

Journal of Archibald Robertson

[1777, April] 27<sup>th</sup> by Day break set fire to all the Stores and March'd about 8 o'clock on our Return to the ships by way of Ridgefield. Had information that the Rebels were Collecting in Numbers to oppose us and Mollest our Rear. The first that made their Appearance was on Ridgebury hill about five miles from Danbury. They fired on the Rear at a great Distance with little Alarm. When we got near Ridgefield we found General Arnold posted on the hills and in the Village with about 700 men and Generals Worcester and Sillyman in our Rear with about 400. We immediately (2 o'clock) Attack'd the Village and drove them off and took Possession. General Worcester at the same time attack'd our Rear but was repulsed. After being in the Village a little while the Rebels again drew together and came up to gain a Rising Ground above the Village, upon which Sir William Erskine made a Disposition to surround them. However by the different Companys now advancing at the same time, we only Dispersed then and drove them off. In advancing at the same time, we only Dispersed then and drove them off. In three severe Skirmishes we had about 50 or 60 men Killed and Wounded and 4 or 5 Officers, Major [Henry] Hope, Captain Rutherford, etc. We lay near the Village all night, 4 Battalions in line and two on the Wings, i.e. one on each wing.

[April] 28<sup>th</sup>. At Day Break began our march. For 5 or 6 miles had only a few Popping Shots from behind Houses, Rocks etc. Were inform'd they intended to oppose us at Norwalk Bridge. However by a clever move to our left we pass'd another Bridge and got by them. Here we found Rum and other Stores in the Woods. When we got within 5 miles of the Shore we got upon a high hill call'd Chestnut hill, from which we cold discern our Ships and the Rebels drawn up about 2 miles in front to oppose our Passing a Bridge over the Sauketuk River, but by another. Rapid and well conducted move we again Wheel'd to our left, pass'd the River at a Ford, and push'd two Battalions to the Bridge by which means the Rebels were shut in until all our Detachment pass'd by them in sight. Mr. Arnold endeavored to pass the Bridge but was not followed by his men. The 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment which defended the Bridge being call'd off, we march'd from hill to hill towards the water side, the Rebels pressing on our Rear and Appearing in Considerable Numbers, Skirmishing all the way. At last we reach'd Compo Hill near the beach where we were drawn up, and the Rebels advanced from Wall to Wall keeping up a very heavy fire of Musquetry and two pieces of Cannon. At length they came so near that it was thought advisable to charge them with fix'd Bayonets, which was done with 4 Regiments, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>, and we drove them back a great way Killing considerable Numbers. After this they never more advanced and we embarked on board our ships without a Shot being fired. Our men very much fatigued by so Rapid and long a march. The Rebels appeared to me to be upwards of 4,000 men. Great praise is due to Sir William Erskine for his good Conduct on this Expedition. Tho' General Tryon and Brigadier General Agnew were both older, He ordered everything ... Our Loss on the whole is about 140 Killed and Wounded and 14 Officers Wounded. The loss of the Rebels cannot be Ascertain'd but must be considerable.

[April] 29<sup>th</sup>. Landed at New York.

By a Return from the Rebels we learn that their Loss in the Last Expedition to Danbury was as follows 100 killed and 200 wounded, among the former one General Worcester and two Lieutenant-Colonels.