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From Saturday June 19, to Tuesday June 22, 1779.

Extract of a Letter from General Sir Henry Clinton, Knight of the Bath, to Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, dated New York, May 21, 1779.

A Contrary Wind having detained the Packet, I have an Opportunity of sending to your Lordship the Copies of Letters, which I have this Morning received from Major General Mathew and Sir George Collier, together with the Returns of Ships, Stores and Magazines already destroyed in the Chesapeak Bay: The Operations have been well conducted, and the Success has been very compleat.

Copy of a Letter from Major General Mathew to General Sir Henry Clinton, dated Portsmouth, Virginia, May 16, 1779.

S I R,

AFTER a very favorable Passage of Four Days, we entered the Capes of Virginia the 8th Instant, contrary Winds prevented our landing till the 10th.

About Three in the Afternoon the Army was landed at the Glebe, on the Western shore of Elizabeth River, just out of Cannon Shot of the Fort. As the Troops landed, the Column moved to invest the Fort. The Enemy, perceiving that their Retreat would be cut off, evacuated before we could reach the South Branch of Elizabeth River.

The Artillery and Stores, taken in the Fort and Town, will appear by the Returns I have the Honor to inclose.

Having taken Possession of the Fort, and placed Guards in the Town, I encamped in Two Lines, Right to the Fort, and left to the South Branch.

On the 11th the Flank Companies of the Guards took a strong Position Ten Miles in Front of the Right Wing. The Volunteers of Ireland took one equally strong, Seven Miles in Front of the Left Wing. The Center of the Line was covered by an impenetrable Swamp.

On the 12th the Guards marched at Night to Suffolk, Eighteen Miles, and arrived at Day-break. The Town was hastily deserted; and some Vessels, a very large Magazine of Provisions, with Naval Stores, and Two Pieces of Cannon, were destroyed. The Returns, Sir, will ascertain the Quantities. Mr Barrett, Volunteer, with One Light Infantry, were wounded.

The Volunteers of Ireland have had some slight Skirmishing, in which they have suffered little. The Enemy have lost, in Killed, Wounded, and Prisoners, Four and Twenty.

I am prosecuting your Excellency's further Instructions, in which I have great Reason to believe very many of the Inhabitants will contribute their Assistance.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

EDW. MATHEW.

Copy of a Letter from Sir George Collier to General Sir Henry Clinton, dated Reasonable, May 16, 1779.

S I R,

AFTER leaving New York the 5th Instant with the M. n of War and Transports under my Command, I proceeded towards the Place of our Destination with the most propitious Winds, and on the 4th Day (from our sailing) made the Capes of Virginia. The Fleet anchored that Night between the Sands near Willoughby Point, which they had hardly done, when the most terrible Flurry of Thunder, Lightning, Wind, and Rain, came on, that I ever recollect: Its Continuance however was not more than Half an Hour, and the Ships were all so fortunate as to escape driving on Shore. At Sun-rise we saw some Rebel Ships and Vessels in Hampton Road, with their Sails loose, who, as soon as the Tide admitted of it, got under Weigh, and ran up Elizabeth and James Rivers: Our Fleet also weighed, and the Reasonable anchored shortly after in Hampton Road, her great Draught of Water not admitting of her going further with Conveniency. I immediately shifted my Broad Pendant to the Rainbow, and proceeded with the Fleet up Elizabeth River, till a contrary Wind and the Ebb Tide obliged us to anchor. The following Morning being calm, prevented the Ships from moving with the Flood, on Account of the Narrowness and Intricacy of the Channel; and as the intended Place of Descent was not more than Five or Six Miles distant, the General, anxious to lose no Time, embarked the First Division in the Flat Boats, and covered by the Cornwallis Galley, and Two Gun Boats that carried a Six-pounder at each End, proceeded up, and landed without Opposition at the Glebe which is distant about Three Miles from the Town of Portsmouth. The Fort fired some heavy Guns at the Galley, which the Distance rendered of no Effect. A favourable Breeze having arose brought the Ships up, even before the first Division had got on Shore; and the Remainder of the Troops, with the Field Artillery, &c. were landed immediately with the utmost Expedition.

The Movements of the Army afterwards General Mathew will best explain to your Excellency, the Rebels still kept their Colours flying upon the Fort, from which Circumstance we judged they intended making *some* Defence, though we did not expect much. To give them however no Time for throwing up fresh Works, or for waiting to be reinforced by more Rebel Troops, it was agreed between the General and myself, that the Rainbow should move up with the Morning Tide before the Fort, and that the Troops, at the same Time, should attack it on the Land Side. The Enemy however saved us the Trouble by quitting it that Evening, and we took Possession of the Fort and Town of Portsmouth, as also of Norfolk (which is on the opposite Side of the River) without the least Opposition.