

acquainted with the country, mistook the road in the night, and at day-break fell in with a castle, six miles higher up than Chinesee, inhabited by a tribe called Squatebakas. Here they saw a few Indians, killed and scalped two; the rest fled. Two runners were immediately dispatched to me with the account, and informed that the party were on their return. When the bridge was almost completed, some of them came in and informed, that Lieutenant Boid, and most of his party, were almost surrounded by the enemy; that the enemy had been discovering themselves before him for some miles; that his men had killed two, and were eagerly pursuing the rest; but soon found themselves almost surrounded by three or four hundred Indians and rangers. The whole of Mr. Boid's men, who were sent to secure his flanks, fortunately made their escape; but he, with fourteen of his party and the Oneida chief, being in the centre, were completely encircled. All the light troops of the army, and the flanking divisions, were immediately detached to their relief; but arrived too late, the enemy having destroyed the party and escaped.

It appeared that our men had taken to a small grove of trees, the ground around it being clear on every side for several rods, and there fought till Mr. Boid was shot through the body, and every man killed except one, who, with his wounded commander, was made prisoner. The firing was so close before this brave party was destroyed, that the powder of the enemy's muskets were driven into their flesh. In this conflict the enemy must have suffered greatly, as they had no covert, and our men were possessed of a very advantageous one. This advantage of ground, the obstinate bravery of the party, with some other circumstances, induced me to believe their loss must have been very considerable. They were so long employed in removing and secreting their dead, that the advancing of general Hand's party obliged them to leave one along side the riflemen, and at least a waggon load of packs, blankets, hats and provisions, which they had thrown off to enable them to act with more agility in the field; most of them appeared to have appertained to the rangers. Another reason which induces me to suppose they suffered much was, the unparalleled tortures they inflicted upon the brave and unfortunate Boid, whose body, with that of his equally unfortunate companion, we found at Chinesee. It appeared they had whipped them in the most cruel manner, pulled out Mr. Boid's nails, cut off his nose, plucked out one of his eyes, cut out his tongue, stabbed him with spears in sundry places, and inflicted other tortures which decency will not permit me to mention; lastly, cut off his head, and left his body on the ground with that of his unfortunate companion, who appeared to have experienced nearly the same savage barbarity. The party which, it seems, Mr. Boid fell in with, was commanded by Butler, and had been posted on an advantageous piece of ground, in order to fire upon our army when advancing; but found their design frustrated by the appearance of this party in their rear.

The army moved on that day to the castle last mentioned, which consisted of 15 houses, and had very extensive fields of corn, which being destroyed, we moved on the next day to Chinesee, crossing in our rout a deep creek and the Little Seneca river; and after marching six miles we reached the castle, which consisted of 128 houses, mostly very large and elegant. The town was beautifully situated, almost encircled with a clear flat which extends for a number of miles, where the most extensive fields of corn were, and every kind of vegetable that can be conceived. The whole army was immediately engaged in destroying the crops. The corn was collected and burned in houses and kilns, that the enemy might not reap the least advantage from it, which method we have pursued in every other place. Here a woman came to us who had been captured at Wyoming. She informed us the enemy had evacuated the town two days before; that Butler at the same time went off with three or four hundred Indians and rangers, as she said, to get a shot at our army. This was undoubtedly the party which cut off lieutenant Boid. She mentioned, they kept runners constantly out, and that when our army was in motion the intelligence was communicated by a yell, immediately on which the greatest terror and confusion apparently took place among them. She said, the women were constantly begging the warriors to spare for peace; and that one of the Indians had attempted to shoot colonel Johnson for the falsehoods by which he had deceived and ruined them; that the overheard Butler telling Johnson it was impossible to keep the Indians together after the battle of Newtown; that he thought they must soon be in a miserable situation, as all their crops would be destroyed, and

that Canada could not supply them with provisions at Niagara; that he would endeavour to collect the warriors to assist in the defence of that fort, which he was of an opinion this army would lay siege to, and the women and children he would send into Canada. After having destroyed this town, beyond which I was informed there was no settlement, and destroyed all their houses and crops in that quarter, the army having been advancing seventeen days with the supply of provisions before mentioned, and that much reduced on the march by accidents, and the Cayuga country being as yet impenetrated, I thought it necessary to return as soon as possible, in order to effect the destruction of the settlements in that quarter. The army therefore began its march for Konadafaga the eighteenth day from its leaving Newtown. At Konadafaga I was met by a sachem from Oneida and three warriors, one of whom I had sent from Catharine's with a letter, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose congress; they delivered me a message from the warriors of that nation respecting the Cayugas; copies of that, and my answer, I also enclose. From this place I detached colonel Smith with a party down the west side of Seneca lake, to destroy the corn which had been cut down, and to destroy any thing further which might be discovered there. I then detached colonel Granworth with one hundred men to Albany to forward the baggage of the York regiments to the main army, and to take with him such soldiers as were at that place. I directed him to destroy the lower Mohawk castle in his rout, and capture the inhabitants, consisting only of six or seven families, who were constantly employed in giving intelligence to the enemy, and in supporting their scouting parties when making incursions on our frontiers. When the Mohawks joined the enemy those few families were undoubtedly left to answer those purposes, and to keep possession of their lands. The upper castle, now inhabited by Orkekes, our friends, he was directed not to disturb. With him I sent Mr. Deane, who bore my answer to the Oneidas. I then detached colonel Butler with six hundred men to destroy the Cayuga country, and with him sent all the Indian warriors, who said if they could find the Cayugas they would endeavour to persuade them to deliver themselves up as prisoners; the chief of them called Tegattelawanz, being a near relation to the sachem. I then crossed the Seneca river, and detached colonel Dearborne to the west side of the Cayuga lake, to destroy all the settlements which might be found there, and to intercept the Cayugas, if they attempted to escape colonel Butler. The residue of the army passing on between the lakes towards Catharine's. Colonel Dearborne burnt in his rout six towns; which, including one which had been before partly destroyed by a small party; destroying at the same time large quantities of corn. He took an Indian lad and three women prisoners; one of the women being very ancient, and the lad a cripple, he left them, and brought on the other two, and joined the army on the evening of the 26th. Colonel Cortland was then detached with 300 men up the Tioga branch, to seek for settlements in that quarter; and in the space of two days destroyed several fields of corn, and burnt several houses. Colonel Butler joined the army on the 28th, whereby a complete junction was formed at Conowalohala, on the 29th day after our leaving Newtown. Here we were met by a plenty of provisions from Tioga, which I had previously directed to be sent on. Colonel Butler destroyed in the Cayuga country five principal towns and a number of scattering houses, the whole making about one hundred in number, exceedingly large and well built. He also destroyed two hundred acres of excellent corn, with a number of orchards, one of which had in it 1500 fruit-trees. Another Indian settlement was discovered near Newtown by a party, consisting of 39 new houses, which was also destroyed. The number of towns destroyed by this army, amounts to 40, besides scattering houses. The quantity of corn destroyed, at a moderate computation, must amount to 160,000 bushels, with a vast quantity of vegetables of every kind. Every creek and river has been traced, and the whole country explored in search of Indian settlements, and I am well persuaded, that, except one town, situate near the Allegany, about 50 miles from Chinesee, there is not a single town left in the country of the Five Nations.

It is with pleasure I inform congress that this army has not suffered the loss of forty men in action or otherwise since my taking the command, though perhaps few troops have experienced a more fatiguing campaign. Besides the difficulties which naturally attend marching through an enemy's country, abounding in woods, creeks, rivers, mountains, morasses and

the want of proper guides, and the maps of the country are so exceedingly erroneous that they serve not to enlighten but to perplex. We had not a single person who was sufficiently acquainted with the country to conduct a party out of the Indian path by day or scarcely in it by night; though they were the best I could possibly procure. Their ignorance doubtless arose from the Indians having ever taken the best measures in their power to prevent their country's being explored. We had much labour in clearing out roads for the artillery, notwithstanding which the army moved from twelve to sixteen miles every day when not detained by rains, or employed in destroying settlements.

I feel myself much indebted to the officers of every rank for their unparalleled exertions, and to the soldiers for the unshaken firmness with which they endured the toils and difficulties attending the expedition. Though I had it not in command I should have ventured to have paid Niagara a visit had I been supplied with fifteen days provisions in addition to what I had, which I am persuaded from the bravery and ardor of our troops would have fallen into our hands. I forgot to mention that the Oneida sachem requested me to grant them liberty to hunt in the country of the Five Nations, as they would never think of settling again in a country once subdued, and where their settlements must ever be in our power. I, in answer, informed him, that I had no authority to grant such a licence; that I could not at present see reason to object to it, but advised them to make application to congress, who I believed would, in consideration of their friendly conduct, grant them every advantage of this kind that would not interfere with our settlement of the country, which I believed would soon take place. The Oneidas say, that as no Indians were discovered by colonel Butler at Cayuga, they are of opinion they are gone to their castle and that their chiefs will persuade them to come in and surrender themselves on the terms I have proposed. The army began its march from Conowalohala yesterday, and arrived here this evening. After leaving the necessary force for securing the frontiers in this quarter, I shall move on to join the main army.

It would have been very pleasing to this army to have drawn the enemy to a second engagement, but such a panic seized them after the first action that it was impossible, as they never ventured themselves in reach of the army, nor have they fired a single gun at it on its march or in its quarters, though in a country exceeding well calculated for ambuscades. This circumstance alone would sufficiently prove that they suffered severely in their first effort.

Congress will please to pardon the length of this narration, as I thought a particular and circumstantial detail of facts, would not be disagreeable, especially as I have transmitted no accounts of the progress of this army since the action of the 29th of August. I flatter myself that the orders with which I was entrusted are fully executed, as we have not left a single settlement or field of corn in the country of the Five Nations, nor is there even the appearance of an Indian on this side of Niagara. Messengers and small parties have been constantly passing, and some imprudent soldiers who straggled from the army, mistook the rout and went back almost to Chinesee without discovering even the track of an Indian. I trust that the steps I have taken with respect to the Oneidas, Cayugas and Mohawks, will prove satisfactory. And here I beg leave to mention, that on searching the houses of those pretended neutral Cayugas, a number of scalps were found, which appeared to have been lately taken, which colonel Butler shewed to the Oneidas, who said that they were then convinced of the justice of the steps I had taken. The promise made to the soldiers in my address at Newtown I hope will be thought reasonable by congress, and flatter myself that the performance of it will be ordered.

Colonel Bruin will have the honour of delivering these dispatches to your excellency. I beg leave to recommend him to the particular notice of congress, as an officer who, on this, as well as several other campaigns, has proved himself an active, brave, and truly deserving officer. I have the honour to be, with the most exalted sentiments of esteem and respect,

Your excellency's most obedient  
and very humble servant,  
JOHN SULLIVAN.

His excellency John Jay, Esq;

Published by order of congress,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Extra B from the minutes of the general assembly of Pennsylvania, October 10, 1779.

On motion, Resolved unanimously,  
That, leaving to the judicial authority of the State to determine who were to blame in the late