

American Orderly Books, Saratoga, September 15 to October 17, 1777

Edited by Dean R. Snow

No single orderly book surviving from the Saratoga campaign of 1777 is complete, but four of them can be combined to produce a reasonably complete compilation for the crucial period beginning on September 15, 1777 and ending with Burgoyne's capitulation on October 17, 1777. Storer's orderly book was transcribed first. Additions, corrections, and alternatives from three other orderly books were added in the order shown below. The additional sources are shown color coded as indicated.

1. Lt. Col. Joseph Storer's York County, Massachusetts, Regiment Orderly Book.¹ This orderly book is one of three copies in the collection of the New York Historical Society. Although the anonymous man who kept the orderly book appears to have been present in the American Camp on Bemis Heights from at least September 15, 1777, the regiment did not participate in the Battle of Freeman's Farm on September 19 and was not assigned to any brigade until early October. This was probably because much of the regiment was still not in camp until then, perhaps at least partly because General Lincoln and many of his troops did not arrive until September 22, 1777. The 3rd York County Militia Regiment was assigned to Paterson's Brigade on October 3, 1777.
2. Additions and corrections from Maj. Ebenezer Steven's Independent Battalion of Continental Artillery, New York.² As with the two versions from Storer's regiment, the author of this one is anonymous. Stevens also supplies weekly returns of the Corps of Artillery that might be useful to anyone interested in the details of that unit. These are included [here](#).
3. Additions and corrections from another anonymous version Lt. Col. Joseph Storer's York County, Massachusetts, Regiment Orderly Book by a separate anonymous author.³ This source, which is also in the collection of the New York Historical Society, appends many of brigade orders in addition to repeating Gates's general orders.
4. Additional alternatives, corrections, or additions from Glover's orderly book.⁴ This is an invaluable source in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. Authorship is attributed to John Glover. At least one page is missing from the period of interest. Thus Glover's orderly book breaks off in the middle of the September 18, 1777 entry. It picks up again at the beginning of the September 25, 1777 entry.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 15, 1777

Parole: [Gordon](#) or [Morris](#)

Countersign: [Roxbury](#) or [Clymor](#)

Brigadier of the Day: [Learned](#)

Brigade Major Bannister

Field Officer: Col. Nixon

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Harwood

The following persons are appointed issuing Commissaries, and are to furnish the brigades which they are here annexed to. John Wigglesworth to General Nixon's Brigade, Benjamin Ballard to General Paterson's, Thomas Weeks to General Learned's, John Wright to General Glover, William Bole or Bell to General Poor's, N. Gilman to Colonel Morgan's detachment.

Guards and fatigue as usual. A small case of surgical instruments was lately lost in camp or near it. Any person producing the same at headquarters will be handsomely rewarded.

To join the artillery and parade at headquarters this evening:

- Glover: 5 privates
- Nixon: 6 do.
- Poor: 4 do.
- Learned: 5 do.
- Paterson's: 4 do

Brigade Orders, September 15, 1777. Adj. Of the day tomorrow Lannow. Orderly sergeant for headquarters from Wigglesworth. One man from each regiment to parade at sunset with arms and packs at headquarters.

Brigade Orders, September 15, 1777. As we have the greatest reason to expect an attack from the enemy this night or early in the morning, the general peremptorily forbids any noncommissioned officer or soldier being absent from camp, and orders the whole to lay upon their arms. He flatters himself a caution of this kind is unnecessary to the commissioned officers. The canteens to be filled as ordered on the 13th.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 16, 1777

Parole: Stark

Countersign: Liberty

Brigadier of the Day: Nixon

Brigade Major: Harwood

Field Officer: Col. Vose

Brigade Major for Headquarters: McClintock

The General is pleased with the gallant appearance of the troops this morning. The General is satisfied they mean to beat the enemy. By the best intelligence from General Burgoyne's Army it is clear they were yesterday marching this way. When the General is assured they continue **their** march this way he will order the tents to be struck and the baggage to be loaded. But the army may rely upon it that he will not abandon this camp until they submit to be defeated by an enemy in every respect their inferiors. **This order to be read to the army.** Every man on the ground is to have two days provisions by evening.

Brigade Orders. Adjutant of the day, Learned. Orderly sergeant for headquarters from Voses.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 17, 1777

Parole: St. Clair

Countersign: Virtue

Brigadier of the Day: Poor

Brigade Major: McCLintock

Field Officer: Scammell

Brigade Major for Headquarters: McClintock

Duty officer for headquarters: McClune

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 18, 1777

Parole: Bennington

Countersign: Fort Stanwix

[Although many were now referring to it as Fort Schuyler, Gates pointedly made that day's countersign Fort Stanwix.]

Brigadier of the Day: Glover

Brigade Major: Fosdick

Field Officer: Cilley

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Bannister

The General gives hearty and cordial thanks to the officers and soldiers of the army for their spirited appearance and victorious determination, which mark every man's countenance this day.

The much wished for opportunity of revenging the injury of our much injured country now presents itself. Let us embrace it and hand in hand discharge the pleasant duty. The rewards of victory are peace, plenty, and domestic happiness, and the blessings of our wives, our children, and succeeding generations, whilst confusion, shame, disgrace and curses of posterity attend defeat. We will then victoriously perish or live victorious.

The commanding officers of regiments are called on earnestly entreated and commanded not to allow more than one man to attend the baggage wagon as the number which followed the wagons this *day might have changed the fate of battle.

The commissaries will distribute a half gill of rum to every man in this army tomorrow morning.

Brigade orders: Adjutant of the day: Smith

Orderly sergeant for headquarters from Bigelows Regiment.

[*Pages are missing from the Glover orderly book after this]

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 19, 1777

Parole: _____

Countersign: _____

Brigadier of the Day: Paterson

Brigade Major: McClear

Field Officer: Col. James Livingston

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Fosdick

As it is of the utmost consequence to know into whose hands passes are given, it is again repeated that passes are to be issued only from headquarters. For the future the soldiers of the militia are not to be permitted to exchange this duty with men who engage as substitutes, as many abuses may thereby be committed. Those bargains must be made before they march from home. The General will not permit any officer of this army to grant permissions in breach of this order and all guards are to take notice accordingly.

In case of an engagement, all orders from Col. Lewis, Deputy Quartermaster General, are to be obeyed as from the General.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 20, 1777

Parole: Boston

Countersign: Cambridge

Brigadier of the Day: Paterson

Brigade Major: McClure

Field Officer: Colonel Bradford

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Harwood

General Poor to furnish the picket in front of his brigade this night and till further orders

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 21, 1777

Parole: Brown

Countersign: Ticonderoga

Brigadier of the Day: Learned

Brigade Major: Bannister

Field Officer: Colonel Livingston

Brigade Major for Headquarters: McClintock

The troops are to be in readiness to march at a moments warning with three days provisions cooked.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 22, 1777

Parole: _____

Countersign: _____

Brigadier of the Day: Nixon

Brigade Major: Harwood

Field Officer: Marshall

Brigade Major for Headquarters: McClure

The commissaries of brigades are to issue every morning at 5 o'clock one half gill of rum to every officer and soldier in their respective brigades, this to continue a standing order until revoked. If a proper supply of rum can be procured to serve the troops as the cold weather advances, the general will increase the allowances to a gill.

The brigade majors have neglected to deliver in their returns for the last week. They are ordered to do it without delay. The General expects and orders them to deliver all returns in person, respecting the strength, state and casualties of their respective brigades to the adjutant general.

Col. Morgan's Corps not being in any brigade or division of this army are to make returns and reports only to headquarters, from whence they are alone to receive their orders.

The engineers are to trace the lines of the encampment as soon as possible and see where the posts are taken, examine carefully how the guard is divided to the encampments of the several brigades, that every post may be equally and proportionably defended in an attack.

The troops to be under arms on their alarm posts every morning at four o'clock, but the tents are not to be struck without a general order, nor when struck are they to be again pitched without the same.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 23, 1777

Parole: Warner

Countersign: Independence

Brigadier of the Day: Poor

Brigade Major: McClintock

Field Officer: Col. Graham

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Bannister

On a general alarm in the daytime, two cannon will be fired from the heights near Nixon's encampment, when all parties not belonging to any post are immediately to repair to camp.

The General observes when the Indians bring in any prisoners that all the men off duty are constantly flocking to headquarters. This is so irregular and disorderly, so contrary to good order and discipline, that it is positively forbid in future.

General Lincoln's troops are to encamp on the ground which General Glover's lately occupied. Our friendly Indians when in battle will be distinguished by a red woolen cap. Of this, all the troops are desired to take particular notice.

No more rum the quantity mentioned in yesterday's orders can be allowed today.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 24, 1777

Parole: Victory

Countersign: Liberty

Brigadier of the Day: Glover

Brigade Major: Fosdick

Field Officer: Col. H. Livingston

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Harwood

The militia as they arrive in camp, are to parade on the ground lately occupied by General Glover.

[The Glover orderly book resumes here.]

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 25, 1777

Parole: Sterling

Countersign: Wayne

Brigadier of the Day: Paterson

Brigade Major: McClure

Field Officer:

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Fosdick

The right wing of the army, consisting of Nixon's, Glover's, and Paterson's Brigades, with the eastern militia, is to be commanded by the honorable Major General Lincoln.

All the New York militia on the ground, or who may hereafter arrive (except those annexed to General Glover's brigade) are to take post on the ground which will be shown them by the Deputy Quartermaster General, Lieutenant Colonel Hayward.

The large reinforcements arrived, and continually arriving make it necessary that a new arrangement of the army should soon take place. The generals will be made acquainted with it as soon as it takes place.

The General positively forbids the troops crowding about the Indians encampment, and recommends it in the strongest manner to the commanding officers of the regiments to prevent, as far as in them lies, every insult offered the Indians, as the first person detected in abusing them will be severely punished.

Brigade Orders September 25th, 1777

General Glover returns his warmest thanks to Captain McKenster, the officer and soldiers that were with him for their spirited behavior the morning of yesterday.

He orders the plunder taken at the enemy picket to be sold at plowed hill this afternoon at two o'clock. The money to be divided among those brave officers (if they choose to partake) and the men that were with them.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 26, 1777

Parole: Henry

Countersign: Nelson

Brigadier of the Day: Learned
 Brigade Major: Bannister
 Field Officer: Col. Sheppard
 Brigade Major for Headquarters: McClintock

The public business has so entirely engrossed the General's attention that he has not been properly at leisure to return his grateful thanks to the officers and soldiers of General Poor's and General Learned's Brigades, the regiment of riflemen, the corps of light infantry, and to Colonel Marshall's Regiment for their gallant behavior in the action of the 19th instant, which will forever establish the fame and confirm the **reputation** of the arms of the United States. Notwithstanding the General has been so late in giving this public mark of honor and applause to the brave men whose valor has so eminently served their country, he assures them the just praise he immediately gave of their noble behavior to the most honorable, the **Continental** Congress, will remain a lasting record of their glory and renown.

By the conduct of the enemy, by their embarrassed circumstances, and by the desperate situation of their affairs, **it is** evident they must endeavor by **a rash attack** to regain all they have lost. That failing **their** utter ruin is inevitable. The General therefore entreats his gallant army that they will, **by** the exactness of their discipline, by their alertness to fly to their arms on all occasions, and particularly by their caution **never** to be surprised, **receive** that victory with which almighty providence (if they deserve it) will bless their labors. **The brigade majors will immediately to deliver the adjutant general details of the guards and pickets which they respectively furnish. All horses or cattle taken from the enemy are to be delivered to the deputy quartermaster general who is directed to pay twenty dollars for each to the person that delivers them.**

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 27, 1777

Parole: _____

Countersign: _____

Brigadier of the Day: Nixon

Brigade Major: Harwood

Field Officer: Col. Bailey

Brigade Major for Headquarters: McClure

A number of haversacks having arrived in camp the commanding officers of continental regiments or corps may be furnished therewith by applying to the deputy quartermaster general.

The dangerous and unsoldierlike practice of discharging firearms in camp is positively prohibited. Any person except the savages detected in a breach of this order is to be immediately stripped and receive forty lashes. The General calls on every officer to see this order strictly enforced.

The scandalous and irregular conduct of straggling from camp has prevailed in this army to the injury of our cause and the disgrace of our troops. To correct such pernicious abuses, as admonition has failed, the General finds himself obliged to order every soldier found beyond the advance sentries, unless on command with an officer, to be immediately stripped and receive a hundred lashes. The commanding officers of guards are enjoined to see this order punctiliously supported.

All the axes and entrenching tools in camp are this evening to be delivered Col. Baldwin, Chief Engineer, who is to see those which are considered unfit for service repaired as soon as possible.

The brigadiers are to furnish the following proportions of men properly officered for guards and pickets which they with the adjutant general are to post in front of their encampments in such a manner as to establish a communication between the sentries from right to left.

	Field	C.	S.	S.	C.	DF.	Privates
Nixon's Brigade	1	2	6	8	8	4	164
Poor's	1	3	9	12	12	6	250
Glover's	1	3	9	12	12	6	246
Paterson's	1	2	6	8	8	4	128
Learned's	1	2	6	8	8	4	144
Militia under Genl. Lincoln	1	3	9	12	12	6	200
Total	5	13	39	52	52	26	978

The guards tomorrow at nine o'clock.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 28, 1777

Parole: Mifflin

Countersign: Reading

Brigadier of the Day: Poor

Brigade Major: McClintock

Field Officer: Greaton

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Barrister

The troops are immediately to get the provisions they drew this day, properly dressed, and be in everything prepared to march at the shortest notice.

As there is an immediate necessity that a new arrangement of the army should immediately take place, exact returns must forthwith be delivered to the deputy adjutant general of the effective strength of each brigade.

All demands for deficient ammunition must be made this evening as no excuse for want thereof will be admitted when the army is ordered to act. The deputy quartermaster must see that all the wagons, carts, and bateaux, except such as are unavoidably employed in transporting provisions and stores, be kept in constant readiness for the march of the army. The General

entreats that the troops will if possible to double their **vigilance**. The enemy are at their last shift and nothing but neglect and supineness on our part can repair their shattered fortune.

Frequent casualties happen in the regiments in this camp. Numbers who have been taken by the enemy, and some who have escaped from their tyranny, as well as some others who are so lost to all regard **for** themselves and their freedom as to desert their colors, and the glorious cause they have engaged to defend, have not been reported to headquarters. The General therefore expects for the future every officer commanding a regiment or corps will every evening send a signed report of any alteration in their numbers occasioned by the above, or any other occurrence.

A bay horse with a white spotted belly was last evening taken from headquarters. Any person producing him to the deputy quartermaster general Colonel Hay, will receive four dollars reward. Glover's Brigade to furnish a forage guard tomorrow.

Brigade Orders, September 28, 1777

Adjutant of the day tomorrow: Carleton

Orderly sergeant for headquarters from Graham

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 29, 1777

Parole: Trumbell

Countersign: Hartford

Brigadier of the Day: Glover

Brigade Major: Fosdick

Field Officer: Col. Putnam

Brigade Major for **Headquarters.**: Harwood

Forage guards from Paterson's Brigade.

No regimental surgeon is to presume to give a discharge to any soldier whatever from the army on account of indisposition. But on the inability of any man they are to **make immediate application** to Doctor Potts, Director General for such dismissal.

Brigade Orders. Sergeant of the day tomorrow: Gayswort, orderly sergeant for headquarters from Wimples Regiment.

After Orders, September 29th, 1777 [Message from Congress dated September 6th, 1777. The message provided detailed instructions for the proper distribution of clothing to soldiers and the required accounting procedures. Congress urged Gates and his officers to ensure that soldiers were both fully paid and properly supplied without delay, implying their belief that this had not been happening. Congress was mindful that it had not been able to supply an adequate number of regimental uniform coats, and it had previously substituted two hunting shirts for each such coat that could not be delivered to the soldiers. A problem had been that each man was supposed to have been given a bounty so that he could buy clothing. But in the absence of anything to buy the

army had routinely withheld the bounty from the men. Congress ordered the Northern Army to provide either the bounty or the clothing without delay, and they even provided a price list for standard article so there would be no shortchanging or other problems. The problem reveals the confusion that surfaced as Congress shifted from a system in which soldiers were given allowances to buy uniforms and supplies to one in which commissaries distributed the same from centrally requisitioned procurements.]

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights, September 30, 1777

Parole: Marblehead

Countersign: Salem

Brigadier of the Day: Paterson

Brigade Major: McClure

Field Officer: Nixon

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Fosdick

Forage guards from General Learned's Brigade

The troops are to draw one day's salt and one day's fresh provision tomorrow in the forenoon, which they are to get cooked immediately. **This provision to hold to the second of October inclusive.**

Brigade Orders, September 30th, 1777

Adjutant of the day tomorrow _____

Orderly sergeant for headquarters from _____

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 1, 1777

Parole: Palmer

Countersign: Pitts

Brigadier of the Day: Learned

Brigade Major: Bannister

Field Officer: Vose

Brigade Major for Headquarters: McClintock

State of the Massachusetts Bay. In Council, Sept^r 13th, 1777

Whereas a doubt has arose, to whom is of right belongs to fill up the vacancies that have already, or that may hereafter happen in the Battalions belonging to this State; Therefore, Resolved, that the Maj^r Gen^l Gates hereby is desired, until further orders of this Gen^l Court, to appoint & Commission such Officers belonging to this State, under his Command as will most promote the good of the Service, & to fill up such Vacancies that have, or may hereafter, happen in any of the Battalions belonging to this State, in the Northern Army.

Forage guard from General Poor's Brigade

List of prisoners taken by the enemy in the action on the 19th Sept. 1777 [Twenty-nine names not reproduced here. Six of them are listed as having been wounded and seven were apparently captured since the 19th.]

[This source provides a table of officers in Storer's regiment as of October 1 with daily ticks entered for the whole month. This apparently indicates days on which each officer had certain duties.]

[This source also inserts a clearer list of thirty men taken prisoner on or since September 19th. He also indicates that six are in the British hospital and seven were taken since the action on the 19th.]

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 2, 1777

Parole: Newcastle

Countersign: Elk

Brigadier of the Day: Nixon

Brigade Major: Harwood

Field Officer: Col. Scammell

Brigade Major for Headquarters: McClure

Forage guards from General Nixon's Brigade

Brigade Orders;

Field officers for the picket Major Bradick. The adjutants are desired to see that all the drums and fifes in their respective regiments attend the parade at the marching of the picket. As the brigade orders of the 17th ultime have not been complied with, which the General would fain suppose is owing to the unsettled state the army was in, that time and then, probably, since been forgotten, not definedly neglected, he now desires that it immediately made with this addition, the staff officers with the state, country, and town from whence they came.

~~The pickets and advanced guards complain that there is such a noise and disturbance in camp from eight till eleven at night that there is no possibility of hearing or of being alarmed by the approach of any of the enemy during that period. The General desires the commanding officers of corps and companies will be very careful to see the men in the tents and keep silent as soon as the watch is set at eight o'clock. [Glover puts this on the 3rd, not the 2nd.]~~

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 3, 1777

Parole: Lisbon

Countersign: Portugal

Brigadier of the Day: Poor

Brigade Major: Bannister

Field Officer: Col. Cilley

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Bannister

Forage guard from General Poor's Brigade.

The weekly returns to be made to the adjutant general punctually at twelve o'clock tomorrow. The brigade majors to pay particular attention that the continental returns exactly correspond.

Colonels Ashley's and Storer's regiments of militia are annexed to General Paterson's Brigade, in which they are to do duty in future. The pickets and advanced guards complain that there is such a noise and disturbance in camp from eight till eleven at night that there is no possibility of hearing or of being alarmed by the approach of any of the enemy during that period. The General desires the commanding officers of corps and companies to be careful to see the men in their tents and camp silent as soon as the watch is set at eight o'clock.

Brigade Orders.

Field officer for picket: Major Burns

Adjutant of the day: Pearl

Orderly sergeant for headquarters from Colonel Vose's.

The quartermasters of each regiment to make return to the brigade quartermaster of the number of tents camp kettles and other camp equipage in their respective regiments.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 4, 1777

Parole: Paris

Countersign: London

Brigadier of the Day: Glover

Brigade Major: Fosdick

Field Officer: Col. Livingston

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Harwood

Forage guards from General Paterson's Brigade

The whole army to be immediately victualed to the seventh instant with two thirds fresh and one their salt provisions, which they are to cook as soon as possible.

The Brigade Majors are in future to attend headquarters for general orders at twelve o'clock.

The quartermasters of regiments are to collect all the axes and spades in their respective corps and deliver them Col. Baldwin near headquarters, who is ordered to divide them equally among the brigades, and the quarter masters of the brigades will be made answerable for them when they are again order to be collected.

The commanding officers of fatigue parties are therefore to see them delivered the quartermasters of brigades every evening.

Col. May's regiment of militia is annexed to General Nixon's brigade in which it is in future to do duty.

[Glover has no entry for the 4th.]

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 5, 1777

Parole: Green

Countersign: Knox

Brigadier of the Day: Paterson

Brigade Major: McClure

Field Officer: Bradford

Brigade Major for Headquarters: Fosdick

Forage guards from General Learned's Brigade

A General Court Martial, of which Colonel Greaton is appointed president, to sit tomorrow at 10 o'clock at the president's tent for the trial of all such prisoners as may be brought before them. All parties concerned are accordingly to attend. Lieutenant Colonel Smith Judge Advocate from Nixon's Brigade.

Members of the same

	Field Officers	Captains	L.
Nixon's Brigade	1		
Poor's	1		1
Glover's		2	1
Patterson's		2	1
Learned's		2	1
Total		6	5

Adjutant and sergeant from General Nixon's Brigade

Brigade Orders, October 5, 1777

One captain and one subordinate from Colonel Sheppard's Regiment for Court Martial. One captain from Colonel Livingstons Regiment for duty officer. Field officer for picket Major Park. Adjutant of the day: Mouhorn. Orderly sergeant for headquarters from Graham's as the enemy is very near it is necessary that pickets should be established not only for the security of our own encampments, but to watch the motions of the enemy. In order to so this more effectually, the commanding officers of pickets will keep scouts and patrols constantly out, they will not themselves nor suffer any officer non-commissioned officer or soldier to leave the guard on any pretence whatwver until properly relieved. They must have their victuals cooked and brought to them by their messmates.

General after orders, October 5th, 1777

The following details to parade tomorrow morning at 3 o'clock with one days provisions. Major Tselousons [?] to command.

	C	L	L	C	P
Wigsworth's		1	2	1	31
Bigelow's	1	1		1	18
Wimple's			1	1	17

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 6, 1777

Parole: Carolina

Countersign: Georgia

Brigadier of the Day: Learned

Brigade Major: Barrister

Field Officer: Col. Livingston

Brigade Major for Headquarters: McClintock

Forage guard from Schuyler's Brigade

Adjutants and Sergeants for General Court Martial from General Poor's brigade.

Brigade orders.

Field officer for picket Eyertelston.

Adjutant of the day: Darrow

Orderly sergeant for headquarters from Colonel Livingston's

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 7, 1777

Parole: _____

Countersign: _____

Brigadier of the Day: Nixon

Brigade Major: Harwood

Field Officer: Col. Marshall

Brigade Major for Headquarters: McClure

Forage guards from General Warner's

Adjutants and sergeants for court martial from General Glover's

Colonels Drake and Evans are annexed to General Learned's Brigade, which they are in future to do duty.

The commanding officers of each of New of the continental regiments to find a signed return to the adjutant general at orderly time tomorrow of every sort of clothing wanted by their respective corps.

The three continental regiments from the State of New Hampshire and the two New York regiments may each of them draw the following numbers of shoes

Col. Cilleys	50 pair
Scammell's	46
Nate's [?]	40
Cortland's	30
Livingston's	34
	200

Mr. Coolige adjutant commissary of clothing will attend at headquarters to deliver the shoes to the orders of the commanding officers of the regiments above named.

Livestock of every kind taken from the enemy to be delivered to the deputy quartermaster general Col. May who is to pay for cows and horses twenty dollars for each head, and for all other stock what they may be valued at, by persons appointed by him for that purpose who are to estimate on honor. Any person detected concealed property so taken or delivering it to any other person will be punished with the utmost severity.

[Because of the fighting this orderly book does not contain an entry for October 7th or 8th.]
 October 7 & 8. No orders on the 7th. Engagement with the enemy. On the 8th in the field all day.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 8, 1777

Parole: Clinton

Countersign: Scott

Brigadier of the Day:

Brigade Major:

Field Officer:

Brigade Major for Headquarters:

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 9, 1777 (Last orders issued at Bemis Heights)

Parole: Newport

Countersign: Rhode Island

Brigadier of the Day:

Brigade Major:

Field Officer:

Brigade Major for Headquarters:

The whole army to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning, with blankets and provisions only. The General expects every man will be in readiness for action, completed with thirty rounds each.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 10, 1777 (no orders this day)

Parole:

Countersign:

Brigadier of the Day:

Brigade Major:

Field Officer:

Brigade Major for Headquarters:

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 11, 1777 (no orders this day)

Parole: Washington
 Countersign:
 Brigadier of the Day:
 Brigade Major:
 Field Officer:
 Brigade Major for Headquarters:

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 12, 1777 (no orders this day)

Parole:
 Countersign:
 Brigadier of the Day:
 Brigade Major:
 Field Officer:
 Brigade Major for Headquarters:

The General **heard of** so many scandalous and mean transactions committed by persons who seek more after plunder than the honor of doing their duty in a becoming and soldier-like manner, that he is obliged to declare his unalterable resolution to have the first person who shall hereafter be detected pillaging the baggage and stores taken from the enemy, tried and punished with the utmost severity of the military laws.

Officers who know their duty and have virtue to practice it, will not be seeking plunder when they ought to be doing their best service in the field. It is **always** the worthless and the pilfering **who** are truly infamous.

For the future, all plunder taken from the enemy is to be delivered Lt. Col. Hay, Deputy Quartermaster General, who is to give a receipt for the same and after three days public notice in general orders it shall be sold by auction in the most **convenient** place in the rear of the army. The money for which the plunder is sold to be properly and safely delivered to such person as in the impartial judgment of the General have a right to receive a share. When there is a sum sufficient to divide amongst the noncommissioned officers and private soldiers of the whole army they may be assured of each having their **proper** quota.

Headquarters, Saratoga, October 13, 1777

Parole: _____
 Countersign: _____
 Brigadier of the Day:
 Brigade Major:
 Field Officer:
 Brigade Major for Headquarters:

The disappointment and vexation of General Burgoyne at the frequent defeats his army has received must have reduced his troops to despair, and himself to a situation of mind that often produces a desperate attempt. Though rage, excited by such circumstances, must be watched with care. This army, considering the justice of our cause, and the goodness of providence, may guard against a surprise. If they are not wanting in themselves, they may have confidence that a few days will finish the campaign. The General therefore entreats every officer and soldier under his command to be ready to fly to arms at a moment's warning. No person whatever should upon any occasion, actual duty excepted, straggle from their camp, but be continually ready to face the enemy, should rashness or despair provoke them once more to try the fortune of war.

Headquarters, Behmus's Heights October 14, 1777 (no orders this day)

Parole:

Countersign:

Headquarters, Saratoga, October 15, 1777 (no orders this day)

Parole:

Countersign:

Headquarters, Saratoga, October 16, 1777 (no orders this day)

Parole:

Countersign:

Headquarters, Saratoga, October 17, 1777

Parole: Virginia

Countersign: [none]

The Brigades to be under arms at their several encampments exactly at 9 o'clock.

The regiment of riflemen under the command of Colonel Morgan and the **company** of Light Infantry under the command of Major Dearborn to be ready when ordered to take possession of the enemy's lines, posts, and redoubts. The commanding officers of those troops are to be particularly attentive to the soldierlike and good behavior of their men.

The enemies of the United States have propagated an opinion among the British and German troops that the Americans are barbarians who pay no regard to the faith of treaties, and whose sole view is rapine and plunder. From the preceding glorious behavior of the army, the General is convinced that not an officer or soldier under his command will suffer the smallest infringement of the convention. Their general has pledged his honor, shall not in the least degree be invalidated. Let the British army, let Germany, let Europe and all the world know that the troops of the United States are not only great in arms, but that they are as tenacious of their honor and pledged public faith as any of the most polished nations under the sun.

The man detected in stealing the smallest articles from any of the prisoners, either in their quarters or upon their march, must expect to be tried by a General Court Martial, and if convicted, suffer death.

Notes

¹ Lt. Col. Joseph Storer's York County, Massachusetts Regiment, New York and Pennsylvania. 1777. In *Early American Orderly Books, 1748-1817*, Woodbridge, Connecticut. Original in New York Historical Society.

² Maj. Ebenezer Steven's Independent Battalion of Continental Artillery, New York. 1777. In *Early American Orderly Books, 1748-1817*, Woodbridge, Connecticut. Original in New York Historical Society.

³Lt. Col. Joseph Storer's York County, Massachusetts Regiment, New York and Pennsylvania. 1777

⁴ Orderly Book, 15th Massachusetts, Glover's Brigade. 1777. Library of Congress, #882, MMC-1260.