

field [Connecticut] soon afterwards, and the plans of the campaign were discussed and determined.

“Among the principal of the operations proposed was an attack on the city of New York, and in accordance with these plans the allied forces of America and France moved against that city. Every necessary preparation had been made for the commencement of active operations, when, on the fourteenth of August, a letter reached General Washington, in which the Count de Grasse informed him that the entire French West-Indian fleet, with more than three thousand land forces, would shortly sail from St. Domingo for the Chesapeake, intimating, however, that he could not remain longer than the middle of October, at which time it would be necessary for him to be on his station again. As the limited period which the count could spend in the service of the allies was not sufficient to warrant the supposition that he could be useful before New York, the entire plan of the campaign was changed, and it was resolved to proceed to Virginia, with the whole of the French troops and as many of the Americans as could be spared from the defence of the posts on the Hudson; and instead of besieging Sir Henry Clinton in his headquarters in New York, a movement against Lord Cornwallis and the powerful detachment under his command was resolved on. \* \* \* \*

“In executing this plan, however, it was necessary to exercise great caution, not only to prevent Sir Henry Clifton from moving to the assistance of Lord Cornwallis, but also to prevent Admiral Graves from joining Sir Samuel Hood, and by occupying the Chesapeake, keeping open the communication by sea between Yorktown and New York.

“For this purpose, on the nineteenth of August, the New Jersey line and Colonel [Moses] Hazen's regiment were sent to New Jersey by way of Dobbs' Ferry to protect a large number of ovens, which were ordered to be erected near Springfield and Chatham, in that state; and forage and boats, with some efforts to display the same, were also collected on the west side of the Hudson, by which the enemy was led to suppose that an attack was intended from that quarter. Fictitious letters were also written and put in the way of the enemy, by which the deception was confirmed; and Sir Henry Clinton appears to have supposed that Staten Island, or a position near Sandy Hook, to cover the entrance of the French fleet into the harbor, was the real object of the movements, until the allied forces—which had crossed the Hudson, leaving General Heath, with a respectable force, on its eastern bank—had passed the Delaware and rendered the true object of the movement a matter of obvious certainty.

“The body of troops, with which General Washington moved to the south, embraced all the French auxiliaries led by Count Rochambeau, the light infantry of the Continental army led by Colonel Alexander Scammel, detachments of