



Camp Brunswick 3 July 1778

My dear Brother

I wrote you last week from Hopewell Town-  
 ship in this State informing you of the relative  
 movement of both Armies and the probability  
 of their coming into contact with each other. We  
 made several moves forward from that time  
 while the enemy inclined more to their right  
 than we expected and took the road to Sandy  
 Hook instead of the suppos'd one to South Amboy  
 \_\_\_\_\_ A body of Militia of the Jersies community  
 to about two thousand had endeavored to retard  
 them by taking up the bridge, and breaking  
 up the roads, and harrasing their flank &  
 rear. besides those his Excellency had de=  
 tached several large bodies for the same pur=  
 pose, all of which except Colonel Morgan were  
 on the Morning of the 23<sup>d</sup> ultimo united  
 under the Command of General Lee who  
 early in the morning advanced to Mon=  
 mouth Court House with the intention of  
 attacking their covering party or left and  
 rear. The Army under his Excellency General  
 Washington moving on at the same time, tho  
 some miles in the rear to support, or act  
 as

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 Date: July 3, 1778  
 Description: Henry Knox letter concerning Battle of Monmouth

as circumstances might require. <sup>body</sup> The party  
 under Genl Lee found the whole Army or the  
 greater part of it instead of a covering party &  
 after some manœuvring and Cannonading &  
 from some other circumstances which as yet  
 are not sufficiently explained, it was thought  
 proper by Genl Lee for them to retire which  
 they effected with small loss for about two miles  
 untill they found the main Army under  
 his Excellency which was drawn up in order  
 of battle on some advantageous Grounds -  
 The Enemy advanced with con-  
 siderable impetuosity and began a brisk Can-  
 nonade which was return'd with becoming  
 Spirit. This was about half past nine or  
 ten in the morning and the Cannonade  
 lasted untill five or six in the evening.  
 The action of musketry was <sup>very</sup> <sup>and with inter-</sup> <sup>missions</sup>  
 untill about six o'clock when ours  
 gained the superiority and pushed the Enemy  
 off the field. They retreated about one  
 mile from the place of battle and took post  
 on a strong piece of ground having a morass in  
 their front and on both flanks. To disposses  
 them of this Ground required a particular disposition  
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The night coming on too soon prevented being executed. — They retreated in the night with great precipitation towards Sandy Hook leaving a considerable number of their wounded Officers and men in our hands. We buried ~~about~~ three hundred of them on the field of battle among whom were Col<sup>o</sup> Monckton and number of other Officers. The whole loss must amount to above thousand perhaps about twelve or 1400 killed ~~and~~ wounded — ours is much less. The weather was extremely hot and we had much business on hand.

The Corps of Artillery have their full proportion of the Glory of the day, much has been said in their favor by the Army. His Excellency in public orders did them & me the honor to thank us in very pointed and flattering terms. Indeed I was highly delighted with their steadiness, bravery & good conduct — The effects of the battle of Monmouth will be great and lasting. It will convince the enemy and the World that nothing but a good constitution is wanting to render

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our Army equal to any in the World —  
 — The Enemy exclusive of their loss in the  
 field have lost a full thousand men  
 by desertion since they left Philadelphia  
 — Lucy is at M<sup>r</sup> Lotts —  
 I am dear Brother  
 Yours most affectionately  
 Henry

Wm. Knox  
 Brunswick  
 July 3<sup>d</sup> 1778

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[sideways]

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