commissary or several deputy commissaries general of issues, at such places as they shall respectively direct.

XII. That the deputy commissary general of purchases in each district shall specially appoint one or more assistants to purchase live-stock, who shall caute to be branded on the horns of all cattle, by them purchased, the number and initial letters of their names respectively, and shall also have power to employ drovers and a person at each place, to which they may respectively be directed to send cattle, to receive, kill and deliver the same as hereafter directed.

XIII. That each drove of live stock, or quantity of provisions or other stores, that may be sent to any post, place or magazine, by any purchaser, shall be accompanied with duplicate invoices, taken from the entries directed to be made in the books of the purchasing commissaries, one of which, together with the live-stock or other stores, shall be delivered at such post, place or magazine, to the person appointed to receive live-stock, or to the issuing commissaries respectively, who, on the other, shall give his receipt for the articles received, to be transmitted to the purchaser by the person delivering the said articles; provided that if any live stock, under the care of the drover, shall be wanted at any other post than that to which they were ordered, the purchaser's deputy at such post may detain them, taking a copy of the invoice, as far as it respects the live-stock detained and giving his receipt for the same on the back of the said invoice, specifying their marks and numbers, and the person to whom the residue may be delivered, shall give his receipt therefor on the same invoice, and detain the other for his use as aforesaid.

XIV. That each drove of live-stock shall be killed under the direction of the purchaser's deputy receiving the same, who shall weigh and deliver the meat to the commissary of issues of the respective post, together with duplicates of the invoice left by the drover, entering in the eighth column the weight of the quarters of the several creatures; in the ninth, the weight of the hide; in the tenth, the weight of the tallow; and at the foot of each invoice, the number of heads and tongues. And the commissary of issues shall endorse his receipt on one of the invoices and deliver it to the deputy aforesaid, who shall return it to the purchaser as his voucher, and to enable him to fill up the eighth, ninth, and tenth columns of the entries in his book; and the other shall be kept by the issuing commissary for his own use.

XV. That the commissary-general of purchases