



CONCORD FIGHT

*Being so much of the
Narrative of Ensign JEREMY LISTER of the
10th Regiment of Foot as pertains to his services
on the 19th of April, 1775, and to his
experiences in BOSTON during the
early months of the Siege*



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GEORGE III



LISTER NARRATIVE

on the 18th
of April in the Evening there was a de-
tachment ordered under Armes to go on a
secret expedition, under the command of
L^t. Col^l Smith of our Reg^t the detach-
ment consisted of the Light-Infantry and
Granadiers of the Army, L^t pettigrew^s

2. James Pettigrew.

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being one of the Lieut^{ts} of our Grandiers and Lodging in the same House with me, and being anxious to know the reason of this Order with the destiny of this Armament, I went with him down to the parade, when I met Captⁿ Parsons ¹ of our Comp^y of Light Infantry who seem'd rather uneasy at L^t Hamiltons ² not coming after being repeatedly sent for, who sent word at last he was sick. I immediately offered myself a Volunteer in the Room of Hamilton and was excepted of when I immediately returnd to my Lodgings to equip myself for a March, and met the Comp^y on their way through the Town in order to embark in Boats to cross the bay above Charlestown, when we was just embarking L^t Col^l Smith wish'd me to return to Town again and not go into danger for others particularly Hamilton whose Illness was suppos'd by everybody to be feign'd which twas clearly prov'd to be

1. Lawrence Parsons. 2. See Introduction, p. 9.

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the case afterwards but wishing much to go, for the Honor of the Reg^t thinking it would be rather a disgrace for the Comp^y to March on an expedition, more especially it being the first, without its Compliment of Officers, therefore my offer was excepted. we got all over the bay and landed on the oposite shore betwixt twelve and one OClock and was on our March by one, which was at first through some swamps and slips of the Sea till we got into the Road leading to Lexington soon after which the Country people begun to fire their alarm guns light their Beacons, to raise the Country however to the best of my recollection, about 4 oClock in the Morning being the 19th of April the 5 front Comp^{ys} was ordered to Load which we did, about half an hour after we found that precaution had been necessary, for we had then to unload again and then was the first Blood drawn in this American Rebellion. it was at Lexington when

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we saw one of their Comp^{ys} drawn up in regular order Major Pitcairn of the Marines second in Command call'd to them to disperse, but their not seeming willing he desired us to mind our space which we did when they gave us a fire then run of to get behind a wall. we had one man wounded of our Comp^y in the Leg his Name was Johnson also Major Pitcairns Horse was shot in the Flank we return'd their Salute, and before we proceeded on our March from Lexington I believe we Kill'd and Wounded either 7 or 8 Men. we Marchd forward without further interruption till we arriv'd at Concord, tho large bodies of Men was collected together and with Armes yet as we approach'd they retired, L^t Col^l Smith remaind at Concord to destroy Military Stores collected there but detatchd Cap^t Parsons forwards with 5 Comp^{ys} of Light

1. All the other authorities say that there were six companies.

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Infantry in order to do the same business at another place the Name I don't now recollect¹ Captⁿ Parsons left one Comp^y the 43^d at Concord-Bridge two Comp^{ys} viz 4th and 10th upon two Hills to Command the road he had to go, then proceeded with the other two Comp^{ys} viz 23^d and 52^d to execute the purpose of his detachment. we had not been long in this situation when we saw a large Body of Men drawn up with the greatest regularity and approach'd us seemingly with an intent to attack, when L^t Kelly² who then Commanded our Comp^y with myself thought it most proper to retire from our situation and join the 4th Comp^y which we did, they still approachd and in that force, that it was thought proper by the Officers except myself to join the 43^d Comp^y at Concord Bridge Commanded by Captⁿ Laurey,³ my reason for objecting

1. Colonel Barrett's house.

2. Waldron Kelly.

3. Walter Sloane Laurie.

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the joining the 43^d Comp^y was we had to go down a steepish hill, and just in a manner under the Mussels of the Rebels pieces, therefore if they chose to fire upon us which was expected they might have cut us off almost to a Man without our having it in our power to return a shot with the smallest probability of doing execution but however I was overruled, tho there was a good Wall which I pointed to as a good cover or Brest Work if we would avail ourselves of it. luckily for us we joined the 23^d Comp^y and not a shot Fired, I then was not sorry at my situation, Captⁿ Laury of 43^d then Commanded the three Comp^{ys} he sent L^t Robertson¹ of his Comp^y to L^t Col^l Smith to beg a Reinforcement might be sent immediately the answer brought back was L^t Col^l Smith thought 3 Comp^{ys} must be equal to the defence of the Bridge but he would see this message had no sooner arrivd than the Rebels

1. Alexander Robertson.

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begun their March from the Hill we before had retired from with a[s] much order as the best disciplind Troops, I proposd destroying the Bridge, but before we got one plank of they got so near as to begin their Fire which was a very heavy one, tho. our Comp^{ys} was drawn up in order to fire Street firing, yet the weight of their fire was such that we was oblig'd to give way then run with the greatest precipitance at this place there was 4 Men of the 4th Comp^y Killd who was afterwards scalp'd their Eyes goug'd their Noses and Ears cut of, such barbarity exercis'd upon the Corps could scarcely be paraleld by the most uncivilised Savages.¹ there was a good number Wounded amongst which was a L^t Hull 43^d through the Right Brest, of which with other Wounds rec^d that day he died three or four days after. L^t Gould²

1. An exaggeration of course. Only one man suffered any such barbarity. Owing to the decision of the Provincial authorities to admit nothing, Lister, seven years after the battle, was still ignorant of the truth.

2. Edward Gould.

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4th and L^t Kelly 10th also L^t Sunderland a Vountier Wounded, fortunately for us in consiquance of the Message sent to L^t Col^l Smith he had considered to send the 47th Comp^y of Granadiers to our assist-ance, tho two late to be of any service at the Bridge yet they serv'd as a Cover for us to draw up our scattered Comp^y again, we then retired in reagular order to Concord, I mean the 10th and 43^d Comp^{ys} with the 47th Granadiers. I don't know that the 4th Comp^y was collected again that day, some of them join'd our Comp^y and was permitted to remain some time,¹ after we had got to Concord again my situation with the remains of the Comp^y was a most fatiguing one, being detached to watch the Motions of the Rebels, we was kept continually running from hill to hill as they chang'd their position, but

1. Barker and Gould were the only officers of the 4th at Concord Bridge. The wounding of Gould left Barker the only commissioned officer with the company.

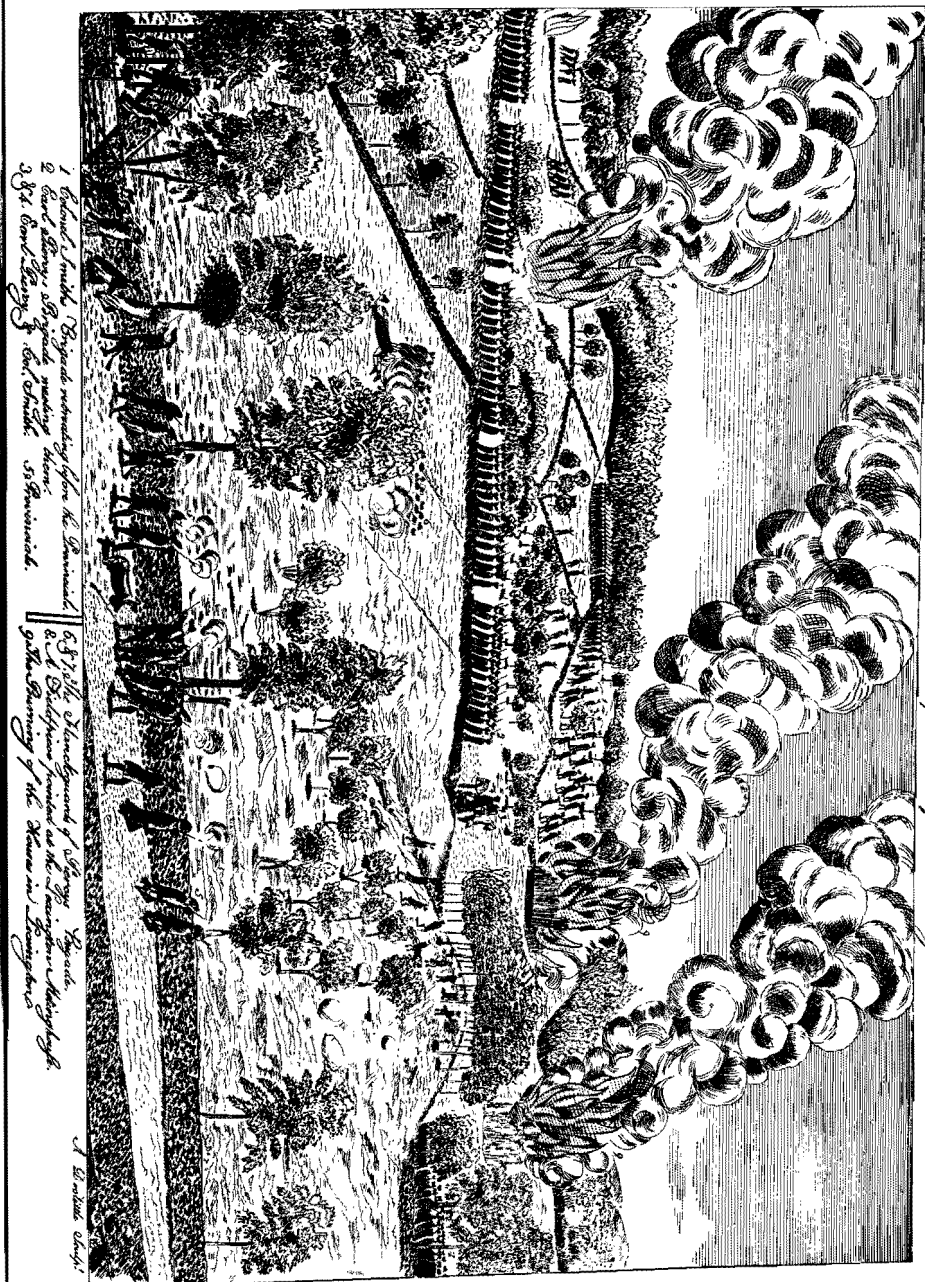
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however after some hours Captⁿ Parsons returnd, after executing the purpose of his Command and tho. there was a large Body of Rebels drawn up upon the hill we had left when we retired to Concord Bridge yet they let him pass without firing a single shot, tho they might undoubtedly have cut his 2 Comp^{ys} off to a Man. On Captⁿ Parsons joining us begun our March toward Boston again from Concord. the Light Infantry March'd over a Hill above the Town the Granadiers through the Town, immediately as we descended the hill into the Road the Rebels begun a brisk fire but at so great a distance it was without effect, but as they kept marching nearer when the Granadiers found them within shot they returnd their fire just about that time I rec^d a shot through my Right Elbow joint which efectually disabled that Arme, it then became a general Firing upon us from all Quarters, from behind hedges and Walls we return'd

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the fire every opportunity which continued till we arriv'd at Lexington which from what I could learn is about 9 Miles, we was then met by a Reinforcement of 4 Batalians under Lord percie to our great joy our amunition being then nearly expended there was also two field Pieces, but our great Commander of Artillery^r to his disgrace be it said, only sent 7 Rounds of Amunition for each Gun, had we had plenty of that commodity they would have been of the greatest use to us on our March which was then 13 Miles to Bunkers Hill, under a continual fire from all Quarters as before but however there was not much of the Amunition return'd to his Majestys Stores, Lord Percies with this reinforcement meeting us at Lexington caused a little holt when I got M^r Simes Surgeons Mate to 43^d Reg^t to examine my

1. Colonel Cleveland's defence was that he had planned to send a larger quantity, but that Percy, fearing that he might be delayed by baggage, limited the supply of ball to what could be carried in the side-boxes.



Part of the South Part of Lexington

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 2. General Bannister's Regiment marching off to the left
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Arme when he extracted the Ball it having gone through the Bone and lodg'd within the Skin. from our long fateagueing March and loss of Blood for 9 Miles want of provisions having not had a Morcel since the day before, I begun to grow rather faint, seeing L^t Col^l Smith borrow a horse from an Officer of Marines, he having been wounded some time before in the Leg, I apply'd to him to lend me his Horse which he did, seeing almost immediately after a Soldier eating a little Bisquet and Beef I beg'd to partake with him he generously comply'd and gave me half what he had which was about a Mouth full of each —when we proceeded on our March, I beg'd of a Granadier of our Reg^t to give me a little Water in my Hat out of a Horse pond which he did and refresh'd me a good deal, When I had Road about 2 Miles I found the Balls whistled so smartly about my Ears I thought it more prudent to dismount and as the Balls

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came thicker from one side or the other so I went from one side of the Horse to the other for some time when a Horse was shot dead close by me, that had a wounded Man on his back and three hanging by his sides, they immediately beg'd the assistance of my Horse which I readily granted, and soon after left him wholly to their care, when we got to Charlestown neck the Rebels fire ceas'd they not having it in their power to pursue us any further in their skulking way behind hedges and Walls, We then March'd upon Buncars Hill and was ordered to draw up, on halting I begun to grow very faint again, when a Serj^t of the Comp^y came to me and inform'd me he had but 12 Men and could not find any other Officer of the Comp^y L^t Kelly I have said before was wounded at Concord Bridge and therefore concluded Captⁿ Parsons must be in the same situation, I told him he must be very attentive to the directions of the

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Commanding Officers and do the best he could with what Men he had, for in my situation it was not in my power to be of the smallest use, soon after I saw Capt^a Horsfall¹ of 23^d Reg^t who at my request sent one of their Musitions with me down through Charlestown to a Boat to be conveyd over to Boston where I met Capt^a Parsons, who I believe was then in a worse situation than myself from a contusion on his knee also L^t Sunderland who I mentioned before being Wounded at Concord Bridge in his Brest L^t Sunderland complained very much I believe he was in Violent pain, and did not expect long to survive, On Landing at Boston I met our Reg^t just ready to Embark in Boats to go as a reinforcement to the Troops just returnd, I then proceeded through the Town to my Lodgings where I arriv'd about 9 oClock after a March in the whole of about 60 Miles in course of 24 Hours,

1. Christopher Horsfall.

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about 24 Miles after I was Wounded and without a Morcel of Victuals except what I have before mentioned, on my arrival at my Lodgings Mr^s Miller the M^{rs} of the House I desired to get me a dish of Tea, which she immediately set about but M^r & M^{rs} Funnel who was drove in from the Country by the Rebels and Lodging in the same House, with a good deal more Comp^y that was with them that afternoon and chiefly my acquaintance came to ask me how I did, pronounc'd me light Headed in asking for Tea, I ought instantly to go to Bed, but persisting in having some Tea before I left the place, it was brought. the Imagination may conceive, tho. it is beyond the power of Words to express the satisfaction I felt from that Tea, notwithstanding I was interrupted with a Thousand Questions.