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## **A British View of the Siege of Charleston: From the Diary of Captain John Peebles February 11-June 2, 1780**

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A BRITISH VIEW OF THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON:  
FROM THE DIARY OF CAPTAIN JOHN PEEBLES  
FEBRUARY 11 - JUNE 2, 1780

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A Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the Department of History  
The College of William and Mary in Virginia

In Partial Fulfillment  
Of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Master of Arts

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by

John S. Salmon

1975

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfillment of  
the requirements for the degree of

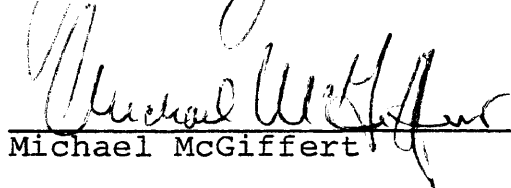
Master of Arts

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Approved, January 1976

  
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Edward M. Riley

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John E. Selby

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael McGiffert

DEDICATION

To my parents

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## ABSTRACT

Captain John Peebles of the 42nd (Royal Highland) Regiment kept a diary from April 12, 1776, through March 2, 1782. The diary describes his experiences as a British officer in America during the Revolutionary War with the candor and detail so often lacking in other journals of the period.

This thesis contains a portion of the diary concerning the siege and capture of Charleston, South Carolina, from February 11 through June 2, 1780.



A BRITISH VIEW OF THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON:  
FROM THE DIARY OF CAPTAIN JOHN PEEBLES  
FEBRUARY 11 - JUNE 2, 1780

## INTRODUCTION

In June 1776 British forces commanded by General Henry Clinton and Admiral Sir Peter Parker attempted to capture Charleston, South Carolina, but were repulsed by an army under the command of Major General Charles Lee. The principal battle of the campaign took place on June 28 when the defenders of Sullivan's Island, led by Colonel William Moultrie, so heavily damaged the British fleet as it sought to pass the island that the attackers withdrew to New York.

It was not until 1779 that Clinton again viewed the conquest of South Carolina and Georgia as a practical possibility. From time to time since 1776 the commander-in-chief had been urged to turn his attention southward, for taking the southern colonies would provide, among other advantages, a convenient refitting station for the navy operating in the Caribbean. It was also hoped that Southern loyalists, who often outnumbered their enemies in the back country, would rise and join the British forces in securing the region for the king's government. The successful defense of Savannah against a siege in October 1779 added momentum to Clinton's plans for the southern provinces. Charleston, the largest city on the southern seacoast, seemed the

logical starting place.

Clinton sailed from New York with an army of 8,500 men at the end of December 1779. Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot joined him with a 650-gun fleet and about 5,000 sailors. Later reinforcements from New York and Savannah would increase the strength of Clinton's army to 10,000.

The voyage to Charleston was nearly a disaster. In a violent storm off North Carolina almost all the cavalry and artillery horses were lost, and several transports were heavily damaged. Late in January 1780 the ships began to arrive off Tybee Island at the mouth of the Savannah River, where they spent several days replenishing their stores and waiting for stragglers. On February 11 the army landed twenty miles south of Charleston at North Edisto Inlet.

Against Clinton's army the commander of the Charleston garrison, General Benjamin Lincoln, could assemble only about 5,500 troops, half of whom were Continentals and half militia. Lincoln had been on the verge of abandoning the city when he was talked into remaining by Charleston's civic leaders. Day by day he watched the British siege lines advance, and saw the enemy's cavalry, quickly remounted, cut off his avenues of escape. The issue was never seriously in doubt, and on May 12, 1780, Lincoln's army and the city of Charleston surrendered.

With the capture of Charleston Clinton achieved his most important victory of the war. He had taken a strategic

stronghold and the only effective army in the southern colonies at one blow, and had crushed resistance, at least for the moment.

Among the British officers who celebrated the fall of the city was the forty-year-old captain of the 42nd Regiment's grenadier company, John Peebles. During the long siege Peebles had commanded work details constructing the trenches and redoubts from which British artillery and German riflemen directed their fire toward the city's defenses. Peebles kept a diary during his tour of duty in America, and in it he recorded the daily events of the siege.

John Peebles was born on September 11, 1739, "lawful son to John Peebles and Mary Roech,"<sup>1</sup> in Irvine, Ayrshire, Scotland. Irvine, an ancient borough and seaport, lies on the west coast of Scotland at the mouth of the Irvine River about twenty-five miles south of the River Clyde. Most of its residents obtained their livelihood from the shipping trade. John Sinclair, a Scottish statistician, noted in 1793 that the population increased from 4,025 inhabitants in 1755 to 4,500 in 1790.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Patricia M. Baxendine, Scots Ancestry Research Society, Edinburgh, to author, July 12, 1972. Genealogical data concerning John Peebles and Anne Hamilton was furnished by the Society in the letter cited here. All dates are given in New Style.

<sup>2</sup>John Sinclair, comp., The Statistical Account of Scotland (Edinburgh: William Creech, 1793), VII, 175.

Almost nothing is known of Peebles's childhood, but undoubtedly he played, fished, and hunted like other Scottish children. Although no evidence has been found to indicate that Peebles ever attended college, it is apparent from his journal, in which he displays a knowledge of French and Latin, that his education was not neglected.

While Peebles was still in his teens, the Seven Years' War erupted. He responded by joining a newly raised regiment as a "gentleman volunteer" in 1757. The commander was Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Montgomery, who had received orders issued on January 4, 1757, to recruit the regiment.<sup>3</sup> The unit was known as Montgomery's Highlanders and was numbered the 77th. On March 31 the regiment was ordered by William Pitt, Secretary of State, to proceed to Charleston, South Carolina.<sup>4</sup>

For the next six years John Peebles served in North America as a surgeon's mate and an infantryman. In 1758 he was a member of General John Forbes's expedition against Fort Duquesne, and in 1759 he was with General Jeffrey Amherst's army at the siege of Fort Ticonderoga. In 1760

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<sup>3</sup>David Stewart, Sketches of the Character, Manners, and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland; with Details of the Military Service of the Highland Regiments (Edinburgh: Archibald Constable and Co., 1825), II, 81.

<sup>4</sup>Correspondence of William Pitt, ed. Gertrude S. Kimball (New York: Macmillan Co., 1906), I, 27-28.

Peebles accompanied Montgomery's Highlanders on the campaign against the Cherokee towns in South Carolina. The regiment had a quiet station at Halifax in 1761, but in the following year the unit participated in driving the French from St. John's, Newfoundland.

Pontiac's Rebellion broke out in the neighborhood of Fort Pitt in 1763, and when the fort was besieged by the Indians the 42nd and 77th regiments marched to its relief. On August 5, 1763, the relief column was ambushed near Fort Pitt at Bushy Run, where Peebles was seriously wounded. Many of the junior officers in the 42nd Regiment were killed, and since the 77th Regiment was about to be disbanded, Peebles was given an ensign's commission in the 42nd, the Black Watch. In subsequent years he rose in rank until he became captain of the 42nd Regiment's grenadier company in 1778.

The Black Watch remained in North America, stationed at frontier outposts in Pennsylvania, until 1767 when it was transferred to Ireland. In 1775 the regiment moved from Ireland to Glasgow, but its stay there was brief. On April 12, 1776, the 42nd marched from Glasgow to Greenock and shortly thereafter embarked for America and another war to preserve the Empire.

Like many British officers, Peebles thought the

rebellion in America would end quickly.<sup>5</sup> Besides his belief in the superiority of British arms, he had a personal interest in a short war, for during his first tour of duty in the country he had made friends from Halifax to Charleston, and some of them were now on the other side. The conflict was a rebellion, but Peebles recognized it as something more: commenting on a rape perpetrated by a British soldier, he wrote, "Hard is the fate of many who suffer indiscriminately in a civil war."<sup>6</sup> Indeed it was a civil war, with American fighting American, and the British were hard pressed to distinguish friend from foe.

Peebles sympathized with civilians who were the targets of plundering soldiers, and he recognized that injuring civilians would only drive the uncommitted to the rebel side. In contrast, Peebles's commander, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Stirling, was ready to suspect any American of disaffection and to act accordingly. Stirling felt that the revolutionaries and their civilian followers were treated too lightly, and he thought that the inhabitants should either declare their loyalty or be recognized as rebels. As he wrote to his brother in 1777:

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<sup>5</sup>Peebles to John Peebles, Sr., June 29, 1776, Cuninghame of Thorntoun Papers (GD21/491/1), Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh.

<sup>6</sup>Diary entry of December 24, 1776, ibid. (GD21/492/3), S.R.O.

Every house where the males were absent without a good cause or reason assigned, I would destroy with the plantation. . . . This would soon finish it, but while their familys lived quiet at home, and when they can at all times come to [them] when they tire of the service or their time is out, it is only a frolick to them to turn out and fight against the bloody back'd Butchers as they politely call us. For my part I am heartily tired of it,<sup>7</sup> as I can see no end in the manner we go on.<sup>7</sup>

In his diary Peebles describes many of the fights with the enemy, including the engagements at White Plains, Fort Washington, Brandywine, Monmouth, Charleston, and several lesser battles. He also presents a lively account of the social life of a British officer in captured New York and Philadelphia. He found time to attend formal dinners, balls, and plays, sightsee, gamble, visit old friends, hunt, fish, and ride for pleasure. He even played a round of golf on Long Island. A loyal Scot, he celebrated St. Andrew's Day with enthusiasm and usually complained of a headache the day after. Nor did he neglect St. Patrick's Day, Christmas, or the New Year.

His diary also records the changes in Peebles's personality as the war ground on. He began his journal as an affable, ambitious young officer, confident in the might of Britain and certain of her ultimate victory. He ended the diary six years later an irritable middle-aged man beginning

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<sup>7</sup>Stirling to Sir William Stirling, June 25 and July 3, 1777, Abercairny Muniments (GD24/1/458), S.R.O.



to drink too much alone. He was disillusioned and homesick, and wanted only to dispose of his commission and return to Scotland. At last, on March 2, 1782, he boarded a ship in New York harbor for the journey home.

Shortly after he returned to Irvine, Peebles set about preparing for his marriage to Anne Hamilton, the forty-year-old only daughter of Charles Hamilton of Craighlaw, a prominent figure in the Irvine community. John and Anne celebrated their marriage on May 27, 1782, and their only child, Sarah, was born on November 4, 1783. She married, probably in August 1804, Colonel John Cuninghame of Caddell and Thorntoun, and bore him seven children.

Documentary information about Peebles is lacking for most of the 1780s, but he probably spent a great deal of time with his new family, and renewed old friendships. Sometime during the decade he was appointed Surveyor of Customs for Irvine. Perhaps this new career began in 1789, for in a letter of 1809 Peebles mentioned the fees he had been collecting "for these twenty years past."<sup>8</sup> In an income report submitted to the Assessor at the Custom House in Edinburgh on December 22, 1808, Peebles noted that his annual income averaged above £150--a comfortable living by the standards of the day.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Peebles to Collector and Comptroller of the Customs, Irvine, September 1, 1809, Cuninghame of Thorntoun Papers (GD21/191), S.R.O.

<sup>9</sup>Peebles to J. Hamilton, ibid., (GD21/191), S.R.O.

Letters he received indicate that Peebles returned to military life between 1795 and 1799. Starting in the latter year, the letters are addressed to "Major Peebles." Most likely he became a part-time soldier in 1797, when fears of invasion, prompted by the disturbances in France, resulted in the formation of many volunteer and militia units in Scotland. A unit called the Irvine Volunteers was active during the years of the French Revolution. The date Peebles left the volunteer service is not known; however, there does exist a piece of poetry dedicated to him "on the occasion of his leaving the Volunteers":

Major Peebles now accept of what we have  
to spare  
As a token of our high respect we give the  
Silverware  
The giving of the Silverware points out  
what you have been  
Therefor the Volunteers bewails the loss  
of such a friend  
The losing now of such a friend hath given  
us cause to mourn  
Because we now begin to doubt that you  
will ne'er [sic] return<sup>10</sup>

Anne Peebles died early in 1812. The date of John Peebles's death is unknown, but it occurred sometime between 1816 and 1834. In the former year David Stewart, author of Sketches of the Character, Manners, and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland; with Details of the

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<sup>10</sup>No date, ibid. (GD21/191), S.R.O.

Military Service of the Highland Regiments (Edinburgh: Archibald Constable and Co., 1825), wrote Peebles asking for further extracts from the journal for use in the military sections of his book.<sup>11</sup> In 1834 Sarah Cuninghame wrote to her son Archibald concerning some money left to her by her late father.<sup>12</sup>

The journal kept by John Peebles from April 12, 1776, to March 2, 1782, is preserved in the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh. Written in thirteen notebooks of various sizes, and totalling over eleven hundred pages, the diary is in remarkably good condition except for about forty pages missing from the last two notebooks.<sup>13</sup>

The excerpt from the diary presented here covers the siege of Charleston, South Carolina, from February 11, 1780, the day the British force landed on Johns Island and began its march toward the city, to June 2, 1780, when Peebles and most of the army boarded the transports for the voyage back to New York.

The diary of John Peebles is one of the most significant British primary sources still in existence concerning

<sup>11</sup>Stewart to Peebles, May 16, 1816, ibid. (GD21/500), S.R.O.

<sup>12</sup>December 31, 1834, ibid. (GD21/455), S.R.O.

<sup>13</sup>Microfilm copies of the journal are available at the Library of Congress and the Colonial Williamsburg Research Library. A xerox copy purchased from the Scottish Record Office was used in the preparation of this thesis.

the American Revolutionary War. Although a large number of journals were written by soldiers during the war, few possess the scope of the Peebles diary. Some are relatively detailed but cover only one campaign. Others were kept for a longer period of time but contain little more than notations concerning the weather and troop movements. A few journals, like Sir Henry Clinton's The American Rebellion and Banastre Tarleton's A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America, were written for publication after the war and lack the spontaneity of first impressions hastily recorded. John Peebles's journal, however, is candid enough to reveal something of its author's personality and detailed enough to describe his experience of the war with attention to both its military and its social aspects. Since it was not revised for publication, the diary retains the freshness of its original state of composition.

Historians have made little use of the diary despite its significance. David Stewart, as mentioned earlier, used portions of the diary in his study of the Highland regiments. Ira D. Gruber cites the journal in The Howe Brothers and the American Revolution (New York: Atheneum, 1972). Richard M. Ketchum mentions the diary briefly in The Winter Soldiers (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday and Co., 1973). It is to be hoped that one day the diary will be published in its entirety.

The task of rendering a typescript of Peebles's diary was greatly facilitated by the author's clear, uncluttered handwriting. I decided, after reviewing the editorial methods used by Julian P. Boyd, Edward M. Riley, and others, to steer a middle course between a verbatim, literal transcription and a completely modernized version. The lack of appropriate keys (such as the tailed "p") on the typewriter rendered the former method awkward to execute, while the latter format would have destroyed much of the original flavor of the manuscript.

Peebles's spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, and grammar have been retained. All sentences begin with a capital letter (except those that start with numerals), and end with a punctuation mark. Abbreviations, ampersands, and symbols such as the tailed "p" have been expanded, and superscript letters lowered. Meaningless dashes, inadvertant repetitions of words, and unreadable scored-out passages have been silently omitted. Editorial corrections, insertions, and comments are indicated by square brackets.

Peebles used his notebooks not only to keep a diary but also to record loans, debts, company rolls and returns, odd stories from newspapers, and a host of trivia. Generally, he reserved a few pages at the beginning and end of each book for such data. All such material has been silently omitted.

Footnotes are included to identify individuals, define military terms, and note scored-out passages. Other annotation is limited to important military activities. In identifying individuals, the full name, birth and death dates, historical significance, and rank and regiment are given if possible. Several reference works were helpful in providing biographical data; they are listed in the bibliography. Definitions of military terms have been taken from George Smith's An Universal Military Dictionary (Ottawa, Ontario: Museum Restoration Service, 1969, facsimile of 1779 edition).

A BRITISH VIEW OF THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON

FEBRUARY 11 - JUNE 2, 1780

Friday 11th February [1780]. The fleet came to anchor by signal before one o'Clock this Morning in 10 fathom water. At daylight see the land to the Northwestward. Weighed about six and stood in with a light breeze from the Northeast. About 9 see a Lighthouse to the northward which we take to be that of Charles Town bar. We stand in for an opening we see about 5 leagues to the southward of the Lighthouse. The John leads. The Admiral<sup>1</sup> tack'd and stood off. About 11 the headmost ships got over the Bar, 1/4 less 3 fathom, steering Northwest and by noon the whole got into this harbour which we take to be North Edisto.<sup>2</sup> A boat from the John gave chase to a boat near shore and took her up a Creek, but the people escap'd.

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<sup>1</sup>Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot, Royal Navy (ca. 1711 - January 31, 1794). Naval commissioner at Halifax, 1775 - January 1778. Appointed Commander-in-Chief of Naval Forces in America early in 1779. He was generally considered incompetent and ignorant, and he and Clinton detested each other. Succeeded by Admiral Thomas Graves in March 1781.

<sup>2</sup>Scored out: "Stono."

The fleet came to anchor about a mile within the entrance in 7 fathom, about 50 Sail. A Signal from the Agents<sup>3</sup> Ship for all Adjutants and Masters. Orders for landing in two debarkations, the first this Afternoon, the second tomorrow morning. The Army Brigaded as follows, vizt.: Light infantry and Grenadiers under the Command of Major General Leslie<sup>4</sup> (not yet come from Savannah), Hessian Grenadiers under Major General Gosport,<sup>5</sup> the whole under the Command of Lieutenant General Earl Cornwallis.<sup>6</sup> The 7th and 23d under the Inspection of Lieutenant Colonel Clarke,<sup>7</sup> the 33d, 71st and Yagers<sup>8</sup> under the Command of Lieutenant

<sup>3</sup>Agent: An individual, usually appointed by the colonel of a regiment, entrusted with the money belonging to the officers and men of the unit. He maintained exact accounts of the arrears of officers in regard to subsistence, hospitals, widows, and off-reckonings.

<sup>4</sup>Major General Alexander Leslie (ca. 1740 - 1794). Supported operations of Cornwallis in the Carolinas, took command of the southern theatre after Cornwallis's defeat. Evacuated Savannah and Charleston in 1782.

<sup>5</sup>Major General Heinrich J. von Kospoth of the German forces.

<sup>6</sup>Lieutenant General Charles, Earl Cornwallis (December 31, 1738 - October 5, 1805). Appointed Governor-General of India in 1786, later sat in the Cabinet, was instrumental in bringing about the Act of Union with Ireland. He never fell, as did Clinton, into complete disfavor with the government.

<sup>7</sup>Lieutenant Colonel Alured Clarke, 7th Regiment (ca. 1745 - September 16, 1832). Commanded the garrison at Savannah until its withdrawal in July 1782. Lieutenant Governor of Jamaica, 1782 - 1790. Served in India, Africa, and Bengal, 1795 - 1798.

<sup>8</sup>Jager: A rifleman in the German forces.



Colonel Webster,<sup>9</sup> the 63d, 64th and Huyne's under the Command of Major General Huyne.<sup>10</sup> A Transport of the 64th, Major McIlroth,<sup>11</sup> join'd the fleet this Morning.

Lord Cornwallis's division or the first debarkation got ashore in the Evening on the North side and march'd in the dark thro' very deep road and rain 3 or 4 miles. The head of the Column at Simonds.<sup>12</sup> Some went astray in the night.

2 Companys of Light Infantry and 4 of Grenadiers lost their way with the Commander in chief<sup>13</sup> and Lord Cornwallis, and after splashing thro' the mud and rain till near 10 O'Clock we halted in a wood and made fires and staid there all night.

<sup>9</sup>Lieutenant Colonel James Webster, 33d Regiment (ca. 1743 - March 1781). Supported Cornwallis on southern campaign. Was mortally wounded at Guilford Court House on March 15, 1781.

<sup>10</sup>Major General Christoph von Huyne of the German forces.

<sup>11</sup>Major Robert McIlroth, 64th Regiment.

<sup>12</sup>Not able to identify. Several families named Simons or Simmons lived on Johns Island.

<sup>13</sup>General Sir Henry Clinton (April 16, 1730 - December 23, 1795). Clinton's success at Charleston, as Willcox notes in his Portrait of a General, was "the pinnacle of his career." A slow, careful siege, conducted along traditional lines, was exactly suited to Sir Henry's temperament. This was Clinton's only moment of unalloyed triumph in the war, and the ultimate loss of the American colonies would haunt him for the rest of his life, as Britain refused to tolerate a loser. Eighteen months before he died, Clinton was appointed Governor of Gibraltar, and recovered a measure of respect.

MAP 1

CHARLESTON PRECINCT, 1780



Department of the Navy, U.S. Naval History Division, The American Revolution, 1775 - 1783; An Atlas of 18th Century Maps and Charts: Theatres of Operations (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1972), map 15.

Johns Island South Carolina. Saturday 12th February. We march'd with the General and Lord Cornwallis in the Morning and join'd the Column at Simmons's where they had been all night living on plenty. The Light Infantry march'd forward about 8 miles, the Grenadiers about 2 Miles to Rivers's.<sup>14</sup> The Rest of the Army landed and came up to Simmons's which is Head Quarters. Orders against marauding. To prevent a waste of fresh provision and undistinguish'd oppression, Cattle to be collected and fresh meat issued to the troops. To the Commanding officers of Brigades and Corps His Excellency more particularly Addresses this order. They with himself must feel its importance and he is persuaded will cheerfully render themselves responsible to him for its being most strictly complied with. It will not be possible yet to assign Waggon's to the different Regiments. Officers will therefore for some days reconcile themselves to the inconveniency of having very little baggage.

The field Baggage remov'd to smallest ships which are to be the first to communicate with the Army.

We found some sheep and a few Cattle here on Rivers's plantation which with Lord Cornwallis's approbation were divided among the Grenadiers, a very good Ration.

A Doctor who liv'd there run away. Come back. Simmons, a Minor, lives in England, his factor a Rebel, run off. A

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<sup>14</sup>Not able to identify.

large Plantation and house and near 100 Negroes young and old on it. A light sandy soil. Flat woody Country. The Woods mostly pine. When clear'd, produces corn and calavances.<sup>15</sup>

This part of Johns Island reckon'd about 20 miles from Charles Town by Stono ferry and the Country hereabout is so intersected with creeks and water courses that they go several ways by water to Charles Town. No Baggage brought ashore, only a second shirt. Some officers have soldiers tents.

Sunday 13th February. Rain last night again. The day cloudy.

Colonel Webster with the 33d and Yagers march'd past this Morning towards the Light Infantry. The 71st not come yet.

The General and Lord Cornwallis with their suite having got horses of one kind and another went forward likewise. We don't march today. Caught a little horse and sent to the ships for Canteens, etc. In coming back he overset the whole and ran off. Some things broke.

[General Orders]

Head Quarters Simmons's House. 13th February '80.  
The Army is to form in Column of march by the right tomorrow morning at 6 O'Clock upon the Charles Town road in the following order: Two Companies of British Grenadiers,

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<sup>15</sup>A name for certain varieties of pulse.

Pioneers,<sup>16</sup> British Grenadiers, Hessian Grenadiers, 7th and 23 Regiments, 63d and 64 of General Huynes Brigade. The Regiment of Huynes will remain at their post till further orders and send a Company to the Landing.

Monday 14th February. Cool and cloudy. The Army March'd 'tween 6 and 7 O'Clock in the order prescrib'd about 5 or 6 miles. The Grenadiers or front of the Column at Doctor Wells,<sup>17</sup> the rest in the rear along the road 2 miles. Head Quarters at Wilsons.<sup>18</sup> The 33d and yagers gone on to Stono. The Light Infantry about 3 and 5 miles on the right, 1st Battalion at Fenwick.<sup>19</sup> Sandy road, level country, pine wood and few houses. A Rebel Captain and Doctor taken yesterday, lately from Charles Town who say they mean to make a Vigorous defence.

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<sup>16</sup>Pioneer: A civilian or soldier employed in clearing roads, constructing fortifications, digging trenches, etc.

<sup>17</sup>Doctor William Charles Wells, Loyalist (May 24, 1757 - September 18, 1817). Fled to London at the outbreak of the war. Returned to Charleston in 1781, but went back to London when the British troops were evacuated. Became a member of the Royal Academy in 1793. Published Two Essays in 1818, in which he presumed biological evolution and offered an explanation of natural selection based upon a struggle for survival.

<sup>18</sup>Not able to identify.

<sup>19</sup>Perhaps Edward Fenwicke, a Loyalist whose estate was confiscated in 1782.

Captain Moncrieff<sup>20</sup> and Major Hay<sup>21</sup> appointed Commissaries of Captures. All Negroes, Horses and Cattle, to be deliver'd to them. Some provision and Rum come up by Water near to Stono Meeting house. Two days fresh meat to be issued.

More strict orders from Lord Cornwallis to the Commanding officers of Corps verbally against plundering and killing of Cattle.

The Light Infantry have taken some sloops in Stono River with rice at Gibbs.

Tuesday 15th February. A good deal of rain last night which still continues in showers, against which we have no Shelter but Wigwams of pine bushes.

Battalion orders enforcing the General orders in the delivery of Captures. And the Lieutenant Colonels and Captains thanks to the Surgeon Muir<sup>22</sup> for his care of the great number of sick last fall.

A walk to the 1st Battalion Light Infantry, 3 miles. They are lodged at Fenwicks, a large Modern house with

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<sup>20</sup>Major James Moncrieff, Royal Engineers, chief engineer at Charleston (1744 - September 7, 1793). Conducted various engineering projects in England for the Army after the war. Was mortally wounded while acting as chief engineer during the siege of Dunkirk on September 6, 1793.

<sup>21</sup>Major George Hay, 80th Regiment.

<sup>22</sup>Surgeon James Muir, 3d Regiment.

offices which holds them all and from which they see the spires of Charles Town about 8 or 9 miles off to the North-eastward. They have taken some Cattle and horses, the latter very poor. The Column halted today.

Wednesday 16th February. Fine weather.

The Light Infantry moved to Stono ferry, the Grenadiers to Fenwicks and Gibs.<sup>23</sup> The latter Lord Cornwallis's Quarters, a good house on the bank of Stono River, the family at home.

General Leslie arrived and a Battalion of the 71st.

Thursday 17th February. Clear and warm. The 1st Light Infantry, 33d and Yagers have pass'd at Stono ferry and taken post on the other side. Provision and Stores getting forward by the inland Navigation.

The Commander in Chief and his family come to Fenwicks and fix'd his Quarters. Ask'd to dine there with some others, but I was engaged to Colonel Hope.<sup>24</sup>

The Smyrna Galley arrived at Tybee some days [ago], with the 63d and 74th Grenadiers<sup>25</sup> and the Defiance with 4 or 5 sail [illegible].

Friday 18th. Fine warm weather. We manouvre a little in the lawn before Fenwicks House, Head Quarters.

<sup>23</sup>Not able to identify.

<sup>24</sup>Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hope, 44th Regiment.

<sup>25</sup>Scored out: "they left."

They see a few Rebels near Stono but no firing. All quiet at the different posts. Din'd at Head Quarters. A good many there. Secretary Phillips<sup>26</sup> came after dinner with letters and accounts of the arrival of the Ships at North Edisto that were with the Defiance and of the Ceres from England with Cloathing and stores at Tybee. Sail'd under convoy of the Richmond and Raleigh from Corke [illegible].

Captain Elphinstone<sup>27</sup> who has the Command of our Galley's is in pursuit of the Rebel Galleys in the inland Navigation which they think cannot escape him.

Saturday 19th February. Cloudy. A walk to the 2d Battalion Light Infantry at Chisholms 4 miles from here on the Bank of Stono River. 3 Companys detach'd a little lower down. They see some Rebels sometimes on the other side, being James island. Some of our boats have pass'd up the River.

They live in plenty there, and all quiet. It came on to rain and got wet coming home. No dry things to shift with. It rain'd till late at night from the eastward.

We have fresh provision but nothing to drink except our allowance.

<sup>26</sup>Captain Nathaniel Phillips, Assistant Secretary to Clinton.

<sup>27</sup>Captain George Keith Elphinston, of the Perseus (January 7, 1746 - March 10, 1823). Later became Admiral and Viscount. Distinguished himself in the wars with Revolutionary France and Napoleon.



Sunday 20th. Fine fair weather again. A deserter came in last night, a German, one of the Corps that was Pulaskies.<sup>28</sup> They ly about 11 Miles from Stono, only 32 in number.

Captain Trail<sup>29</sup> who commands the Artillery is come to Stono ferry with some Guns, etc. We are getting on but Slowly.

Monday 21st February. The 2d Battalion Light Infantry moved from their ground last night and arriv'd here at Fenwicks<sup>30</sup> about 2 O'Clock in the morning.

The 1st Battalion have repass'd Stono ferry and march'd to Fenwicks. The 7th, 23d, 33d and Yagers are over Stono with General Leslie.

It came on rain about noon and continued all day and most part of the night.

Some Boats come to Fenwicks landing to carry us across the River.

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<sup>28</sup>Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski (ca. 1748 - October 1779). "Commander of the Horse," September 1777 - March 1778. Raised an independent body of cavalry, largely composed of deserters from the British forces. Mortally wounded leading a cavalry charge at Savannah, October 9, 1779. After his death his troops were commanded by Major Pierre-Francois Vernier (ca. 1737 - 1780), who was killed at Monck's Corner on April 14, 1780.

<sup>29</sup>Captain Peter Traile, Royal Artillery.

<sup>30</sup>Scored out: "Gibbs."

Tuesday 22d. Clear'd up and the wind came about to the westward. The Light Infantry expected to move but the tide or something did not answer. The Reconoitring Galley fir'd some shots at people on James Island and were mistaken in what they took for an encampment. Uncertain yet where we shall land on James's Island.

Wednesday 23d February. It blew hard all last night at Westerly and was very cold which still continues. Orders in the Morning to march at 6. The 1st Light Infantry march'd about 7, the 2d about 2 hours after, to the Riverside<sup>31</sup> where they embark'd to cross, but it blows so hard that it is not yet practicable. We the Grenadiers are desir'd to pitch our tents again and remain, and send for Provisions to Gibbs.

We hear the Defiance is castaway off Tybee. Very bad management, Mr. Jacobs.<sup>32</sup>

And that the Raleigh is arrived there from England with General Robertson.<sup>33</sup>

Engineers stores and intrenching tools coming from Savannah. Most part of the made up ammunition for the

<sup>31</sup>Scored out: "below Mathews's."

<sup>32</sup>Perhaps Captain Maximilian Jacobs, Royal Navy, Captain of H.M. Frigate Amazon in 1776.

<sup>33</sup>Major General James Robertson (ca. 1720 - March 4, 1788). Appointed civil governor of New York in May 1779, and was head of a board of commissioners for restoring peace.

Artillery was on board that Ship the Russia Merchant that was abandon'd at Sea. These blunders happen frequently in ordnance department.

Din'd with Lord Cathcart<sup>34</sup> at his Quarters [at] Mrs. Simmons. Call'd and saw Captains Hathorne<sup>35</sup> and Napier<sup>36</sup> who are both sick there, the first [illegible] in uvula, 2d a fever. His Lordship civil enough, but that is all I expect.

Thursday 24th February. It blew so hard all day yesterday that the Light Infantry could not cross over to James's Island, but this Morning being more moderate the 1st Battalion have got over and the 2d are following. We were put in motion about 8 to go down to the Landing place but had not gone above 1/4 mile when we were turn'd back to our ground, there being no boats. Hiss. The 2d Battalion Grenadiers join'd us from Gibbs's just as we return'd. The 63d take up their quarters as a Cantonment

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<sup>34</sup>Lieutenant Colonel William Schaw, Lord Cathcart, 38th Regiment, Aide-de-Camp to Clinton (September 17, 1755 - June 16, 1843). Raised a body of Loyalists, the Caledonian Volunteers, in 1778. This group became known as the British Legion and was subsequently commanded by Tarleton. Cathcart had a long and distinguished career in the Army and served as ambassador to Russia from 1812 to 1820.

<sup>35</sup>Captain William Hawthorn, 80th Regiment.

<sup>36</sup>Captain George Napier, 80th Regiment (March 11, 1751 - October 31, 1804). Later became Superintendent of Woolwich Laboratory, a Lieutenant Colonel, and comptroller of army accounts in Ireland.

being sickly. The Hessian Grenadiers close by encamp't and the 64th and Huynes at Mathews. The two Battalions Grenadiers march'd to Mathews's landing and embark'd in boats as they arrived and cross'd over to Hamiltons<sup>37</sup> on James Island. The scarcity of boats made it night before they were all over. The 1st Battalion moved on to Scots, where they found the Light Infantry.

The Strong wind yesterday blew some ships off the coast.

Friday 25th February. James Island South Carolina. Cold last night and a strong frost. The 2d Battalion Light Infantry march'd at day light with the Commander in chief, Lord Cornwallis, etc., to Fort Johnson and reconoiter'd the Town and Harbour, etc. A good many<sup>38</sup> Shipping there with some frigates.

All the White men have left this Island and gone into Town. Some have left their familys. A thick settled Country and appearance of plenty, but they have drove off a great deal of the Stock. The Light Infantry return'd in P.M. and brought some Cattle.

The Hessian Grenadiers cross'd over today and remain near Hamiltons. The 1st Light Infantry 3 miles on, towards

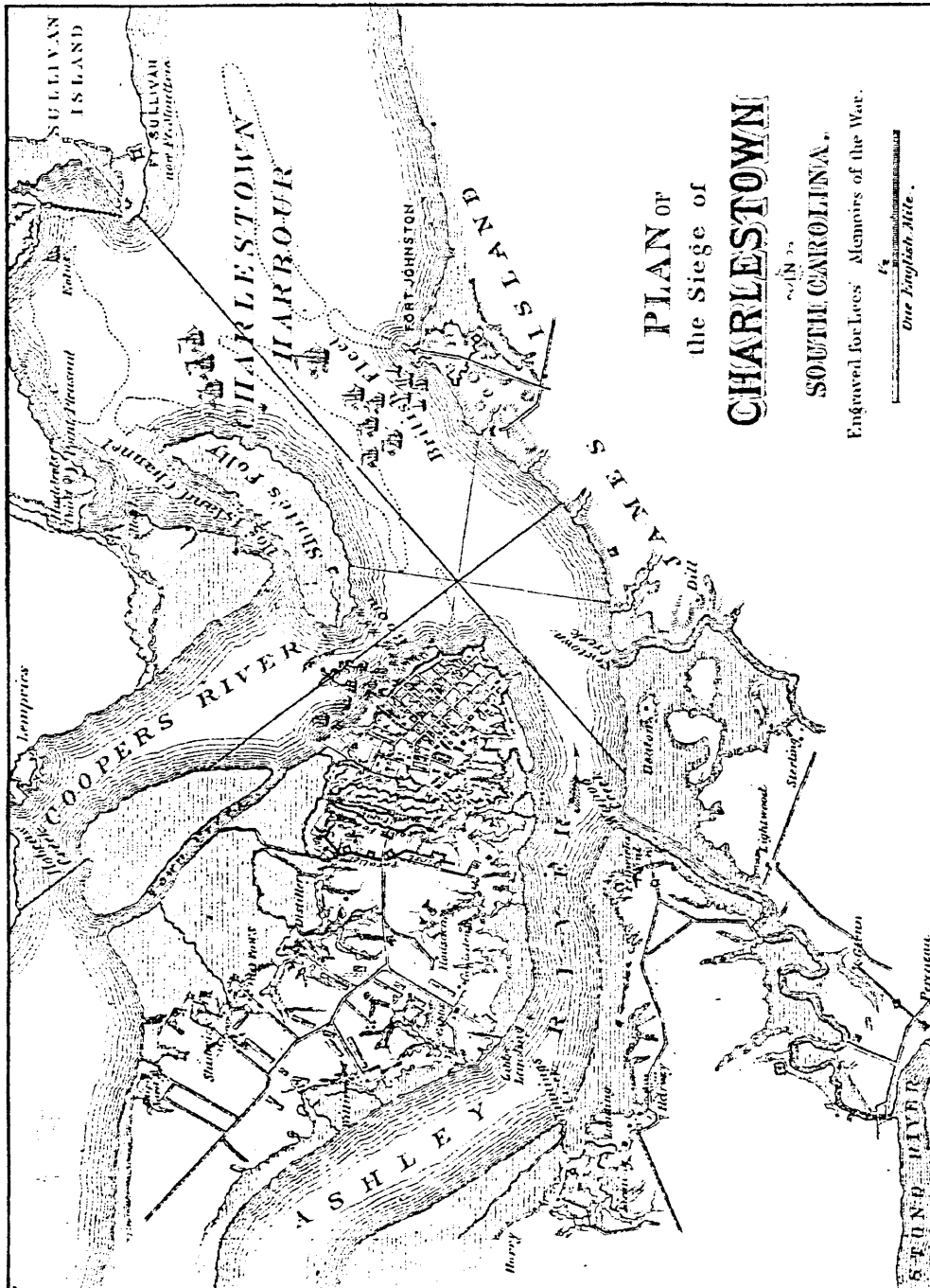
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<sup>37</sup>Perhaps Paul Hamilton, Senior, a Loyalist who went to England in 1782 or 1783, and died there in 1797.

<sup>38</sup>Scored out: "above 100 sail of."

MAP 2

A PLAN OF THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTOWN



Henry Lee, Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States (New York: University Publishing Co., 1869), facing p. 146.

Wapoo.

The Rebels have blown up the Lighthouse at Charles Town bar and spoil'd other marks for entring the harbour, and making other preparations for a serious defence.

We can't properly invest the place unless the Men of War get in and destroy their Ships, etc.

The day warm and pleasant. Wind easterly.

Saturday 26th February. Fine mild weather. General Leslie come over to his Command of Light Infantry and Grenadiers. The Regiments at Stono ferry remain there under the Command of Webster. All our provisions, etc., come round that way yet and land now at Mr. Pieryneaux<sup>39</sup> near Waupoo Cut which is Head Quarters, near 40 miles of inland navigation. The Light Infantry Picquets in view of the Town about 2 miles off. We had orders to move, but were countermanded.

Sunday 27th. Warm weather for the season. The Admiral come up to Head Quarters with General Robertson who is come out to be Governor of New York, and brought Dispatches for the Commander in Chief.

The Hessian Grenadiers moved this Morning to near Fort Johnston, to which Place I took a ride to see what was to be seen there. Ist a fine view of the Town about 3 miles off which looks well and something like New York. Several

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<sup>39</sup>Henry Peronneau, Treasurer of South Carolina, a Loyalist, who died in England in 1786.

Batteries and Colours flying. A good many ships lying close by the Town and in both Rivers, some of them arm'd. Three Rebel frigates lying off Sulivans island within Shot of Fort Johnston. The largest, above 30 Guns, has a broad pendant. They fir'd 3 shot at us. Fort Johnston was destroy'd last year by the Rebels. Sulivans Island seems to be Strongly fortify'd and full of Embrazures<sup>40</sup> towards the water.

One 24 pounder, one 12 pounder and one 8 inch howitzer got up near Fort Johnston to be put into a battery there to try to make the Rebel frigates move. The 64th at Hamiltons.

The Generals and Admiral reconoitering.

Monday 28th February. Warm weather and easterly wind. Some more Ships arrived from Tybee, with a Battalion of the 71st, the 63d and 74th Grenadiers, etc. A walk to the Light Infantry. Both Battalions at Perryneaux covering Head Quarters.

Some Ladies arrived there from Town by water to go into the Country, but are Stop'd.

A boat came in to the Light Infantry by Wapoo from the Rebels last night with a Lieutenant of Marines and 6 sailors. The Lieutenant had been in our 17th Dragoons. They deserted from an arm'd ship lying in Ashley River.

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<sup>40</sup>Embrasure: In fortification, an opening in a parapet through which cannon fire is directed.

The frigates opposite Fort Johnston seeing our people at work there, came nearer that shore after noon a little, and canonaded them for two hours or more. The Hessian Grenadiers being within reach of their Shot were drawn back a little. One Artilleryman and two Hessian Grenadiers wounded, and one Negro kill'd. We fir'd a few shot from a Gun in the road, but I believe did no mischief. The frigates haul'd off again to the Sulivans island side. The big wigs out that way again.

Tuesday 29th February. Warm weather. Wind Easterly. Two 24 pounders on barbette<sup>41</sup> at Fort Johnston ready to play on the enemys Ships if within their reach, but at present they seem too far off. The Admiral gone to the fleet with an intention to get some of his ships over the Bar and force a passage up the harbour, the first favourable opportunity of wind and tide.

A Bridge making over Waupoo near Perryno's, where there was one before. Some Rebels seen on the opposite side there. We hear the 7th Regiment have had some men wounded near Stono ferry by a small party of Pulasky's horse.

The 63d and 74 Grenadiers came up and join'd their Battalion. They were long at sea, and on 1/2 allowance.

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<sup>41</sup>Barbette: In fortification, a platform for cannon high enough to permit firing over the walls.



Major [Thomas] Armstrong of the 17th Regiment come here. Left Cork in December with General Robertson.

A fleet of Victualers, etc., expected from thence every day. Another demand for horses.

Wednesday 1st March. Rainy weather. On a General Court martial for the tryal of 3 men of the 37th Company for plundering. Lieutenant Colonel Abercromby<sup>42</sup> President, 3 Field officers and 10 Captains.

A Brig come to Perryno's with<sup>43</sup> 8 32 pounders. She came up Stono River.<sup>44</sup> They forgot some tackle. A Stormy night of cold rain and wind from Southwest.

Thursday 2d March. Clear and moderate weather. All quiet on this island. A bridge making over Waupoo to the main, and the Bridge here over the New Cut repairing and making stronger.

The Rebels have sent another Ship down to Sulivans island, some Guns thereabout in the afternoon. A flag of truce came in to the Light Infantry and were sent back without an answer by his Excellency. Matters going on but

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<sup>42</sup>Lieutenant Colonel Robert Abercromby, 37th Regiment (1740 - November 1827). Served with distinction in India, 1788 - 1797, as Colonel of the 75th Regiment.

<sup>43</sup>Scored out: "6 or."

<sup>44</sup>Scored out: "round by the inland navigation from North Edisto."

Slowly. The Troops that were over Stono ferry come to Johns Island, leaving a post there with 100 men. Some vessels come into Stono River by the inlet.

Friday 3d. Fine clear weather and cool nights. Wind Northwest. Some of the Transports come up to Hamiltons. The 7th and 23d Regiments come over to this Island and encamp near Perryneaux. The Engineers tools, etc., arrived. The Ship they were in went to Providence, being very leaky. Had a barrel of limes and oranges sent me from thence by McQueen of the Garrison duty men there, formerly of the 42d Grenadiers and wounded at Brandywine.

Some Suttling Vessels come to Perryno's but every thing is very dear, Rum 4 dollars a gallon.

Saturday 4th March. Warm day. An enclosed work with two embrazures making near Fort Johnston out of the ruins of a Rebel work, and a small [one] on the water side higher up. A Redout<sup>45</sup> making round Perryno's house and two others on Waupoo for the defence of that post when the Army moves. The Light Infantry, Grenadiers, 7th and 23d give the working party of 500.

Sent a present of oranges and limes to Lord Cornwallis, General Leslie and Colonel Hope.

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<sup>45</sup>Redoubt: In fortification, a small work, usually of three or four sides, raised to block an avenue of approach.

Din'd with Skelly. Some Clergymen and people of this Country there.

Pick'd up a little negro Boy for a fifer.<sup>46</sup>

Sunday 5th. Warm weather. Southerly wind. A Rebel Light horse man deserted and came in by the bridge at Waupoo. The Redoubts going forward there, and Guns and stores landing. Some of the Ships come into Stono, the rest at North Edisto. The Men of war cruizing the Bar.

Monday 6th March. Rain from Southwest. A Working party of 700 British twice a day, making these Redoubts.

The Troops get fresh meat and Rice one day in three from the Commissary of Captures.

We hear General Patterson<sup>47</sup> with 1500 men is on his March from Georgia to join us.

Tuesday 7th. Close and sultry weather. The two Battalions of Light Infantry march'd last night over Waupoo Bridge to the Main about 10 o'Clock, and were conducted into the Country thro' very bad Roads above 12 miles about Northwest

<sup>46</sup>On February 19, 1782, the Negro boy Ned, aged 11 years, was indentured as a servant to Peebles until his twenty-first birthday. Peebles was to teach him to read English. (Cunninghame Papers, GD21/158.)

<sup>47</sup>Brigadier General James Paterson, who had been ordered to make a diversion toward Augusta, Georgia, but was recalled to Charleston. He commanded the defenses of Staten Island in 1781.

in order to get behind a Party of Rebels, whilst the 1st Battalion of Grenadiers march'd this Morning at 5 o'Clock and proceeded to the Bridge near Ashley ferry<sup>48</sup> in order to intercept their Retreat. We arrived there 'tween 8 and 9 when two Companies pass'd the Bridge and fell in with a few stragglers and fir'd on them, and took some prisoners, by whom we found the Party we were in search of had pass'd Ashley ferry yesterday and carried over a great many Cattle.

The Commander in chief, Lord Cornwallis and General Leslie were with the advanced Companies and went near the River side to reconoitre when the Rebels fir'd a 3 pounder from the other side several rounds but miss'd.

We halted and mended the Bridge at the Church which had been broke down yesterday by the Rebels, and here the Light Infantry join'd us after a long and fatiguing march and having miss'd the Enemy they only took a few Country prisoners, among them a Mr. Loyd and a Mr. Far.

A few Rebel Light Horse shew'd themselves at the Church as we were coming off at whom the Battalion Guns were fir'd which set them ascampering. The Troops return'd to their respective Camps in the Afternoon.

I escorted the Generals home thro' by ways near the River where they got a very good View of the Town and works

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<sup>48</sup>Ashley ferry was about five miles northwest of Charleston on Ashley River. The bridge was about a mile upriver from the ferry.

from the nearest ground on this side Ashley River, not less than a mile. Din'd at Head Quarters.

The Country as far as we went has the same uniform appearance, a dead flat intersected with swamps, marshes and Creeks. The Wood mostly pine and only clear'd about the Houses, several of which we saw that look'd very well, but all deserted. Saw a good many Cattle. The Light Infantry drove in about 300 head.

Wednesday 8th March. James Island. The weather very warm for the season.

The Redoubts at and near Head Quarters are finish'd. A good many Guns from the Rebel shipping today at people near the water side. The Admiral off the Bar.

We are told that General Robertson is going to New York in the Russel and will take letters. Wrote to Rutherford<sup>49</sup> a short sketch and sent it in to go by that opportunity.

Thursday 9th. Rain in the Morning before and after daylight. We got orders at four to be ready to march at five, but for reasons best known to themselves we did not move. The day clear'd up.

General Robertson and his Aid de Camp set off for the Russel to proceed to New York, and I hear the 42d are

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<sup>49</sup>Captain John Rutherford, 42d Regiment, a close friend of Peebles's.

order'd to come here.

Friday 10th March. Fine weather and warm. The Light Infantry and Grenadiers and 7th and 23d Regiments march in the forenoon by Wapoo bridge to the Main, taking the road to Ashley ferry for about 4 miles and turn'd to the right, and took up ground within 2 and 3 miles of Fenwicks point on Ashley River, the flank Corps facing outwards. Some heavy Guns coming by Waupoo Cutt. We are Encamp'd in a thick wood, mostly pine, flat and watery as usual.

Lord Cornwallis and General Leslie in houses near the River. We give two Companies to cover their Quarters.

The Queen of France and the other arm'd ship that were lying 'twixt the Town and the mouth of Waupoo are gone down to reinforce their little Squadron at Sulivans Island. Our Ships at the Bar off and on.

Saturday 11th March. Rain in the Night and sometime in the Morning but clear'd up in the forenoon when took a walk to the point which seems to be the nearest to the Town of any on this side and where I suppose a Battery will be made, but a too great distance to hurt the works at the Town. Caught a horse.

Sunday 12th March. Fair weather and cool. A Party of 300, with arms went yesterday Evening and as many without went this Morning at 2 O'Clock to make a Battery on the Point

near the Wharff at the Mouth of Waupoo. They compleated three embrazures and got in two 32 pounders and an 8 inch Howitzer by day light, when two Rebel Gallies in Ashley River took a position above the Battery, and fir'd upon it for some time without doing any mischief tho' they made some very good Shots with their 18 pounders. An Arm'd Brig came likewise to fire upon the Battery but as one Gun could point to her, they gave her two or three Shot which made her cut her cable and go off and the Gallies finding they could make no hand of it, went off likewise in the afternoon.

Went on guard to the Battery at nine with 100 men, a Subaltern and 25 in the work, the rest at a little distance, helping forward the matterials. His Excellency, etc., etc., came there just as the last Galley went off, and reconoiter'd the Town and works for some time. Head Quarters still at Perryneaux.

200 men came in the Evening and finish'd the Battery for 5 Guns and the howitzer by 10 O'Clock. The Light Infantry went out foraging this Morning towards the Bridge at the Church near Ashley ferry. They got some bad Hay and saw a few Light horse who fir'd at them and stood a return in grape shot but no hurt done on either side. Skelly went to them with a flag of truce to deliver some letters from Mr. Loyd and Far.

A Corke fleet arrived at Tybee under Convoy of the Richmond, the same that sail'd with the Rawleigh.

Colonel Balfour,<sup>50</sup> Colonel Fox<sup>51</sup> and Major Coore<sup>52</sup> came passengers, and are come here to join the Army. The two last join the Grenadiers. A fleet from England are likewise expected which sail'd before them. We hear that General Vaughan<sup>53</sup> is arrived in the West Indies with Troops to make up an army of 10000.

The Charlestown folk turn out thick on their Walls today to look at us in our new Battery, and are working just opposite to us, 'bout a mile off.

Monday 13th March. Very cold last night and this Morning and a strong wind at Northwest. All quiet at the Battery.

<sup>50</sup>Lieutenant Colonel Nisbet Balfour, 23d Regiment (1743 - October 1823). Following the capture of Charleston he commanded at Fort Ninety-Six and raised 4,000 Loyalist militia. Recalled to command the garrison at Charleston in August 1780. Was known among the rebels for his cruelty, but was commended by Cornwallis. Later was in charge of compensating Loyalists for their confiscated estates.

<sup>51</sup>Lieutenant Colonel Henry Edward Fox, 38th Regiment (March 4, 1755 - July 18, 1811). Brother of Charles James Fox, opponent of the war. Served in the wars with Revolutionary France and Napoleon, and won distinction for his stand against the French army at Pont-a-Chin on May 23, 1794.

<sup>52</sup>Major Thomas Coore, 28th Regiment.

<sup>53</sup>Major General John Vaughan (ca. 1748 - June 3, 1795). Captured Verplancks Point, New York, on June 1, 1779. Returned to England late in the year and was named Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands. Appointed Governor of Berwick in 1780. Died in Martinique.



I was reliev'd at 6 o'Clock in the Morning. None of the Enemy's Vessels near us now. The Six largest ly down at Sulivans island, the rest are gone in Cooper River.

This wind will blow our ships off again. We have made a Battery on Light house island to prevent the Rebels from Annoying our Ships as they come over the Bar. The Margery being come up to Head Quarters a party gone to see after the Baggage and get some things.

They are making the Battery an inclosed Work round the Barn, with stockades and earth thrown up against them.

The dwelling house burnt yesterday and the frenchmans furniture, as they had the Small pox.

Tuesday 14th March. Cold again last night but clear and healthy weather. Wind in North. A Field officers Working party today finishing the work at the Battery and making a round Redoubt at the houses and a party taking up a 32 pounder that was sunk in the Creek. Three Rebel Gallies came towards the mouth of Waupoo and fir'd some shot at the Battery, but at too great a distance to do any harm.

The Rebels are busy working on this side of the Town making up the intervals betwixt the former Batteries.

Wednesday 15th. Fine weather. Wind Southwest. A Working party last night hawling Guns and on this Morning of 600 making a 3 Gun Battery to the left of the former for the better clearing the River, and finishing the other works.

We brought this new Battery (which is made with Stockades instead of fascines<sup>54</sup>) so far forward that 300 may finish it tomorrow. The Rebels busy at work just opposite to us, distance about a mile, covering every opening.

The 2d Battalion Light Infantry out covering a forage, but they got very little. Some more Ships come up to Head Quarters and a Brig from Glasgow with provision, out 13 weeks.

Thursday 16th March 1780. Warm weather and southerly wind.

A Working party of 400 at the 3 Gun Battery and finishing the first, and the Rebels seem to be as busy as we. Saw them Hanging somebody on a Gallows without their Works.

Some hundreds of hurdles<sup>55</sup> made by the Light Infantry, probably for laying on the marshes to make them passable for troops. The Rebel Gallies all gone down to their ships at Sulivans island. No word of our Ships coming in yet.

Friday 17th March. [Wind] Easterly and Northeast. Clear and cool. A Working party of 200 finishing the Batteries. Four days provision come out.

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<sup>54</sup>Fascine: A bundle of long branches tied together, often used to fill up ditches.

<sup>55</sup>Hurdles: Mats of interwoven twigs laid across muddy areas to enable troops to pass.

The Doctor has lost his Rump and dozen.<sup>56</sup>

A Lieutenant of the Rebel horse and his Brother a Volunteer came in last night.

Sent Serjeant Smith<sup>57</sup> to the Shipping at Head Quarters for Soap for the Company. Got 68 pounds at 2/ Sterling [per pound]. He took 10 guineas out of the trunk and paid me the ballance, viz. £3.14.

At work in the afternoon. A cold dinner and punch. Finish'd the works.

We hear that it was one Valentine<sup>58</sup> a Merchant that they hang'd yesterday for Attempting to come out. And another man.

Saturday 18th. Rain in the night and till noon. Settled Accounts with James<sup>59</sup> and paid him for what he laid out for the Mess, etc.

Something going to New York soon.

Sunday 19th March 1780. Rain in the Morning. Clear'd up in the forenoon. [Wind] Northwest.

<sup>56</sup>The doctor had lost a bet. From an Irish wager, "A rump of beef and a dozen [bottles] of claret."

<sup>57</sup>Sergeant Andrew Smith of Peebles's Grenadier Company, 42nd Regiment.

<sup>58</sup>Not able to identify.

<sup>59</sup>Private James Sinclair of Peebles's Grenadier Company, 42nd Regiment, Peebles's servant.

Got a sight of some Irish News papers of November and December. They have got a free trade by threatning Great Britain in her distress.<sup>60</sup>

Received a Letter from Richard Marshall<sup>61</sup> of the 12 July by Mr. [John] Ritchie, Ensign 44th, recommending that yound Gentleman. He came in the last Corke fleet.

Din'd at Colonel Hopes Mess.

Some Guns hauling up towards General Leslie's Quarters (Linings). Two Gallies in Waupoo near the landing.

Monday 20th. Clear and cool. Wind Easterly and high Spring tides. Eight of our Ships got over Charles Town Bar this Morning. Another to come. The double deckers were lightned but suppose will soon get in their Guns, etc., again and make an attack on the Rebel Ships if they dispute their passage up. Two deserters came in last night from town. They reckon above 3000 in Garrison. Some manouvring among the Rebel fleet today, in consequence of our Ships having got in. All quiet in Camp and at the Batteries. See the Rebels still busy at their works in front of the Town.

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<sup>60</sup>Ireland had been demanding that the English lift restrictions on the importation of Irish goods and permit a "free trade." After a year of disturbances in Ireland, including riots in Dublin, England yielded to the Irish demands in December 1779.

<sup>61</sup>A close friend of Peebles's, living in Scotland.

A Battalion order for a Review of Amunition and to compleat to 50 rounds from the Cartridges of the sick. A good many of ours Spoil'd from Carelessness and bad accoutrements. Must be more Attentive to that matter. We have not sick enough to compleat the rest.

Tuesday 21st. March. Fine weather. The Virginia frigate arrived from New York and bring the October, November and December Mails which arrived there 19th February in the Swift Pacquet. They have had a very hard winter at New York as ever was known. Staten Island was visited by Lord Stirling<sup>62</sup> and 3000 but he did not feel bold enough to make any attack. Three several Detachments of our troops went out from Kings bridge to White Plains, from Paulis hook to Newark, and from Staten Island to Elizabeth Town, and all succeeded in their attempts on the Enemy, killing some and taking a great many prisoners. The Virginia come over the Bar, few letters come to hand yet. Lord Barriedale<sup>63</sup> come in her who is now Earl of Caithness, to purchase<sup>64</sup> and go home.

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<sup>62</sup>Major General William Alexander, who claimed to be the 6th Earl of Stirling (1726 - January 15, 1783). He fought bravely at the Battle of Long Island, August 27, 1776. In January 1780, he led an expedition across the frozen Hudson River to Staten Island, but was discovered.

<sup>63</sup>Major John Sinclair, Lord Barriedale, Earl of Caithness, 76th Regiment, who shot himself to death on April 8, 1789.

<sup>64</sup>Scored out: "sell out."

A letter from Charles Grant<sup>65</sup> to collect money for him. He says he is married to Miss Hunt. The Lord help him.

Din'd with Peter.<sup>66</sup> Mr. Ritchie there. He has join'd that Company in the mean time by desire of Colonel Balfour to whom he is recommended.

Wednesday 22d March. Fine weather and warm. All the Rebel Ships that were lying at Sulivans Island are gone up into Cooper River yesterday.

The letters come up. I got no less than 8 from my little deary [Anne Hamilton], vizt. 20th August, 4th September and 23d, 3d, 12th and 28th October, 13th and 25 November. All well and full of affection. They were enclosed by Rutherford who writes me of Quarter Master Smiths<sup>67</sup> death and the conduct of the Regiment in clearing themselves, etc., etc.

A letter from John Smith<sup>68</sup> and a parcel of Newspapers. He is disappointed in getting the Majority of the 2d Battalion. McIntosh<sup>69</sup> was appointed and 'tis thought Peter Graham<sup>70</sup> will get it now. What luck some people have.

<sup>65</sup>Captain Charles Grant, 42d Regiment.

<sup>66</sup>Captain Thomas Peter, 23d Regiment.

<sup>67</sup>Quarter Master Colin Smith, 42d Regiment.

<sup>68</sup>Captain John Smith, 42d Regiment.

<sup>69</sup>Captain John McIntosh, 42d Regiment.

<sup>70</sup>A Patrick Graham was promoted to the rank of Major in the 2d Battalion, 42d Regiment, on March 21, 1780.

A letter from my Father of 26th October. All well and a letter from David Cunningham, Lieutenant in the Grays. Better wrote than I expected.

Had Peter and Ritchie to dine and Captain Cuningham.<sup>71</sup>

The Light Infantry, 33d and yagers march'd in the Afternoon up the Country probably to meet General Patterson. They did not march till the morning of the 23d.

Thursday 23d March. Warm weather. Wind in the south. The Admiral up here. The Ships in 5 fathom hole, viz. the Renown, 50, Roebuck and Romulus, 40s, Richmond, Blonde and Raleigh, 32s, Perseus, Camilla and Fowey, 20s, are all ready to proceed up. The Rebels we are told by deserters are dismantling their Ships and taking out their Guns to put into Batteries. We are making a little square Redoubt at the Creek near General Leslies. Some Guns and howitzers come up there probably for embarkation.

Some Spies from Charles Town Skulking about us. These rascals have more impudence than any other people on earth.

Two of them taken. Scot not found yet.

Friday 24th March. Fine weather and little wind. Mounted Guard at 6 at the Batteries, 112. Two of our Gallies at the wharff there. All quiet. The Rebel Ships lying t'other

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<sup>71</sup>Captain Archibald Montgomery Cuninghame, 76th Regiment.

side the town in Cooper River. Some Ships arriv'd at Tybee from England under Convoy of the Iris and Hydra. They came by the West Indies. A good deal of thunder and Lightning in the evening and rain in the night. Something going to New York. Wrote to Rutherford to bring some stores, etc., in case it finds him there, and wrote a few lines to Anne Hamilton, inclosed to Dr. McLean to forward. Our Baggage put on board the Thames.

Saturday 25th. Clear and cool. Relieved in the Morning. 3 men join'd from New York. I hear the Light Corps are about 5 or 6 miles off at a Bridge. Artillery and stores getting up to the house where General Leslie was, Linings. He is out with the Light Infantry. Hurdles carrying down near that to make a passage on the marsh.

Hessian Grenadiers on the ground where the Light Infantry was.

Sunday 26th March. Fine cool weather. Wind in the East. General Patterson with his Brigade from Savannah come to Stono ferry. Went to the Shipping at Head Quarters to get some things for ourselves and the Company. No Tobacco to be had except a little cut at 5/ Sterling per pound. Open'd by Trunk, all safe. Lent Captain [Kenneth] McKenzie 37th Grenadiers 30 Guineas. Took out 20 for myself and gave the rest in care of Captain Moodie,<sup>72</sup> viz. 80 [guineas].

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<sup>72</sup>Captain James Moodie, Master of the Thames transport.



I hear we have 15 men of war in five fathom hole. The Iris run ashore to the southward of Tybee. Allmost all the Transports are up at Perryno's. The Margery gone to 5 fathom hole to be made an arm'd ship. The 2d Battalion 71st come from Light house island, Major [Alexander] McDonald to Head Quarters. The 63d and 64th there also. Major McLaren commands a Detachment at Fort Johnston this week past. The Rebels burning houses, etc., withoutside their works.

Monday 27th March. Fair. Wind Southwest. Artillery and Engineers stores collecting at the little creek near General Leslies late Quarters, Lining, for some days past, near the little Redout.

The 64th Regiment march'd from Head Quarters to the Battery's at the mouth of Waupoo, which is to be their Station for some time.

The Iris got off. That fleet arrived at Tybee among whom is a Ship with Cannon and powder, much wanted. We hear the Rebels are destroying some of their Ships in Cooper River. 2 men join'd from the Ships.

Din'd with Lord Cornwallis. Good things with temperance, and politeness is true Epicurism.

About 260 Sailors from the Europe and Raisnable, come to man the flat Boats. The boats are come to landing place near this. These two Men of War are lying in Beaufort River which they find to be an excellent harbour and easy navigation.

Tuesday 28th March. Fine weather. Wind Easterly. The flat Boats pass'd out of Waupoo last night into Ashley River and up the little creek where the Artillery and Engineers stores are collected. We have orders to be ready to march at 12 o'Clock. We have five days provision in pork and flour. The officers baggage to be left with the Quarter Master.

General Pattersons Corps come near to where the Light Infantry was.

Tarleton<sup>73</sup> with his dragoons had a skirmish with the Enemy's t'other day.

A Colonel Hamilton<sup>74</sup> of the Provincials and Doctor Smith<sup>75</sup> of the Hospital taken prisoners 2 days ago, from General Pattersons Corps.

The British and Hessian Grenadiers and two Fuzilliers Regiments march'd about 12 O'Clock by the bridge near Ashley ferry, and proceeded up the road about 3 Miles

<sup>73</sup>Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton (August 21, 1754 - January 25, 1833). He was perhaps the most romantic and controversial British officer of the war. After the war ended, he never again held an active command. He was elected to the House of Commons, wrote a history of his American experience, gained the rank of General in 1812, and was knighted in 1815.

<sup>74</sup>Lieutenant Colonel John Hamilton, North Carolina Volunteers (d. 1817). An important and well-known Southern Loyalist commander, he was attainted of treason by Virginia and North Carolina. After the war he was appointed British Consul at Norfolk, Virginia.

<sup>75</sup>Doctor Robert Smyth, Hospital Surgeon.

further to Drayton Hall where we found the Light Infantry, and took up ground near them for the night with orders to be ready to move at the shortest notice. The 1st Battalion of the 71st who came with General Patterson took up ground in front of the Light Infantry and the Legion. The rest of that division betwixt Ashley ferry and our last Camp.<sup>76</sup>

This Drayton Hall is on the South bank of Ashley River about 13 miles from Charles Town and is one of the best houses I have seen in America, with handsome improvements. Mr. Drayton,<sup>77</sup> who was a great Rebel, is lately dead and left his fourth wife a widow who lives in the house with her children. The old rascal was very rich. Had 10 plantations and about 1000 Negros.

Wednesday 29th. Fine fair weather. Orders to march early in the Morning and the baggage to be sent to Ashley ferry.

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<sup>76</sup>Scored out: "March'd about 12 by the bridge near Ashley ferry up to Drayton Hall where we found the Light Infantry, and lay down in a Wood with orders to be ready to march at the shortest notice. Pass'd General Pattersons Corps near the bridge. The Hessian Grenadiers and Fuziliers on our left."

<sup>77</sup>William Henry Drayton (September 1742 - September 3, 1779). Educated in England, he sat on the Council of South Carolina, 1772 - 1775, from which he was suspended for pamphleteering for the rebel cause. He served as president of the provincial Congress, as chief justice of South Carolina from 1776 to 1779, and as a representative to the Continental Congress from 1778 until his death. Drayton Hall was built by his father about 1738 and was architecturally advanced for its time.

Flat boats and Ships long boats to the Number of 100 come up to Drayton Hall last night with some gun boats. The troops march'd about 8 O'Clock to the River side at the foot of Draytons Garden where they Embark'd the jagers, Light Infantry and Grenadiers first trip and landed on the other side about a mile higher up without any opposition near Benjamin Fullers. The boats return'd and brought the Hessian Grenadiers, the Fuziliers and 33d Regiments, the Generals, officers Horses, and some field pieces, and we moved on in the Afternoon on the Charles Town road about 3 and 4 miles and took up ground near Bellingers,<sup>78</sup> a friend to Government [Loyalist] just escap'd out of Town. This covers Ashley ferry for the passage of the baggage, etc.

Thursday 30th March. Fair weather. Wind southerly. The Baggage, horses, etc., being got over last night and this morning the troops were put in Motion about nine and march'd on the road to town about 6 or 7 miles when the jagers and Light Infantry met with a small party of the Enemy with whom they skirmish'd for hours. Lord Caithness while among the Commander in chiefs suite receiv'd a Shot in his belly, two jagers wounded. A small fleche<sup>79</sup> in

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<sup>78</sup>Probably Edward Bellinger, Senior, a Loyalist whose estate was amerced twelve per cent in 1782.

<sup>79</sup>Fleche: In fortification, a work of two faces lying outside of a fortified place, to hold off the enemy as long as possible.

MAP 3

A SKETCH OF THE OPERATIONS BEFORE CHARLESTOWN



William Gordon, The History of the Rise, Progress, and Establishment, of the Independence of the United States of America (London: 1788), III, facing p. 358.

front of their works was taken possession of and left again. The firing ceas'd in the evening. The troops took up their ground, yagers and Light Infantry in first line extending across the neck about 2 miles from town, Grenadiers, British and Hessian, in a 2d line about 7 or 800 yards in their rear. The rest of the troops behind them, some facing outwards. Head Quarters at Williams on the right of the Grenadiers.

Flanking today thro' very bad swampy road. The other 1/2 of the Company driving in Cattle.

Friday 31st March. A hard Gale last night. Cold and blowy at Northwest. All quiet in front. Boats coming from the other side Ashley River with hurdles, Engineers tools, etc., which are landed near the right of the first line, Gibs's landing. A large foraging party out under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Webster. They went near to Ashley ferry and got little or nothing. The Country near the Town swept pretty clean before we came.

Much reconoitering today.

Saturday 1st April. Cool and pleasant weather. The troops got two day fresh provision.

More Engineers Stores coming over and some Artillery and provision.

Frames erecting on the road in front of the 1st Light Infantry for the purpose of making Works with expedition.

They are faced with boards nail'd to right angled timbers parapet height, in divisions about 18 feet long.

Head Quarters. 1st April 1780. Orders. [A lengthy order designating working parties for the trenches, etc.]

Sunday 2d April. Cool and pleasant weather. Wind in the South. The Troops in Camp were under Arms at 4 O'Clock Morning. The Working party return'd at daylight. They have made three large Redoubts within 7 and 800 yards of the Enemy's works and with so much silence that they were not discover'd by the enemy. The two Battalions of Light Infantry occupy these Redouts for this day, and have made a trench of Communication betwixt them. The Rebels have a good many embrasures open to these Redouts but very few Guns in them. They fire a shot now and then mostly from one Gun. Their works which are quite across the neck seem to be strong and well made with a very wide and deep wet ditch or Canal from River to River, and a thick Abbattis.<sup>80</sup> They fire about 30 or 40 shot in the Afternoon. We are busy in getting Artillery and Stores from the other side and haul'd up from the Landing place to the park. More frames erecting for Batteries.

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<sup>80</sup>Abattis: In fortification, an obstruction formed for the defense of a position by felling trees and packing them close together, with their branches pointing toward the enemy.

For duty in the Redouts tonight 800 British and Hessian Grenadiers. Major Grahams<sup>81</sup> Light Infantry and 200 of these to Cover a working party of 400 from the Reserve.

Monday 3d April. Cloudy. Wind Northeast. Not a Shot fir'd last night. The working party made another work more advanced to the right and return'd to Camp before day. The Grenadiers occupy the Redouts today at which the enemy fire a good many Shot, and have brought up some more Guns.

We have got a Gun into the right Redout. The Engineers and Artillery busy in their respective departments getting things forward. 16, 24 pounders come across, mostly Ship Guns. More frames and platforms getting ready.

The Rascals fir'd above 300 Shot today and a few shells in the Evening and did not hurt any body.

For the Redouts tonight 600. For work 500. The 33d Regiment as Light troops make the Covering party.

General orders for the Officers who hold Commissions in the Regular and provincial troops, to resign one and abide by the other.

Tuesday 4th April. Rain last night. Wind Southwest. Was at work last night. We carried out the frames from the Engineers park for a Battery with 9 embrazures and set them down about 500 yards to the left of the left hand

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<sup>81</sup>Major Colin Graham, 16th Regiment.



Redout, and within 600 yards of the Enemy's works, where we broke ground and fill'd them up pretty well but not sufficiently to resist battering.

Towards morning it rain'd hard and the men being much fatigued we left off about 4 and came to Camp. Five Negroes came in to us having made their escape over the works. The enemy did not fire a shot during the night, and we work'd in such silence that they did not discover us. After daylight they began to fire at that and the other works and about 8 O'Clock one of their frigates a Brig and two Gallies came up near the left of the light Infantry Camp and fired broadsides till a 24 pounder made them move off.

Our Camp Equipage come up, some things lost and some left behind.

Din'd at Head Quarters, Major Crosbie.<sup>82</sup> A Bower [bore?]. A fleet of 30 sail seen off the Bar.

Wednesday 5th April. Cool. North wind. The same numbers for the trenches last night as usual, finishing the 9 gun battery and the work on the right. The Enemy having found the range and direction fir'd a good many Shot and some Shells during the night.

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<sup>82</sup>Major William Crosbie, 7th Regiment, Aide to General Clinton.

Lieutenant Grant on the Covering party was struck with a Cannon ball on the back part of the left shoulder which made a very large, but I hope not a dangerous wound, and a man of the 23d Grenadiers lost an arm. A Grenadier of the 7th deserted and a man of that Regiment. A Hessian Grenadier detected in the marsh going off. Two of the Rebels light horse came in from goose creek. Not so much firing from the Town today.

The fire encreas'd in the Evening. Put Grant into a room in the General Hospital.

Thursday 6th April. Cool with the wind about Northeast.

1000 in the trenches last night and 500 at work, by detachment from the Whole except the yagers. The Enemy fired a good deal in the evening about relieving time, of both Shot and Shells, but our Batteries at Waupoo and two Gallies opening upon the Town, made them Silent for the rest of the night and all this Morning. A great many Boats seen crossing Coopers River yesterday and today loaded with people.

A New Work made last night to the right of the two right hand Redouts (place disarms).

Some firing from the Enemy in the afternoon. For the trenches this Evening the same number as last night.

The Officers and men of the Artillery who were taken out of the Russia Merchant by one of our Privateers and Carried to Bermuda, are come from thence in another

Privateer and join'd their Corps.

Friday 7th April. Cool and clear. Wind Northeast. A great deal of firing last night from the Enemy, and some from our side, Wapoo Batteries. Some Negroes come in from the Town who say they intended to have made a Sally.

Ten of twelve Schooners and Sloops came down Cooper River to the Town, suppos'd to be a supply or reinforcement.<sup>83</sup> A good deal of firing from the enemy in the evening. The same number for the trenches as last night. The Rebels gave a cheer along their works in the evening and the Bells of the Town rung a peal.

Saturday 8th. Rain in the night. Wind about Southeast. At work in the trenches widening the Communication between the Redouts. The enemy fir'd but little during the night, and this morning. We hear their rejoicing was for a reinforcement of 750.

Our Ships in 5 fathom hole took the advantage of this strong breeze about Southeast to come past Sulivans Island. They got under way between 3 and 4 O'Clock P.M., forming the line ahead. When near 4 the Enemys Batteries open'd

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<sup>83</sup>Brigadier General William Woodford and 750 men of the 2d Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line had arrived. Woodford died in captivity on November 13, 1780. Brigadier General James Hogun and 700 men of the 7th North Carolina Regiment of the Continental Line had already arrived on March 3. Hogun also died in captivity, on January 4, 1781.

upon them, and each Ship when she came opposite to their embrazures fir'd a broadside which kept up a heavy Cannonade for above an hour and a half, till they were all past, and soon after came to anchor in Rebellion Road, three double deckers and 6 frigates. The Eolus, an arm'd ship who follow'd, got aground. The Richmond lost her foretopmast. The Admiral led in the Roebuck, in a boat.

About sunset it came on rain and the wind shifted.

The same number for the trenches this night as usual.

Sunday 9th April. Cool and pleasant. Wind in the Northwest quarter. The Enemy fir'd none in the night. The working party made a new Battery on the right for 12 Guns, nearly finish'd. Some Sailors employ'd hauling up Guns for the Batteries. Some boats seen passing Coopers River with people and horses. No firing today. Grant better.

We hear that our fleet had 7 Sailors kill'd and 14 wounded in passing Fort Moultrie.

The same number for the trenches.

Monday 10th. Fine cool weather. Wind Northwest. A good deal of firing last night but no harm done. The two Rebel Ships that were up Coopers River a piece are come down to the Town where there seems to be only 4 in all that's Rigg'd.

The Admiral come up to Head Quarters and a consultation held at the Engineers house.

Rode to the Legion about 4 miles in the Rear at the Quarter house. All quiet there. My horse fell coming back and I hurt my breast and shoulder a little.

In the Evening Major Crosbie carried in a Summons for the Town to Surrender and the Garrison to become prisoners of war. They sent back a Written answer, declining to accept of these terms and soon after began a smart fire.

A man of the 42d Light Infantry kill'd in one of the Redouts today.

18 pieces of Cannon mounted.

Tuesday 11th April. Fine clear weather. Wind in the South-west quarter. A good deal of firing last night. Mr. Fitzroy<sup>84</sup> graz'd in the shoulder. They expend a great deal of Shot and Shells to little purpose.

A Pacquet arrived, but the mail is not come up yet. 6 weeks from Falmouth.

The same Number for the trenches and work. I go.

Wednesday 12th April 1780. Fine weather. Wind in the North-east quarter.

On Guard in the trenches at Battery Number 6. Some firing about the time of relief and some very well thrown Shells, but luckily they did no harm. The rest of the

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<sup>84</sup>Ensign Fitzroy, Aide to Lord Cornwallis, first name not known.

night quiet and very few Shot all day.

Our Batteries were ready this Morning to open in concert with some Ships that were to pass up Cooper River, but the wind did not answer, and we did not fire. The Battery on the right with 12 Guns is man'd with Sailors, the Center one in front of Number 5 by Hessians, has but 6 guns yet that on the left has 5, 24 pounders, 1 of 12 and two 8 inch Howitzers. The working party last night made an approach from the middle Battery. The Enemy are buzy strengthening their works and opening more embrazures. 3 Sloops came up to our fleet, were fir'd at a good deal passing Sulivans island. The 33d Regiment, the Legion and Fergusons Corps<sup>85</sup> are march'd back in the Country to scour our neighbourhood.

The 23d Regiment came over two days ago and the 64th came today and takes up the ground of the 33d.

When I came home from the trenches I found 3 letters, one from my Father dated 25 January acknowledging the Bill of 3d November and one from Anne Hamilton of same date and

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<sup>85</sup>Major Patrick Ferguson, 2d Battalion, 71st Regiment (1744 - October 9, 1780). In 1776 he obtained a patent for a breech-loading rifle for use against American riflemen, but the weapon was not adopted by the Army. However, he was allowed to form a volunteer corps of riflemen and equip them with his rifle. He and his corps served with Cornwallis on his southern campaign, and on October 9, 1780, Ferguson's Corps was surprised and defeated at King's Mountain, North Carolina, and Ferguson himself was killed.

one from Thomas Arthur<sup>86</sup> of 27th. All well.

Sir George Rodney<sup>87</sup> has beat the Spanish fleet and rais'd the siege of Gibralter.

Thursday 13th April 1780. Siege of Charleston continued.

After 12 days work in compleating the first paralel which stands opposed the Enemy's lines<sup>88</sup> from six to eight hundred yards distance and which consists of six works number'd from the right, and a Battery in front of Number 5 and a line of approach advanced from thence, the three Batteries open'd this morning between 8 and 9 o'Clock with above 20 pieces of Cannon (mostly 24 pounders), 2 howitzers, a Mortar and some Cohorns<sup>89</sup> and kept up a tollerable fire during the day, which brought a warm return from the Enemy. We set the Town on fire at 3 different times and places with Shells, carcasses<sup>90</sup> or red hot

<sup>86</sup>A close friend of Peebles's, living in Scotland. A Thomas Arthur served in America during the Seven Years' War as a Lieutenant in the 43d Regiment.

<sup>87</sup>Rear Admiral Sir George Brydges Rodney (February 13, 1719 - May 23, 1792). A veteran of the Seven Years' War, Rodney was given command of the fleet in the Leeward Islands late in 1779. On his way to the West Indies he was to raise the siege of Gibralter. On January 16, 1780, he defeated a Spanish fleet under Don Juan de Langara, in a battle fought on a stormy night. He defeated De Grasse off Dominica in April 1782 and was superseded in command in July of that year. He retired from the service a Baron.

<sup>88</sup>Scored out: "works."

<sup>89</sup>Cohorn: A small mortar, originally made of bronze, used to throw light shells.

<sup>90</sup>Carcass: An incendiary projectile thrown from a mortar.

Shot, but they soon put it out again, and the General gave orders himself to the Artillery officers not to set the Town on fire again. This days firing has dismounted several of the Enemys Guns and toward evening they were almost silent. An artillery man lost an arm and an Assistant kill'd by one of our own Guns hanging fire and going off when they put in the sponge. A man of the 37th Light Infantry had his backside shot away looking for Balls.

The working party last night advanced the Approach and made a traverse on it, but the moon light increasing makes the nights very short for working.

Found five deserters came in last night who say Mr. Lincoln<sup>91</sup> is determined to defend the place to the last.

Two Grenadiers deserted of 23d and 38th.

Friday 14th April 1780. The wind Easterly and Northeast these three days. And fair weather.

A good deal of firing in the night, mostly from us. The working party made a piece of Intrenchment at the

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<sup>91</sup>Major General Benjamin Lincoln (January 24, 1733 - May 9, 1810). Appointed to command in the Southern Department on September 25, 1778. Lincoln was talked into defending Charleston by the city authorities, a blunder which resulted in the capture of his entire army. In November 1780 he was formally exchanged, and took the field the following summer, receiving the surrender of the British Army at Yorktown from Cornwallis's representative. In 1787 he led the Massachusetts troops in suppressing Shays's rebellion. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention, and collector at the port of Boston from 1789 until his death.



head of the approach within about 300 yards of Enemys Abattis.

The Legion and Fergusons Corps have surprized a Body of the Enemys horse about 20 miles in the Country, have kill'd 6 and taken about 70 prisoners. They and the 33d are out still.

Our Batteries began again early this Morning and kept up a pretty warm fire at the Enemys works who seem to have but few Guns to return it.

The Yagers have got under cover within long shot and are popping at them with their riffles.

We have two Gun boats in the Creek at the Brewery which communicates with Cooper River. They have two 6 pound Carronades<sup>92</sup> each. The 64th Regiment are gone out to join Colonel Webster, etc.

Saturday 15 April. Cloudy. Wind Southeast. Our Batteries fir'd a good deal last night and the working party got nearer the Abattis but the enemy hearing them fir'd from their line with Small arms and made them retire for a while, but they have thrown up a work very near the Abattis, 200 yards, and nobody hurt, and a Bomb battery made.

A Rebel Galley come up near the Hospital and fir'd some Shots that way this morning.

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<sup>92</sup>Carronade: A short, light-weight cannon, first produced at the Carron Foundry in Scotland, and brought into British service in 1779.

Our Batteries do not fire so much today but there's a good deal of popping of small arms 'twixt those in the advanced works and the Rebel lines.

We see a Rebel Camp on t'other side Cooper River. I hear Colonel Webster with his Detachment of about 1400 is to cross the River above 20 miles up and come down the other side.

A 13 inch Mortar come from St. Augustine. Rain in the afternoon and very little firing.

Sunday 16th April. Fair weather and warm. Went to the trenches last night, and was sent to occupy the intrenchment at the head of the Sap<sup>93</sup> with 130 men. A working party came there of 200 and lengthen'd the trench a good way to the left and carried out the Sap about 20 yards in front, ending with a traverse. They left off about 3 O'Clock in Morning and went home. Soon after 50 yagers came there who were posted along the banquet<sup>94</sup> before day ready to take a shot when they could see, and we stood to our Arms till near Sunrise. Firing from both sides in the course of the night as usual. The Rebels throw their Shells better than we do, but did no harm. The night very light

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<sup>93</sup>Sap: A trench dug toward a besieged place in such a manner as to protect the soldiers while parallel trenches are advanced.

<sup>94</sup>Banquet: In fortification, the platform which troops stand upon to fire over the parapet.

being almost full Moon. When it was fair day light the Yagers began to fire at any body they could see about the enemys works, which are above 300 yards distance yet. They return'd the fire from some marksmen in a trench without their line of Works but to very little purpose on both sides. The Yagers think they kill'd one, and the rebels kill'd one of our party, a light Infantry man of the 16th shot in the eye.

Our Battery's kept up a Supperior fire all day, the Rebels having but a few Guns on their left that fire, and only two or three little mortars on their right. The yagers went off in the Evening and I was reliev'd 'tween 8 and 9. A Rebel Galley came in the afternoon near the Hospital and fir'd a good many Shot, one of which went thro' the house, but a Small Gun was brought down and drove her off.

We hear that Colonel Webster has cross'd the River above and is coming down t'other side. The Rebels making works at Habcaw to defend themselves against him.

The Rebel prisoners that were taken by the Legion, etc., sent on board o' Ship. They took likewise some Wag-gons and some letters from Lincoln to Colonel Washington.<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>95</sup>Lieutenant Colonel William Augustine Washington, 3d Continental Dragoons (1752 - March 6, 1810). A distant cousin to George Washington. Almost captured Tarleton at Cowpens, and was himself taken at Eutaw Springs. Confined in Charleston, he married and settled there after the war. Served in the State legislature and was Brigadier General, 1798 - 1800.

Monday 17th April. Warm weather and little wind about Northeast.

A good deal of firing last night, 4 or 5 wounded. The Working party carried out another Sap in front of Number 2 about as far advanc'd as that to the left. The fire from the Batteries kept up as usual. We sent a dead 13 inch Shell into the Town yesterday to let them see what we have, but the beds of the 2 large mortars are both insufficient.

I hear the Navy have<sup>96</sup> made a battery at the mouth of Wapoo from whence they fire into the Town when the fancy strikes them.

Some frigates and Arm'd Sloops are ready to come up Cooper River when the wind serves. Two flag Staff's set up at the foot of the Garden at Lord Cornwallis Quarters for Signals for them.

Din'd with [his] Lordship today, who is always very civil to me.

Tuesday 18th April. Cool weather. Wind Northerly. The working party 100 less last night. They ran out another Sap betwixt Number 3 and 4 and part of a line of intrenchment to make the second paralel. A good deal of firing in the night on both sides and some grape from the Enemy.

Our Batteries continue to fire during the day, with

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<sup>96</sup>Scored out: "another."

intervals of cessation.

Very few of the Rebels to be seen on their works. Cold and rainy in the afternoon. For work in the evening, 400. A great many promotions in orders today.

Wednesday 19th. Cold weather. Wind westerly. The working party employ'd last night in improving the lines of approach and making traverses in the 2d parrallel as we find some of the Enemys Guns fairly enfilade that in-trenchment. They fir'd a good deal on us, of round shot and grape and threw some shells. A man of the 71st kill'd, and one wounded and a Hessian Grenadier wounded.

Our Batteries kept up a Superior fire during the night of both Shot and Shells but I suppose we do them but little mischief as they ly cover'd in their works. This parallel we are now in, runs along the front of their middle works and I suppose about 200 yards distant from the Abbattis. We left off work about 3 O'Clock in the morning and came home.

I hear the reinforcement from New York is arrived at Stono Bar and that the 42d Regiment is there. Arrived yesterday.

The 23d Regiment and a few Light Horse march'd yesterday, on Websters route.

We see the Rebels making a work at habcaw.<sup>97</sup> It blows

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<sup>97</sup>Scored out: "I hear the Admiral has landed some sailors and Marines at Mount pleasant, about 3 or 400. Nix."

hard all day. The Ships from New York will not get up.

Thursday 20th April. Cool. Westerly wind. The working party last night push'd the sap a little farther, made a Mortar Battery and improv'd the parallel. There were 3 kill'd and 4 or 5 wounded.

A great deal of firing from the Ashley River side of the Town last night, which it seems was at our Gallies passing out of Wapoo to the Men of war, whom they join'd with the loss of 3 men kill'd and wounded. Very little firing today on either side.

Letters that is come by this fleet from New York say that Admiral Rodney has taken 5, Spanish 70s. One blew up, two lost, and 3 got into Cadiz much shatter'd.

Friday 21st April. Pleasant weather and very little wind. The Ships from New York have got up to Perryno's. There is the 42d Regiment, Hessian Regiment of Dilforth, the Queen's Rangers, the Volunteers of Ireland and Browns Corps<sup>98</sup> and some artillery.

There were two explosions in the Rebels works yesterday which is Thought to be two small magazines of powder blown up with our Shells.

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<sup>98</sup>Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Brown (d. 1825). A resident of Augusta, Georgia, he was commander of a Loyalist corps called the King's Rangers from 1776 to 1781, and led the Queen's South Carolina Rangers in 1782 and 1783. He was defeated by General Anthony Wayne near Savannah in January 1782. After the war he settled in the Bahamas.

The Working party last night made a Barbette Battery with epaulments<sup>99</sup> for two field pieces on the road leading to the Gate and about 300 yards distance, enlarg'd the Mortar battery, and better'd the trench.

Balnabies man blown all to pieces with a Shell and some few wounded.

The Sap going forward to a 3d parallel.

About noon the Enemy sent out a flag of truce with a letter to the General and Admiral to Signify that they were ready to treat upon honorable terms. The Admiral was immediately sent for and the boat permitted to pass the town. He arriv'd in the evening when the Generals and he hark'd into Council.

The Rebels being anxious to get an answer sent another letter in the evening but the terms they demanded were too much to be granted and a refusal was sent out about nine and hostilities recommenced about ten with a good deal of firing from both sides which continued most part of the night. I understand they propos'd to deliver up the Town on the following terms. The Garrison to leave the Town with the honors of war, viz. 3 field pieces, Drums, Colours and baggage, and some days law to march into the Country, the Inhabitants who chose it to follow with their Baggage, but I believe the General is determin'd to give them no other

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<sup>99</sup>Epaulment: The parapet of a battery of cannon or mortars at a siege.

terms than to become Prisoners of war.

We see the Rebel Camp at Hobcaw where they are still busy working and we suppose that Webster is not far from them watching their motions. But why not Attack them, Mr. Webster?

Saturday 22d April. Warm weather. Wind about Southwest which is fair for our Ships to come into Cooper River but we are told that the Channel is block'd up, and they can't find water enough.

With all the firing last night of Cannon Shells and small Arms we had nobody hurt but Major Moncrieff who got a slight graze on the arm with a Musquet ball.

The Queens Rangers, Volunteers of Ireland and the 42d coming across Ashley River. They land at Gibbs landing. But little firing all day.

Sunday 23d April 1780. Warm. At work in the trenches last night where we were employed in carrying the sap forward from the 3d parallel. On the left we got very near the wet ditch or canal and had only one man wounded. On the right they had 1 kill'd and 6 wounded with grape. Firing from both sides now and then but most from ours of heavy Shot and small shells. The Rebels threw no Shells last night. The working party retir'd at 3 to the 1st parallel, at 4 to the fleche where we staid till sunrise and came home to Camp.



The 42d are encamp'd at present near the Engineers house. Simcoe's<sup>100</sup> and Lord Rawdons<sup>101</sup> gone to the rear, and will probably move out to reinforce Webster who we hear has taken a great quantity of Stores, etc.

Monday 24th April. Very warm. Wind about west.

The Working party last night employed in improving the 3d parallel and forwarding the Sap. Just after they had left off work and retired, the Enemy made a Sortie upon the right, where they kill'd and wounded 3 yagers and carried off a Corporal and 9 Light Infantry. Much firing of small arms. Two of the 38 Grenadiers deserted last night.

Some more boats being got across from Ashley to Cooper River. They were assembl'd at the Ship yard, where the

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<sup>100</sup>Major John Graves Simcoe, 40th Regiment (February 25, 1752 - October 26, 1806). Appointed Major Commandant of the Queen's Rangers, which traced their origins to the Rangers of Major Robert Rogers of French and Indian War fame, in October 1777. He was active in the Southern Theater during Cornwallis's campaigns. After the war he published a history of his experiences, and was made Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada in 1791. He commanded as a Lieutenant General at San Domingo from 1794 to 1797, and at Plymouth, England, during the French invasion threat of 1801.

<sup>101</sup>Lieutenant Colonel Francis, Baron Rawdon, Adjutant General (December 9, 1754 - November 28, 1826). He defeated General Nathaniel Greene at Hobkirk's Hill on April 25, 1781. After the war he became a noted politician and cabinet member, and in 1812 was appointed Governor of Bengal and Commander-in-Chief in India, where he served until 1822. From 1824 until his death he was Governor of Malta.

Volunteers of Ireland<sup>102</sup> embark'd and were carried over the River<sup>103</sup> and were safely landed on the other side with Lord Cornwallis this morning before day. 'Tis said they are to join Colonel Websters Corps who were within a short march of them, with intention to cut off the communication betwixt the Country and Garrison and prevent their Retreat.

The boats in their return took a sloop.

Tuesday 25th April. Warm weather. Wind West. About one O'Clock this Morning the Rebels firing small arms on the working party they took it for a Sally and ran to their Arms, when a smart or rather heavy firing commenced which lasted above 20 minutes.

Ensign [Duncan] McGregor, 71st, kill'd, Captain Norman McLeod and Lieutenant Wilson<sup>104</sup> wounded and tween 20 and 30 men in all kill'd and wounded.

The lines of Camp turn'd out and mov'd up a little way when by that time it was found the enemy had not come out, and the field officers at length got the firing put a stop to, which had been improperly carried to such a height without any real cause of alarm.

<sup>102</sup>Scored out: "the Queen's Rangers."

<sup>103</sup>Scored out: "in three trips."

<sup>104</sup>Lieutenant John Wilson, 71st Regiment.

The working party got the length of the first ditch and near the Barrier Gate.<sup>105</sup>

Lord Cornwallis still continues on t'other side.

The advanced line of entrenchment makes now the 3d parallel which extends<sup>106</sup> from just opposite to the Enemy's Barrier Gate on their right to that in their Center, from our left of which we are pushing a Sap towards their Batter d'eau.<sup>107</sup>

The Rebels light up two fires outside their large Abbatis which burn all night and illuminate the Space betwixt us and them every night.

Wednesday 26th April. Warm but a fine breeze from Southwest. Some Ships and Gallies were to have come up Cooper River today but the wind was rather scant at proper time of tide. Some troops turn'd out to make a Show of Attack when they were passing the Town.

Firing now and then as usual last night. The working party get on but slowly now being so near. Combustibles ready to burn the Abbatis, etc. Lieutenant Beevor of the 33d Grenadiers wounded last night. The working party divided into two, one half in the Evening and one 1/2 in

<sup>105</sup>Scored out: "and were throwing up earth at their Abbatis."

<sup>106</sup>Scored out: "from the Enemy's."

<sup>107</sup>Batardeau: In fortification, a masonry wall 15 to 18 feet thick, built behind a ditch, and strong enough to resist the effects of a barrage.

the morning.

But little firing all day.

For the trenches in the evening.

Had a review of necessaries. Found but little wanting. 8 pair of shoes and 4 or 5 shirts would serve us for two months to come, 46 linnen vests wanting to compleat to two each, and a whole set of trousers for the Summer, but our Coats are very ragged.

Thursday 27th April. Cool and cloudy. Wind in the East, and a little rain.

On Guard on the left of the 3d parallel with 118. The working party carried the trench a little further to the left, and the sap a little nearer the Batter d'eau, and open'd two Embrazures of a Battery about the middle of this parallel. The platform not laid till the Morning. The Enemy kept up almost a constant fire of small arms on our left all night long, and fir'd a good deal of round, grape shot, and shells. 1 kill'd and 4 wounded in our part of the trench. They seem to be more suspicious of Barrier Gate on their right than that about the center, which we are quite close to. A slack fire kept up during the day, and the yagers popping at their embrazures.

A good deal of firing on both sides at the time the relief came, about 8 o'Clock.

Friday 28th April. Cool. Wind north. We hear that Lord

Cornwallis is in possession of Mount pleasant and that the Rebels have decamp'd from Hobcaw. A great deal of smoke seen along that side today.

This seems to cut off their Retreat.

The working party employ'd last night in thickening the parapet on the right of the 3d parallel and sapping onwards to the dam on the left and carrying down stuff for platforms. The two Gun Battery mounted with twelves.

The working party in the day time follow the former under cover. But little firing today.

Saturday 29th. Moderate. Wind Southwest, and more to the South in the afternoon when some ships and Gallies were expected up Cooper River in the afternoon. A detachment sent by the Admiral in boats have taken 70 or 80 of the people from Hobcaw going to the Town yesterday Morning. Those at Mount pleasant retir'd to Sulivans Island.

The working party last night were making a Battery for 5 Guns on the right of the 3d parallel which is close to their wet ditch and center Barrier Gate, and still Sapping towards the dam and Barrier Gate on their right. Some carrying matterials.

The Sloop that was taken in Cooper is rigging out and arming at the Ship yard.

But little firing at the works today.

Some men dropping down with sickness, mostly the Ague or a lax. If this business continues long, we shall feel

it in that way. The men have but one night in bed. The General Officers have but two, field officers have five, the rest of the officers of the army have 2 and 3.

Sunday 30th April. A Strong wind at Southwest. The working party<sup>108</sup> going on with the Battery for 5 Guns very near the Ditch and opposite the Gate. There are likewise two others for two Guns each in the left part of the 3d parallel. Sapping towards the Dam. 3 of the 63d deserted.

A Man came in from the Enemy who left the Town about 10 days ago, who had formerly been a Surveyor and was serving in their Militia. He gives a draught and description of their works, and an account of their Strength and Stores, etc. By his account they must be scarce of provision.

Not much firing today on either side. Some of the platforms of the old Batteries are taking up for the new ones.

For the trenches in the Evening. A Ship arrived from Clyde in 10 weeks.

Monday 1st May 1780. Warm and a Strong wind from Southwest which makes it very disagreeable in the trenches which are all sand.

The Working party last night going on with the Batteries and the sap towards the Dam and bringing up Guns and platform

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<sup>108</sup>Scored out: "are making a."

stuff.

The Enemy fir'd a great deal last night, above 300 rounds, and threw some Shells. 6 Grenadiers kill'd and wounded. One yager kill'd this morning and one lost his arm, all in the left of 3d parallel.

The Sappers being at last come to the Dam or Batter d'eau open'd it this afternoon and the water runs off freely, and will soon leave their wet ditch dry.

A good deal of popping of small arms all day, but not much Cannon, and we throw them a good many Shells, some well and some ill as is generally the case on these occasions.

Reliev'd about 8 by Hessian Grenadiers. And I find that the 1st parallel is now to be occupied by Picquets and the other two strengthen'd.

Tuesday 2d May. Warm weather and the Wind continues in the Southwest Quarter tho' not so strong.

The Batteries in 3d parallel nearly finish'd and suppos'd to be ready tonight for 9 Guns. Not so much firing last night and very little today.

A deserter come in last night but these fellows know very little about the Matter.

We get on but Slowly and hardly any of the impediments are remov'd yet which should be taken away before the place can be Assaulted.

Some of the men will get in liquor now and then notwithstanding all I can say to them. I knock'd down [Corporal]

Norman McKay on the parade not so much for being drunk as for Swearing he was not, and tho' he deserv'd it I am sorry for it, for we should never punish a Soldier in a passion.

Wednesday 3d May 1780. Very warm. Several kill'd and wounded last night and this Morning. The Batteries not ready yet. A piece of Sap work making in front of the left of the 3d Parallel for small arms.

The 64th Regiment come over from Lord Cornwallis's detachment and brought 'tween 20 and 30 prisoners with them.

The troops on t'other side Cooper have taken a great many stores of considerable Value, tobacco, Indigo, dry goods, Liquors, plate, etc., and live in midst of plenty. Above 300 Militia have deliver'd up their arms and return'd to their houses on parole. A great number of Women there who retir'd from the Town.

Lord Cornwallis is about 10 miles from Scots ferry and has some detachments at Lampries and Mount pleasant, etc.

Three White men and five Negros came in from the Town last night who says they are much harrass'd and reduced to half allowance of meat. A man that deserted from the 7th came back again.

The Legion have got a number of good horses and are better mounted now than ever they were before. Major



Cochran has taken a good many Vessels, some of them Arm'd.

Thursday 4th May. A Cloudy morning. A great deal of firing last night of both Cannon and Small Arms, but I hear of nobody hurt. The working party employ'd in widening the trench and thickening the parapet of some parts of the 3d parallel and doing something towards making more Batteries in that line.

Last night two boats with sailors boarded an unrigg'd Ship lying at anchor in Cooper River a little above the Town and tow'd her up to the Ship yard. They tho't she was a prison Ship, but she proves to be an Hospital for the Small pox. Above 30 people in her.

Rain with Lightening and thunder for about 4 hours in the middle of the day and two in the Evening.

Two Sloops and two Schooners come over to the Shipyard Creek that were taken by the Legion.

Mr. Rutledge,<sup>109</sup> a Brother of the Rebel Governors<sup>110</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> Edward Rutledge (November 23, 1749 - January 23, 1800). Trained as a lawyer in England and served in the First Continental Congress. A Signer of the Declaration of Independence, he was also a Captain of Artillery. He was a member of the State Assembly from 1782 to 1796, and was elected Governor in 1798.

<sup>110</sup> Governor John Rutledge (September 1739 - July 18, 1800). Trained for the bar in England, he served in the Stamp Act Congress and the First Continental Congress. He was president of the State Assembly from 1776 to 1778, and was elected Governor in 1779. After the war he was a Representative in Congress, a member of the Constitutional Convention, senior associate justice of the Supreme Court, and chief justice of South Carolina.

and two officers, taken by some of Lord Cornwallis's division and brought over yesterday.

For the trenches this Evening.

Friday 5th May. Very cold last night and this Morning. Wind from the North and Northwest.

Found the trenches full of water, and some parts fallen in from the excessive hard rain yesterday. The working party did little or nothing last night, but some came in the morning and repair'd the trenches. I was on the left of the 3d parallel.

The Enemy kept up a brisk fire of Canon and small arms all night long but to very little purpose and beat to Arms about midnight. We made hardly any return except a Shell now and then and a few small arms. But little firing of Cannon. During the day the yagers and the Rebel marksmen popping at one another. One of the 17th Grenadiers shot thro' the body.

The Water is still runing off out of the ditch but it is not near dry yet.

A General Court Martial sitting for the tryal of Captain [Hayes] St. Leger of the 63d for some difference 'twixt him and Major Wyms.<sup>111</sup>

Saturday 6th May. Cool and pleasant. The working party hauling more Guns down to the Batterys in the 3d parallel

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<sup>111</sup>Major James Wemyss, 63d Regiment.

last night. There are two field pieces, 6 pounders, in the 2d parallel to be mounted in a little Battery on the left of that trench. A good deal of firing last night as usual.

Sunday 7th May. Pleasant weather. Wind from the South and Southwest.

The Rebels kept up a warm fire of Canon and Musketry last night again, and beat to Arms about an hour before day. They seem to be much afraid of an Attack in the night. The deserters all agree that their provision is both scarce and bad.

Our Miners are still working at the dam and draining the ditch.

We hear this Morning that Sulivans island is in our possession. Being summoned by the Admiral last evening the Garrison surrender'd and about 200 became prisoners with Cannon, Stores, etc.

We are also inform'd that the troops on t'other side Cooper have had a dash at Colonel Washington and His Light horse at a place call'd Santee ferry.<sup>112</sup>

This happen'd yesterday.

It seems that Lieutenant Ash<sup>113</sup> with the few mounted Light Infantry being out on a patrole was surrounded and

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<sup>112</sup>Lenud's Ferry on the Santee River. Washington escaped from this defeat by Tarleton only by swimming the river on his horse.

<sup>113</sup>Lieutenant William Ashe, 17th Regiment.

taken by a body of the enemys Light horse, on hearing of which Lord Cornwallis sent Tarleton with the Legion to endeavour to surprize and get a blow at them. They accordingly came up with them at Santee ferry just as they were going to take boat and falling upon them suddenly they cut down about 20, took 32 and about 100 horses and drove the rest into a great Swamp. Lieutenant Ash being in a boat passing the River seeing how matters went, threw the Rebels that were in the boat with him over board and join'd Colonel Tarleton.

The General gone to see the Admiral and have a conference with him.

Monday 8th May. Warm and pleasant. Wind in the South.

On Picquet last night in Number 5. Had a Detachment at Number 6 and one at the old Mortar Battery. A Picquet of 200 has for some nights past occupied the 1st parallel and comes off in the Morning about day light.

The Batteries in the 3d parallel being ready the working party last night were mostly employ'd in carrying ammunition to them.

The Enemy fir'd less last night than for some nights before.

Things being in this State of readiness for a close Attack the General sent Major Crosbie early this Morning with a flag to Summon the place to surrender and caution them against the consequence of an assault, on which they

ask'd till 12 O'Clock to consider of it, at which time they return'd an answer agreeing to the first and most important Articles<sup>114</sup> and stipulating for terms and circumstances regarding property and individuals, for which purpose the truce continued till the evening, and again prolong'd till the Morning at 8 O'Clock.

The Admiral sent for.

The Sentence of the General Court Martial in orders. Captain St. Leger being try'd for Mutinous and disrespectful behaviour to Major Wyms as his Commanding officer is acquitted of the first part and found guilty of the last, for which he is to be reprimanded by the Deputy Adjutant General at the head of his Regiment tomorrow Morning.

It is worse than ridiculous to accuse a man of more than you can make appear.

Tuesday 9th May 1780. Warm with a pleasant breeze from the Southeast.

The truce still continues, and the treaty going on, which spun out till 8 O'Clock evening by these Rascals encreasing their demands untill they were no longer Allowable and hostilities began again about 9 with great violence on both sides and kept up a warm fire all night. And today the 10th the fire continues pretty brisk. We have dismounted and Silenced some of their Guns on their left, and one of

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<sup>114</sup>Scored out: "terms."

our 12 pounders is hurt.

10 or 12 men kill'd and wounded and 3 officers wounded.

The working party or rather Miners first, are pushing forward by sap from two places on the Right of the 3d parallel.

By an intercepted letter from one Smith an officer of some Rank in Town to his Wife in the Country dated 30th April it appears that they have given up all hopes of keeping the place, or of getting away, now that their retreat is cut off by Lord Cornwallis and must soon surrender for want of provision, which corresponds with the information of deserters.

The above letter is very well wrote, is full of love, politics, and desponding intelligence to his dear Sally.

The Admiral gone down to the Ships and as it is probable the Town must surrender for want of provision in less than a week I suppose they will put off the Assault for some days.

Thursday 11th May 1780. Warm. We kept up a Superior fire last night of both Canon and small arms, and this Morning before day the Town was set on fire in two or three places which still continues to burn. But little firing in the day. Two deserters come in last night who confirm the Scarcity of provision.

I hear Lord Rawdon and Colonel [William] Dalrymple the Quarter Master General are arrived from New York in

the Iris. A short passage.

A flag from the Enemy about 2 O'Clock P.M. which I believe offers to Surrender the Place upon the terms the General granted before. In the mean time there is a cessation of hostilities.

Head Quarters before Charles Town. Williams House.

After Orders 11th May:

The Army to be under arms tomorrow Morning at 9 O'Clock. A Company from the British and one from the Hessian Grenadiers with two field pieces from each service will parade tomorrow morning on the Charles Town road near Redout Number 3 in order to march into Town and take possession of the Horn Work.

The Several Departments will send proper persons into Town with this Detachment to receive from the Officers of the Corresponding departments of the Enemy all Artillery, Public Stores, forage and provisions, but they are to take possession of no other articles than what shall be thus deliver'd over to their charge.

Heads of departments are to send the Names of the persons who are employ'd on this occasion and will be responsible for their conduct.

The 7th and 63d Regiments are destin'd to form part of the Garrison of Charles Town and are to form tomorrow at 11 O'Clock between the 2d and 3d parallel. Major General Leslie will give all further orders to the Detachment of Grenadiers

and those Regiments and will occupy the Town.

None but publick officers or such as are pass'd by the order of a field officer are to be permitted to go into Town untill otherwise order'd by Major General Leslie.

Battalion Orders. The 7th as oldest Company to parade for this service at 1/2 past eight.

Friday 12th May 1780. Warm and windy from the eastward.

The terms of Capitulation being settled last night, the Army were under Arms this Morning agreeable to the after orders but several delays on the part of the Enemy made it past 2 o'Clock before the two Companys of Grenadiers took possession of the Gate and Horn Work, when soon after the Continental troops and some of their Militia march'd out and drew up in the ground betwixt the two abbatis where they laid down their Arms and Colours. The British flag was immediately hoisted at the Gate as the Rebels march'd out, and a Salute fir'd of 21 Guns. Then General Leslie with three British Regiments took possession of the Town and the prisoners were put into Barracks and other places under a Guard, the Officers at liberty to walk about with their side arms.

They are a ragged dirty looking set of People as usual, but more appearance of discipline than what we have seen formerly and some of their officers decent looking men.

Most of the Army were drawn up near the wet ditch during this ceremony which lasted till evening. The 7th,



42d and 63d went into Town, the rest return'd to Camp.

Orders: Colonel William Dalrymple to be Quarter Master General to the Army serving in the Colonies in North America. 12th November '79.

Head Quarters Charles Town Neck. 13th May '80.

The Commander in Chief receives the highest pleasure in giving the Army, by whose courage and toil he has reduced this important place, the tribute of praise and gratitude they so well deserve.

His Excellency presents his warmest thanks to Lieutenant General Earl Cornwallis, Major Generals Leslie, Huyne, and Kospoth, and Brigadier General Patterson, for their animated services during the siege.

To the officers and Soldiers of the Royal Artillery, of every Corps British and Hessian, of the Yagers and to Captain Elphinston and the Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy who have acted with us on shore.

His Excellency also addresses the Assurance that he holds himself under the most permanent obligations to them for having so well seconded in their Spirited efforts, all his operations.

His Excellency further expresses his great Obligations to Lieutenant Colonel Webster and the Corps with which he broke in upon the most essential of the Rebel communications, and particularly to Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton and to the Corps of Cavalry and to the Infantry of the Legion

for the soldierly conduct and Gallantry which gave them such brilliant advantages over the Enemy.

To Major Ferguson the General declares himself much indebted for his great activity and good services, and particularly for the usefull application made of his talents in field fortification.

But to Major Moncrieff who plan'd and conducted this Siege, of his great judgement, such unrelaxed assiduity, and so much intrepidity, and to the very Capable Officers under him, as well as to every other person in this department, His Excellency could wish to convey impressions of his gratitude greater than he is able to express.

Went this forenoon to see the Town and the prisoners. All disorder and confusion there yet. Many very good houses in town, some hurt with shot and some burnt lately. Those burnt near two years ago are not rebuilt. The Streets are all sand except here and there a piece of brick pavement for the sides.

They talk of 6 or 7000 prisoners of one kind and another but I don't suppose there will be above 2000 of these Subject to exchange, as all the Militia, etc., got their parole and the inhabitants of the Town their property.

Met with Colonel Gist<sup>115</sup> of the Virginians, an old

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<sup>115</sup>Colonel Nathaniel Gist, Additional Virginia Regiment, Continental Line (d. 1796). He was a Captain in the French and Indian War and participated in the Forbes Expedition against Fort Duquesne in 1758.

acquaintance.

Wrote to Richard Marshall a Sketch of the Expedition, and intended to write some other long letters, but was call'd upon for duty which obliged me to curtail his letter and write a few lines to my little friend Anne Hamilton, least the dispatches should be sent away before I come off, as I am told the Perseus is to sail tomorrow with Lord Lincoln and Lord Caithness and Captain Broderick.<sup>116</sup>

Sunday 14th May. Easterly wind and Showers last night and today.

On duty in the lines and have detachments on the left of all the three parallels taking care of the Batteries and guarding the Gate at the dam on the right of the Rebel works. Not reliev'd till past nine. The detail much neglected.

They are busy in Town putting things into order. Nobody allow'd to go in yet but who are pass'd by a field officer, except the Light Infantry who are under orders of readiness to march. They are allow'd to go by parties and see the Town.

Sent my two letters to Lord Caithness who promises to take care of them and expects to go tomorrow morning.

Monday 15th May. Rain last night. Wind in the East.

The Light Infantry are Countermanded and the 71st

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<sup>116</sup>Captain Henry Broderick, 55th Regiment, Aide to Cornwallis.

march'd this Morning and I hear have cross'd the River Cooper.

A Report going about of a french fleet expected on the Coast. The intelligence of their sailing from france brought by the Pearl to New York, and forwarded here by the Iris, but their destination was not known. A fleet was sent after them from England.

A melancholly accident happen'd between one and 2 O'Clock by the blowing up of a Magazine in Town, which the Artillery were examining and storing up arms in. Captain [Robert] Collins and Lieutenant Gordon of the Artillery kill'd, Lieutenant [Alexander] McLeod 42d and others kill'd and wounded in a shocking manner. The Town set on fire and continues burning and another magazine in danger, being near the fire.

The fire was got out by the activity of the Militia, Inhabitants and Negroes before evening, having burnt a Barrack, the Gaol, and house of Correction, in which were a good many people. The principle Magazine was not far off with about 500 barrels of powder in it. The occasion of the blast was suppos'd to be owing to some of the firelocks, (which were all loaded) going off by Accident near some powder.

Very Strange Management to Store up loaded Arms in a Magazine of Powder.

Tuesday 16th May. Cloudy and Showers. They are still busy in Town taking an account of the prisoners and other things which business seems to be but little understood by the different departments and therefore ill managed.

The two Hessian Regiments of Dilforth and Huyne went into Town yesterday as part of the Garrison. Lord Cornwallis who came over yesterday is gone back again to his command on t'other side Cooper. The great quantity of valuable Stores found there, turns out to be an object worthy of Attention for the Army.

The Rebel officers going over to Mount pleasant. Our Ships coming round from Stono. Din'd with the Major.<sup>117</sup>  
The Regiment still in Town without baggage.

Only 150 go to the trenches now.

Wednesday 17th May. Close weather and warm with Showers of rain.

A Meeting of the field officers of the Army to consult and agree upon the Manner in which the prize Money shall be divided 'twixt the Navy and Army. They appoint a Committee from each. The Perseus sail'd. Sir Andrew Hamond<sup>118</sup> went in

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<sup>117</sup>Major Charles Graham, 42d Regiment, who formerly commanded the grenadier company.

<sup>118</sup>Captain Sir Andrew Snape Hamond, Royal Navy (December 17, 1738 - October 12, 1828). Master of the Roebuck, Arbuthnot's flagship on the Charleston expedition. He was Governor of Nova Scotia from 1780 to 1783, and Comptroller of the Navy from 1794 to 1806.

her too. The Articles of Capitulation publish'd and the correspondence concerning it.

Thursday 18th May. Warm weather and easterly winds, which is against the Perseus and the Ships coming round.

The General went in form to wait on the admiral who has taken up his Quarters in Town. I din'd at Head Quarters which is still here at Williams's.

The Light Infantry, 42d and Queens Rangers have got orders of readiness to march at the shortest notice.

Friday 19th. The same kind of weather. I went into Town to see it more particularly and took a look from the top of high Steeple<sup>119</sup> which gives a very fine view of the Town, the Rivers, and the Country. See a great many very good Houses and all of them very elegantly furnish'd, which gives an idea of Style of living and luxury.

Din'd with the Regiment who hold their Mess at a handsome house belonging to General Moltrie.<sup>120</sup> They expect to march in the Morning.

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<sup>119</sup>Probably St. Michael's Church steeple, a Charleston landmark.

<sup>120</sup>Brigadier General William Moultrie, commander of Fort Sullivan (December 4, 1730 - September 27, 1805). Governor of South Carolina from 1785 to 1787 and from 1792 to 1794, and a member of the Constitutional Convention. In 1776, as commander of Fort Sullivan, he was instrumental in repelling the British attempt to capture the town.

N.B. I have made two or three requests to the Major, concerning the Company all of which he refuses. Many men change their minds with their condition and there is no help in us.

People coming from the other side Cooper in great Number to Town and the Rebel Militia going out. The Continental officers going over to the Barracks at Mount pleasant.

The Navy and Army do not agree so well about dividing the Spoil as in taking the place. Lord Cornwallis still on t'other side at Silkhope. Peace and plenty there. They say there is about 1000 Rebels near Santee ferry, probably covering the removal of their Stores and valuable things.

Saturday 20th May 1780. Warm with the wind in Southwest quarter. The Transports getting over the Bar and up to Town.

A walk to Quarter house where the Queens Rangers are. They have generally 2 or 3 Companys from 6 to 10 miles advanced. Few or no Inhabitants in all that space and the Country quite bare of everything. The Militia going out in numbers to the Country on parole.

We have orders to be in readiness to Embark at the shortest notice. A Pacquet announced in the Orders to sail in a few days for England.

The Light Infantry march'd in the Evening, and the

42d Regiment, out to the Northward.

Lieutenant Colonel Clarke going to Savannah to Command there with the Rank of Brigadier.

Sunday 21st May 1780. Very warm with a little wind in the South.

The Queens Rangers have likewise march'd out into the Country.

A great many Ships come up to Town. The Transports to water immediately.

Those allotted for the 1st Battalion are: The Nestor, 348 tons, 17th, 37th and 76th Companys; the Thames, 306, 7th, 23d and 33d and Surgeons; the Houston, 250, 43d and 38th; the John and Jane, 150, 42d, field officers and Major of Battalion; an Agents Ship of 378 tons.

Put on our new trouzers today.

Writing letters for the paquet--Anne Hamilton.

Monday 22d May. Very warm and little wind. We have orders to be ready to march in the Evening and leave our tents and heavy baggage behind.

Finish'd my letter to Anne Hamilton. Inclos'd Rollo's<sup>121</sup> Bill £21, and gave it in, least the Pacquet should sail before we return. Sent a Serjeant to Captain Moodie, settled accounts and received the remainder of my cash, £6.10.

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<sup>121</sup>Lieutenant Robert Rollo, 42d Regiment.



The Transports watering at the Brewery.

The Triton arrived from England a few days ago with dispatches and sail'd last night or this Morning for New York with Major Crosbie.

A Detachment of 150 Grenadiers going to Sulivans Island to relieve Fergusons people who are going to move out. And I hear Lord Cornwallis is in motion towards Santee and George Town.

Proclamation spreading about in the Country to encourage the Inhabitants to return to their Loyalty and restore order and Good Government in the Provinces of South and North Carolina, which I hope will have a good effect.

The British and Hessian Grenadiers and yagers with General Kospoth march'd in the Evening about 8 and halted in the wood near Bellingers about 11 O'Clock having march'd I suppose about 7 miles.

Tuesday 23d May. Was a very hot day. We mov'd early in the Morning and took up ground with our right just above Bellengers house, our rear to Ashley River facing about North-east. Made Shades and rested, and we hear we are to remain here for some days, 9 miles from Town. The Light Infantry and 42d about Monks Corner, Queens Rangers somewhere betwixt this and that. The purpose of all these movements, we suppose, is to Collect Stores, fresh Provisions, and open the

Country Communication with the Town. And keep idlers out of Town while the Ships are getting ready.

Wednesday 24th May. Much Thunder last night, and a little rain. Today cool and pleasant, wind about Southeast. A ride to Ben Fulers<sup>122</sup> where we landed, about 3 miles. I see Hessians send their servants and horses about 15 miles up the Country and get plenty of fresh stock. They're findy folk.

A Party of 25 Men with arms and horses arrived here in the evening on their way to Head Quarters. They are come from Orangeburgh to acquaint the General that they and a great many more friends to Government are ready to shew their Loyalty by their services against the Rebels, by whom they have been persecuted and wish to take revenge. They are in a hunting dress, mostly riffle Shirts, arm'd with riffles and travel on horseback, and are call'd Carolina Crackers.

Camp at Bellengers near Ashley ferry. Thursday 25th May 1780, British and Hessian Grenadiers and Yagers under General Gospoth.

A Party of a Captain, 2 Subalterns and 42 Rank and file march'd this Morning about 1 O'Clock to Dorchester, etc., to collect fresh stock in that Neighbourhood for the

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<sup>122</sup>Not able to identify.

officers of the two Battalions British Grenadiers which is to be divided by those Companys who send money to purchase it. They sent in 6 Bullocks, some Calves, Sheep, and pigs and 5 or 6 dozen of Poultry in the evening, from Dorchester, a Village on Ashley River about 20 miles from Charlestown. Every house has the appearance (tho' deserted) of the Inhabitants having lived in affluence and luxury, but this wanton Rebellion has broke in upon their pleasures, and their comforts too, and reduced many wealthy people to shifting circumstances, and the poor Negroes to a starving condition in many places hereabout.

The Queens Rangers come to Dorchester. The Light Infantry and 42d continue at Monks Corner.

Friday 26th May. Warm with light Showers and some thunder.

An arm'd Vessel came from New York with dispatches, etc., but nothing of their purport has come this length yet.

The Party that went for fresh Stock return'd in the evening, having made a tour by Goose Creek but were not so successfull there as about Dorchester. They met many genteel Inhabitants (ladies) who were civil and polite.

The Rolls call'd frequently during the day to prevent Stragling and of course doing mischief in the Country, notwithstanding there are several complaints among us, but the Hessians plunder methodically to a great distance in the Country.

Saturday 27th May. Cloudy. Wind Southwest. The Hessian Grenadiers order'd to return back near the Town or probably to Embark for their irregularity in the Country.

They March'd in the forenoon.

Sunday 28th May 1780. Warm. The two Battalions British Grenadiers march'd this Morning about 4 O'Clock and took their former ground near Head Quarters at Williams's without tents.

The Hessians in their old ground also.

The Light Infantry and 42d march this Evening on their return, having had nothing to do but to receive submission and give paroles. A plentiful Country about Monks Corner.

Another proclamation come out dated Head Quarters Charles Town 22d May calling upon the Inhabitants to peace and Government, promising countenance and protection, and threatning the delinquents with confiscation of their Estates, etc., etc., etc.

Went to Town and got a Packet of letters brought from New York by Captain [David] Anstruther, 42d. They came from Scotland by the Ruby in whom Ensign Spens<sup>123</sup> had taken his passage but he got a Lieutenantcy in the 2d Battalion. Enclos'd by H.N. recommending Mr. Spens, two from my little friend and one from my Father in December.

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<sup>123</sup>Lieutenant John Spence, 2d Battalion, 42d Regiment.

Monday 29th May 1780. Rain last night and almost all day. Very bad for the men who have no Shelter. The Grenadiers get leave to go in and see the Town by parties.

Orders for Embarkation: The Yagers tomorrow morning, the British and Hessian Grenadiers on Wednesday morning and the remainder for this embarkation on Thursday. The Light Infantry and 42d came in the evening to their old ground. Tents.

They have got something to eat and drink, etc., and a little indeed.

Din'd with General Leslie, who has now almost got rid of this troublesome task of settling the affairs of the Town, and is to be succeeded by General Patterson as Commandant.

I hear Lord Cornwallis has been at George Town, and is now on the March to Camden. Other smaller parties traversing the Country under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Balfour, Major Ferguson, etc., who have particular instructions to conciliate the minds of the people and establish peace and good order in the back Country.

Tuesday 30th May 1780. Some rain in the night and morning. Cloudy day. Wind Northeast. In town and on board of Ships buying things for the Company and for the Mess on board the John and Jane. The Merchants have not yet got Permission to land their goods, but they are getting some

things ashore, and in a few days the Town will be well stor'd with all kinds of Goods, tho' the prices are very high.

Din'd in Town at a house of entertainment with 1/2 dozen of our Regiment. A Veal dinner for a dollar a head, bad madeira wine 6/ sterling per bottle. Port wine sells for 40/ per dozen, porter 14, Rum 2 dollars, sugar 1/2 dollar per pound, and so on.

They are about settling the market prices of goods for the use of the Army, and the Merchants Report is to be laid before a Committee of Field officers.

Wednesday 31st May 1780. Warm and close. The British and Hessian Grenadiers Embark'd early this Morning. The Admiral and some more Men of War dropping down.

Got abstracts and Money from the Paymaster for two Musters for the Company from 25 October to 23d February last, and a Bill of £50, on the Agents, dated 30th on Account of my own Subsistence, for which the little Man takes the usual premium of 2 pence in the dollar, which is not fair as the exchange stands at present.

Busy buying Stores for the Mess on board, Lieutenant Colonels Hope and Fox, Major Brigade Scot<sup>124</sup> and us. A months pay to each. Wrote to my Father and sent a Bill of £21 to my Sister and one of £50 to be added to the rest.

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<sup>124</sup>Major of Brigade William Scott, 17th Regiment.

Thursday 1st June. Warm weather but generally a breeze from the sea some part of the day. The Light Infantry and 42d Regiment and Queens Rangers embark'd this Morning, which I believe makes nearly the whole of this Embarkation. Numbers of people coming in from the back Country to shew their loyalty.

Lord Cornwallis's Corps after making varrious movements in Country, to George Town and up the Santee River, receiving Submissions and grant paroles, etc., Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton was detatch'd with all the Legion mounted who made a forced march of near 100 miles in 24 hours, came up with a body of the Enemy a good way beyond Camden, cut down about 170 and took their Cannon, Colours and baggage with the loss of about 24 kill'd and wounded. Among the former are two officers.<sup>125</sup>

Friday 2d June. Warm as usual. Getting every thing aboard. The transports being compleated with water and provision for 70 days, are order'd to drop down tomorrow.

Din'd ashore with a party at Stricklands where we had a batch of tollerable good Claret but it was 9/ Sterling a bottle. On board at 8.

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<sup>125</sup>On May 29, 1780, about 350 recruits commanded by Colonel Abraham Buford were nearly slaughtered at Waxhaws, South Carolina, by Tarleton and his Legion. "The Waxhaws Massacre," as Rebel propagandists called it, helped create the traditional American image of Tarleton as a blood-thirsty beast.

The news of our Success in the back Country publish'd  
in hand bills.

I hear Lord Cornwallis remains here. The Commander in  
Chief goes with us, suppos'd for New York.



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