

**Transcription of GEO/MAIN/44630-1**

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Commandant's House

New York

September 27: 1781

Sir,

Last Monday about four in the afternoon, we anchored without the Bar, the tide not being favourable to come up to New York. Next day the wind being not favourable, the Ship could not get up. Yesterday morning the Commander in chief Sir Henry Clinton sent down his Cutter to fetch the Ad[mira]l & myself up to the City.

We arrived at the town at about 6 in the afternoon. We were met on the Beach by the Generals & Admirals, & walked with them first round the parade, where is the pedestal of the stature of Y[our] M[ajesty], & from there thro' the greater part of the town to Commodore Affleck's house, where I was received by a Captain's Guard with Colours, which was to have been made up of that fine & brave Company of Grenadiers of the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment, had they been able to have turned out a sufficient number. But they had suffered too much in the expedition against New London, where brave Arnold commanded. The Gen[era]l did not [[????]] because it was [[????]]

We dined and past the evening at the Commodore's & from there went to Gen[era]l Burch, the Commandant's house, who was so civil as to resign it to us.

When I came onshore I was received by an immense concourse of people, who appeared very loyal, continually crying out "God Bless King George". They appear in general very well affected to our Government, but particularly the dissenters & Quakers.

This morning I walked round the town & about a mile out of the town with Sir Henry Clinton. I went to see a Hessian Regiment encamped & the 5<sup>th</sup> from [?] their march to Camp, & a fort, called Bunker's hill; As we were walking thru the City, there was a Quaker came up to me & said: God Bless thy Father: it is not for want of Respect that I do not take my hat off: But because my Religion requires it.

We dined today at Head Quarters, & had there a very pretty concert, consisting principally of officers, & particularly of Hessians. There was at dinner all the English Gen[era]ls at New York, except Gen[era]l Arnold, who have not yet seen, but am to see tomorrow, the Ad[mira]l of the Fleet, Lord [[????]], & Col[onel] Conway. The Mayor & Corporation intend to come to me tomorrow morning, with Sir Henry's leave, to present me with an address: I dread the thought of it. However, the Ad[mira]l and Mr Majendie are very much pleased hitherto.

I am

Sir,

With all submission,

Your Majesty's most Dutiful and Affectionate son,

William

People:

*Admiral:* Admiral Robert Digby (1732-1815). Admiral of the Red.

*Sir Henry Clinton* (1730-1795), British general, commander in chief in North America 1778-1782.

*Sir Edmund Affleck* (1725-88), British naval officer, commodore at New York.

*40<sup>th</sup> Regiment:* the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, raised in Nova Scotia in 1717, had arrived on Staten Island from Antigua in June 1781, before participating as part of a battalion commanded by Sir Edmund Eyre under the overall command of Benedict Arnold in the Battle of Groton Heights on 6 September 1781 during an expedition against New London, Connecticut. British casualties were heavy, with a quarter of the force that attacked Fort Griswold killed or wounded, and the regiment's commanding officer, Major William Montgomery being killed in the assault; in turn British forces gave no quarter to the defenders, who were regarded by their compatriots as the victims of a massacre.

*"brave Arnold"/Genl Arnold:* *Benedict Arnold* (1741-1801), general first in the American army and then the British army, who led the New London expedition.

*General Burch:* Samuel Birch, brigadier-general and commandant of New York.

*Col. Conway:* aide de camp to Henry Clinton.

*Mr Majendie:* Henry William Majendie (1754-1830), tutor to William, later canon of Windsor and eventually Bishop of Chester and then Bangor. Son of Queen Charlotte's English tutor, John James Majendie.