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*Whitehall, July 25 1775.*

**T**HIS Morning arrived Captain Chadds, of his Majesty's Ship Cerberus, with the following Letter, from the Honourable Lieutenant-General Gage to the Earl of Dartmouth, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

*Copy of a Letter from the Honourable Lieutenant General Gage to the Earl of Dartmouth. Dated Boston, June 25, 1775.*

*My Lord,*

I Am to acquaint your Lordship of an Action that happened on the 17th instant between His Majesty's Troops and a large Body of the Rebel Forces.

An Alarm was given at Break of Day, on the 17th Instant, by a Firing from the Lively Ship of War; and Advice was soon afterwards received, that the Rebels had broke Ground, and were raising a Battery, on the Heights of the Peninsula of Charles-Town, against the Town of Boston. They were plainly seen at Work, and, in a few Hours, a Battery of Six Guns played upon their Works. Preparations were instantly made for landing a Body of Men to drive them off, and Ten Companies of the Grenadiers, Ten of Light Infantry, with the 5th, 38th, 43d, and 52d, Battalions, with a Proportion of Field Artillery, under the Command of Major-General Howe and Brigadier-General Pigot, were embarked with great Expedition, and landed on the Peninsula without Opposition, under the Protection of some Ships of War, armed Vessels, and Boats, by whose Fire the Rebels were kept within their Works.

The Troops formed as soon as landed; the Light Infantry posted on the Right, and the Grenadiers upon their Left. The 5th and 38th Battalions drew up in the Rear of those Corps, and the 43d and 52d Battalions made a Third Line. The Rebels upon the Heights were perceived to be in great Force, and strongly posted. A Redoubt, thrown up on the 16th at Night, with other Works, full of Men, defended with Cannon, and a large Body posted in the Houses in Charles-Town, covered their Right Flank; and their Center and Left were covered by a Breast-Work, Part of it Cannon-proof, which reached from the Left of the Redoubt to the Mystick or Medford River.

This Appearance of the Rebels Strength, and the large Columns seen pouring in to their Assistance, occasioned an Application for the Troops to be reinforced with some Companies of Light Infantry and Grenadiers, the 47th Battalion,

and the 1st Battalion of Marines; the Whole when in Conjunction, making a Body of something above 2000 Men. These Troops advanced, formed in two Lines, and the Attack began by a sharp Cannonade from our Field Pieces and Howitzers, the Lines advancing slowly, and frequently halting to give Time for the Artillery to fire. The Light Infantry was directed to force the Left Point of the Breast-work, to take the Rebel-Line in Flank, and the Grenadiers to attack in Front, supported by the 5th and 52d Battalion. These Orders were executed with Perseverance, under a heavy Fire from the vast Numbers of the Rebels; and notwithstanding various Impediments before the Troops could reach the Works, and though the Left under Brigadier-General Pigot was engaged also with the Rebels at Charles Town, which at a critical Moment was set on Fire, the Brigadier pursued his Point, and carried the Redoubt.

The Rebels were then forced from other strong Holds, and pursued till they were drove clear off the Peninsula, leaving Five Pieces of Cannon behind them.

The Loss the Rebels sustained must have been considerable from the great Numbers they carried off during the Time of Action, and buried in Holes, since discovered, exclusive of what they suffered by the Shipping and Boats; near one hundred were buried the Day after, and thirty found wounded in the Field, three of which are since dead.

I inclose your Lordship a Return of the killed and wounded of His Majesty's Troops.

This Action has shewn the Superiority of the King's Troops, who, under every Disadvantage, attacked and defeated above three Times their own Number, strongly posted and covered by Breast-works.

The Conduct of Major-General Howe was conspicuous on this Occasion, and his Example spirited the Troops, in which Major-General Clinton assisted, who followed the Reinforcement. And in Justice to Brigadier-General Pigot, I am to add, that the Success of the Day must in great Measure be attributed to his Firmness and Gallantry.

Lieutenant-Colonels Nesbit, Abercrombie, and Clarke; Majors Butler, Williams, Bruce, Spendlove, Smelt, Mitchell, Pitcairne, and Short, exerted themselves remarkably; and the Valour of the British Officers and Soldiers in general was at no Time more conspicuous than in this Action.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Tho. Gage.

*Return*

[ Price Three-Pence. ]

