

“Exceeding Hot & water is scarce ...”
Monmouth Campaign Weather, 15 June to 7 July, 1778

John U. Rees

Narrator List

American

Samuel Adams, surgeon, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment
Paul Brigham, captain, 8th Connecticut Regiment
Henry Dearborn, lt. colonel, 3rd New Hampshire Regiment
Sylvanus Seely, colonel Morris County militia
Bernardus Swartwout, gentleman volunteer, 2nd New York Regiment
Frederick Van Lew, private, 2nd New Jersey Regiment
Jeremiah Greenman, sergeant, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment
George Washington, general and commander in chief, Continental Army
Ebenezer Wild, sergeant, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

British and German

John Andre, major and aide-de-camp to Major General Charles Grey
Andrew Bell, secretary to Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton
Sir Henry Clinton, lieutenant general and commander British Army
Johann Ewald, captain, Hessian Field Jaeger Corps
Heinrich Carl Phillip von Feilitzsch, lieutenant, Ansbach-Bayreuth Jaeger Corps
William Hale, lieutenant, 45th Regiment
John Charles Philip von Krafft, lieutenant, Regiment Von Bose
John Peebles, captain, 42nd Regiment

Civilian

James P. Parke, Philadelphia resident
Job Whitall, farmer residing at Red Bank, on the Delaware River below Philadelphia.

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The June 1778 Monmouth campaign was accented by rain, thunder, lightning, and high temperatures. Many Americans remarked on the heat the day of the Monmouth battle. Of course for troops wearing wool or linen coats, clad head to toe in linen underclothing, carrying a musket and accoutrements with a full complement of cartridges, and marching the dusty roads or standing in line of battle under the hot sun with little or no water, even moderately warm weather could be fatiguing. Add the fear and uncertainty of battle, the conditions on that late June day must have been trying indeed.

Even those accustomed to North American weather extremes seem to have felt the conditions were quite extraordinary; Europeans especially were not used to such extremes and British and German troops likely suffered particularly. To place the experience in some context, some general comments on the difference between American and European weather are in order. In his work *Braving the Elements: The Stormy History of American Weather* David Laskin writes that European settlers were not prepared for American temperature extremes: “The English had some justification (beyond hope) for expecting the

New World would be warmer than the old, for their geographers knew that New England lay considerably to the south of London – about 10 to 12 degrees latitude south ... What these European travelers to America did not reckon on was the climatic impact of the vast landmass to the west. The frigid winter northwesterlies that the early colonists complained of so bitterly blew across thousands of frozen and often snow-covered ground, which serves to reinforce their chill ... The New World colonies were not only colder in the winter than Western Europe, they were also hotter in the summer, and, surprisingly, considerably wetter at most times of the year. American weather historian David Ludlum has assembled useful statistics comparing mean temperatures and rainfall levels in London, Boston, New York, and Norfolk, Virginia; Boston's January is more than 10 degrees colder than London's (29.2° F compared with 39.8° F), and its July nearly 10 degrees hotter (73.3° F compared with 63.7° F); London receives 24 inches of rainfall a year, whereas Boston gets 42.52 and Norfolk 44.58."

Note: Quoted remarks about the weather are in **bold letters**. Parent units are given for each narrator. Since the British column was elongated or spread widely the narrator's location is occasionally put in *italicized parentheses* following his name. Some British and American soldiers served in temporary organizations such as the British grenadier battalions or one of several American forces detached from the main army. These, too, are noted in *italicized parentheses*.

15 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

15 June 1778, "A pleasant Day."

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Philadelphia)

Lieutenant von Krafft, Regiment Von Bose

"15 June ... At noon came the order to be ready to march at 4:30 P.M. ... At the appointed time all the Hessians except the Grenadiers came together, also some English regiments. At 5 we marched [to] ... the boats awaiting us and taken across the Delaware ... The place was called Coppers Ferry. We marched about 2 ½ English miles and the greater part of our regiment was directed to camp in a wood. It may have been 7:30 P.M. when we arrived there. As we had no tents and it was too late to build huts, I lay down under a tree to sleep."

Washington's Army Route of March

(Valley Forge)

Captain Brigham, 8th Connecticut Regiment

"14th Pleasant Day ...

15th ... the whole army were Remind^d to be in Rediness to march in this Days orders by the Best accounts the Enemy are Chiefly over the [New Jersey] Side and will Soon take their Route to New york"

16 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

16 June, “**A pleasant Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Philadelphia)

Lieutenant von Krafft, Regiment Von Bose

“16 June. Tues. In the morning order was given to erect huts, because we were to remain here until all had overtaken us from Philadelphia.”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(Valley Forge)

Captain Brigham, 8th Connecticut Regiment

“16th **Very Pleasant Growing Season ...**”

17 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

17 June, “**A warm Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Philadelphia)

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Wednesday 17th. June **very warm ...**”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(Valley Forge)

Captain Brigham, 8th Connecticut Regiment

“17th ... **an Exceeding hot Day**”

18 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

18 June, “**A warm Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Haddonfield)

Lieutenant General Clinton

“On the 18th June, at three o’clock in the morning, and proceeded to Gloucester Point, without being followed by the enemy. Every thing being from thence passed in safety across the Delaware through the excellent disposition made by the Admiral to secure our passage / the army marched at 10 oclock and reached Haddonfield the same day. A strong corps of the enemy having, upon our approach, abandoned the difficult pass of Mount-Holly the army proceeded without any interruption from them, excepting what was occasioned by their having destroyed every bridge on our road. As the country is much

intersected with marshy rivulets, the obstructions we met with were frequent, and **the excessive heat of the season rendered the labour of repairing the bridges severely felt.**”

Captain Ewald, Field Jaeger Corps

“The 18th. The army set out one hour before daylight ... Many men fell and lost their lives miserably because of the **intense heat**, and due to the sandy ground which we crossed through a pathless brushwood where no water was to be found on the entire march.”

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Thursday 18th ... **the day very hot ...**”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(Valley Forge)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“[June] 18th Th: **fair & very hot ...**”

19 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

19 June, “**A shour in ye morning & Rain most of ye afternoon.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Evesham)

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Friday 19th. The army march'd by day light & proceeded thro' Haddonfield, forward to within 2 miles of Foster Town, **the Mornng. Showery & the day cool--** we march'd I suppose about 10 miles. The front near to foster Town the rear at Haddonfield. The troops occupying the best grounds along the upper road to Mount Holly”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(At or near Valley Forge)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“19th F: **Cloudy some rain ...**”

Captain Brigham, 8th Connecticut Regiment

“on ye 19th ... Came up with the Brigade about 2 o’Clock the whole Devision Pitched Tents **Something Rainy Towards night**”

20 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

20 June, “**Cloudy morning & began to Rain near nine oclock & rained most of ye day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Mount Holly)

Lieutenant von Krafft, Regiment Von Bose

20 June, “At 3 A.M. we marched away ... during a **heavy rain.**”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(Doylestown)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“20th S: **very rainey P.M. ...**”

(Coryell’s Ferry)

Sergeant Greenman, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

20 June, “... marcht a bout 7 milds & made a halt ... then **pushed on in the rain** / Crost the diliware ...”

21 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

21 June, “**A warm Day. Ye sun shone out.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Mount Holly)

Lieutenant von Krafft, Regiment Von Bose

21 June, “From 3 in the morning until noon I had the rear guard of our and the English regiment, again in the **heavy rain**. In the afternoon we marched during the **terrific heat** ... This night there was a **terrific thunderstorm and the rain poured down** so hard that we in our bush-huts got very wet.”

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Sunday 21st. June **a good deal of rain last night & this Morng. today hot & sultry ...**”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(Coryell’s Ferry)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“21st Sabb: **Cloudy very hot ...**”

Sergeant Greenman, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

21 June, “... **very hott whether ...**”

Sergeant Wild, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

“21 June. [1778] **About 9 o’clk it ceased raining.** We struck our tents & fell in & were counted off in order to march.”

22 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

22 June, “**A cloudy Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Black Horse)

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Monday 22d. June **rain in the night ...**”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(Coryell’s Ferry/Amwell)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“22nd M: **Cloudy some rain ...**”

Captain Brigham, 8th Connecticut Regiment

“22d ... **Rainy night ...**”

Sergeant Greenman, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

22 June, “Continuing in amwell / **wraining wether ...**”

23 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

23 June, “**A cloudy Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Crosswicks)

Captain Ewald, Field Jaeger Corps

“The 23d. ... The men tried to refresh themselves in the water [of Crosswicks Creek] because **the weather was extremely warm.**”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(Hopewell)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“23rd T: **Cloudy ...**”

Sergeant Greenman, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

23 June, “... **misty wraining wether.**”

24 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

24 June, “A **cloudy forenoon, ye afternoon sunshine.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Allentown)

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Wednesday 24th. June the weather **these two or three days past Cloudy & cool** ... A Remarkable great Eclipse of the Sun today, but being cloudy could not see it till near & at its height, near 10 A:M: when it was almost total, as it went off **the day clear'd up & grew hot** ...”

Washington's Army Route of March

(Hopewell)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“24th W: **fair** ...”

25 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

25 June, “A **fine Day for hay.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, “at the Rising Sun”)

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Thursday 25 June. ... The road generally sandy & now & then a thick wodd [sic] ... the **Weather very hot**”

Washington's Army Route of March

(Kingston/Long Bridge)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“25th Th: **fair & hot** ...”

Captain Brigham, 8th Connecticut Regiment

“the 25th ... **Exceeding hot this Day** Lay out all This night marched Early in the morn”

Sergeant Greenman, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

25 June, “... **very hot sultry wether** ...”

Sergeant Wild, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

“25 June. This morning at 5 o'clk the General was beat throughout the whole army; at 6 o'clk the Troop beat. We fell in & were counted off in order to march. We left all our tents standing & our heavy baggage behind us. We marched off, and making several short stops on the road to rest we arrived at Kingstown between 12 & 1 o'clk. We marched into a large field there and made a halt, it being **very hot weather**. Just after we

halted we sent out a large detachment, to see if they could make any discovery of the enemy, under the command of the Markis Delefiat [Marquis de Lafayette].”

26 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

26 June, “A **fine fournoon but a Rainy afternoon.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Monmouth Courthouse)

Major Andre, Major General Grey's aide de camp

“26th ... The roads the Army had marched thro' were in general very sandy, and the land, except in the neighborhood of Allentown, deemed poor. The weather, which after the first two or three days' march, which were rainy, was **very sultry**, and as we approached Freehold **water was very scarce**. The Rebels had added to this by stopping up the wells ...”

Captain Ewald, Field Jaeger Corps

"The 26th. ... The enemy kept hanging on me up to the new camp. I lost over 60 men out of 180 foot jagers and 30 horsemen, among which may well have been some 20 men who dropped dead from the **great heat and fatigue.**"

Lieutenant von Krafft, Regiment Von Bose

26 June, “**That evening there was a terrific thunderstorm ... I lay in my hut, on account of the rain**, leaning on my left arm, together with my orderly, when there was a fearful thunderclap ... it struck at a distance of only 15 paces behind my hut ...”

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Friday 26th. ready to march at 4 but it was 6 before we got off the ground march'd to the Eastwd. 8 or 10 miles & Encamp'd at Freehold or Monmouth Court House between 11 & 12 on a very fine extensive clearing facing to the Northwd. Genl. Kniphausens Divisn. came on to with[in] two miles of this yesterday & March'd from there early this Morng. a Sandy Soild Mixt Wood-- **hot with Thunder**”

Washington's Army Route of March

(Cranbury)

General Washington (1 July letter)

The army arrived at “Cranberry early [in] the ... morning [of 26 June]. The **intense heat** of the Weather, and a **heavy storm** unluckily coming on made it impossible to resume our march that day without great inconvenience and injury to the troops.”

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“26th F: **fair & light showers with thunder** ...”

Captain Brigham, 8th Connecticut Regiment

“on ye 26 **Exceeding hot this Day Som Thunder and Rain.** By the Best Inteligence the Enemy are makeing their way to the Hook [Sandy Hook] | Woodfords and Varnums Brigades Began their march towards Munmouth marchd 5 or 6 miles Lay out in an [orchard] on Ground Slept Very well with only my Great Coat”

Sergeant Wild, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

“26 June. At 5 o’clk we fell in to our arms & were counted off in order to march. About half after --- o’clk we began our march and marched about 5 miles, and halted in the road & drew two days allowance of pork & flour. We cooked our provision. Between 4 & 5 o’clk we began our march again, but we had not got but a very short way before **it began to rain**, which caused us to stop. It held raining above an hour successively, and was attended with **very heavy thunder and sharp lightning. It being late when it stopped raining, we took our lodgings in the road without anything to cover us, or any thing to lodge on but the wet ground, & we in a very wet condition.**”

(Near Cranbury)

Lt. Colonel Dearborn, 3rd New Hampshire Regiment

(Brigadier-General Charles Scott’s detachment)

“26th ... The **weather is Extreemly Hot**, we are Obliged to march very Modirate ...”

Sergeant Greenman, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

(Major-General Charles Lee’s detachment)

26 June, “... pushed on 6 milds as far as a small town cal’d Crambury ... hear we stayed three owers ... our Division was order’d forrid under the Command of Genl Lee / we went about 6 milds & made a halt / **Sum very heavy Shower of wrain & Thundr.**”

Volunteer Swartwout, 2nd New York Regiment

(Brigadier-General Charles Scott’s detachment)

26 June, “At the sound of the horn we marched eight miles and **halted, owing to a heavy shower of rain which lasted some time**--After it abated marched two miles and halted in a wood.”

27 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

27 June, “**A warm Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Monmouth Courthouse)

Captain Ewald, Field Jaeger Corps

"The 27th. Since the army had lost over two hundred men on yesterday's march through the **intolerable heat**, it stopped today to rest ..."

Lieutenant von Krafft, Regiment Von Bose

“27 June Sat. ... At midnight [27/28 June] another and much more **terrific thunderstorm** than the previous one came up, **with heavy rain**, so that again we got wet through. At daybreak we were ordered to leave our [picket] post and betake ourselves to the regiment ...”

Washington's Army Route of March

(Penelopon's Creek)

Surgeon Samuel Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“27th S: **fair and excessive hot!**”

Captain Brigham, 8th Connecticut Regiment

“on ye 27th Began our march a Little Before Sunrise on this march we suffer much for Water to Drink Came within about 6 miles of the Enemy where we spent the Rest of the Day **Exceeding Sharp Thunder and Liting and Som Rain at night ...**”

Sergeant Wild, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

“27 June. ... about 7 o'clk we began our march, and marched about 4 miles & stopped in the road to rest and get water. After stopping about a half an hour we marched again about a mile further, and it being **excessive hot**, we halted again. I expected we should go further but we stopped here all day. We had no orders for marching at sundown. I had the flank guard while we marched this day. We lay in the open field. **Hard thunder, &c. &c.**”

(Englishtown)

Lt. Colonel Dearborn, 3rd New Hampshire Regiment

(Brigadier-General Charles Scott's detachment)

“27th ... the weather Remains **Exceeding Hot & water is scarce** we ariv.d at English Town about the middle of the Day & Incamp'd.”

Colonel Seely, Morris County militia

“Jun 27th, marched to a meeting house near English Town; **our men suffered greatly with heat and drought.**”

Sergeant Greenman, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

(Major-General Charles Lee's detachment)

27 June, “this morn turn'd out from among the wett grass ... pushed on 6 milds near Englishtown ... [after some further marching and halting] we marcht half a mild into a Medow ... I took quart[er]s. under a huckel bury buch. for it was **very hot indeed / in the Night it wrain'd & cold.**”

28 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

28 June, "A **warm Day.**"

City of Philadelphia

James P. Parke

June 1778, "Very warm from 26 to 30 [June] Therm[ometer] 85 to 91"

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, "Heights of Monmouth")

Andrew Bell, General Sir Henry Clinton's secretary

28 June, "... about 200 killed and wounded~ **the weather destroyed more than the Action**"

(Late morning)

Lieutenant General Clinton

28 June, "I made a disposition of attack on the plain, but before I could advance, the enemy fell back and took a strong position on the heights above Freehold Court House. **The heat of the weather was intense**, and our men already suffered from fatigue. But our circumstances obliged us to make a vigorous exertion."

(Clinton's battle synopsis) "It would be sufficient honour to the troops, barely to say, that they had forced a corps, as I am informed of near 12,000 men, from two strong positions; but it will, I doubt not, be considered as doubly creditable when I mention that they did under such disadvantages of heat and fatigue, that a great part of those we lost fell dead as they advanced, without a wound."

Lieutenant General Clinton (6 July letter to his sisters)

Writing of 28 June, "Had I had only four regiments more, or the season been not so unfavorable, I will not scruple to say a most advantageous stroke might have been expected. **But with the thermometer at 96 - when people fell dead in the street, and even in their houses - what could be done at midday in a hot pine barren**, with everything that [the] poor soldier carries? It breaks my heart that I was obliged under those cruel circumstances to attempt it."

Lieutenant General Clinton (11 July letter to the Duke of Newcastle)

Writing of 28 June, "... nothing of consequence till the 28th. of June when Mr. W. with his whole army to which was added all the militia of the neighbouring provinces pressed hard on my rear. I will do him justice to say it was well timed, my baggage provision train &c. &c and the division of the army which conveyed them extended 12 miles at the time he began his attack upon my rear guard. It was necessary to meet him with what I had. I had two inducements first to give time to my baggage to get into safety, and the hopes of meeting his whole army in a intricut [?] situation passing the defiles which I knew separated him from his avant garde, I soon succeeded in the first, and as I ran not the least risk of committing my self I was tempted to try the last, your Grace will see by my publick letter how near I was to success – **nothing but the intolerable heat**

prevented; the Thermometer at 94 in the shade, is not a climate for troops to act with vigour in at noon day ...”

Lieutenant William Hale, 45th Regiment

(2nd Grenadier Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Monckton commander)

28 June, (Morning advance)

“We proceeded five miles in a road composed of nothing but sand which scorched through our shoes with **intolerable heat; the sun beating on our heads** with a force scarcely to be conceived in Europe, and not a drop of water to assuage our parching thirst; a number of soldiers were unable to support the fatigue, and died on the spot. A Corp[oral]. Of the 43rd Grenadiers, who had by some means procured water, drank to such excess as to burst and expired in the utmost torments. Two became raving mad, and the whole road, strewn with miserable wretches wishing for death, exhibited the most shocking scene I ever saw.”

(Afternoon cannonade)

“The shattered remains of our Battalion being under cover of our hill suffered little, but from thirst and heat of which several died, except some who preferred the shade of some trees in the direct range of shot to the more horrid tortures of thirst. Capt. Powell of the 52nd Grenadiers, one of these [seeking shade] had his arm shattered to pieces ...[Conway] Courtenay [lieutenant, 15th Regiment] and myself lay under the hill together during the cannonade, and swallowed a canteen of water which a tempting dollar from my pocket prevailed on an artillery driver to creep on all fours through the fire to fetch ...”

Lieutenant von Krafft, Regiment Von Bose

(On the road to Middletown)

“28 June ... **cruel heat** ...”

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Sunday 28th June [1778] a fight ... [the] several maneuvers & rapid marches with the **excessive heat** & the difficult passes they met with had so fatigued & knock’d up the men yt. a great number of the several Corps died upon the Spot; while the 3d. Brigade halted a little while to breathe the 1st. Light Infantry & Queens Rangers came up on their right & finding themselves likewise much fatiged. & having drop’d a good many men, it was thought improper to advance any farther upon the Enemy who were strongly posted, & the Troops were accordingly order’d to retire to cover the Village of Monmouth where the Wounded & Sick were brought to in the Evening – where we remained till near 12 o'clock at night ...”

Washington’s Army Route of March

General Washington (1 July letter)

28 June, “**The extreme heat of the Weather**, the fatigue of the Men from their march thro' a deep, sandy Country almost entirely destitute of Water, and the distance the Enemy had gained by marching in the Night, made a pursuit impracticable and fruitless. It would have answered no valuable purpose, and would have been fatal to numbers of our Men, several of whom died the preceeding day with Heat.”

General Washington (4 July letter)

28 June, "... it was found impracticable with **our Men fainting with fatigue, heat, and want of Water**, to do any thing more that Night."

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

"28th Sabb[ath]: **fair & exceeding hot indeed!!** ... the extent of our loss is as follows - seventy five killed & Died of the heat, and perhaps one third of the number was by the latter cause which is not to be wondered at when we consider that between the hours of 8 & 12 of as hot a day as perhaps ever was known, we forced a march of 8 or 9 miles over a dry sandy road, destitute of water or any refreshment & then immediately went into action -"

*Lt. Colonel Dearborn, 3rd New Hampshire Regiment
(Brigadier-General Charles Scott's detachment)*

28 June, "... the briske[s]t Cannonade Commenced on both sides that I Ever heard. Both Armies ware on Clear Ground & if any thing Can be Call.d Musical where there is so much Danger, I think that was the finest musick, I Ever heard. *however* the agreeableness of the musick was very often Lessen'd by the balls Coming too near - **Our men being very much beat out with Fateague & heat which was very intence**, we order.d them to sit Down & Rest them Selves."

Colonel Seely, Monmouth County militia

"Jun 28th ... Genl.. Washington came up & formed on the Heights about the meeting house and there came on a pretty severe action in which the enemy Lost Col. Munkton & Col. Carhart & several officers of distinction and left about 200 dead on the ground. **Numbers died on both sides with heat**; we lay at English Town all night."

*Sergeant Greenman, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment
(Major-General Charles Lee's detachment)*

"S 28. ... **a Number of our men died with heat a retreating.** ...

M 29. Continuing in English town. this day we buried all the dead / the enemy gone off intirly / **very hott indeed** so that the men that wan [went] on a march retreating yesterday throy'd away thay packs & so forth and a Number dyed before ye enemy retreated back."

Sergeant Wild, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

"28 June. ... This place is called Monmouth. It has been **very hot all day**. Numbers of our men had fainted and given out with the heat before we came up to the enemy. We lay here all night in the field."

*Private Van Lew, 2nd New Jersey Regiment (19th century pension statement)
(Major-General Charles Lee's detachment)*

28 June, "Washington Attacked them at Monmouth, and gain[ed] the victory over them it was on sunday **the hottest day he ever knew** ..."

29 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

29 June, “**A verry warm Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Middletown)

"Journal of the [Hessian] Leib Regiment" (near Sandy Hook, New Jersey)

29 June, “**The heat was so intense today that nearly the whole Regiment was knocked up.** When the flags arrived at the place where we were to encamp, there were not even men enough there to protect them. A number fainted today and several died on the spot. **We have not experienced greater heat during the whole of the American war.**”

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Monday 29th. June **the weather still continues extremely hot ...**”

Washington's Army Route of March

(Englishtown)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“29th M: **fair and very hot!**”

Sergeant Wild, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

“29 June. **Very warm this morning.** We lay still here till 5 o'clk, at which time the General beat, and we marched to the ground where we left our baggage yesterday, and lay there all night without any tents.”

30 June 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

30 June, “**A warm Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Middletown)

Lieutenant von Krafft, Regiment Von Bose

30 June, “At 7 A.M. we broke up our camp and marched through the borough of Middletown ... until we reached, two miles further on, quite a large hill where we pitched our camp ... **Huts were built, but owing to the heat,** it was almost impossible to breath underneath them.”

Washington's Army Route of March

(Englishtown)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“30th T: **fair and excessive hot**”

Volunteer Swartwout, 2nd New York Regiment:

“30th. The [light] infantry were disbanded and ordered to join their respective brigades – in the afternoon marched to our different camps – **the weather was very hot** – many men lost their lives in consequence thereof.”

Sergeant Greenman, 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

“T 30. Continuing in a field near to English town / **water very scarce indeed** / Such a Number of Solders that water is almost as scarce as Liquor & what is got is very bad indeed ... this afternoon we draw'd two days provision & fit for a march.”

Sergeant Wild, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

“30 June. **Excessive hot this morning. We lay still here all day.**”

1 July 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

1 July 1778, “**A warm Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Neversink)

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Wednesday 1st. July The army Encamp'd in a strong position, occupying the Hills from 2 to 4 miles eastward of Middleton & making a communication with the Bay in which the Fleet are lying within the Hook ... the Enemy may be expected, who are still hovering about us, showing themselves in different places in our front & right, some popping shots, now & then ...”

Washington's Army Route of March

(Spotswood)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“1st W: **fair & hot indeed** - the Army Marched at 2 in the morning came into Spottswood ...”

Volunteer Swartwout, 2nd New York Regiment

“1st. July Marched over a sandy plain – the **heat and want of water** occasioned the death of many soldiers traveled eight miles without water – at night encamped at Spotswood.”

2 July 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

2 July, ““**A warm Day** ... near four oclock ... **there came up a gust** ...”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, “near Neversunk”)

Lieutenant von Feilitzsch, Ansbach-Bayreuth Jaeger Corps

“2 and 3 July – **It rained hard, without letup.** I was fortunate enough to have a tent, but the troops had to remain outside like dogs ...”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(New Brunswick)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“2d Th: **fair & hot. Shower P.M. & during Night** - the Army marched at 12 last night came to Brunswick, encamped on the Banks of the Raritan ...”

3 July 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

3 July, “**Rain most of ye Day.**” \

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, “near Neversunk”)

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Friday 3d. **it rained some last night, and almost all this day** ...”

Lieutenant von Krafft, Regiment Von Bose

“3 [July] Frid[ay]. A rest day. To-day we had an astonishing and **continuous rain-storm** ... **wet through and unable to rest** ...”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(New Brunswick)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“3d F: **Rainy, warm** - the Army halted ...”

4 July 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

4 July, “**Rain in ye morning & cloudy till noon**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Neversink)

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Saturday 4th. **the weather clear’d up towards noon** ...”

Lieutenant von Krafft, Regiment Von Bose

“4 July. Satur[day]. Rest day. **Until noon the rain continued unabatedly. After that, however, it was fine weather and the sun shone.**”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(New Brunswick)

Surgeon Adams, 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment

“4th S: **fair cool** - the whole Army paraded at 5 P.M. to celebrate the Anniversary of American Independence. Fired 13 cannon & Feu de Joy & 3 times repeated ...”

5 July 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

5 July, “**A fine, pleasant Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, Sandy Hook)

Captain Peebles, 42nd Regiment

“Sunday 5th. July ... **the day cool**, march about 6 miles in the woods before we came to the point & about 3 or 4 miles on Sandy Hook, deep sand ... a very irregular & ill managed Embarkation.“

Washington’s Army Route of March

(New Brunswick to Plainfield)

Sergeant Wild, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

“5 July ... began our march ... went about 5 miles & stopped to rest & eat ... we marched on again, about 3 miles further, and stopped in a field, where we pitched out tents.”

6 July 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

6 July, “**A pleasant Day.**”

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, New York)

Lieutenant von Feilitzsch, Ansbach-Bayreuth Jaeger Corps

“6 July – At seven o’clock we embarked and at twelve o’clock **sailed with a favorable wind**. We arrived in York at five o’clock.”

Washington’s Army Route of March

(Plainfield? to Springfield)

Sergeant Wild, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

“6 July. This morning at 5 o’clk we set out ... went as far as Springfield, which was 10 miles ... We pitched our tents in a field near the meeting house.”

7 July 1778

Delaware River (below Philadelphia)

Farmer Whitall, Red Bank, New Jersey

7 July, "A warmish Day."

British Army Route of March

(Headquarters, New York)

Lieutenant von Feilitzsch, Ansbach-Bayreuth Jaeger Corps

"7 July – We landed at eleven o'clock and marched eight miles to Harlem, **in extreme heat.**"

Washington's Army Route of March

(Springfield to Newark)

Sergeant Wild, 1st Massachusetts Regiment

"7 July ... Marched 10 miles, which brought us to New Arck. We went about a mile above the town and encamped ..."

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