



COPY

WAR OFFICE

WHITEHALL

S.W.1.

July 30, 1935.

My dear Ambassador,

Thank you very much for your letter.

We shall, of course, be delighted to give you all the information we possibly can to enable you to answer the President's enquiry. I rather fancy, however, that any Army records there may be relating to the Expedition you mention have long since been transferred to the Public Record Office, but I am making enquiries into this point at once and will write to you again as soon as I can.

Yours sincerely,

Halifax.

His Excellency the Hon. Robert Worth Bingham.



COPY

WAR OFFICE

WILTSHIRE

S.W.I.

July 20, 1918

My dear Ambassador,

Thank you very much for your letter.

As usual, of course, be delighted to give you

all the information as possible and to enable you

to answer the President's enquiry. I regret, however,

that any records there may be relating

to the expedition you mention have long since been

transferred to the Public Record Office, but I am

making enquiries into this point at once and will

write to you again as soon as I can.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert

His Excellency the Hon. Robert Forth Simpson.



COPY

H.M.S. EFFINGHAM

at Portsmouth.

31st July, 1935.

Dear Ambassador,

I have to thank you for your kind letter of the 29th July. I am delighted that the papers we sent you have been of interest to the President. It is pleasing to know that the British soldiers are now shown in a kindlier light and I hope that this will soon appear in your histories!

As a matter of fact, good relations between our two countries seem to be so well established that the past may be left to look after itself.

May I again say what a pleasure it has been to me and my people in the Intelligence Division to be of some little use to you and the President?

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(G. C. Dickens)

His Excellency the Hon.

Robert Worth Bingham.

COPY

E.M.S. THURMAN

at Portsmouth.

West July, 1855.

Dear Ambassador,

I have to thank you for your kind letter of
 the 23rd July. I am delighted that the papers you
 sent you have been of interest to the President.
 It is pleasing to know that the British soldiers
 are now shown in a kinder light and I hope that
 this will soon appear in your histories!

In a matter of fact, good relations between
 our two countries seem to be so well established
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 to be of some little use to you and the President?

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(G. C. Dickens)

His Excellency the Hon.

Robert Wuth Ninkman.

Dutchess County
Historical Society
920 E 3

COPY

WAR OFFICE,

WHITEHALL,

S.W.1.

My dear Ambassador,

31st August, 1935.

Referring again to your letter of 29th July I find, as I suspected, that all the surviving Army records of the period of the War of Independence are in the custody of the Public Record Office. Unfortunately, detailed indexes of their contents do not exist, but with the help of the Public Record Office I have had an extensive search made in those volumes of records, to the number of some twenty-eight altogether, which were at all likely to throw any further light on the Expedition up the Hudson River in the Autumn of 1777, about which you wrote. Among the documents examined were three despatches, of which I have pleasure in sending you copies enclosed, namely despatches No. 69, 71 and 74, from General Sir William Howe, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Troops. These contain some references to the Expedition in question. In particular, enclosure No. 4 to despatch No. 69, and the enclosures to the other two despatches, consist of reports from Lt.-General Sir Henry Clinton, who was in immediate

COPY

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WHITEHALL,

S.W.1.

21st August, 1933.

My dear Ambassador,

Referring again to your letter of 23rd July I find,

as I suggested, that all the surviving Army records of the period of the War of Independence are in the custody

of the Public Record Office. Unfortunately, detailed

indexes of their contents do not exist, but with the help

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documents examined were three despatches, of which I have

pleasure in sending you copies enclosed, namely despatches

No. 62, 71 and 74, from General Sir William Howe, the

Commander-in-Chief of the British Troops. These contain

some references to the Expedition in question. In par-

ticular, enclosure No. 4 to despatch No. 62, and the

enclosures to the other two despatches, consist of reports

DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

from Lt-General Sir Henry Clinton, who was in command

-2-

command of the Expedition, and from Major-General Vaughan, one of his subordinates.

I am afraid these despatches do not provide much in the way of fresh information. Major-General Vaughan apparently considered that he had an adequate military reason for firing the houses on Esopus Creek, but it must be admitted that he does not seem to have been reluctant to take such measures against "a Town notorious for harbouring the most rebellious people in that part of the Country" !

I am sorry that no reports actually written by Commanding Officers of units engaged in the Expedition have been found, but I think this is not altogether surprising. Then, as now, it was not customary for reports of subordinate Commanders in the Field to be sent home. There were at that time in the Army no documents similar to the ships' logs of the Navy, which in due course and as a matter of routine, come home to be deposited in Departmental archives. Nowadays the documents of all formations and units in the Army, as well as those of the War Office itself, are adequately looked after as public property and preserved when it is desirable to do so. But this was not so in earlier times and large numbers of papers, which would now be regarded as public property, must either have passed into private hands or been destroyed.

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one of his superiors.

I am afraid these responses do not provide much in

the way of fresh information. Major-General Vaughan

apparently considered that he had an adequate military

reason for firing the houses on Beauséjour, but it must

be admitted that he does not seem to have been reluctant

to take such measures against "the Town rebellion" for restoring

the most rebellious people in that part of the County."

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manding officers of units engaged in the expedition have

been found, but I think this is not altogether surprising.

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commanders in the field to be sent home. There were at

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logs of the Navy, which in due course end as a matter of

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Army, as well as those of the War Office itself, are con-

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regarded as public property, must either have passed into

private hands or been destroyed.



-3-

I am told that Sir Henry Clinton's papers are now in the William L. Clement's Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan. It would probably be worth while to have them examined if this has not been done already.

I am sorry that our search which, incidentally, extended to the Colonial Office as well as the Army Records, has not been more fruitful, but I do not think it likely that anything of importance has been missed. For the reasons I have indicated I think it more probable that among the records at our disposal there was not very much to be found.

Yours sincerely,

Halifax.

His Excellency the Hon.

Robert Worth Bingham.



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Robert Worth Bingham.