

Jesse Field- Patriot attacking the Dragoon Breastworks

I belonged to Capt. Dewey's company of militia. On the morning of the 16th a body of troops was [sent] to attack the enemy on the north, and Col Herrick with his regiment of rangers and [my company] crossed the river nearby by the camp went over the hills. [We crossed] the river again below the enemy and come up in their rear from the south west. ...we came in sight of the [enemy], we halted, & it seemed [our whole group had not arrived]. We stood... a short time when [Nichols' men began to fire in the north]. A lieutenant exclaimed - "My God, what are we doing, they are killing our brothers. Why are we not ordered to fire?" In a moment [an officer] rode up and ordered us to advance. We pressed forward. As the [Germans] rose above their works to fire we [fired] at them. We kept [moving forward] and about the second fire they left their works and ran down the hill to the south or S. East. We followed on over their works and [chased them] down the hill. The day was very warm, they were in full dress and very heavy armed, and we in our shirts and trousers and [so we] had much the advantage in the pursuit.

Silas Walbridge- Patriot attacking the Dragoon Breastworks

Our men came within ten or twelve rods of the redoubt and began firing from behind logs trees and continued occasionally advancing until the Hessians retreated out of their works down the hill to the south. Nichols' men began firing ahead of the time we did and the action was short, from 15 to 20 to possibly 30 minutes. We followed them down the hill on to the flat...

Lieutenant John Orr- Patriot attacking the Tory Fort

I was in a [group] of 200, to attack the minor breastwork... We marched... about half a mile, and then arranged ourselves in front of the breast-work about fifty or sixty rods distant, with trees and corn intervening, which prevented our seeing each other.

About 4 o'clock, P.M., Nichols began [his attack on the dragoon redoubt], and the cracking of muskets was such, that imagination could see them firing by the dozens. We arose and with shouts marched rapidly to the attack. ... When we had passed through the wood and cornfield, we came in sight of the enemy, at about fifteen rods distance. They commenced firing with muskets, at an alarming rate, so that it seemed wonderful that any of the attacking party should escape. ... I soon found [I had been shot]. After having lain fifteen or twenty minutes, one of our sergeants came and offered to take me off the ground, I told him he was [could not], for I could not help myself. He said he would not leave me there... [and] called a soldier to his assistance. They took hold of me by the arms, and attempted to carry me off; but the balls flew directly at us... I charged them to lay me down instantly, each take a hand, and stoop so low that the flax would conceal them, and drag me on my back into the cornfield, where I would be out of sight of the enemy.

Anonymous Loyalist- protecting the Tory Fort

We were all ready when we saw the [Americans] coming to attack us. [We] were on such a [high] hill, and behind such a bank that we felt perfectly safe... We had not expected, however, that they would approach us under cover, but [thought] we should see them [coming]. We did not know that a little gully which lay below us was long enough and deep enough to [hide] them... but they knew the ground, and [when we saw the attackers] they [appeared] right under our guns.

Levy Beardsley- civilian living near the river

A considerable part of the [battle] was on my grandfather's farm, and in sight of his house; in fact the enemy commenced their breast work at his house...

My grandfather, then about fifty years old, was a non-combatant; he always regarded the life of a soldier with disrelish, full of hardship and danger, and during the French [& Indian] war declined entering into military service.

[During the Battle of Bennington] ... a soldier came in and commenced pulling out the " chinking" between the logs [of the cabin]...to fire out.

My grandfather [argued], and on the soldier persisting the old man seized his musket, and being a strong man [took] it out of his hands and tossed it up into the chamber [in the rafters of the cabin]: then seizing him by the shoulders put him out... and fastened the door against him. The battle was sharply contested, but the result is known; the Hessians were defeated and taken, and a large body of them, when they surrendered, came running down the hill near the house with as little order as so many sheep, and surrendered in plain sight...

J.F. Wasmus, German Company Surgeon

At noon, we arrived at the [Walloomsac River] just before the bridge across the river. We made our camp in the gardens of two houses here. The inhabitants had loaded 2 wagons full of furniture and put 6 oxen to them. They were just about to [leave] and take flight in the wilderness. But now they had to unload.. our commander placed a guard in front of both houses so that nobody could take anything from them. They could safely remain there, for none of our men would take anything from them.