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# Voices of the Past

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The Journal of Samuel M. Shute

Revolutionary War

1781

HQ Williamsburgh Sept 27 1781

Officers for tomorrow           Maj Gen Lincoln  
                                          Col Dayton  
                                          Lt Col (Antils)  
                                          B Major \_\_\_\_

The rolls are to be called with greatest strictness this evening at retreat beating, and again at \_\_\_\_ the presence of the Field Officers \_\_\_\_\_ no Officer or Soldier in condition to march is to be absent from post incamp The Gen \_\_\_\_ is the Commander of the Corps for the practical execution of this order.

(two unreadable lines)

following will be the order of Battle for the Army The American troops composing the right wing will be formed into two lines The Continental forces in the front line consisting of the following Divisions & in the following order viz: Muhlenberg's & Hazen's Brigades to form the division on the right under the Marquis D La Fayette. Wayne's & the Maryland Brigades the Division of the center for the pursuit to be commanded by the Barron Stuben. Dayton's & Clinton's, that on the left. The senior Continental officer will command the right wing & his Excellency Count Rochambeau the left of which he will be pleased to make his own disposition. The Companies of Delaware are for the pursuit to be annexed to Maryland Regt. Stevens & Lawson Brig'ds of militia will form the 2<sup>nd</sup> line. The Park of Artillery, The Corps of Sappers & Miners, & the Virginia State Regt will be posted between the two lines in the order above mentioned commencing from the right. The whole Army will march by right in one Column at 5 O'clock tomorrow morning precisely. The particular order of the march for the right wing will be distributed by the QM Gen.

If the enemy should be tempted to meet the Army on its march the General particularly enjoins the troops to place their principal reliance on the bayonet, that they may prove the vanity of the boast which the British make of their peculiar prowess in deciding battles with that weapon. He trusts that a generous \_\_\_\_\_ will attack the allied armies, that the French whose national weapon is that of close fight & the troops in general that have so often used it with success will distinguish themselves on every occasion that offers. The justice of the cause in which we are engaged, & the honor of the two nations must inspire every heart with sentiments that are the presage of victory.

General Muhlenburgh's Brig'd with the artillery attached to it, headed by Col Lincolns Corps of Rifle men & the light Dragoons will form the advanced guard.

Headquarters Near York, September 28, 1781

For Thursday Tomorrow:    Marquis  
                                         Col Scammer  
                                         Lt Col (Gorndyke)  
                                         Thayer Willis  
                                         BM Bliker

The whole army officers and soldiers will lie on their arms this night.

Morning Order Sept 29, 1781

Our ungenerous enemy having on when at propagated the small pox in this part of the country-  
The Commander-in-Chief forbids the officers and soldiers of this army having any  
communication with the Horses or inhabitants in this neigh-bour-hood or borrowing any utensils  
from them.

Head Quarters \_\_\_\_\_ Sept 30, 1781

Lt Colo D Hart officer of the day \_\_\_\_\_  
Lt Colo Barger indisposed  
Major umming is appointed to do the the duty of the Field Officer vice  
Lt Colo D Hart is absent by liability  
For the day tomorrow            BG Christian  
                                         Colo Gose  
                                         L Colo Olorney  
                                         BM Cox

Gen Mulenburgh's brigade will consider itself as a \_\_\_\_\_ this night. Gen Mulenburgh will  
take his orders from Barron Stuben Maj Gen of the day. The B Maj of the day will inform B  
Stuben when the \_\_\_\_\_ is formed & take his orders for their distribution.

After orders Sept 30, 1781

C L L RF

The whole of Hazen's brigade and 2 – 6 – 6 – 100 of Wayne's brigade to be added to the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ already ordered. They will form the with Mulenburgh's brigade at sunset & consider  
themselves under his immediate command.

The advanced \_\_\_\_\_ & various considerations under it indis\_\_\_\_\_ necessary to conduct the  
attacks against York with the utmost rapidity.

The General therefore exacts & requires the officers & soldiers of this army to preform the duties  
of their respective departments & stations with the most unabating ardor. The present moment

offers in prospect the Epocha which will decide American Independence & the glory & superiority of the Allies. A vigorous use of the means in our power cannot but insure success. The passive conduct of the enemy argues his weakness & the uncertainty of his \_\_\_\_\_. The liberties of America & the honor of the allied Armies are in our hands. Such objects of as must excite Patriotic emulation in the greater actions & exertion: these consequences will amply compensate every danger & fatigue. All defectors & persons coming from the enemey's lines are to be stopped at the out post and imported to the General Officer of the day who is desired to find such as are capable of giving useful information to Head Quarters. The rest are to be disposed of as the Governor or person he may direct shall think proper.

In the first examination of them at the out post the most \_\_\_\_\_ attention is to be used to prevent any person infected with the small-pox from entering in the French or American camps. All officers & others are strictly forbid to wear \_\_\_\_\_ clothes for obvious reasons. The General strictly forbids all those who are not required by their stations to the command of a superior officer to employ themselves in reconnoitering the enemies works. The curiosity of such often intercepts the observation of officers particularly charged with this business.

The good of the service requires that each officer adheres to the duty assigned to him. 1200 men Properly officered for fatigue tomorrow, 400 of them are to Parade man the redoubt now constructing at the day break tomorrow morning. The QM General will have 100 axes ready at the time & place. The remainder 800 to parade at 6 O'clock in front of the encampment now occupied by Colo \_\_\_\_\_ Regt where the QM General will have the tools employed today in making \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

Head Quarters before York Tuesday Oct 2, 1781

#### Morning Orders

The Commander-in-Chief having ordered his own baggage wagon to be first to assist in the transportation of ordnance and stores requests that all the wagons of the General Field & other officers may be employed in the same service as it is of the utmost consequence that the heavy artillery should be brot up without a moments loss of time. The wagons to parade in the field near HQ immediately.

Head Q Saturday Oct 6, 1781

For the day tomorrow	BGen Clinton
	Col Rose
	Major Olmy
	BMaj

The Division Inspectors are to mount in the trenches with their respective Major General. BGen Elliot is appointed superintendant of the reposit of the trenches & is to be obeyed & respected

accordingly in the execution of his function defined in the 9<sup>th</sup> & subsequent articles of the Regulations of this date for \_\_\_\_\_ service of the trenches.

The Commander-in-Chief congratulated the Army upon the late victory obtained over the evening at Eutaw Springs in South Carolina. He returns his warmest acknowledgements to Maj Gen Greene for his admirable general plan of operations, his judicious dispositions on the present occasion and the exemplary vigour with which he conducted their execution.

He requests him to communicate his most gratefull expressions of his esteem to the gallant officers & soldiers of whom he makes such honorable mention, for their conduct on the \_\_\_\_\_ of Sept.

The national military fame increased by achievements of that day, entitles each individual who in them to the thanks of their country.

Gen Greene took upon this occasion five hundred prisoners including wounded which the enemy lost on the field and he supposes their loss in killed & wounded exclusive of this, could no be less than six hundred. His own loss in killed & wounded was not five hundred.

Regulations for the service of the siege

1<sup>st</sup> The service of the siege will be performed by the Divisions alternately, The fatigue men will first by detailed out of the Division and the remainder will form Battalions under their respective Commanders to guard the trenches. The 1<sup>st</sup> night will be an exception to this rule. The First Regiment of each Brigade will that night form a Division Commanded by Major Gen Lincoln.

2<sup>nd</sup> The divisions shall be warned for the trenches the preceding evening, & they are to furnish no guard, when they mount in the trenches.

3<sup>rd</sup> No officer or soldier of Regiments commanded for the trenches will be excused from mounting unless he be sick. The HQ of each Regiment will alone remain in camp.

4<sup>th</sup> The Maj General of the Division which mount will be the Maj General of the trenches; the Brigadiers will mount with their Brigades.

5<sup>th</sup> The General officers of the trenches will reconnoiter carefully, all the avenues, places of arms, & advantageous angles that he may determine in consequence the order & disposition of the troops in case of an attack.

6<sup>th</sup> The Inspector of the Division which mounts will do the duty of Maj of the trenches. He will make the details of the service of the troops during the twenty four hours he shall be there, & attend to the \_\_\_\_\_ observations of the orders.

7<sup>th</sup> He will visit before hand all the posts of the trenches, & visit them again when the troops are posted there, in order to know the state of them, & communicate promptly to each of the orders of the General officers near whom he is to keep himself to receive them. Each Brigade to send to the General of the trenches an orderly officer.

8<sup>th</sup> The Maj of the trenches will be instructed by the General officer of their Alarm posts, in case of a \_\_\_\_\_ & take care to inform the troops of it.

9<sup>th</sup> An officer of Rank will be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief to act as Superintendant of the deposit of the trenches for the following important service during the whole siege. Viz: To take charge of all the sand bags, facines, gabions, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, pickets, \_\_\_\_\_, Abbatis & deposited at the place which the engineers will appoint & keep an accurate state of them.

10<sup>th</sup> He is to deliver the same bags & other necessary tools for the works & take care the tools are delivered when they are no longer wanted.

11<sup>th</sup> He will take care that there are litters & men ready to go with them to bring the wounded.

12<sup>th</sup> He is to count all detachments of fatigue men when they enter trenches & make report to the Act Gen.

13<sup>th</sup> He will give billets for taking from the deposits of Artillery, the ammunition which the troops in the trenches may require.

14<sup>th</sup> He will transmit a daily report to the Agt Gen of all the orders & certificates that he shall have given, as well as a state fo the deposits which shall have been committed to his care.

15<sup>th</sup> He will likewise transmit to the Agt Gen a return \_\_\_\_\_ of the killed & wounded.

16<sup>th</sup> He will above every thing watch over every thing that related to order & regularity in the trenches except in the disposition of the troops which is the particular Province of the Maj of the Trenches.