

George Clinton, composed Major-General Heath's division. The first was posted at Fort Washington, built on an eminence overlooking the Hudson, not far south of the mouth of *Spuilten Duivel Kill*, and the other at Fort Independence and at other works near it, immediately north of the same stream. According to an official return made of the five New York regiments forming Brigadier General George Clinton's brigade at that time, there were eighteen hundred and twelve men in it fit for duty; in Colonel Isaac Nicholl's regiment, 289; in Colonel Thomas Thomas's, 354; in Colonel Jacobus Swartwout's, 364; in Colonel Levi Pawling's, 368, and in Colonel Morris Graham's, 437.¹

"Pass these men in review, and we have before us not a small proportion of those 'fathers' of the Revolution, to whose exertions and sacrifices America owes her independence. It was a crude, unmilitary host, strong only as a body of volunteers determined to resist an invasion of their soil. Here and there was an officer or soldier who had served in previous wars, but the great mass knew nothing of war. The continental or established regiments formed much less than half the army, and some of these were without experience or discipline; very few had been tested under fire. As to arms, they carried all sorts—old flint-locks, fowling-pieces, rifles, and occasionally good English muskets captured by privateers from the enemy's transports. Not all had bayonets or equipments. Uniforms were the exception; even many of the continentals were dressed in citizens' clothes. The militiamen, hurriedly leaving their farms and affairs, came down [to the metropolis] in homespun, while some of the state troops, raised earlier in the spring, appeared in marked contrast to them, both in dress and discipline. * * * * The general and regimental officers in the army were distinguished by different-colored cockades and sashes.

"For regimental colors, each battalion appears to have carried those of its own design. One of the flags captured by the Hessians, on Long Island, was reported by a Hessian officer to have been a red damask standard, bearing the word 'Liberty' in its centre. Colonel Joseph Read's Massachusetts continentals carried a flag with a light buff ground, on which was the device of a pine-tree and Indian corn, emblematical of New England fields. Two officers were represented in the uniform of the regiment, one of whom, with blood streaming from a wound in his breast, pointed to children under the pine, with the words, 'For posterity, I bleed.' * * * *

"Washington's army, at the opening of the campaign on August 27th, consisted of seventy-one regiments or parts of regiments, twenty-five of which were continental, aggregating in round numbers twenty-eight thousand five hundred officers and men. * * * * Between eight and nine thousand were on

¹ Memoirs of Major-General Heath. Written by himself. 1798, pp. 54, 25.
Campaign of 1776. Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society, vol. iii., p. 128.