

EVENTS ON HUDSON'S RIVER IN 1777

As Recorded by British Officers In Contemporary Reports

The said reports are on file in the British Admiralty and copies of them have been deposited with the Dutchess County Historical Society
by

The President of the United States

There are certain old quotations and adages, such as: "to see ourselves as others see us" and "much may be said on both sides" and "there are two sides to every story," which illustrate the homely truth that balance and proportion and perspective are always desirable. Those sayings come to mind now in connection with the presentation in these pages of documents procured for the Year Book by the President of the United States from the records of the British Admiralty.

In 1934 Mr. Henry T. Hackett, a trustee of the Dutchess County Historical Society, suggested to the editor of the Year Book that it would be interesting to know what comment on the raid up Hudson's River in 1777 was made by the British officers who commanded the expedition and that possibly the President could obtain copies of such official records. The suggestion was laid before the President, who at once acted upon it enthusiastically. He placed the matter in the hands of the Ambassador from the United States to the Court of St. James, the Honorable Robert W. Bingham, and Mr. Bingham obtained the cooperation of Admiral Gerald C. Dickens (grandson of Charles Dickens), director of naval intelligence at the Admiralty. Under Admiral Dickens search was begun for the desired information and already it has yielded results. The search is continuing as the Year Book goes to press but, pending its conclusion, President Roosevelt has deposited in the archives of the Dutchess County Historical Society such material as has been forwarded to him from London up to the present time.*

The papers deposited by the President with the Society are as follows: (1) Correspondence with Ambassador Bingham; (2) A record of the movements of British Ships in the vicinity of New York City in 1777 and 1778; (3) Copy of a letter of October 24, 1777, from Lord Howe to the Admiralty, enclosing reports of officers; (4) Copies of five of the said reports; (5) Copy of the log of the galley: Dependence, Oc-

*As this Year Book goes to press a large additional amount of material has been received from London by the President and forwarded to the editor, publication of which must of necessity be postponed until the Year Book of 1936.

tober 7-25, 1777; (6) Copy of the log of H. M. S. Preston. October 7-29, 1777.

From the above papers certain items have been selected and are here reproduced. The selections provide in the first place details of the engagements in the Highlands at Forts Clinton, Montgomery and Constitution. Secondly, in a letter from Sir James Wallace to Commodore Hotham, dated October 17, 1777, General Vaughn's reason for landing at Kingston is stated. According to this letter, the British ships were fired upon by two batteries and an armed galley at the mouth of "Esopus Creek" (by which the Rondout was meant) and General Vaughn thought it unwise to leave such a force behind as the fleet proceeded up the river. Thirdly, the log of the galley: Dependence is filled with particulars of the raid. While in the Highlands, the Dependence (a vessel propelled by sails as well as oars) took on board a detachment of soldiers from a battalion commanded by Colonel Robertson and, in company with the Diligent (a brig) and the Spitfire and Crane (galleys) passed up the river until a little south of Poughkeepsie, when they "sent the boats on shore man'd and arm'd to burn 2 rebel vessels and some store houses." This presumably refers to the landing which (according to creditable tradition) was made at Matthew Van Keuren's mill on the site of the present factory of R. U. Delapenha & Company. The ships then dropped down the river to Fort Montgomery, burning boats on their way and being fired upon by American guns at New Windsor.

On October 15th a large fleet moved out of the Highlands and proceeded up the river. During this expedition the Dependence sailed as far north as Livingston's Manor. Her log records the burning of Kingston and landings made elsewhere to destroy stores and shows that the ship lingered in the general vicinity of Slipsteen Island (off shore from the present town of Red Hook, Dutchess County) for about a week. When she finally returned down the river in company with the fleet, it is stated in her log that the ship "brought to" between "Esopus meadow" and the "heights of Pokeepsy" in order "to scour the Narrow Pass" "whilst the transports were passing," which means that, while the troops were carried around the bend in the river called Krom Elbow, the boats escorting the transports raked the shores with shot.

The log of H. M. S. Preston contains less of interest to Dutchess County than that of the Dependence but it shows the retention of cer-

tain vessels in the Highlands and their movements while the main fleet was up the river. Note should also be made of the fact that on October 12th the Preston, then apparently stationed in Peekskill Bay, received on board "some Iron from the Montgomery frigate burnt." The Montgomery was one of the ships built in the shipyard at Poughkeepsie in 1775-1776.

Public Record Office, Admiralty Records. Ad 1-488.

"EAGLE

In the Delaware

October the 24th, 1777.

Sir,

Enclosed herewith I send you for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of several letters from the Commodore Hotham, giving an account of the proceedings of His Majesty's Ships employed under his orders in Hudson's river.

I am &c

(sd) HOWE.

Philip Stephens Esq.

Secretary of the Admiralty."

(Enclosure No. 6 in Lord Howe's letter of 24 October, 1777)

(Published in *The London Gazette Extraordinary*, 2 December, 1777)

"PRESTON off Peeks Kill Creek

9th October 1777.

My Lord,

Sir Henry Clinton having thought it advisable to make a diversion at this juncture up the North River and the necessary arrangements having been made in consequence, the flat boats and batteaux on the 3rd instant proceeded to Spikendevil Creek in three divisions under the Captains Pownoll, Jordan and Stanhope; Captain Pownoll having the direction of the whole.

A body of about 1100 troops were embarked in them that evening and the same night proceeded to Tarry Town, where they landed at daybreak and occupied the heights adjoining; a second division, nearly of that number, marched out at the same time from Kings Bridge and formed a junction by land with those who passed by water.

The squadron under Captain Ommanney had moved up the day before to receive them. The smaller part of it, namely the gallies and

armed vessels (as they might be to act separately) I thought it advisable upon this occasion to make a distinct command; and could not place them better than under the direction of Sir James Wallace, whose knowledge of the river, as well as Captain Ommanney's, we fully experienced the advantage of.

The third division of troops were embarked in transports and on the 4th in the morning left New York under convoy of the Preston and in the course of the same tide arrived off Tarry Town.

The general embarkation was that night made and the wind being still favourable the whole, preceded by the squadron under Sir James Wallace as an advance guard, reached Verplanks Point at noon the day following and those in the flat boats landed with the appearance only of an opposition; Sir James Wallace was immediately despatched higher up the river to cut off the enemy's communications by Peeks Kill Ferry.

The 6th at daybreak the general debarkation took place and all the troops, except about 400 who were left to secure Verplanks Neck, were soon landed at Stoney Point upon the opposite shore from whence they had about twelve miles to march through a mountainous and rugged road to Fort Clinton and Montgomery.

The ships and transports then moved higher up and anchored opposite Peeks Kill Landing.

In the afternoon the advanced squadron and the two frigates got under sail and opened Fort Montgomery, with a view only to make an appearance and thereby to cause a diversion in favour of the attack which we observed had now begun. Sir James by the help of his oars got near enough in with the galleys to throw some shot into the Fort. The cannonading and fire of musketry continued until night, when by a most spirited exertion a general and vigorous assault was made and the two important Forts of Clinton and Montgomery fell by storm to His Majesty's Arms: on which I have the honour to congratulate your Lordship most sincerely. The rebel frigates are both burnt, with a galley, and a sloop of ten guns is taken.

The loss on the enemy's side is not yet exactly known but they are supposed to have had about one hundred killed and two hundred and fifty taken prisoners. The greatest loss on the side of the King's troops are about forty killed, among whom are some valuable officers, namely Lieutenant Colonel Campbell, Major Sill, Major Grant and Captain Stewart, and about one hundred and fifty wounded.

A summons signed by Sir Henry Clinton and myself was the next day sent up to Fort Constitution by a flag of truce; which, being fired at, returned, and determined the General immediately to correct the insult by an attack. An embarkation was accordingly made on the morning of the 8th and proceeded up the river for that purpose under cover of the gallees.

We found upon our arrival the Fort had been abandoned in great confusion, their barracks burnt, but all their artillery left. The whole number of cannon taken in the three Forts amount to sixty seven, with a large quantity of provisions, ammunition and stores of all kinds, to a very considerable amount. I have directed such part of the chain and boom as cannot be saved to be destroyed. The construction of both gives strong proof of labour, industry and skill.

Sir James Wallace with his flying squadron is gone still higher up the river and if he passes the chevaux de frize at Pollipous Island, he may do essential service, as there can be nothing to give him any interruption.

When it is considered that this attack was made after a most fatiguing (march?) over precipices and through roads almost impenetrable, which made it impossible for the troops to avail themselves of the use of cannon, so necessary for such a purpose, and the little assistance they could therein promise themselves from the ships, the access through the highlands to the Forts rendering the approach to them so precarious; it redounds the more to the credit of an enterprise which was formed and executed with equal judgement, valour and success.

The Captains, Officers and Men under my command have been so strenuously zealous in their exertions upon this occasion that every testimony is due from me in approbation of their conduct during this service of fatigue, of which Captain Pownoll has had his share and is well able to inform your Lordship of every particular.

Since I had the honour of writing to your Lordship by the ZEBRA, the UNICORN, GALATEA, BRUNE and CERBERUS arrived but are all of them in great want of repairs and stores. The fifty-gun ship's people having been employed in the flat boats, will account to your Lordship for their not joining you so soon as you might have expected; but if the General remains any time here, I shall relieve the BRISTOL'S flat boat men by some of the frigates, that she may be at liberty to proceed with the next express.

I have directed Captain Onslow to carry on the current duty at York until my return and am to acquaint you that I have appointed Mr. George Stavert, Surgeon's Second Mate of the PRESTON to act as Surgeon of the ELEPHANT, till your Lordship's pleasure be known.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble servant,

(sd) W. Hotham.

P. S. I have the further pleasure to acquaint your Lordship that General Tryon is just returned from Continental Village where he has destroyed barracks for 1500 men with stores to a considerable amount."

(Enclosure No. 7 in Lord Howe's letter of 24 October, 1777)

"PRESTON off Peek's Kiln Creek

15th October 1777

My Lord,

Since I had the honour to write to you by the APOLLO not any thing material has happened here, but Sir Henry Clinton having occasion to write to the Commander-in-Chief, I take the same opportunity to acquaint your Lordship that the number of men which would be necessary for the defence of the more extensive garrison of Fort Montgomery has induced Sir Henry to destroy it and to add some works to that of Fort Clinton which commanding the first effectually removes all apprehension from thence and reduces the force necessary to maintain it to about 800 men. This has enabled him to send a detachment of about 1600 men up the North River under General Vaughan; Sir James Wallace who has already explored the river as high as Pakepsy directs the Naval part consisting of the gallies and small vessels as before; and Captain Stanhope under him commands the detachment of flat boats appointed for the occasion. They sailed yesterday and are now above the chevaux de frize off Pollepus Island, where I have placed the MERCURY to secure the passage against their return, and the CERBERUS being reported to me as only fit for river service takes her station off Stoney Point to scour that neck and give her assistance at the same time to the camp at Verplanks; the TARTAR flanks the approaches to Fort Clinton, and the PRESTON lies between the two, within signals of either.

The principal object of the move up the river is to facilitate the

motions (whatever they may be) of the Northern Army, and by the alarm which it will occasion to cause a diversion in their favour.

The UNICORN was to sail today with a convoy of victuallers for Rhode Island. The GALATEA'S rudder was dropping off and has been obliged to be unhung, and the BRUNE'S standing as well as running rigging mostly condemned by survey.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble servant,

(sd) W. Hotham.

(Enclosure No. 8 in Lord Howe's letter of 24 October 1777)

“St. Albans, New York, 21st October 1777.

My Lord,

My letters of the 15th instant which you will herewith receive were intended to have been sent by the BRISTOL, who is stopped to proceed with the convoy directed by your Lordship's letter of the 10th. In consequence of it I have left the command up the North River with Captain Symons until the return of General Vaughan, when it is intended to evacuate everything there, as Sir Henry Clinton for the defence of this place will now stand in need of every man left under his command.

The proceedings of the second expedition up the river your Lordship will see by the enclosed copy of a letter from Sir James Wallace and one also to Sir Henry Clinton from General Vaughan. The wind having hung to the Southward ever since has prevented our hearing any thing farther from them; but as it last night shifted and now blows strong from the North West it is reasonable to think we shall have them down, the object of their going up the river seeming to be now over, without giving credit to the whole of what we hear respecting General Burgoyne's army.

The two battalions of Anspach were embarked before Sir Henry Clinton and I left Verplank's Point, and with this wind may be hourly expected down. The 17th Dragoons, with the convalescent recruits, Chasseurs and Artillery, will be embarked without loss of time, and shall all proceed (as they are ready) in separate convoys, which from the experience I have had of large ones, I consider the surest and most expeditious way for them to join you. The 7th, 26th and 63rd Regiments are embarked with General Vaughan.

Some of the horse ships are got up to Yard and the rest of the THAMES'S convoy are with her within the Hook, so that we shall

not be in any want of transports for the embarkation, nor shall expedition be less wanting to forward it. This gives me an opportunity of doing the justice I owe to Lieutenant Tonkin the Agent, whose assiduity and resources are felt upon every occasion where his services are called for.

I have the honour to transmit you this dispatch by Captn. Kennedy, who is charged with Sir Heny. Clinton's to Sir Willm. Howe by an Armed Vessel of Colonel Shirreff's, the HAERLEM having been necessarily employed up the river.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(sd) W. Hotham.

(Enclosure No. 9 in Lord Howe's letter of 24 October 7777)

"Gallies & Armed Vessels off Ezopus Creek,

17th October 1777.

Sir,

We proceeded up the river destroying a number of vessels as we sailed along without stopping till we arrived at Ezopus Creek, where we found two batteries; one of two guns the other of three guns erected, and an armed galley at the mouth of the creek who endeavoured to prevent our passing by their cannonade. General Vaughan was of opinion such a force should not be left behind. It was determined to land and destroy them and immediately executed without retarding our proceeding up the river. The General marched for the town and fired it: the boats from the armed vessels went up the creek, burnt two brigs, several large sloops and other craft with all their apparatus that was in stores upon the shore. Lieut. Clark of the DEPENDENCE with two or three others in firing the stores was blown up, but we flatter ourselves not dangerously.

The officers and men upon this occasion behaved with the greatest spirit.

By all our information I am afraid General Burgoyne is retreated—if not worse.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most humble and most obedient servant,

(signed)

Jas. Wallace.

Commodore Hotham.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LOG OF DEPENDENCE GALLEY
 LIEUT. JAMES CLARK, COMMANDER
 OCT. 7 - OCT. 25, 1777. IN THE HUDSON RIVER

1777 Oct.	Bearings	Remarks &c.
	Fort Montgomery N. by E.	Fresh breezes and Clear Weathr. these 24 Hours. At P. M. Anchd. here H. Majesty's Ship PRESTON Commo- dore Hotham with the MERCURY, TARTAR, and a number of Trans- ports. at 3 p. m. Weigh'd per Signal in Compy with the DILIGENT Brig SPITFIRE, HOTHAM Tender and CRANE Galley Kept standg. off and on until 4 p. m. Do. made Sail at $\frac{1}{2}$ past the Forts Montgomery & Clinton begun a Cannonading on us at 5 begun the action per signal at $\frac{3}{4}$ past 5 the Cannonading Ceased the Forts being both Stormed by our Troops We fired during the Action 95 twenty four pound Shot four lbs round shot at the Forts and Reble Frigates at 6 p. m. the Reble Frigates seeing our Troops in Possession of their Forts they Cut their Cables and run on shore and set fire to them at 7 p. m. Anchd. per Signal in Compy. as before Fort Montgomery N. b E. Fort Clinton N. by W. off shore $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cables Length in Compy as before.
Tuesday 7	Fort Clinton N. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cables Length	
Wednesday 8	Do.	Mod. and fair Weathr p. m. received from His Majesties Ship PRESTON 2 Barrels of Powder & 2 half Barrels of Do & 100 twenty four lb. round Shot & 100 24 lb. Cartridges at 3 p. m. sent the Master to try for a Passage over the chain at 5 retd not findg Water enough over for the Galley at 9 a. m. Anchd. here His Majesties Ship MERCURY at 11 a. m. the Artificers cut the Chain.

Thursday 9	Robertsons Landg. South Sugar Loaf Hill SSW Off Shore 1 Cable's length	Light Airs Inclinable to Calm for the first part middle & latter Mod. Breezes at 1 p. m. Weigh'd and Row'd up the River in Compy H. Majt's Gallies SPITFIRE & CRANE & 22 Flat Boats with Troops on Board at 5 p. m. the Troops landed at Fort Constitution with't any Oposition the Rebels havg. Evacuated it at 8 p. m. Anch'd with the best Bower in 9 Fm. Water Butter Hill N. 1 mile Martoons Rock S. b E ½ a mile in Compy as before at 9 a. m. Weigh'd and Came to sail wth Do Comy at 10 a. m. Anchd. with the best Bower in 9 Fm. Water Robertsons Landg. South Sugar Loaf Hill SSW. Dist. off Shore 1 Cables Length in Compy. the VIDGELENT Brig SPIT-FIRE and CRANE Gallies.
Friday 10th	Anthony's Nose SSW Fort Vaughan West Off Shore ½ a mile	First Part Fresh Breezes with heavy Rain Middle and latter Mod. and Clear Weathr at 11 a. m. came on Board a Compy. of Coll. Robertsons Battallion at 11 a. m. Weigh'd in Compy. as before at Noon Anthony's Nose SSW Fort Vaughan West, Off shore 1½ mile.
Saturday 11	Conshook Ild. NNE ½ a Mile	Mod. Breezes and hazy Weathr. these 24 Hours at 3 p. m. Anch'd per Signal in Compy. as before in 13 Fm. Water Veer'd to 1-3 of a Cable Fort Montgomery NNW Anthony's Nose SSE Off shore 1 Cables Length. Empld. puttg. the Troops on shore at 9 weigh'd and Came to sail in Compy as before At 11 Anch'd with the best Bower in 13 Fm. Water in Compy the Brig and 2 Gallies Conshook Isld NNE ½ a Mile.
Sunday 12	Dunsomer Pt. W b S 5 or 6 miles	Do Weather these 24 Hours at 3 p. m. Weigh'd and Came to sail in Compy H. Majesties Brigg DILIGENT, SPIT-FIRE and CRANE Gallies at 5 p. m.

pass'd the Chivoux de frize Polepers Isld E b S $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Mile at 4 p. m. Anch'd with the best Bower in 12 Fm. Water Poughkeepsee N b E 2 Miles at 6 a. m. Weigh'd and Came to sail at 8 a. m. sent the Boats on shore Man'd and Arm'd to burn 2 Reble Vessels and some store Houses fired 2 twenty four lb. Shot and 1 four lb. Do. to cover the Boats at 10 they ret'd havg. compleeted what they were sent for at Noon Dounscomer Point W. b S. 5 or 6 Miles.

Monday
13 Dunsomer Pt.
NE 3 miles

Fresh Breezes with shouts of Rain at times Empld turng. to Windd. at 2 p. m. sent our Boats Man'd & Arm'd to Destroy the Reble Vessels that Lay haul'd up in a Creek fired 10 four lbs with round shot and 2 with round and Grape to Cover the Boats ret'd havg Compleeted what they were sent for at 4 p. m. Anch'd in 9 Fm Water with the best Bower Dounscomer point N. E. 3 miles.

Tuesday
14 Anthony's
Nose
SSE $\frac{3}{4}$ of
a mile.
Fort
Montgomery
WNW 1
Cables length

Fresh Breezes and fair Weathr these 24 Hours at 1 P. M. Weigh'd in Compy His Majests Brig SPITFIRE and CRANE at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 p. m. the Rebles open'd a Battery on the Heights of New Windsor fired 3 twenty four lbs. and 18 four Do with round shot which pass'd the Battery in passg the above battery they Wounded our Main Yard and Cut away the Main TSI Halliards and Larboard Fe sheet and several of the running Rigging and the after Leach of the Main sail at 5 p. m. Anch'd with the best Bower in 26 Fm. Water Anthony's SSE $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile Fort Montgomery WNW 1 Cables Length. At 9 a. m. the Commodore made the signal to Weigh Endeavouring to Weigh parted the best Bower in the Hause by which

means the Anchor was lost with 26 Fm of Cable and the Bouy Rope Row'd in shore and lash'd alongside of a hulk Completed our Water Anch'd here several Transports.

Wednesday
15
Pokeepsy
Landg NNE
3 or 4 miles

Mod. and Hazy Weather these 24 Hours at 4 p. m. Cast off from the Hulk and made Sail in Compy 13 Transports at 10 p. m. Anch'd with the small Bower in 6 Fm. Water in Compy His Majesties Brig DILIGENT SPIT-FIRE and CRANE Galley and 13 Transports Poleppers Isld NW Butter hill south 1 mile at 9 a. m. Weigh'd per signal in Compy as before at $\frac{1}{2}$ past Passed the Chiveoux de frize brought too to wait for the Transports at 11 made sail at Pokeepsy Landg NNE 3 or 4 miles in Compy the Fleet.

Thursday
16
Esopas Creek
W. b S. 1 Mile

Mod. Breezes and fair Weather these 24 Hours in Compy the Fleet at 4 p. m. burnt 3 Reble sloops at 8 p. m. Anchor'd per signal in 16 Fm Water Esopas Meaddow North 2 Miles at 9 a. m. Weigh'd per Signal in Company the Fleet at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 a. m. the Rebles begun to Cannonade us from their Battery at the Mouth of Esopas Creek fired 9 twenty four lbs round shot at the Battery and Reble Galley that were playing on us at 11 Pass'd the Enemies Batterys brought too for the Transports at Noon the Enemies Batteries at the Entrance of Esopas Creek W. b S. 1 Mile Fir'd 24 four pounders with Round and Grape to scour the Woods.

Friday
17
Contin's
Isld N.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile

First Light Breezes and fair Middle and latter Calm at 1 p. m. Stood close in shore at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 p. m. Anchor'd with the small Bower in 5 Fms Water Contins Isld south off shore 50 yards in

Compy the DILIGENT Brig and SPITFIRE Galley at 2 the signal was made for Landg. Do. fired 13 twenty four lbs with round and Canister and 28 four lbs. with Round and Grape at 3 p. m. the Troops were all Landed and met with very little opposition at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 Weigh'd and Row'd down to the Mouth of Esopas Creek. Anch'd with the small Bower in 2 Fm Water Contins Isld N $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile at 4 the Commodore made the signal for all Boats man'd and Arm'd to go on shore to Destroy the Reble stores and Magazine at 6 the Boats ret'd. havg. completed what they were sent for with the Lieut. and Master and 3 Men very badly Wounded at 11 p. m. the Troops all Embark'd havg. burnt the Town of Kingston and several Magazines of Proviss. A. M. Empld. Occasy.

<p>Saturday 18</p>	<p>Sleepskine Isld. N. b E. 1 mile.</p>	<p>Light Breezes and Vble at 9 a. m. Weigh'd and came to sail in Compy with the Fleet at 11 Anchor'd with the small Bower in 4 Fm. Water Sleepskine Isld N. by E. 1 mile in Compy as before at Noon a Detachmt. of the Army Landed to Destroy some stores Fired 3 twenty four lbs to Cover their Landg.</p>
<p>Sunday 19</p>	<p>Slipskine Isld. SSE 2 miles</p>	<p>Do Weather these 24 Hours at 1 p. m. the Troops Embark'd at $\frac{1}{2}$ past weigh'd per signal in Compy as before at 3 p. m. anchd per signal in 9 Fms Water Slipskine Isld SSE 2 miles at 4 p. m. sent the Boats Mann'd and Arm'd to Destroy some Reble Store on Livingstons Manner a. m. Lower'd Down the Main Yard to mend the Main Sail.</p>
<p>Monday 20</p>	<p>Do.</p>	<p>Do Weather these 24 Hours sailmakers Empld repairg. the Main sail sent the Boats on shore Man'd and Arm'd per</p>

Signal to burn 2 Reble Vessels at 5 p. m. fired 5 four lbs. round and Grape to Cover our Boats whilst Destroying the Reble Vessels at 6 p. m. the Boats retd. havg. Compleeted what they were sent A. M. sail makers empld on the Main sail.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| <p>Tuesday
21</p> | <p>Do.</p> | <p>Fresh Gales and Cloudy Weather these 24 hours Sailmakers Empld as before A. M. sailmakers finished the Main Sail Do bent it & sway'd up the Yard.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday
22</p> | <p>Slipskin Isld
N. 1 mile.</p> | <p>Fresh Gales and hazy Weathr. these 24 hours p. m. Empld. makg. Wadds at 10 a. m. Weigh'd per Signal in Compy with the Fleet at Noon Slipskin Isld. N. 1 mile.</p> |
| <p>Thursday
23</p> | <p>Esopas
N 2 cables
length.</p> | <p>Light Breezes and hazy at 6 p. m. Anch'd per signal in 9 Fm Water Slip-skin Isld N. b E. 5 or 6 Miles in Compy with the Fleet at 9 a. m. Weig'd per Signal in Compy as before at 11 a. m. saw the Rebel Army posting themselves Advantageously behind the Heights of Pokeepsy brought too to scour the Narrow Pass between Esopas Meadow and the heights that the enemy were posted upon fired 14 four lbs. with round and Grape at them whilst the Transports were passg. at Noon Esopas N. 2 cables Lengths.</p> |
| <p>Friday
24</p> | <p>New Windsor
NNW
Pelopars Isld.
N. b E $\frac{1}{2}$ mile</p> | <p>Light breezes and hazy Weather these 24 hours at 1 p. m. the Enemy open'd a 5 Gun Battery on the Transports Do brought too with the SPITFIRE and CRANE Galleys and Cannonaded the battery whilst the Transports were passing fired 14 twenty four lbs at the Reble Battery at 2 p. m. the Fleet pass'd made sail at 11 p. m. Anch'd per Signal with the small Bower in 9 Fm water Pelopers</p> |

Isld SSE 4 or 5 miles in Comp with the Fleet at 10 p. m. His Majesties Brig DILIGENT Run foul on us and Carrd away our Mizzen Mast and Mizzen Yard Empld Clearg the Wreck and gettg the Mizzen unbent from the Yard by which we lost the Mizzen Mast being broke in 5 Pieces A. M. sailmakers Empld Repairing the Mizzen where it was tore at 7 a. m. Weigh'd per Signal in Compy as before at 10 a. m. Anch'd per Signal with the small Bower in 8 Fm Water New Windsor NNW Pelopers Isld N. b E. $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile found riding there His Majesties Ship MERCURY in Compy with the Fleet.

Saturday
25

Fort
Constitution
SSE. 2 Miles.

Fresh Breezes and hazy Weathr. at 2 p. m. Weighd per signal at 3 p. m. brought too whilst the Transports were passing Butter hill fired 17 four lbs. with round and Grape and 2 twenty four lbs with Do at a Party of Rebles who had posted themselves on the above hill at 4 p. m. made sail at 5 p. m. parted Compy with the Fleet at 6 p. m. Anchd with the small Bower in 15 Fm Water Fort Constitution SSE 2 Miles in Compy His Majesties Brig DILIGENT.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LOG OF

HMS PRESTON - CAPT. SAM'L UPPLEBY

(Bd Pendant of Commodore Hotham)

7-29 October 1777 - In the Hudson River

October 1777

Pecks Kiln
ENE

At 1 p. m. Anchd wth the Bt Br in Peeks Kiln Bay. At 4 the Galleys Wd and sailed towards Fort Montgomery. At 5 the Frigates got under Sail At 11 p. m. heard several Guns fired up the River.

Tuesday
7

Fort
Independence
N b E $\frac{1}{2}$ E &
Butter Hill
NW.

At 1 a. m. Capt. Pownall came on board

Friday 17	do.	... P. M. the MYRTLE Transpt sail'd up the River.
Saturday 18	do.	... At 11 H. M. Armed Sloop HAERLEM passed up the River.
Sunday 19	Fort Independence NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E Varplank Pt. SE b. S. Topham Bluff SSE Kings Ferry South	... Anchor'd the HAERLEM. At Midnight the HOTHAM Tender did the same ... At 2 A M the HAERLEM and HOTHAM Sailed up the River. At 8 weigh'd and came to sail ... Warp'd the ship into the Middle of the stream & Anchor'd again ... Found riding here H. M. Ship CERBERUS & the RAVEN Sloop with some Transports ...
Monday 20	Haverstraw Town S b W & Topham Bluff SSW.	... At 4 p. m. His Majesty's Sloop RAVEN passed up the River ... At 5 Weigh'd and drop'd below Verplank Point ... $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 Weigh'd ... and drop'd down with the Tide into Haverstraw Bay & Anch'd in 5 fath.
Tuesday 21	Tarry Town NE.	... At 4 p. m. Weigh'd & drop'd down with the Tide ... At 6 Achd with the Bt Br ... At 7 a. m. ... weig'd and came to sail ..
Wednesday 22	Greenwich Point NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E	... $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 Anchor'd with the Small Bower off New York.
Thursday 23	Moored off New York.	... Anchor'd here HMShip THAMES and several Transports ... At 7 made the EXPERIMENTS Signal for a Lieut. ...
Friday 24	do.	... Made ... the Signal for a Lieut from the BRISTOL, ST. ALBANS & EXPERIMENT ...
Saturday 25	do.

Sunday 26	do.	... Made the Signal for a Lieut. from the ST. ALBANS
Monday 27	do.	... P. M. His Majesty's Ships CERBERUS and TARTAR with several Transports came down the N. River and Anchd here our Small Gunboat returned ...
Tuesday 28	do.	... P. M. the DILIGENT Brig & DEPENDANCE Galley anchor'd here ...
Wednesday 29	do.	... P. M. . . the CRANE Galley pass'd by us having lost both her Anchors & ran ashore upon Governor's Island. Made the Signal for Different Ships to send her Assistance. the SPITFIRE Galley came down and Anchor'd. .