

made so good a Disposition to surround the Village of Old Paapan, where the Regiment of Dragoons lay, that he entirely surprized them, and very few escaped being either killed or taken. He likewise fell in with a small Party of Militia, a few of whom were killed, and some taken Prisoners. The whole Loss on our Side was one Man killed of the 2d Battalion of Light Infantry, which Corps had the principal Share in this Business, and behaved with their usual Spirit and Alacrity.

The 7th Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, and the Queen's Rangers under Lieutenant Colonel Simcoe, who crossed the North River from Lieutenant General Knyphausen's Division, and were to have co-operated with the other Columns, were prevented, by the Desertion of the three Men before-mentioned, from surprizing a Body of Militia, who by that Means took the Alarm, and made their Escape.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) CORNWALLIS.

Extract of a Letter from General Sir Henry Clinton, Knight of the Bath, to Lord George Germain, dated October 25, 1778.

IN my Letter of the 8th Instant I mentioned that my Move into Jersey was partly to favour an Expedition sent to Egg Harbour. I have now the Honor to enclose Copies of two Reports made to me by Captain Ferguson of the 70th Regiment, who commanded the Troops employed upon that Service, to which I beg Leave to refer your Lordship for an Account of it's Success, under the Direction of that very active and zealous Officer.

(COPY)

Report of Captain Ferguson of the 70th Regiment to His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton, dated Little Egg Harbour, October 10, 1778.

SIR,

I HAVE the Honor to inform you, that the Ships, with the Detachment ordered to this Place, arrived off the Bar on the Evening of the 5th Instant; when Captain Colins sent in the Gallies, but the Ships could not enter before the 7th.

Three Privateers of 6 or 8 Guns, with an Armed Pilot-Boat, had escaped out of the Harbour before our Arrival, in consequence of Advice received on the 2d from Mr. Livingston, warning them of our Destination.

As it was from this evident that Preparations had been making against us for several Days, it was determined to allow no further Time, but to push up with our Gallies and small Craft, with what Soldiers could be crowded into them, without waiting for the coming in of the Ships; accordingly, after a very difficult Navigation of 20 Miles Inland, we came opposite to Chesnut Neck, where there were several Vessels and about a Dozen of Houses, with Stores for the Reception of Prize Goods, and Accommodation for their Privateers Men.

The Rebels had there erected a Work with Embasures for Six Guns, on a Level with the Water, to rake the Channel, and another upon a commanding Eminence, with a Platform for Guns en Bar bette; in which however it afterwards appeared that they had not as yet placed Artillery.

The Banks of the River below the Works being swampy; rendered it necessary for the Boats with the Troops to pass within Musquet shot, in order to land beyond them; previous to which Captain Colins advanced with the Gallies to cover our Landing, and as he came to very close to the Works, and the Guns of the Gallies were remarkably well pointed, the Fire from the Rebels was effectually stifled; and, when the Detachment landing with Ease, soon drove into the Woods the skulking Banditti that endeavoured to oppose it.

The Seamen were employed all that Evening, and the next Day till Noon, in destroying Ten Capital Vessels; and the Soldiers in demolishing the Village, which was the principal Resort of this Nest of Pirates. Had we arrived by Surprise, we meant to have pushed forwards with Celerity to the Forks, within Thirty-five Miles of Philadelphia. But as

the Alarm had been spread through the Country, and the Militia there had been reinforced from Philadelphia by a Detachment of Foot, five Field Pieces and a Body of Light Horse, our small Detachment could not pretend to enter twenty Miles further into the Country, to reach the Stores and small Craft there; and the Shallowness of the Navigation rendered it impracticable for the Gallies to co-operate with us; it was therefore determined to return without Loss of Time, and endeavour to employ our Force with Effect elsewhere: But some of our Vessels having run aground, notwithstanding the very great Diligence and Activity of Captain Colins and the Gentlemen of the Navy, an Opportunity offered, without interrupting our Progress, to make two Descents on the North Side of the River, to penetrate some Miles into the Country, destroy three Salt Works, and raze to the Ground the Stores and Settlements of a Chairman of their Committees, a Captain of Militia, and one or two other virulent Rebels, who had Shares in the Prizes brought in here, and who had all been remarkably active in fomenting the Rebellion, oppressing the People, and forcing them, against their Inclination and better Judgment, to assist in their Crimes.

At the same Time be assured, Sir, no Manner of Insult or Injury has been offered to the peaceable Inhabitants, nor even to such, as without taking a Lead, have been made, from the Tyranny or Influence of their Rulers, to forget their Allegiance.

It is my Duty to inform you, that the Officers and Men have cheerfully undergone much Fatigue, and every where shown a Disposition to encounter any Difficulties that might offer.

I have the Honor to be, with the greatest Respect, &c.

(Signed) Pat. Ferguson, Capt. 70th Reg.

P. S. One Soldier of the 5th was wounded through the Leg at Chesnut Neck; but we have neither lost a Man by the Enemy nor Desertion since we set out.

(COPY)

Report of Captain Ferguson, of the 70th Regiment, to his Excellency Sir Henry Clinton, dated Little Egg Harbour, October 15, 1778.

SIR,

SINCE the Letter which I did myself the Honor of writing to you on the 10th Instant, Captain Colins has received a Letter from Admiral Gambier, signifying that the Admiral and you are both of Opinion that it is not safe for us to remain here, as the Army is withdrawn from the Jerseys, and ordering our immediate Return; but as the Wind still detained us, and we had Information by a Captain and six Men of Polaski's Legion, who had deserted to us, that Mr. Polaski had cantoned his Corps, consisting of three Companies of Foot, three Troops of Horse, a Detachment of Artillery, and one Brass Field Piece, within a Mile of a Bridge which appeared to me easy to seize, and from thence to cover our Retreat; I prevailed upon Captain Colins to enter into my Design, and employ an idle Day in an Attempt that was to be made with Safety, and with a Probability of Success. Accordingly, at Eleven last Night, 250 Men were embarked, and, after rowing ten Miles, landed at Four this Morning within a Mile of the Defile, which we happily secured, and leaving 50 Men for its Defence, pushed forward upon the Infantry of this Legion, cantoned in three different Houses, who are almost entirely cut to Pieces. We numbered among their Dead about 50, and several Officers, among whom we learn are a Lieutenant-Colonel, a Captain, and an Adjutant. It being a Night Attack, little Quarter could of course be given; so that there are only 5 Prisoners. As a Rebel Colonel Proctor was within two Miles, with a Corps of Artillery, 2 Brass Twelve-pounders, 1 Three-Pounder, and the Militia of the Country, I thought it hazardous with 200 Men, without Artillery or Support, to attempt any Thing further, particularly after Admiral Gambier's Letter.

The Rebels attempted to harrass us in our Retreat, but with great Modesty; so that we returned at our Leisure, and re-embarked in Security.

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