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Whitehall, October 5, 1779.

Extract of a Letter from General Sir Henry Clinton to Lord George Germain, dated Head-Quarters, Dobbs Ferry, July 25, 1779.

IN my Dispatch, No 57, I had the Honor to inform your Lordship of my having taken Possession of Verplanks and Stoney Point upon the North River.

On the Night of the 15th Instant, the Enemy suddenly assaulted and carried the Lines at Stoney Point. The greater Part of the Garrison, consisting of the 17th Regiment of Foot, the Grenadier Company of the 71st Regiment, a Company of the Loyal Americans, and a small Detachment of the Royal Artillery, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Johnson, of the 17th Regiment, were either killed or taken. I have not yet been able to procure Accounts sufficiently satisfactory to form a decisive Judgment upon this Accident. I have the Honor to inclose Lieutenant-Colonel Johnson's Account, as likewise that published by the Rebels.

The Enemy immediately began a heavy Cannonade with our Guns from Stoney Point upon Lieutenant-Colonel Webster who commanded at Verplanks, with the 33d Regiment, Loyal Americans, and Detachments from the Royal Artillery, and from the 71st Regiment. At the same Time Lieutenant-Colonel Webster was informed, that a considerable Force was in his Rear, who, if they did not mean to attack him from that Quarter, at least would make his Retreat, should he be driven to that Extremity, very difficult.

Upon the first Intelligence I received of this Matter, I ordered the Army to advance to Dobbs's Ferry, pushing forward the Cavalry and some light Troops to the Banks of the Croton River, to awe the Enemy in any Attempt by Land against Verplanks. Brigadier-General Stirling was in the mean Time embarked with the 42d, 63d, and 64th Regiments, for the Relief of Verplanks, or the Recovery of Stoney Point. The Northerly Winds, rather uncommon at this Season, opposed Brigadier-General Stirling's Progress till the 19th, when, upon his arriving within Sight of Stoney Point, the Enemy abandoned it with Precipitation, and some Circumstances of Disgrace.

Lieutenant Colonel Webster, who had with great Firmness supported the heavy Fire of the Enemy, had not, during the whole Time, deigned to return a single Shot, being sensible that it would have been of no material Effect. The Enemy possibly supposing from this Circumstance that he might have no heavy Cannon, brought down a Galley to carry off from Stoney Point Part of the Artillery which would have found Difficulty in retiring through the Roads of that Country. As soon as the Cannon were aboard the Galley, Lieutenant-Colonel Webster turned upon her an Eighteen Pounder, the only Piece of heavy Ordnance he had, which raked her with such Effect, that, to prevent her sinking, the Crew ran her ashore, and there set Fire to her.

Such of the Cannon as remained upon Stoney Point were buried, or thrown into the River by the Enemy, who immediately made a most precipitate Retreat.

Having been apprehensive that the Delay occasioned by the contrary Wind might have given the Enemy Time to collect a Force at the Points too powerful for Brigadier-General Stirling, and being anxious that no Step should be omitted for the Security of Verplanks and Recovery of Stoney Point, I had embarked with the Light Infantry, and joined General Stirling in Haverstraw Bay. My whole Army being within my Reach, I had some Hopes of being able to betray Mr. Washington into an Engagement for the Possession of Stoney Point. Possibly he suspected my View, and declined adventuring any Measure which might bring on an Action in a Country unfavourable to him.

Brigadier-General Stirling is now at Stoney Point with Five Battalions, repairing the Works, which are a good deal damaged.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Johnson, of the 17th Foot, to Sir Henry Clinton. Dated Hardy's Town, July 24, 1779.

THE Bearer Lieutenant Armstrong, of the 17th Infantry, will give you a full and perfect Account of the unfortunate Event of the Morning of the 16th Instant, whereon the Post of Stoney Point fell into the Hands of the Enemy. I am inclined to think, that upon a just Representation you will be fully convinced that it was not any Neglect on my Part, nor of the Troops under my Command, but the very superior Force of the Enemy that caused the Capture of the Place. Inclosed I send a Return of the Killed, Wounded, Missing, and Prisoners, as nearly as could be collected by the Commanding Officers of Corps.

The very distressed situation of our People for want of Necessaries of every Kind, occasioned my making Application for a Flag in order to have them provided. General Washington's Permission to send a Subaltern Officer of each Corps I received but this Instant. The Commissary of Prisoners being under the Necessity of returning immediately, oblige me to draw to a Conclusion, referring your Excellency to Lieutenant Armstrong for any further Particulars.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) H. JOHNSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, 17th Foot;

*His Excellency
Sir Henry Clinton, &c. &c. &c.*

Return of the Killed, Wounded, Missing, and taken Prisoners by the Enemy, of His Majesty's Troops, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Johnson, at the Engagement upon Stoney Point, July 16, 1779.

Royal Regiment of Artillery. 4 Rank and File wound-

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