

most of the day, it was not thought advisable, especially as their position was exceedingly strong, and their numbers fully equal, if not superior, to ours. Not more than 1500 of my troops have ever been in action before. I should before have taken possession of the hill they occupied, and fortified it, but it is no defence against an enemy coming from the south part of the island, though exceedingly good against an enemy advancing from the north end towards the town, and had been fortified by the enemy for that purpose.

I have the pleasure to inform Congress, that no troops could possibly shew more spirit than those of ours which were engaged. Colonel *Livingston*, and all the officers of the light corps, behaved with great gallantry. The brigades of the first line, *Varnum's*, *Glover's*, *Cornell's*, and *Green's*, behaved with great firmness.— Major General *Green*, who commanded in the attack on the right, did himself the highest honour by the judgment and bravery exhibited in the action. One brigade only of the second line was brought to action, commanded by Brig. Gen. *Lovel*; he, and his brigade of militia, behaved with great resolution. Colonel *Crane*, and the officers of artillery, deserve the highest praise. I enclose Congress a return of the killed, wounded, and missing on our side, and beg leave to assure them, that, from my own observation, the enemy's loss must be much greater. Our army retired to camp after the action; the enemy employed themselves in fortifying their camp through the night. In the morning of the 30th I received a letter from his Excellency General *Washington*, giving me notice that Lord *Howe* had again sailed with the fleet; and receiving intelligence, at the same time, that a fleet was off *Block Island*, and also a letter from *Boston*, informing us that the Count *D'Estaing* could not come round so soon as I expected, a council was called, and as we could have no prospect of operating against *Newport*, with success, without the assistance of a fleet, it was unanimously agreed to quit the island until the return of the *French* Squadron. To make a retreat in the face of an enemy, equal, if not superior in number, and cross a river without loss, I knew was an arduous task, and seldom accomplished, if attempted. As our sentries were within 200 yards of each other, I knew it would require the greatest care and attention. To cover my design from the enemy, I ordered a number of tents to be brought forward and pitched in sight of the enemy, and almost the whole army to employ themselves in fortifying the camp. The heavy baggage and stores were falling back and crossing through the day; at dark, the tents were struck, the light baggage and troops passed down, and before twelve o'clock the main army had crossed with the stores and baggage. The *Marquis de la Fayette* arrived about eleven in the evening from *Boston*, where he had been by request of the general officers, to solicit the speedy return of the fleet. He was sensibly mortified that he was out of action; and that he might not be out of the way in case of action, he rode from hence to *Boston* in 7 hours, and returned in six and a half, the distance near seventy miles.— He returned time enough to bring off the piquets and other parties which covered the retreat of the army, which he did in excellent order; not a man was left behind, nor the smallest article lost. I hope my conduct through this expedition may merit the approbation of Congress. Major *Morris*, one of my aids, will have the honour of delivering this to your Excellency. I must beg leave to recommend him to Congress, as an officer, who, in the last, as well as several other actions, has behaved with great spirit and good conduct, and doubt not Congress will take such notice of him as his long service and spirited conduct deserve. I have the honour to be, dear Sir, with much esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient, and very humble servant,  
JOHN SULLIVAN.

P. S. The event has proved how timely my retreat took place, as one hundred sail of the enemy's ships arrived in the harbour the morning after the retreat. I should do the highest injustice if I neglected to mention that Brig. Gen. *Cornell's* indefatigable industry in preparing for the expedition, and his good conduct through the whole, merits particular notice. Maj. *Talbot*, who assisted in preparing the boats, afterwards served in Col. *Laurens's* corps, deserves great praise.

A RETURN of the killed, wounded, and missing of the army under the command of the honourable major general Sullivan, in the action of the 29th of August.

KILLED. 4 subalterns, 3 sergeants, 23 rank and file.  
WOUNDED. 2 lieutenant colonels, 1 captain, 8 subalterns, 13 sergeants, 113 rank and file.  
MISSING. 2 sergeants, 42 rank and file.  
Total, 211.

Published by order of Congress,  
CHARLES THOMPSON, Sec'y.

B O S T O N, September 3, 1778.

THE Count *D'Estaing* has erected very formidable works on *George's* island, in which we hear he has mounted near a hundred cannon of heavy metal, which he took from his fleet, with a determination to defend himself against any invasion from our enemies, while his fleet are repairing the damage they sustained in the late storm.

Last Wednesday evening the Hon. Major General *Hancock* with his suite came to town, and on Saturday morning the *Marquis de la Fayette* with his suite also arrived from the camp at *Rhode Island*, upon public business. The *Marquis* at the request of General *Hancock*, resided at his seat in town. The *Marquis* set out last Sunday on his return to the camp.

A fleet of 70 sail of shipping was seen standing off *Rhode Island* last Sunday and Monday, supposed bound into *Newport*.

It was currently reported yesterday, that the above fleet had since arrived there with a reinforcement.

A fleet of ships, supposed to be Lord *Howe's* from the *Hook* has been discovered standing off this harbour for several days past but disappears this day. The fleet, it is conjectured, consisted of upwards of twenty sail, some very capital ships.

An extract of general orders for the 31st of August.

“The General congratulates his army upon their retreat from an island in the face of an enemy, which, by comparing their numbers with his last returns, were superior to him, and had besides the command of the water. Under these circumstances, to perform a retreat with so much regularity, without any confusion or disorder, and without the least loss of stores or lives in the retreat, must reflect the highest honour on the brave troops he has the honour to command.”

F I S H K I L L, September 10, 1778.

LAST evening we were informed that the enemy's whole army had marched from *New-York* to *Kingsbridge*, as if they meant by this move to give General *Washington* battle. Should they advance, with Heaven's aid they will repent their rash attempt.

Deserters, to a considerable number, come out to our camp from *Kingsbridge* from day to day. It is said *Delancey's* corps is reduced to less than 300.

Accounts from *New-York*, by deserters, as well as persons come out of the city in exchange. That the enemy by appearances, are preparing to leave the city, their heavy baggage and artillery being embarked. They are felling off the firewood, salt, &c. which was stored for public use. All their flour is delivered to the bakers, to be made into biscuit. Governor *Tryon* was returned with some thousand head of cattle from the east end of *Long Island*, and they were killing and salting them up.

It is a remarkable time of health in our army in this quarter. The hospitals are not crowded as in former campaigns, and very few deaths take place in our grand army.

B A L T I M O R E, September 15, 1778.

Extract of a letter from the camp at *White Plains*, dated Aug. 31. THE disposition of the enemy's fleet, in the Sound, and at *New-York*, and other places, indicates a general movement of their army.”

The enemy now freely acknowledge that the tables are turned, and they are put on the defensive, and have nothing to do but to provide for their own safety at every quarter, in the best manner they can.