

Soldier, Unnamed

Revolutionary War Service:

All three were in Companies serving in Norfolk on 21 Jan 1776 near Towne Point wharf when cannon fire took their lives.



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Norfolk January 21st. 1776

G.O.

Parole Genl. Gates¹⁰⁵

Field Officer for the Day Tomorrow Lt. Colo. Stevens.

A cort of one field Officer & 4 Capts. or Sub. to set Immediately to enquire into the Robery Committed Last night upon Miss Ophilia[.] They are to be very Particular in Reporting the Examination of the Witnesses as it is Supposed they will be given over to the sivel law.

President for the Cort Martial Majr. Ruffin

Norfolk January 22d. 1776

G.O.

Parole Edenton

The commanding officers of Companies that had men killed in the Cannonade Yesterday¹⁰⁶ are Desired to have Coffins made for them and the Quartermaster of the Corps that he Belongs to have Graves Dug in the Church Yard for them that they may be as decently Intered as our Situation will admit off, By all being Carried to the Graves together one firing will do for the whole as powder is Scarce

R.O.

2nd. Virga. Rgt.

The Colo. Expects to go to Williamsburg in a few days[.] he desires that the Commanding Officer of each Company will be very Particular in making out an Exact Return of the state of their Company to be given in tomorrow morning to the Adjutant who is to make a fair Return of the whole Regiment[.] in their Return the[y] are to Specify where each Officer, Non Comd. Officer or Soldier heare at present and on what duty or other occasion he is absent from the Regiment¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁵ Horatio Gates in January 1776, was adjutant general of the Continental Army with the rank of brigadier general.

¹⁰⁶ The naval guns again opened fire "about four" o'clock on the afternoon of January 21, 1776, and ignited some of the houses near what was known as Town Point Wharf. The provincial troops lost "three fine men killed with cannon shot, and one wounded, who, it is thought, will lose his arm." One sailor and two presumably fugitive blacks of the attacking force were found dead at the site of the skirmishing which took place when Captains Green and Markham arrived. The landing royalists withdrew to their ships (Woodford to Pendleton, January 21, 1776, Convention Papers).

¹⁰⁷ In response to a request from Woodford the Virginia Convention on January 6, 1776, had granted him permission to take a leave of absence to visit his family and tend to personal affairs "for such time as shall be agreed on between Col. Howe and himself" (*Proceedings of the Convention*, p. 71).

Two of the men were from Buford's Company.

W E L L F O R D O C 1 8 5 5 7 7

AN express arrived here on Friday, with advice, that on Sunday morning near a hundred of the enemy landed at Norfolk, from the action of war, under a heavy firing of cannon, which continued when the express came away. They had set three houses on fire, but were soon forced to retire; the loss they sustained was then uncertain. Three of our men were killed by cannon shot, two of whom, it is said, belonged to Capt. Buford's company of minute-men.

On Wednesday evening six waggon's arrived here from Philadelphia, loaded with arms and ammunition.

One Wooten, in a canoe from Hampton, a few days ago, was chased by a tender as far as Sewel's Point. The old man fringed his canoe on shore, and ran into the woods, but was pursued by

The January 27th 1776 Virginia Gazette closes the loop on the evidentiary trail.

... brought in to general Woodford at
Montreal.

*Extract of a letter from col. Woodford to
the Hon. the President of the Convention,
dated Norfolk, January 21, 1776.*

WE have had a party, these ten days,
upon Tanner's creek, who yester-
day had a brush with a tender's boat at-
tempting to land at Sprowle's plantation;
they beat her off, and killed one man ---
8 o'clock at night. About 4 this afternoon,
another heavy cannonading began from
the Liverpool and Otter, during which
the enemy landed and set fire to some
houses that remained unhurt, near to
what is called Town Point wharf. I sent
strong parties to reinforce our water
guards. We had three fine men killed
with cannon shot, and one wounded, who,
it is thought, will lose his arm. We have
found one sailor and two negroes dead,
~~and many more were killed and~~
~~wounded, that were carried off in their~~
boats. Capts. Green and Markham ar-
rived in the height of the fire."

... this is just come into

Ceremony Commemorative Printed Program Paragraph:

Unnamed Patriots. Three soldiers, two from Capt. Abraham Buford's Company, Culpeper Minute Battalion, were killed in a British cannon fire on January 21st 1776. "By all being carried to the Graves together one firing will do for the whole as powder is Scarce."