

officers and men of the Third New York Regiment, at that time in the fort, to be reckoned at five hundred and fifty.¹

The force under Brigadier-General Barry St. Leger comprised a detachment of one hundred men from the Eighth British Regiment, another, of one hundred men, from the Thirty-fourth, three hundred and forty-two officers and men of the Hanau chasseurs, one hundred and thirty-three of Sir John Johnson's New York royalists, called "the Greens," to which probably a thousand Canadians and Indians should be added, the Indians being under the leadership of Joseph Brant.

The first of these seventeen hundred English regulars, Hessian mercenaries, provincial royalists, Canadian and Indian partisans, to come in view of Fort Schuyler, was a detachment of thirty men of the Eighth, or the king's, Regiment, under Lieutenant Bird, and two hundred savages under Thayendanega and another Indian chief named Bull. By the order given him, Lieutenant Bird was instructed "to seize fast hold of the lower landing-place, and thereby cut off the enemy's communication with the lower country." They were discovered on Sunday morning "in the edge of the woods below the fort, where they took post [near the road running from Albany to Oneida lake] in order to invest it upon that quarter, and to cut off communication with the country" eastward toward Schenectady.

Under a flag of truce, a peremptory demand was made that morning for the surrender of the fort. The emphatic negative which the intrepid commandant returned afforded the enemy little ground on which to base an expectation other than that a close and continuous siege might accomplish its reduction. The bearer of the flag also brought with him a copy of the pompous proclamation issued by Lieutenant-General Burgoyne on reaching Lake Champlain.

¹ The field and line officers of the regiment there at that time were, as seems to be confirmed by the records extant, the following:

Peter Gansevoort, colonel; Marinus Willett, lieutenant-colonel; George Sytez, adjutant; Thomas Williams, quartermaster; Hunlock Woodruff, surgeon; John Elliot, junior, surgeon's mate.

First company: Elias van Bunschoten, captain; Henry Diefendorf, first lieutenant; Thomas Ostrander, second; Peter Magee, ensign.

Second company: Thomas De Witt, captain; William Tapp, first lieutenant; Benjamin Bogardus, second.

Third company: Cornelius T. Jansen, captain; Nanning van der Heyden, first lieutenant; Moses Yeomans, second; Josiah Bagley, ensign.

Fourth company: Abraham Swartwout, captain; Philip Conine, first lieutenant; Gilbert R. Livingston, second; Samuel Lewis, ensign.

Fifth company: Aaron Aorson, captain; John Ball, first lieutenant; Gerrit Staats, second; Eldert Ament, ensign.

Sixth company: James Gregg, captain; Levi Stockwell, first lieutenant; Thomas Warner, second; George I. Denniston, ensign.

Seventh company: Henry Tiebout, captain; Isaac Bogert, first lieutenant; Thomas McClellan, second; Christopher Hutton, ensign.

Eighth company: Leonard Bleeker, captain; John Welch, first lieutenant; Prentice Bowen, second; William Colbrath, ensign.