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 Heights of Magabagadus 31 July 1779  
 Saturday Morning

I have the Pleasure to inform, my dear Betsey, that we are safely lodg'd on the Heights of Magabagadus in good Spirits.

Last Sunday afternoon our Fleet arriv'd in Penobscot Bay: before the Enemy; It was determin'd to land our Forces immediately on the Westerly End of the Peninsula; a very high Bluff-head & cover'd with a thick Wood, which appear'd to be the highest ground on the Island & by information not fortify'd by the Enemy; their Fort being on an Eminence just beyond the Wood to the northward: It being near sunset when the First Division was ready, with which I was to land & take Possession [torn] the Heights, ~~but~~ the wind ~~being~~ very fresh & a thick fog comming in, it being already dusk, receivd Orders to return on board; however we had got so near in, before the counter Orders, that we receiv'd two fires from the enemy's Musketry in the Wood just as we put about We lost only one Indian.

Monday just before night we landed took possession of an Island on the South side the Entrance of the Harbour & opposite the Enemy's Shipping. where they had a Small Battery; on our approach the Enemy fled & left their Colours standing with four pieces of Cannon; I had one Boat sunk by a Cannon shot & lost three men drown'd, one of which was a major, that Night & next day we erected a Battery on the Island which caus'd

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Local Code: Coll. S-6098 Misc. box 168 fl. c)  
 Date: July 31, 1779  
 Description: Letter from Peleg Wadsworth to his wife, Betsey, from near the Penobscot River.

the Enemy's Shipping to haul up the River  
take their Guns <sup>& men</sup> on Shore. On Wednesday Morng.  
Sunrise the first division of our little Army which  
I had the Honor to command, consisting of the Marines  
& part of Col. McCobb's Regt., landed on the Bluff head of Ma-  
gabagadus, General Lovell with the rest of the Army land-  
ed immediately with the remainder of <sup>the Army</sup> on our left,  
we were vigorously opposed on the Right by the ene-  
my's Musketry, the precipice being very difficult  
of access in the front the Action lasted about 15 min-  
utes, when, our left having ascended the hill &  
appeared in Flank, the Enemy gave way & fled to  
their Fort, which was about one Mile from the  
Middle of the Island. Our Army <sup>pro-</sup>  
ceeded on till they had gained the Summit of the <sup>highest</sup> Ground  
on the whole Island being about a third of a mile  
from their Lines, where we halted & cast up a  
Line of Defence. Since which we have been  
opening advance Batteries & mounting our heavy  
Cannon, we opened one Battery on them yesterday  
& shall have another ready this day. Our Loss in all  
the Expedition is about 60 men kill'd & wounded;  
the Enemy's not so much, by Accounts, & what we  
found on the ground. The Enemy are  
about 900, <sup>11,000</sup> Seamen included, which are all on shore,  
strongly fortify'd, their Shipping all sunk except three  
Ships of War, which are dismounted of their Cannon

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ready for sinking, & their Communication is cut off  
from the Country on all sides, & <sup>they</sup> are waiting for an  
expected reinforcement, which God avert.

In haste I must conclude, with the warmest  
affection for my dear little Family.

your sincere Husband  
P Wadsworth

Mr Wadsworth

I hear my Salt Works are safe. I wish PJ?  
from ye Westward  
there with some Hands ^ to carry on the Bu [?]

PW

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