

Capt. Ross' company remained with Washington's army near Boston during the fall of 1775, and, with the other companies of the rifle battalion, was engaged in a skirmish with the enemy near Charlestown, and lost one man killed and one taken prisoner. This slight affair was mentioned in a letter from Lieut.-Col. Hand to his wife, as follows:

"CAMP ON PROSPECT HILL, 10th November, 1775.

"I give you the particulars of the fun our regiment had yesterday. About 1 P.M. a number of regulars, taking advantage of a high tide, landed from twenty boats on Lechmere Point, to carry off some cattle. Six men of our regiment were on the point to take care of our horses; they did their utmost and partly effected it. One poor fellow was taken; he was of Capt. Ross' company. I think his name was Burke. When the alarm was given Col. Thompson was at Cambridge. I had gone to Watertown to receive the regiment's pay, but thanks to good horses, we arrived in time to march our regiment, which was the first ready, though the most distant of our brigade. Col. Thompson, who arrived before we had crossed the water with thirteen men only of Ross' company, but not being supported by the musqueteers, before I could get up with the remainder of our regiment off duty, returned, and met Maj. Magaw and myself on the causeway; the whole then passed with the utmost diligence, up to our middles in water. David Ziegler, who acts as adjutant, tumbled over the bridge into ten or twelve feet water; he got out safe, with the damage of his rifle only. As soon as the battalion had passed the defile we divided them into two parties, part of Capt. Chambers', Capt. Miller's, and Loudon's, with Maj. Magaw and Col. Thompson, marched to the right of the hill; with part of Cluggage's, Nagel's, and Ross', I took the left, as the enemy had the superiority of numbers and the advantage of rising ground, with a stone wall in front and a large barn on their right and flank, aided by a heavy fire of large grape-shot from their shipping and batteries. We had reason to expect a warm reception; but, to the disgrace of British arms be it spoken, by the time we had gained the top of the hill they had gained their boats and rowed off. We had but one man wounded, I believe mortally, by a swivel-ball, Alexander Orelghton, of Ross' company. William Hamilton need not grudge the money his son cost him. His coolness and resolution surpassed his years. Billy Burd had his eyes closed by the dirt knocked off by a cannon-ball."

On the return of Lieut.-Col. Hand from Lancaster, where he had been on leave of absence, Col. Thompson and Maj. Magaw (the latter of whom had been commissioned colonel of the Fifth Pennsylvania Battalion on the 6th of January) left the army for Pennsylvania (February 2d), leaving Col. Hand in command of the rifle battalion. The latter, writing on the 8th of March, said, "I am stationed on Cobble's Hill, with four companies of our regiment. Two companies, Cluggage's and Chambers', were ordered to Dorchester on Monday; Ross and Loudon relieved them yesterday. Every regiment is to have a standard and colors. Our standard is to be a deep-green ground, the device a tiger partly inclosed by toils attempting the pass, defended by a hunter armed with a spear (in white), on crimson field the motto *Domari nolo*." This color is still in existence, in possession of the State of Pennsylvania.

At that time (the early part of March, 1776) there were unmistakable indications that the British commander was preparing to evacuate Boston, and as his destination was evidently New York, Washington commenced moving the patriot army to that city. On the 13th of March the commander-in-chief ordered Hand's riflemen, with five other regiments (all under command of Gen. Sullivan), to proceed to New York.

The battalion left Cambridge on the 14th and reached New York on the 28th. Col. Thompson had been promoted to brigadier-general on the 1st of March, and on the 7th Hand succeeded to the colonelcy of the battalion, Capt. James Chambers being promoted to lieutenant-colonel. On the 5th of April, Hand's regiment was moved, by order of Gen. Israel Putnam, to Long Island, where it remained, at a station near New Utrecht, during the remainder of April and the months of May and June, doing some good service.

On the 22d of April, 1776, Gen. Washington said in a letter to the President of Congress, "The time for which the riflemen enlisted will expire on the 1st of July next, and as the loss of such a valuable and brave body of men will be of great injury to the service, I would submit it to the consideration of Congress whether it would not be best to adopt some method to induce them to continue. They are, indeed, a very useful corps; but I need not mention this, as their importance is already well known to the Congress." But Congress had already (without the knowledge of the commander-in-chief) passed a resolution, dated April 15th, to recruit and re-enlist the battalion, and the independent rifle companies attached to it, for the term of two years, unless sooner discharged. On the 30th of June, the day when the time of those who did not re-enlist expired, Col. Hand said in a letter, "Almost all the men discharged to-day declare that they will stay to know what the fleet will do," meaning the British fleet, bringing Howe's army from Boston to the harbor of New York.

On the 1st of July, 1776, the rifle battalion, recruited and re-enlisted, entered on another term of service as the First Regiment of Pennsylvania in the Continental Line. The original enlistment was for two years, but in October, 1776, a committee of the Assembly succeeded in changing the term to the duration of the war. The commanding officer of the regiment was Col. Edward Hand, of Lancaster, who was promoted to brigadier-general March 7, 1777, having, however, acted as brigade commander prior to his promotion.

GEN. EDWARD HAND was born at Elzduff, Kings County, province of Leinster, Ireland, Dec. 31, 1744 and died at his farm, "Rockford," near Lancaster, Pa., Sept. 3, 1802. In 1767 he was appointed by George III. surgeon of the Eighteenth Royal Irish Regiment of foot, and sailed with the regiment from Cork on May 20th of the same year, arriving in Philadelphia July 11th. He was ensign of the same regiment, his commission bearing date 1772. He went with his regiment to Fort Pitt, and returned to Philadelphia in 1774, resigning his commission, and receiving a regular discharge from the British service. The same year he came to Lancaster, with recommendations, in order to practice his profession, and the following year married Catharine (1751-1805), daughter of Capt. John Ewing (1727-1754) and Sarah Yates



Edw. Lund Roy. Gen.

(1731-1823), a sister of Judge Yates, of Lancaster. In 1775 he entered the Continental service, and left Lancaster as lieutenant-colonel First Battalion Pennsylvania Riflemen, with his commission dated June 25th of that year. He was on Prospect Hill on August 20th, when the battalion distinguished itself. He was raised to the rank of brigadier-general in 1777, subsequently to adjutant-general, and held this rank at the battle of Yorktown, marching back with the troops to Philadelphia, where they were dismissed. In 1785, Gen. Hand was elected to the lower branch of the Pennsylvania Legislature, and in 1789 he was a delegate from Lancaster County to the convention that amended the first State Constitution. He was a member of the Continental Congress in 1784 and 1785, as a Federalist. In 1798 he was appointed major-general in the Provisional army. Gen. Hand was an intimate friend of Gen. Washington, and had his full confidence during the entire struggle of the colonies for independence, as the following letter attests, and he was one of the original members of the "Order of Cincinnati":

" MOUNT VERNON, JAN 14th, 1784.

" DEAR SIR,—When I left Philadelphia I hoped to have had the pleasure of seeing you at Annapolis before my departure from thence, and to have had an opportunity (previous to my resignation) of expressing to you personally, amongst the last acts of my Official life, my entire approbation of your public conduct, particularly in the execution of the important duties of Adjutant General.

" Notwithstanding I have been disappointed in that expectation, and have it now in my power only as a private character to make known my sentiments and feelings respecting my military friends, yet I cannot decline making use of the first occasion after my retirement of informing you, my dear Sir, how much reason I have had to be satisfied with the great zeal, attention, and ability manifested by you in conducting the business of your Department, and how happy I should be for an opportunity of demonstrating my sincere regard and esteem for you. It is unnecessary, I hope, to add with what pleasure I should see you at this place, being, with great truth,

" My dear Sir,

" Y^r real friend &

" Most Obe^d Serv^t

" G^o WASHINGTON.

" THE HON^{ble}

" GEN^l HAND."

His children were: Sarah (1775-1850), wife of Samuel Bethel, of Columbia; Dorothy (1777-1862), wife of Edward Brien (1769-1816), a native of Ireland, County Tyrone, and an iron-master at the Martie Iron-Works in Lancaster County; Mary (1786-1880), died unmarried, at New Haven, Conn.; Edward, born in 1792, died at Havana; Jasper, born in 1784; and John (1782-1807).

The children of Edward Brien are: Edward, died

in Lancaster in 1834; Harriet; Sarah Bethel, born in 1810, is the widow of Henry Rogers (1803-1868), a lawyer of Lancaster, and brother of Judge Rogers of the same city; Henry, died in Madeira at the age of twenty-one; and Catharine.

The children of Henry Rogers and Sarah Bethel Brien are: Anna Russum, wife of Edward Reilly, of New York; Sarah Hand, died; Catharine Brien, wife of Dr. John L. Atlee, Jr., of Lancaster; Mary Hand, died; Harriet Dorothea, wife of Washington W. Hopkins, a lawyer at Port Deposit, Md.; and Edward Brien Rogers, deceased.

One of Col. Hand's aides-de-camp was Jasper Ewing, nephew of Hon. Jasper Yeates, of Lancaster. The adjutant of the regiment was David Zeigler, of Lancaster County, severely wounded at the battle of Long Island, Aug. 27, 1776; retired from the army Jan. 1, 1783; died at Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 24, 1811, aged sixty-three. Frederick Hubley, of Lancaster borough, was appointed quartermaster.

Among the list of company commanders are found the following of Lancaster County, viz.: Capt. Matthew Smith, Capt. James Ross, Capt. James Hamilton (taken prisoner Nov. 2, 1777; promoted to major Second Pennsylvania Dec. 10, 1778), and Capt. (afterwards major) Henry Miller. Capt. Ross was promoted to major of the regiment, Sept. 25, 1776, and to lieutenant-colonel March 12, 1777, and transferred to the Eighth Pennsylvania. Ross' promotion to major over the heads of senior officers caused Capt. Smith to resign Dec. 5, 1776. Capt. Cluggage, of Bedford County, also resigned for the same reason. The only rolls found of any of the above-named companies are the following incomplete ones of the companies of Capt. Ross and Miller, viz.:

CAPT. JAMES ROSS' COMPANY.

Captains.

Ross, James, promoted major Sept. 25, 1776.

Holliday, John, from first lieutenant of Cluggage's company Sept. 25, 1776.

First Lieutenant.

Zanck, Jacob, resigned Oct. 1, 1776, resided in Lancaster County in 1814.

Second Lieutenant.

Hubley, Frederick, promoted first lieutenant and quartermaster.

Sergeants.

Franey, James.

Ward, John.

Privates.

Anderson, Adam, May 1, 1776.

Allsworth, Ludwig, July 14, 1776.

Allison, Thomas, July 23, 1776.

Barnett, Joseph, May 1, 1776.

Bellor, George, re-enlisted May 1, 1776, for three years; wounded at Paul in the shoulder; residing at Marietta in 1835, aged eighty seven.

Cameron, Angus, Feb. 14, 1777.

Galbraith, Hugh, Feb. 12, 1777.

Carroll, John, March 4, 1777.

Gamble, Michael, Feb. 15, 1777.

Collins, Robert, May 4, 1776.

Gorman, James, March 4, 1777.

Connelly, John, May 6, 1776.

Grilben, James, May 1, 1776.

Decker, Henry, May 1, 1776.

Grimes, William, May 6, 1776.

Dilwich, Costner, May 1, 1776.

Hagen, William, March 4, 1777.

Dillner, William, May 5, 1776.

Hagerty, Henry, July 16, 1776.

Dorsh, Frederick, July 11, 1776.

Hartnes, James, Feb. 1, 1777.

Dugan, Michael, May 9, 1776.

Hoover, Albright, May 10, 1776.

Foulke, Solomon, July 17, 1776.

Hoover, Felix, March 4, 1777.

Franey, John, May 6, 1776.

Keller, Andrew, March 4, 1777.