

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1780.

PHILADELPHIA, July 1.

Extract of a letter from General Washington, dated Whiteman, June 25, 1780.

"The conduct of the enemy, giving us reason to suspect a design against West-Point, on the 21st the army, except two brigades and the horse, (left under the command of Gen. Greene to cover the country and our stores) was put in motion to proceed slowly towards Pampton. On the 22d it arrived at Rockaway bridge, about 11 miles from Morris-town. The day following, the enemy moved in force from Elizabeth-town towards Springfield. They were opposed with great conduct and spirit, by major-generals Greene and Dickinson with the continental troops and such of the militia as were assembled; but with their superiority in numbers, they of course gained Springfield. Having burnt the village, they retired the same day to their former position. In the night they abandoned it, crossed over to Staten-land, and took up their bridge. I beg leave to refer congress to General Greene's report for particulars.

"The enemy have not made their incursions into this State, without loss. Ours has been small. The militia deserves every thing that can be said on both occasions. They flew to arms universally, and acted with a spirit equal to any thing I have seen in the course of the war."

The enclosed REPORT from major-general GREENE is as follows:

Springfield, June 24, 1780.

SIR,
I have been too busily employed, until the present moment, to lay before your excellency the transactions of yesterday.

The enemy advanced from Elizabeth-town about five in the morning, said to be about five thousand infantry, with a large body of cavalry and fifteen or twenty pieces of artillery. Their march was rapid and compact. They moved in two columns, one on the main road leading to Springfield, the other on the Vauxhall road. Major Lee with the horse and pickets opposed the right column, and colonel Dayton with his regiment the left, and both gave as much opposition as could have been expected from so small a force. Our troops were so extended, to guard the different roads leading to the several passes over the mountain, that I had scarcely time to collect them at Springfield, and make the necessary dispositions before the enemy appeared before the town; when a cannonade commenced between their advance and our artillery, posted for the defence of the bridge. The enemy continued manoeuvring in our front for upwards of two hours, which induced me to believe they were attempting to gain our flanks. My force was small, and from the direction of the roads, my situation was critical. I disposed of the troops in the best manner I could, to guard our flanks, secure a retreat, and oppose the advance of their columns. Colonel Angell with his regiment, and several small detachments, and one piece of artillery, was posted to secure the bridge in front of the town. Colonel Shrieve's regiment was drawn up at the second bridge, to cover the retreat of those posted at the first, major Lee with his dragoons and the pickets, commanded by captain Walker, was posted at Little's bridge, on the Vauxhall-road; and colonel Ogden was detached to support him. The remainder of general Maxwell's and Stark's brigades were drawn up on the high grounds at the mill. The militia were on the flanks. Those under the command of general Dickinson, made a spirited attack upon one of the enemy's flanking parties, but his force was too small to push the advantage he had gained.

While the enemy were making demonstrations to their left, their right column advanced on major Lee. The bridge was disputed with great obstinacy, and the enemy must have received very considerable injury, but by forcing the river, and gaining the point of the hill, they obliged the major with his party, to give up the post. At this instant of time, their left column began the attack on colonel Angell; the action was severe and lasted about forty minutes, when superior numbers overcame obstinate bravery, and forced our troops to retire over the second

bridge, there the enemy were warmly received by colonel Shrieve's regiment, but as they advanced in great force, with a large train of artillery, he had orders to join the brigade.

As the enemy continued to press our left on the Vauxhall road, which led directly into our rear, and would have given them the most important pass; and finding our front too extensive to be effectually secured by so small a body of troops, I thought it most advisable to take post upon the first range of hills in the rear of Bryant's tavern, where the roads are brought to near to a point, that succour might readily be given from one to the other. This enabled me to detach colonel Webb's regiment, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Huntington, and colonel Jackson's regiment with one piece of artillery, which entirely checked the advance of the enemy on our left, and secured that pass.

Being thus advantageously posted, I was in hopes the enemy would have attempted to gain the heights, but discovering no disposition in them for attacking us, and seeing them begin to fire the houses in town, detachments were ordered out on every quarter, to prevent their burning buildings not immediately under the command of their cannon and musketry. In a few minutes they had set fire to almost every house in town, and began their retreat. Captain Davis with a detachment of 120 men, several smaller parties, with a large body of militia, fell upon their rear and flanks, and kept up a continual fire upon them, till they entered Elizabeth-town, which place they reached about sun set, Stark's brigade was immediately put in motion, on the first appearance of a retreat, which was so precipitate that they were not able to overtake them.

The enemy continued at Elizabeth-town point until twelve o'clock at night, and then began to cross their troops to Staten Island, by six this morning they had totally evacuated the point and removed their bridge. Major Lee fell in with their rear guard, but they were so covered by their works, that little or no injury could be done them. He made some refugees prisoners, and took some stores which they abandoned to expedite their retreat.

I have the pleasure to inform your excellency, that the troops who were engaged, behaved with great coolness and intrepidity, and the whole of them discovered an impatience to be brought into action. The good order and discipline which they exhibited in all their movements do them the highest honour. The artillery under the command of lieutenant-colonel Forest was well served. I have only to regret the loss of captain-lieutenant Thompson, who fell at the side of his piece by a cannon ball.

It is impossible to fix with certainty the enemy's loss, but as there was much close firing, and our troops advantageously posted, they must have suffered very considerably.

I herewith inclose your excellency a return of our killed, wounded and missing, which I am happy to find is much less than I had reason to expect from the heavy fire they sustained.

I am at a loss to determine what was the object of the enemy's expedition: if it was to injure the troops under my command, or to penetrate further into the country, they were frustrated. If the destruction of this place, it was a disgraceful one. I lament that our force was too small to save the town from ruin. I wish every American could have been a spectator, they would have felt for the sufferers, and joined to revenge the injury.

I cannot close this letter without acknowledging the particular services of lieutenant-colonel Barber, who acted as deputy adjutant-general, and distinguished himself by his activity in assisting to make the necessary dispositions.

I have the honour to be, &c.

N. GREENE, major-general.

There were a number of prisoners made, but as they went on to Morris I had no return of them.

His excellency general Washington.

RETURN of the killed, wounded, and missing, in the action of the 2d of June, 1780—Springfield.

Artillery. Killed: 1 captain, 2 sergeants. Wounded: 2 matrosses.

Angell's regiment. Killed: 1 sergeant, 5 rank and file. Wounded: 1 captain, 3 sub, 8 sergeants, 25 rank and file. Missing: 3 rank and file.

Shrieve's regiment. Killed: 1 rank and file. Wounded: 1 sergeant, 2 rank and file. Missing: 1 rank and file.

Dayton's regiment. Killed: 2 rank and file. Wounded: 1 sub, 6 rank and file. Missing: 4 rank and file.

Spencer's regiment. Wounded: 1 sergeant. Lee's detachment. Killed: 1 rank and file. Wounded: 4 rank and file.

Total. Killed: 1 captain, 3 sergeants, 9 rank and file. Wounded: 1 captain, 4 sub, 5 sergeants, 37 rank and file, 2 matrosses. Missing: 9 rank and file.

The return of Davis's detachment I could not get, he having marched off the next morning after the action. The return of the militia I cannot get: they had none killed, but about twelve wounded.

(Signed) F. BARBER, Lt. Col.

Published by order of congress,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secr.

ANNA POLI 6, July 7.

On Wednesday last the general Assembly of this State adjourned, the Senate to the first Monday in November, and the House of delegates to the third Monday in September next, after having passed the following laws:

1. An act to authorise the commissioners appointed by the act for the immediate supply of flour and other provisions for the army, to hire or implese vessels and carriages.

2. An act to procure a loan.

3. An act for a new and speedy enrollment of the militia.

4. An act for the relief of Zachariah Forrest, collector of the tax for Saint Mary's county.

5. An act for the payment of certain certificates.

6. An act for the relief of Thomas Williams, collector of the assessment in Prince-George's county.

7. An act for the adjournment of Charles county court.

8. An act for sinking the quota required by congress of this State of the bills of credit emitted by congress.

9. An act to continue the acts of assembly therein mentioned:

10. An act to procure recruits to complete the battalions of this State in the service of the United States, and to raise an additional regiment, if necessary.

11. An act to revive actions and process in the court of appeals, to enable any one judge to adjourn the said court, and to direct the oath of the judges in case of appeals from the court of chancery.

12. An act for the relief of those who have and may suffer by the British army.

13. An act for the appointment of several collectors in each county where necessary, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

14. An act for the regulation of the staple of tobacco.

15. An act concerning nonjurors.

16. An act to prevent frauds in commerce, and to direct the duty of naval officers.

17. An act to continue the act of assembly, entitled, An act to prohibit for a limited time the exportation of wheat, flour, rye, Indian corn, rice, bread, beef, pork, bacon, live stock, peas, beans, oats, and other victual, and for other purposes.

18. An act for the relief of certain nonjurors.

19. An act to enable Conrad Theodore Wenderstrand to draw orders, as therein mentioned.

20. An act to direct the recording and to give effect to a deed made by Philip Read and Anne his wife, of Saint Mary's county, to George Medley.

21. An act to procure a supply of salt meat for the use of the army.

22. An act to encourage the raising a volunteer troop of light horse in Baltimore-town and in each county of this State.

23. An act, entitled, A supplement to the act to procure recruits to complete the battalions of