

In CONGRESS, Dec. 6, 1780.

While Congress are sensible of the patriotic courage and perseverance of the officers and privates of their regular forces, as well as of the militia throughout their United States, and of the military conduct of the principal commanders in both; it gives them pleasure to be frequently called upon to confer marks of distinction and applause for enterprises which do honour to the profession of arms, and claim a high rank among military achievements: in this light they view the enterprise against fort St. George on Long-Island, planned, and conducted with wisdom and great gallantry, by Major Tallmadge, of the light dragoons, and executed with intrepidity and complete success by the officers and soldiers of his detachment:

Ordered therefore, That major Tallmadge's report to the commander in chief be published, with the preceding minute, as a tribute to distinguished merit, and in testimony of the high congress entertain of this brilliant service.

Extract from the minutes.

CHARLES TADMON, Sec.

Fairfield, November 23, 1780.

SIR,

I HAD the honour to receive your excellency's orders of the 18th instant. On the 18th following, in obedience to which, a detachment of Colonel Sheldon's dismounted dragoons under the command of captain Edgar, were ordered to march the next day to Fairfield, to which place I directed a number of boats on the evening of the 18th, at which place, by reason of a very severe storm, we were detained till the 21st instant; on the evening of which, at four o'clock, I embarked the troops in eight boats: the whole in number, including the crews, amounted to about eighty men. With a favourable wind we landed safely on Long-Island, at a place called the Old Man's, about eight o'clock the same evening. After leaving about twenty men with the boats in charge of captain Sutton, we began our march to put your excellency's orders in execution: but a very severe storm coming on, however it might have favoured an attack on the fort, obliged me to postpone it, as I was well aware that attention must be paid as to a favourable time for re-crossing the sound (which is at this place more than 20 miles wide) as to attacking the fort. I accordingly concerted the troops till the evening of the 22d, when, at seven o'clock, we began our march across Long-Island, and, at three o'clock the next morning, were within two miles of fort St. George at South-Haven. By the most accurate information I found that the fort and other works had been recently completed but a few days before, and that the garrison consisted of about fifty men. It may be necessary here to observe, that the works of fort St. George consisted of two large strong houses, and a fort about 30 feet square, connected together by a very strong stockade or line of sharpened pickets 12 feet high: the whole forming a triangle, the fort and houses standing in the angles. The fort consisted of a high wall and deep ditch, encircled with a strong abattis, having buoys gate a sally-port, which led directly into the grand-parade within the pickets. The fort had embrasures for six guns, though but two were mounted: the houses were strongly barricaded. From this description I found it necessary, small as my detachment was, to make three different attacks at the same time. I accordingly detached lieutenant Jackson with 36 men, with orders to advance as high the fort as he could, and discover, and there to halt till the alarm was given by the advance of the detachment under my immediate command. The van of this detachment, who carried axes to beat down obstructions, was led by lieutenant Brewster, directly against the new house, while the remainder, with captain Edgar and myself at their head, followed close after. Another small division was directed to file off and surround the other house; Mr. Simmons bringing up the rear, with directions to halt where the breach might be made, to prevent the garrison from escaping. Thus prepared, the troops were put in motion precisely at four o'clock, and, contrary to my expectations, the pickets advanced within twenty yards of the works before they were discovered. The sentinel firing, the different detachments immediately rushed on, and passing all obstructions met at the same instant in the centre of the fort, where the watch word was given from all quarters at the same time. The guard in the fort was secured; but the two houses contained the main body of the garrison, who began to fire from the windows. I immediately ordered the troops to enter the houses,

the houses of which, though strongly belted and barred, were soon burst open, and in less than ten minutes the whole garrison were our prisoners.

Being informed that a vessel lay within view of the fort, loaded with stores, rum, wine, sugar, &c. I detached a party who boarded and took her. This matter of the whole, my first object was to demolish, as much as possible, their works, &c. We accordingly set fire to the small garrison, buildings, stockade and abattis, consuming at the same time the public stores that could be collected, including a considerable quantity of ammunition and arms, which the troops so much prized, and having to long a march to make back, could not carry. We remained at the fort from four to eight o'clock in the morning, when having destroyed as much as it was possible, we began our march back. The vessel being aground was burnt.

I have the honour to enclose your excellency a return of the prisoners; the arms and other public stores to a considerable amount were, as I before mentioned, chiefly destroyed. The soldiers brought off a few articles of clothing and other things, which though small, (as we endeavoured to keep them as light as possible that they might not fall on their march) I trust your excellency will permit to be distributed among them.

I feel peculiarly happy that I can inform your excellency, that we had not a man killed in this enterprise, and but one wounded: him we brought off. The enemy's loss was seven killed and wounded, most of the latter, mortally. The surprise was so complete, that before they could rally they were all prisoners.

On our return, I mounted ten men on the horses taken at the fort, and, while captain Edgar marched the detachment and prisoners across the island, I fled off, with lieutenant Brewster, to Cotuit, and set fire to the whole magazine of the king's store at that place, supposed to contain more than 300 tons, and joined the detachment again in less than two hours. By this time the militia began to rally, but presently avoided coming near us. Some guns were fired, but no damage received. By 4 o'clock the afternoon of the same day we reached our boats, and having embarked the troops and prisoners arrived late at this place at 11 o'clock on the evening of the 23d. Thus, in about 23 hours, we performed a march of near forty miles, took fort St. George, &c. &c. and in less than 6 hours more were landed at this place.

I should be remiss in my duty, should I omit to observe that the officers and soldiers under my command behaved with the greatest fortitude and spirit, both upon their long and fatiguing march, and in the moment of action. Mr. Mulron, a volunteer upon the occasion, deserves commendation. He advanced with a party of lieutenant Jackson's detachment over the abattis and wall into the fort. In fine, every order that was given was executed with alacrity and precision.

I have the honour to be, with great respect and esteem, sir, your excellency's most obedient and humble servant, BENJAMIN TALLMADGE, Major and L. D.

His excellency general Washington. P. S. I have enclosed a rough draft of the fort for your excellency's information. The standard of the fort will be sent forward with the prisoners.

Return of prisoners taken in fort St. George. 1 Half pay lieutenant-colonel, 1 Half pay captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Surgeon, 50 Rank and file.

GOODALLUM SALT to be disposed of in water for BORK by JAMES WILLIAMS, (Annapolis, Nov. 30, 1780.)

FOR SALE, A STRONG healthy NEGRO MAN, 22 years of age, has served 13 years in a merchant's mill, and is complete in that business. No other motive than his having attempted to escape to the enemy induces the proprietor to dispose of him. Any person desirous to purchase is requested to apply to Colonel William Fitz-Augh, Calvert-county.

Office for stating and settling the public accounts.

The commissioners find it necessary, for the public service, to give further notice that the honourable assembly, at their session, 1780, enacted a law, entitled "An act to be it enacted, That the several collectors, at the time of settlement of their accounts with the commissioners of the tax for their counties, shall account to the said commissioners for the tax due by law in their counties respectively, and the said collectors shall pay the treble tax then collected, or which by law they ought to collect, to the treasurer of his shire, at the time appointed by law for the payment of the public assessment, and in case of default they shall be answerable for and liable to pay an interest of five per cent on the said sums; and every collector who hath collected the treble tax, and omitted to pay the same into the treasury, and every collector who by law ought to have collected the treble tax shall be accountable for the treble tax due by law to his county to the commissioners for stating and settling the public accounts." And, whereas the duty enjoined by law on the collectors hath in many instances been totally neglected, and in other only in part complied with, the several collectors will therefore be pleased to take notice of the necessity there is for making due returns and payments regularly for the future, and that report of the proceedings on this law will be before the honourable assembly at their next meeting.

Signed per order 13 X T. GASSAWAY, CL.

500 CONTINENTAL DOLLARS REWARD.

Greenberry's-point, Oct. 2, 1780.

RAN away from the subscriber, the 2d of last, a negro woman named Uke; she is about forty years of age, very black, and has a wen on her brow by the border of her hair (wool) the only certain mark to describe her by as she has a variety of cloaths, among which there is a tartan gown, a white linnen ditto, a calico ditto, a striped silk jacket, a new coat made of blue wooley jacket and petticoat, and others of country cloth, &c. When she went away, her intention was to go to Holland wharf, near the named Mark-Blabos, a most notorious villain, who intended to pass her as his wife and tres; he went from Baltimore in a vessel called the Antelope, and she was disappointed in her scheme by the ship not stopping at Annapolis; she has since, as I am informed, been taken and harboured in Annapolis by Mr. Deane, negro, and in Baltimore county, between town and Elk-ridge landing, by some free negroes and negroes of Mrs. Swings, who are brother and daughters; she has been frequent in Baltimore town on Sundays, and at night a mulatto woman's house named Sal-brook, who lives among the French hautes; she is to be seen at Stubbs and Harbours here. Any person who will secure her in any goal in this or any of the state shall receive the above reward, and brought home reasonable charges, paid by DAVID KERR.

Charles county, October 18, 1780.

I HAVE in my custody, committed to my care, a negro man named HARRY, who says he belongs to Patterson Fletcher, Culpepper county in Virginia; he is a short, fat fellow, about twenty-four years of age, speaks good English, had on when brought off, an old white country cloth jacket, and a pair of country linnen trousers. He is desirous to pay charges and take him away. BENJ. CAWOOD, jun. Sheriff.

TAKEN up as a stray, by Edward G. junior, at Elk-Ridge, a brown horse, a fourteen hands high, with a small star and spot before, has some saddle spots, has a brand on the near buttock, but too much to be understood, trots and gallops, and is supposed to be about twelve years old. The owner may have him again on proving property, paying charges.

By the COMMITTEE of GRIEVANCES COURTS OF JUSTICE, Nov. 3, 1780. NOTICE is hereby given, that this committee will sit at the said house from 6 o'clock in the afternoon until 5 on each day during the present session of assembly. G. RANKEN, cl. c.