

The Objects of this Enterprize being thus far effected, the Troops returned by the Way of Bristol. On the March near Warren, two Field Pieces were spiked up, and a light 3 Pounder, abandoned by the Rebels, was rendered useless by being spiked, and the Carriage broken to Pieces. Two 3 Pounders in a Redoubt on the Road were destroyed in the same Manner. In marching through the Town of Bristol, one 18 Pounder was spiked, and a Military Store was blown up, and the Church and some Houses burnt. By this Time a Party of the Rebels had assembled, and kept up a constant Fire upon our Rear from two Field Pieces and a Number of Small Arms, till the Troops gained the Height above Bristol Ferry, where they spiked up two 18 Pounders in the Rebel Battery, and then made the Signal for the Flat-bottom Boats to advance from Papasquash River. Upon their Arrival, the whole Detachment embarked with Regularity and good Order, under Cover of our Fort on the opposite Shore, and the Flora Man of War and two Gallies, (the Pigot and Spitfire) the latter having been taken from the Rebels the same Morning by Lieutenant Kempthorn of the Nonfuch. The Rebels ventured to ascend the Hill with one Field Piece, but not before the Troops were all embarked, and the Boats at a great Distance from the Shore. This essential Service was performed with very inconsiderable Loss; Lieutenant Hamilton of the 22d Regiment, four Hessian Soldiers, and eight British, were wounded; and two Drummers missing. It is impossible to ascertain the Loss the Enemy sustained, but believe it to be of no great Moment; for though they kept up a heavy Fire upon our Rear at Times, it was always at a great Distance, under Cover of their Field Pieces, and from behind Walls, which rendered the Fire of our Men very uncertain. The following is the Number of Prisoners taken: 1 Colonel, 3 Field Officers, 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, and 58 Persons most of them Soldiers or belonging to the Militia. Colonel Campbell speaks of the Behaviour of Lieutenant Colonel Hillman of the 22d Regiment, Captains Poore and French of the 54th, Captain Noltenius of the Hessian Chasseurs, and of Lieutenant Melshimer, Aid de Camp to General Lofsberg, who went a Volunteer and served as Interpreter for the Hessians, in a Manner that does them great Honor; and the Behaviour of the whole Detachment, Officers and Men, gave him great Pleasure, and deserves the highest Commendations. The great Regularity and good Order observed by Captain Clayton and Lieutenant Knowles of the Navy, in conducting the Flat-bottom Boats during the Night with such Secrecy along the Enemy's Shore, and in Landing the Troops and Reimbarking them with so much Expedition, could not have been performed by any but those who have had so much Practice and Experience in that Part of the Service, and has contributed greatly to the Success of the Expedition.

To the above Account I have the Pleasure to add, that about Two o'Clock the same Morning the Pigot Galley and Six Armed Boats, commanded by Captain Reeve of the Navy, passed the Rebel Battery at Bristol Ferry; and, though hailed by the Sentries, the Enemy were made to believe the Galley was one of their own Vessels. So soon as she came to an Anchor in Mount Hope Bay, Lieutenant Kempthorn moved forward to the Entrance of Taunton River with the Armed Boats, and took the Re-

bel Galley, carrying two 18 Pounders, two 12 Pounders, and six 6 Pounders, without Opposition. The same Morning, in order to fix the Attention of the Rebels at Howland's Ferry to the Secomet Shore, Lieutenant D'Auvergne of the Alarm Galley landed a Party of Marines at Fogland Ferry, and set Fire to the Rebel Guard-house without receiving any Hurt.

These Successes of the Navy and Army, in their several Operations, I hope will convince the Rebels that it is in the Power of this Garrison to annoy, lay Waste, and distress their Persons and Property, whenever they are inclined to do so.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT PIGOT.

*Copy of a Letter from Major General Pigot to General Sir Henry Clinton. Dated Newport, 31 May, 1778.*

S I R,

A Few Days ago I had the Pleasure of acquainting you with Lieutenant Colonel Campbell's Success in destroying the Rebels Shipping, Boats, Cannon, Magazines, &c. and having Information that there was a large Quantity of Boards and Planks at Fall River, and the only Saw Mills that are in this Part of the Country, the Commodore and I were of Opinion it would be doing good Service if the Whole could be destroyed. To effect which, 100 Men, of the 54th Regiment, commanded by Major Eyre, embarked last Night in Flat Bottom Boats at Arnold's Point, having the Pigot Galley and some Armed Boats for their Protection and Convoy: Unfortunately the Galley got a-ground in passing Bristol Ferry; but the Boats proceeded, and arrived a little after Day-break at the proposed Place for Landing. They were discovered some Time before they approached the shore, and a general Alarm was given by the Discharge of Cannon and Small Arms. When the Troops attempted to land, they were fired upon by a strong Guard; however, the Gun Boat soon dispersed them, and they landed and pushed forwards to two Mills, the one for Sawing, the other for Grain, which were set Fire to, and entirely consumed, together with a very considerable Quantity of Boards and Planks for building Boats or Privateers. The Major finding a greater Number of Men in Arms than he expected, and being apprehensive the Opposition would increase, thought it more prudent to retire than advance farther to the other Mill, as the chief object of the Expedition was answered, by destroying the principal Saw-Mill, and all the Boards and Planks. In returning to the Boats they set Fire to the Rebel Guard-room, a Provision Store, and nine Cedar-Boats; many Sacks of Corn were destroyed in the Mills. His Loss was two Men killed, and Lieutenant Goldsmith and four Men wounded. The Rebels Loss is thought to be more considerable. When the Tide made, the Galley got afloat; but in towing her off, Lieutenant Congleton of the Flora Man of War was much wounded, and two Men unfortunately killed. I have great Pleasure in acquainting you, that on this Expedition the Navy and Army behaved with their usual Spirit and Firmness.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) R. PIGOT.

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