

1-1-1899

Journal of Oliver Boardman of Middletown: 1777 Burgoyne's Surrender

Oliver Boardman
normd@providence.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/primary>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Boardman, Oliver, "Journal of Oliver Boardman of Middletown: 1777 Burgoyne's Surrender" (1899). *Primary Sources*. Paper 22.
<http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/primary/22>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the History at DigitalCommons@Providence. It has been accepted for inclusion in Primary Sources by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Providence. For more information, please contact mcaprio1@providence.edu.

COLLECTIONS

OF THE

Connecticut Historical Society

VOLUME VII



HARTFORD
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

1899



JOURNAL

of

OLIVER BOARDMAN

of

MIDDLETOWN

1777

Burgoyne's Surrender

Middletown Septem^{br} 2nd A D 1777.

Set out on a March in Cap^t. Blagues Company of Melitia, to Join General Arnold's Devition in the Northern Army.

We march'd away about Noon, I Bought a Dinner at the New-fields where we made a little halt for 1^s/.

We March'd forward to Great-Swamp I Got Supper Lodging & Breakfast for 1^s/6^d.

[Wed]ns^{dy} 3rd. March'd from Great Swamp [to] Farmington, I Bought a Dinner for 1^s/ [] March'd forward to West-Britton [] Bought a Supper got Lodging & Breakfast for 2^s/.

Thirs^{dy} 4th We March'd from West Britton to Litchfield I Bought a dinner for 1^s/ the Afternoon we Drew Provision to carry to Canaan. I Cook'd Supper & Breakfast at Doc^t Smith's.

Friday 5th March'd from Litchfield to Goshen, I Bought a Dinner there for [] then March'd to Cornwall, & Cook'd our own Provision & put up that Night

Satur^{dy} 6th March'd from Cornwall to Canaan, I Bought a Breakfast for /6^d.

then march'd on to Sheffield, & Cook'd our own Provision

Sunday 7th We March'd from Sheffield to Nobletown & put up that Night

Monday 8th We March'd from Nobletown to Canter-Hook, Mills,

Tues^dy 9th We March'd from Canter Hook to Green-bush, where our Wagg[] Pretending to go after Pasture left [] I Bought three Pints of Milk for /9^s.

Wedns^dy 10th About Noon we Cross the Ferry & March'd through the City of Albany, up to the Flats. There Cook'd a Supper.

I Bought a Breakfast for 9^d/

Thurs^dy 11th We March'd from the Flats to Half-Moon, & put up, this Evening a large Number of Waggons pass'd along here with Provision for the Army.

We cross Londons Ferry

Fridy 12th We March'd from Half-Moon to Beemas-hights at Still-water, there we join'd General Arnold's, Division, & Pitch'd our Tents.

Satur^dy 13th This Morning our Scout took three or four British Prisoners digging potatoes, within Gun shot of their Camp.

Sun^dy 14th A heavy Scout went out to Day Consisting of 1600 Men

Monday 15th We hear the Indians drove In a part of our scout, a 100 Rifle Men were immediately sent after them.

Tues^dy 16th This Morning we were paraded at three O Clock with our Packs for a March. But Retir'd.

A Melancholy Accident happned this Day a Soldier that had been sick at the Hospittle Came into Camp & eat a hearty Meal of Pot Pie that was not well cook'd & Died In half an Hour after—a Couple of French Doctor's Cut him open, & found what he eat lay like a Clod in his Stomach. this I saw

Likely the Means of Sudden Death

Wedns^dy 17th At Three O Clock this Morning we were Paraded for a March But soon Retir'd.

Thurs^dy 18th This Morning at three, O Clock Struck our Tents, & took our Packs, & the whole of Gen^l Arnold's Division March'd on towards the Enemy by Collums, through the woods till our Right was in full vew of their Camp, our advanc'd Party upon the Left, fired upon a Number, that was a digging potatoes Wounded some, & took four or five Prisoners. Then we retreated to the Brow of a great Hill & Lay in the Bushes for them. Our Generals, saw them Paraded & March forward, we tarried awhile & then march'd to Camp. (9 Miles)

Fridy 19th The Enemy came to Pay us a Visit, when they ariv'd within a Mile & a half, Our Men attacked them A heavy fire began & lasted about four Hours & a half, we hear the Enemy have lost a great Number Besides Wounded 46 were taken Prisoners.

Satur^dy 20th Deserters come In who say the Enemy are in as great Confusion as ever Melitia was without Commanders.

The Return of Colo^l Cook's Regim^{nt} after the Battles.

The	{ 11 Killed	{ The Return of the Battle
first	{ 36 Wounded	
Battle	{ 3 Missing	
		on Tuesday the Seventh of
		October 2 Killed & 5 Woun ^d

Sunday 21st This Morning Struck Tents & Paraded, Gen^l Arnold come to the Head of the Reg^{mt} & gave News that our Men had taken some out works at Ticonaroga with three Hundred Prisoners at Least a Hundred of our own & 3 Hundred Barroes Loaded with Baggage then we gave three Cheers, after it had all gone through the Camp Thirteen Cannon were fired for the thirteen united States then three Cheers were given through the Camp This Afternoon a scout of our Indians took a Tory, the Gen^l gave him to them for a

while they took him & Buried him up to his Neck & had their Pow wow around him, after that, they had him up and Laid him a side of a great fire & turn'd his head & feet a while to the fire, hooting & hollowing round him then he was hand Cuff'd & sent to Albany Goal.

Mon^y 22nd A sad Accident happned Yesterday of one Centrie who shot another being out of his Post, Belonging to the same Picquet.

Tues^{dy} 23rd A Scout of our Indians took two Regulars Centries Yesterday after taking their hats from them they Painted their Faces & Brought them In.

Besides, Our Indians Brought eight other Prisoners in — that were a going an Express to Monreal, one of them was a Defenter from our Train of Artillery at Quebec.

Wednes^{dy} 24th Our Indians went out & Brought in three Prisoners with a Rope round the Neck of each of them We also hear that Gen^l Washington, has had a smart Action, to the Southward.

Besides another sad & Melancholy Accident happned of one Centrie's Shooting another Belonging to the same Picquet.

Thurs^{dy} 25th A Party of our Men went out to take the Regulars, advanc'd Picquet. Our Men in surprise upon them demanded of them to lay down their Arms which they were about, till an Officer stept up & Damn'd them off hearty they directly took their arms made one fire & took'd to their heels Our Men kill'd Six & took one, Hessian Officer.

Friday 26th This Morning Our Indians & Rifle-Men Brought in three Hessians & two Sailors.

About noon they Brought in one Tory & one Sulp. About Twenty taken & Deserted to Day.

Satur^{dy} 27th A Few of our Men were beyond the out Centries diging potatoes, were Captivated by the Enemy.

Sundy 28th Our Indians took two British soldiers Prisoners they inform us that their Army is very short ont for Provision.

Mon^{dy} 29th Last Night a Colo^{ns} Guard went out to take the Enemy's advanc'd Picquet. They being apris'd of it Doubled their guard & put themselves in readines for Defence, Our Men came up & Exchanged a few Shot one of our men was killed & three or four wounded.

Our Rifle men took Six Prisoners to Day five of them Hessians & one Tory Besides this, One serjant one Corporl & one Drummer, Of the Hessian Troops Deserted, to Day they Inform us that a Captains Company of the Hessians were a comming off but was discover'd.

Tues^{dy} 30th Our Scout took five Canadians, & two Hessians up at Saritoga that were on their Journey for Canada we learn they Left Burgoyne because of their hard fare.

Four Deferters have came In to Day.

Wednes^{dy} October y^e 1st 1777.

Two deserters came this Morning we learn from them, that the Enemy are very scant for Provision. Bread in particular.

Thurs^{dy} 2nd

A Major a Captain & a Lieutenant with a Number of Privates were taken to Day.

Also a large Number of Cattle Sheep & Horses were brought in with them Two Hessian Rifle Men have Deserted to Day.

The whole taken prisoners last night & to Day are Thirty Six.

Friday 3rd Two Deserters have come In to Day.

Satur^{dy} 4th We hear that Six of our Men were kill'd & Sculp't at Scatta Cook on their Journey to Bennington.

Sun^{dy} 5th One Hessian deserted this Morning he informs that several of his fellows were waiting the first opportunity to come off.

Also that they are very scant for Provision.

This Afternoon two of the British Soldiers Deserted, they bring the same News about Provision. Taken and Deserted Seventeen to Day

Mon^{dy} 6th Four Hessians Deserted this Morning.

One Tory was taken.

Twenty two have Deserted to Day

Tues^{dy} 7th Five Prisoners were taken this Morning with a Number of Cattle Sheep &c.

This Afternoon about three O Clock Burgoyne's flying Camp, commanded by Fraser, Advanc'd within about half a Mile of our advanc'd Picquet to Drive them from a Hill where Cap^t Bague and fifty men & myself one of the Number were Posted, at which they kept a smart Cannonade for a Quarter, of an Hour, while our Men muster'd along & sent a party to come upon their Backs, where they soon fell at it on all sides, & Drove the Enemy from their Artillery upon the full go to the Hessian Camp where our Gen^l. Little thought of Danger, for'st his way through & Spar'd none till a Ball Break his Leg & kill'd his Horse.

But his Brave Men not Discorag'd with their Misfortune Drove them from their Camp & took it, with their Tents Standing & Pors Boiling, Besides three Pieces of Bras Cannon. Eight Bras Cannon in the whole Two Twelves, the others Sixes & Nine Pounders, taken to Day Fraser was kill'd

Weins^{dy} 8th Our Men kept a Constant Cannonade all Day into their other Incampment.

Gen^l Lincoln by a Chance shot had his Leg Broak (I hear)

Gen^l Burgoyne's Aid de Camp with a Number of others were taken Yesterday.

Our Men Return'd home to Camp about Dark.

Thurs^{dy} 9th About Thirty Deserters came in last Night they Inform that Burgoyne began his retreat last Night as soon as our Men Ceas'd firing & Left three Hundred Sick & Wounded.

We Learn Gen^l. Burgoyne wrote to Gen^l. Gates to take care of his Sick & wounded, as he wou'd be glad to have his Suppose himself was routed & Oblig'd to make the best of his way.

A very Rainy Day, but few of our Army follow'd their retreat.

Friday 10th This Morning we paraded & march'd after the Enemy up at Saritoga, & paraded over Night, upon a great Hill about South East from the Enemy.

Gen^l Scuylers House with the rest of y^e Building's Mills, Barracks &c at Saritoga were Burnt to Day.

Satur^{dy} 11th Gen^l Fellows, took a hundred Battoes last Night, with Five Hundred Barrels of Pork, a quantity of Porter, & other Rich Stores With a Guard of a Ser-jant & fifteen Men.

About Noon we mov'd to the North-Well of the Enemy in the Woods & built fires, & turn'd in upon the Ground.

Upwards of Fifty taken & Deserted to Day.

Sun^{dy} 12th Gen^l Gates sent in a Flag of Truce.

Gen^l Burgoyne sent one to answer it.

Gen^l Gates sent the Second.

About Thirty in the whole taken & Deserted to Day.

Mon^dy 13th A Scout of Rifle Men saw a scout of the Hessians & Cannadians, one of our Men call'd to one of the Hessians in his Language to come to him, he Directly through down his Gun & run to him he inform's us that they Drew all their Provision, which is to Last Seven Days

Gen^l Gates himself says, that the account from every Defeter & Prisner agree so well that he has reason to Believe it, & contradicted by none.

Nine prisners were taken to Day with their seven Days provision they were slite'ly wounded in the Battle, & moveing on slowly for Ticontaroga, so as not to be a hindrance to the Body of Troops.

Tues^dy 14th A Flag of Truce came in at Twelve O Clock, last Night Gen^l Gates answer'd it by one in the Morning.

Burgoyne sent his Second Flag I learn for two Major Gen^l to go In & agree with him upon the Articles of Capitulation.

A Sefation of Arms to Day.

Wednes^dy 15th A Sefation of Arms to Day.

Some of the British Soldiers come to our Centries to get them some water.

We are inform'd by our Officers that the Articles are agreed upon Between Gen^l Gates & Gen^l Burgoyne.

Thirs^dy 16th A Parly was beat at Midnight last Night, our Men answer'd it.

By what we can learn his honour was about to Fall from his agreement with Gen^l Gates.

We also Learn that he Delt out Sixty Rounds of Carrages to the British Soldiers, In order to try to do

his Best & work once more & orderd as many for the Hessians But they refus'd to take them

Our Genrals are together taking the Matter into Consideration. Orders to Strike Tents immediately & every thing put up.

Our Generals sent in at Eleven O Clock that they would give his Honour one Hour to Consider the Mather of his Agreement Yesterday And gave Orders for every man to be ready at the Minute after Twelve O Clock when three Cannon will be fired, if he will not sign the Articles of Capitulation.

Colo^l Morgan receiv'd Orders for his Rifle Men to march immediately & Scale their works & Spare no Man they could find. & The Army to follow & carry it through.

Our Scout took a Tory that Deserted from us at Ti. & has been with them ever since the Retreat till now he see how it was Like to Turn with them he Began to macke his way off. But fell asleep & was taken, & without any trial they put a Rope round his Neck & tied it to a Staddle & told him they would hang him, he Beg'd & pray'd they wou'd Shoot him, then they tied him to a Tree & gave him a Hundred lathes, then he Beg'd they wou'd Hang him. Now he is to receive two Hundred more which two Morning's will Complete & then to be Tried by a Court-Martial for his Life.

Fri^dy 17th 1777 The Hand of Providence work'd wonderfully In favour of America this Day.

According to the Agreement of Gen^l Burgoyne Yesterday he march'd his Army out of his works at Ten O Clock In Brigades & Paraded their Arms on the Meddow at Saritoga At Three O Clock in the After-

noon they March'd through our Army that was paraded on the Right & Left, with a Guard for Bolton.

Satur^dy 18th We Struck our Tents Our Army march'd from Saritoga to Albany Before they Slep which was about thirty Seven Miles.

Sun^dy 19th Towards Night, we Picht our Tents on Albany Hill.

Monday 20th I was one of Fifty that was call'd out of the Regm^{nt} to Guard 128th Prisoners of war to Hartford.

This afternoon Gen^l Burgoyne's Aid de Camp was Buried of the Wounds he receiv'd in the Battle on Tuesday the Seventh.

Att Evening we Cross the Ferry & put up at Green Bush. I Bought a Supper for /9^d.

Tues^dy 21st We March'd from Green Bush, to Canter Hook. I Bought a Supper for 1^s/.

Wednes^dy 22nd We march'd from Canter Hook, to Nobletown. I Bought a Supper for 1^s/.

Thurs^dy We march'd from Nobletown, to Sheffield. I Bought a Supper for 1^s/3^d

Fria^dy We March'd from Sheffield to Rockwells about the middle of the Green woods.

I Bought a Supper & Breakfast for 1/6.

Satirday 25th We march'd from Rockwells, to Simsbury. I Bought a Supper & Breakfast for 2^s/6^d.

Sun^dy 26th We march'd from Simsbury, to Hartford & Deliver^d 123 Prisoners to the Sher^{iff}, five of them Left us on the March

Mon^dy 27th This Afternoon I march'd Home.

Oliver Boardman

&c.

Articles of Convention between Lieutenant General Burgoyne & Major General Gates.

Article 1st. The Troops under Lieutenant General Burgoyne are to march out of their Camp with the honours of War, & the artillery of intrenchments to the verge of the river where the old Fort stood, where the arms & Artillery are to be Left, the arms to be piled by words of command from their own officers.

Article 2nd. A free passage to be granted to the army under Lieutenant General Burgoyne to Great-Britton upon condition of not Serving again in North America, during the present contest, & the Port of Boston is assigned for the entry of transports to receive the troops whenever General Howe Shall so order.

Article 3rd Should any cartel take place by which the army under Lieutenant General Burgoyne, or any part of it may be exchanged the foregoing article to be void, as far as such exchange Shall be made.

Article 4th The army under Lieutenant General Burgoyne to march to the Massachusetts Bay by the easiest, most expeditious & convenient rout, & to be quarter'd in, near or as convenient as possible to Boston, that the march of the troops may not be delayed when transports arrive to receive them.

Article 5th The troops to be supplied on the march & during their being in quaters, with provisions, by General Gates's orders at the same rate of rations, as the troops of his own army, & if possible the officers horses & Cattle, are to be supplied with forage at the usual rates.

Article 6th All officers are to retain the carriages, batt-horses & other cattle & no baggage to be molested or searched. Lieutenant General Burgoyne giving his

honour there are no public Stores secreted therein. Major General Gates will of course take the necessary measures for the due performance of this article. Should any carriages be wanting during the march for the transportation of officers baggage, they are if possible to be supplied by the Country at the usual rates.

Article 7th Upon the march & during the time the army Shall remain in quarters in the Massachusetts Bay, the officers are not, as far as circumstances will admit to be Separated from their men. the officers are to be quartered according to rank, & are not to be hindered from assembling their men for roll calling & other purposes of regularity.

Article 8th. All corps whatever of General Burgoyne's army wheither composed of Sailors, batteamen, artificers, drivers, independant companies & followers of the army of whatever Country, Shall be included in the fullest Sense & utmost extent of the above articles, & comprehended in every respect as British Subjects.

Article 9th All Cannadians & Persons belonging to the Cannadian establishment, consisting of Sailors, batteamen, artificers, drivers, independant companies, and many other followers of the army who come under no particular discription, are to be permitted to return there, they are to be conducted immediately the shortest rout to the first British post on Lake George, and are to be supplied with provisions in the Same manner as the other Troops, and are to be bound by the same conditions of not serving during the present contest in North-America.

Article 10th Passports to be immediately granted to three officers not exceeding the rank of Captains, who shall be appointed by Lieutenant General Burgoyne, to

carry dispatches to Sir William Howe, Sir Guy Carlton, & to Great Britain, by the way of New-York and Major Genral Gates engages the public faith that their dispatches shall not be opened; The Officers are to set out immediately after receiving their dispatches, & are to travel by the shortest routs, & in the most expeditious manner.

Article 11th During the Stay of the troops at Massachusetts Bay, the officers are to be admitted on parole, & are to be admitted to wear their Side arms.

Article 12th Should the army under Lieutenant General Burgoyne, find it necessary to send for their cloathing & other Baggage to Canada, they are permitted to do it in the most convenient manner & the necessary passports granted for that purpose.

Article 13th These articles are to be mutually signed & exchanged tomorrow morning at nine O Clock and the troops under Lieutenant General Burgoyne are to march out of their incampment at three in the Afternoon.

John Burgoyne.

It was a glorious sight to see the haughty Brittons march out & Surrender their arms to an Army which but a little before, they despis'd & called paltrons, they however before the surrender were convinced of their error, having in two engagements previous seen the greatest bravery that ever was displayed, & the most consummate Generallship exercised. The enemy acknowledge the Spirit and bravery of our officers & men, and do not hesitate to Say, that the idea held up to them of the Americans, was false.

We have taken in the whole, Six Generals viz.

Lieut. General Burgoyne; Major Generals, Phillips & Reidtel, Brigadiers, Hamleton, Speight and another German whose name I do not recollect.

General Burgoyne & Staff, among which are six members of Parliament	12
British Troops by capitulation	2442
Foreign Troops, ditto	2198
Canadians Volunteers &c sent to Canada	1100
Total included in the Capitulation	5752
Prisoners taken at different times	400
Sick & wounded	*528
Deferters	300
Lost at Bennington	1220
Killed since the 17 th of Sept ^{ber}	600
Killed & taken at Ticontaroga	413
Amounting the whole killed & taken prisoners	9213

The wonderful goodness of God in delivering So many of our cruel unnatural Enemies into our hands, & with so little loss on our Side, I hope every heart will be Sutablely affected with. And may that God who has granted such Signal success here vouchsafe to grant similer Successes to our arms in the Nothern Department.

37 Brass cannon, royals, mortars, with empliments & Stores compleat.

5000 Stands of Arms.

400 Sets of Harness.

A considerable Number of Amunition waggons & Harness

Six Field Pieces taken at Bennington

Two & 4 Royals at Fort Scuyler

* This is probably an error for 598, which is the number given by other authorities.

In 1776 I was in Colo Mathew Talcotts Regm^t at New York, & on Long Island & we lay near the Battle at flat Bush, where our People were overcome, our Cap^t with a small platoon of us was Order'd out On the left wing, the Hefians from an adjacent Hill fired upon us we were Order'd to lie down on the ground while the Balls pass'd us, then return'd to Camp, or entrenchment.

The Houses in flaming fire, & that Evening & Night was the Memorable retreat from Long Island which was Completed very Early next Morning & our Regm^t encamp't Turtle Bay Call^d, below Harlem here among many others I was Sick, & was discharg'd by Brigadier General Douglas to recover Health & return'd to Middletown. 1777 the next year as the above Journal shews I was at the Northward in Gen^l Arnold's Division & see the marching of Burgoyne Army on their way for Boston. The Year 1780 May I was Call^d out again for Six Months to Join the Army on North River. My Colo's Major, Capt, all are Dead. My wages when Rec^d. would not pay the expence of food on My road to the North & back One of my Company Mates gave \$100 Dollars for 10th Flax 3 Coppers would buy a Dollar