

PRIMARY SOURCES FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Battle of Great Bridge, William Woodford Letter, 1775 (page 1 of 2)

Sir. Great Bridge 9th Dec. 1775

The Enemy were reinforced about three O'clock this Morning with (as they tell me) every Soldier of the 14th Regt. at Norfolk, amounting to 200 commanded by Capt. Leslie. & this morning after Revestte Beating crossed the Bridge by laying down some plank. & made an attempt to force our breast works, the prisoners say the whole number amounted to 500 with volunteers & blacks, with two pieces of cannon but none marched up but his Majestys soldiers, who behaved like English men we have found of their Dead Capt. Leslie & 12 privates, & have Lieut. Bettel wounded in the leg & 15 privates prisoners, they carried their cannon back under cover of the guns of the fort. & a number of their Dead, I should suppose (to speak within bounds) Reinforcement must be upwards of 50, some powder & cartridges were taken, absent an Officer to inform them if they would not fire upon our people, they should collect the Dead & wounded, this they agreed.

Citation: Letter of William Woodford, Dec. 9, 1775, Virginia. Convention (1775: Dec. 1-1776 Jan. 20), Accession 30003, Library of Virginia

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to, & there has been no firing since, we are now under arms expecting another attack, please forward Doct: Brown's Chest of Medicines & baggage down. The convention will be so good to excuse the incoincetness of this letter wrote in the greatest hurry — I am, with great respect

Sir

Your most Obedt Servt

Wm Woodford

N.B. but one man of ours wounded in the hand — The prisoners inform P. Dumon has got a Reinforcement of Highlanders — They I expect will be up next —

The 2 mates of the 1st Regt I shall keep till further orders — hurry down, a Reinforcement & more Ammunition on this lower part of the country will be thrown

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