
SIXTH PENNSYLVANIA
BATTALION.

COL. WILLIAM IRVINE.

JANUARY 9, 1776—MARCH 20, 1777. (a)

SIXTH PENNSYLVANIA BATTALION. (a.)

This battalion was raised under authority of a resolution of Congress, dated January 4, 1776: "That an additional battalion be raised in the county of Cumberland, in the Colony of Pennsylvania, to consist of the same number of men and officers, and to have the same pay and allowance, as the 1776. others raised in the said Colony." On the 8th, field officers were recommended, and line officers chosen by the Council of Safety, and on the 10th, the field officers were elected by Congress. The commissions of the company officers, with few exceptions, are dated on the 9th, with rank in the order of their names. Six companies were to be raised in Cumberland, and two in York county, according to a subsequent arrangement.

On the 22d of March Col. Irvine writes from Carlisle, to John Hancock, President of Congress:

"Sir: I am honored with your orders to march my battalion to New York, which shall be complied with all possible expedition. * * * Many of the arms are old, and want bayonets and other repairs. However, I shall not wait for bayonets, as I hope to be supplied at Philadelphia or New York. I have been obliged to purchase many rifles, but they, I presume, may be changed for muskets, should the service require it; knapsacks, haversacks, canteens, and many other necessities the commissioners promised to forward for my battalion, are not yet come to hand. Though I do not mean to wait for them, yet I think it proper to acquaint you, as perhaps your further orders may be necessary."

He states the total of his non-commissioned officers, and privates to be seven hundred and ten, aggregate of the battalion, seven hundred and forty-one.

On the 11th of May it was at Albany, under the command of Gen. Sullivan, numbering in the aggregate seven hundred and thirty-five. The details of the services of the Sixth battalion being necessarily embraced to a large extent in the historical note to the Second battalion, it is only necessary to make reference thereto, and to supplement them by the following journal of Col. William Irvine of the Sixth:

"June 7th, 1776.—Col. Irvine's regiment, and three companies of Col. Wayne's embarked in batteaus at Sorrell, under the command of Gen. Thompson, and proceeded to Nicollet, where we found, and were joined by Col. St. Clair, who had almost seven hundred men under his command.

"June 8th.—Crossed the river to Point de Lac; the pilot deceived us, for his orders were to steer to within four miles of Trois Riviere. Point de Lac is nine miles. Notwithstanding this disappointment we marched with all possible expedition for Trois Riviere; but here our misfortune began. Our guide led us quite out of the way into a swamp, which was sufficient to engulf a thousand men. Before we got disentangled from this dreadful place daylight appeared, so that instead of attacking the town of Trois Riviere before day (as was designed) we found ourselves three or four miles from it. Here we were at a loss what to do; had no intelligence of the strength of the garrison; to attack was hazardous, and to retreat without knowing the enemy's strength, we could not think of, therefore marched on.

"The river now on our right about fifty yards, we were soon discovered, and were saluted by the men-of-war. They fired incessantly while we marched about three-quarters of a mile; here we inclined to a wood on our left, in order to avoid the fire from the shipping, but avoiding one evil we fell into a greater; for we now entered into a swamp, which I suppose to be four miles over. Nature, perhaps, never formed a place better calculated for the destruction of an army. It was impossible to preserve any order of march, nay, it became at last so difficult, and the men so fatigued, that their only aim was how to get extricated; many of the men had lost their shoes, and some their boots.

"At length, about seven o'clock, some officers reached one extreme of the swamp, a few went forward to reconnoiter, brought account back that they saw clear ground and horses at a little more than a quarter of a mile. Then Col. St. Clair, Lieut. Col. Allen, and myself, with a few other officers, strove to draw the men up in some order, which we found impracticable. The General then got up with us, and ordered as many as could to be collected, to move forward to the cleared ground, there to form, which was accordingly done with as much expedition as could be expected from men worn down with fatigue, and who were exquisitely thirsty and faint. A few moments after we were formed, the General ordered the whole body to move on, in order to join Col. Maxwell's division of

Second Lieutenants.

_____, Brooks.
 John Brown.
 John Hogge.
 _____, Irvine.
 Robert Wilson.
 Samuel Montgomery.
 William Nichols.
 _____, Graham.

Ensigns.

William Miller.
 Wm. Luske.
 Samuel Kennedy.
 John Hughes.
 John Bush.
 John King.
 Alexander Walker.
 _____, Downing.
 Robert Hops, Quarter Master.
 James Brooks, Adj't.

As some late changes have happened in the Batt'n at Ticondaroga, The Council of Safety will be pleased to suspend the appointments of the Surgeon, Surgeon's Mate and pay master for a few Days till I can inform them.

To the Hon'ble Council of Safety of Penn'a, Phila. Jan. ye 9th, 1776.

Yours, &c.,

THOS. HARTLEY, Lt. Col.,
 Now Commanding the above Batt'n.

 ROLL OF CAPTAIN SAMUEL HAY'S COMPANY. (a.)

Total strength of company, officers, and privates, ninety-one.

Captain.

Hay, Samuel, commissioned January 9, 1776; promoted major Seventh Penn'a, 1777.

First Lieutenant.

Grier, John, commissioned January 9, 1776; taken July 29, 1776.

Second Lieutenants.

Parker, Alexander, commissioned January 9, 1776; promoted first lieutenant, Capt. Rippey's company.

Montgomery, Samuel, commissioned June 1, 1776.

Ensigns.

Miller, William, commissioned January 9, 1776.

Sergeants.

Hughes, John, appointed January 29, 1776; promoted ensign June 24, 1776.

Faucet, John, born in Enniskillen, Fermanagh, Ireland; appointed January 17 1776; taken at Three Rivers, June 8, 1776; paroled August 9, 1776.

Foster, John, born in Ballimenagh, county Antrim, Ireland; appointed February 1, 1776; taken at Three Rivers, June 8, 1776; paroled August 9, 1776.

Corporals.

Hanna, John, appointed January 25, 1776.

Sample, Ezekiel, appointed January 25, 1776.

Rowdin, Francis, appointed January 25, 1776; reduced July 24, 1776.

Boyd, William, appointed January 25, 1776; promoted June 24, 1776.

Bramer, William, appointed January 25, 1776.

Drummers.

Drummond, John, appointed January 20, 1776.

Henry, John, appointed January 15, 1776.

Fifer.

Mewnham, Elias, appointed February 20, 1776.

Privates.

- Bramer, William, enlisted January 25, 1776; promoted July 24, 1776.
- Bannon, Darby, enlisted February 15, 1776.
- Barclay, Samuel, enlisted January 30, 1776.
- Batson, William, enlisted January 5, 1776.
- Blair, William, born in Moneymore, county Derry, Ireland; enlisted February 28, 1776; taken June 8, 1776; paroled August 9, 1776.
- Bolden, Patrick, enlisted January 25, 1776.
- Boyd, Abram, born in Glenaron, county Antrim, Ireland; enlisted February 2, 1776; taken June 8, 1776.
- Boyle, John, enlisted February 1, 1776.
- Brimigin, William, enlisted February 5, 1776.
- Brown, Robert, enlisted February 21, 1776.
- Butcher, John, enlisted January 25, 1776.
- Butler, George, enlisted February 20, 1776; taken June 8, 1776.
- Byers, Andrew, born in Nottingham, Chester county, enlisted January 31, 1776; taken June 8, 1776.
- Carlton, Charles, enlisted March 1, 1776.
- Cochran, James, enlisted March 8, 1776; killed at Three Rivers June 8, 1776.
- Cochran, Samuel, enlisted, February 12, 1776; promoted sergeant June 9, 1776.
- Cunningham, Robert, enlisted January 23, 1776.
- Davison, Edward, enlisted January 30, 1776.
- Dempsey, Patrick, enlisted January 25, 1776.
- Lunwoody, John, enlisted January 27, 1776; taken June 8, 1776.
- Dyas, Thomas, enlisted January 26, 1776.
- Flaherty, John, enlisted January 28, 1776.
- Forsyth, Abel, enlisted January 31, 1776.
- Forsyth, Robert, enlisted January 26, 1776; discharged May 1, 1776.
- Freet, Henry, enlisted February 1, 1776; wounded.
- French, Arthur, enlisted January 30, 1776.
- Graham, James, 1st, enlisted January 26, 1776.
- Graham, James, 2d, enlisted January 27, 1776.
- Hamilton, Robert, enlisted February 23, 1776.
- Haron, Thomas, born in Copoquin, Waterford, Ireland; enlisted January 28, 1776; taken June 8, 1776; paroled August 9, 1776.
- Harly, Timothy, enlisted January 31, 1776; taken June 8, 1776.
- Hastings, John, enlisted January 31, 1776.