

Henry Knox, Orders of March to Trenton, 1776. (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC02437.00495)

## Henry Knox's Orders of March to Trenton, 1776

Suides. General Hevens Brigade to form the alwanced party & to have with them a actachment of the Satillery without Cannon provided with thises and Hummer to flick up the enemies Cannon in case of necepty or to bring them of it it can be effected. This party to be provided with drag ropes for the huspon of dragging of the Cannon. General Henens is to attack and force the eneming Juands and wige fuch posts as may present them from forming in the treety and in can they are annoyed from the houses to all them The Brigades of Mercen & Lord Hearty under the Command of Major Jenerals Freene to support General Menery, this is the Jecond division or left wing of the Morning and to march by the way of the Commenter Granden Karinocker under Majer General Sullinan to march by the niver rond. This is the first division of the clony and to form the night wing. Lord Sterlings Brigade to form the reserve of the less wing and Seneme I Clairs Brigade the receive

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1 the right wing. There reserves to forms a fecund limed in Conjunction or a second hered to. euch divifier as circumstances may require - Each ting a dier to make the bestonely argumented with the ports of their respective Rements in the Brigade and the Major Generals nin inform them of the ports of their Brigades in Theorem frent of euch belumn, three perces at twheath the Jecond Kingade of each Direjin and two heres with each of the Keservy. The troops to he assembled one Miles back of M'Konkeys leng and as soon as it begins to grave dack the troops to be March'd to M' Kankers ferry and embort inbound the boats in following order underthe direction of bedenel Knop General Levens Brigade with the detachment of attettery men to emback fish General Mercer next; Low Sterlings next, gent Levent Division and file of from the Fineton How in feet direction that he can with the greatest come salety seeme the paper retween Connetor Frenter the finder wire be the best judges of this. to take two perces fastilley with him emback in order. Immediately upon their debarkation the whole to form & marken hubbry from the 12 ths

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Commanding officers of Regiments to observe that the Direpins being wal & that proper spicers be appointed to cuch - a profound plence to been joyned of no man to quit his Kanser on the pain of Death - each Brigatier to appoint Hanking parties - The recene Bingades to approxim the rear Suords of the Collemns - Theheady of the Columns to be appointed to averice wh Trento at line offock Ceap Hathington y Cays Taharan with aparty of 40 meneach to march before the Dirigins Sports themelus on the road about three miles from henton ymake profony fall joing and or coming out of Foron general Henens min appoint a Guard to form achain of centries round the Canding place at a sufficient destance from the own to permit the hoors to form This quant not to sutter any person to fand in or copies out but to thetain all persons the things to when the troops are all over

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## **Transcript**

Each Brigade to be furnish'd with two good Guides.

General Stevenss Brigade to form the advanced party & to have with them a detachment of the Artillery without Cannon provided with spikes and Hammers to spike up the enemies Cannon in case of necessity or to bring them off if it can be effected. the party to be provided with drag ropes for the purpose of dragging off the Cannon. General Stevens is to attack and force the enemies guards and seize such posts as may pressure them from forming in the streets and in case they are annoy'd from the houses to set them on fire. The Brigades of Mercer & Lord Stirling under the Command of Major General Greene to support General Stevens, this is the second division or left wing of the Army and to march by the way of the Pennington Road.

S<sup>t</sup> Clairs Glovers & Sargents Brigades [*struck*: to embark in order] under Major General Sullivan to march by the river road, this is the first division of the Army and to form the right wing. Lord Stirlings Brigade to form the reserve of the left wing and General S<sup>t</sup> Clairs Brigade the reserve [2] of the right wing. These reserves to form a second line in Conjunction or a second hand to each division as circumstances may require – Each Brigadier to make the Colonels acquainted with the posts of their respective Regiments in the Brigade and the Major Generals will inform them of the parts of their Brigades in the Line.

Four peices of artillery to march at the head of each Column, three peices at the head of the second Brigade of each Division and two peices with each of the Reserves. The troops to be assembled one Miles back of McKonkeys ferry and as soon as it begins to grow dark the troops to be March'd to McKonkeys ferry and embark onboard the boats in following order under the direction of Colonel Knox

General Stevens Brigade with the detachment of Artillery men to embark first General Mercers next; Lord Stirlings next, Gen<sup>1</sup> Fermoys next who will march in the rear of the second Division and file off from the [*inserted*: Pennington to the] Princeton Road in such direction that he can with the greatest ease & safety secure the passes between Princeton & Trenton the Guides will be the best judges of this. he is to take two peices of artillery with him

S<sup>t</sup> Clair Glover & Sargents Brigades to embark in order. Immediately upon their debarkation the whole to form & march in Subdivisions from the Right

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The [3] Commanding officers of Regiments to observe that the Divisions be equal & that proper officers be appointed to each – a profound silence to be enjoyed & no man to quit his Ranks on the pain of Death – each Brigadier to appoint flanking parties – the reserve Brigades to appoint the rear Guards of the Columns – The heads of the Columns to be appointed to arrive at Trenton at five oClock

Cap<sup>t</sup> Washington & Cap<sup>t</sup> [Flaharan] with a party of 40 men each to march before the Divisions & posts themselves on the road about three miles from Trenton & make prisoner of all going in or coming out of Town

General Stevens will appoint a Guard to form a chain of centries round the landing place at a sufficient distance from the river to permit the troops to form This Guard not to suffer any person to gone in or [struck: come] [inserted: go] out but to detain all persons who attempts either this Guard to join their Brigade when the troops are all over

[docket]

Order of march

to Trenton

Decr 25 1776.