

THE WHITE COCK ADE



The Official Newsletter of the Lexington Training Band

Volume 1

Issue 6

“It be recommended to the inhabitants of this Province that in order to their perfecting themselves in the Military Art, they proceed in the method ordered by his Majesty in the year 1764, it being, in the opinion of this Congress, best calculated for appearance and defence”

~ Massachusetts Provincial Congress, Saturday, October 29, 1774~

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

3/22/03 - Battle Road Militia Muster, Buckman Tavern, Lexington, MA

4/19/03 - Battle Road

5/2/03 - 5/3/03 - Lexington Tattoo, Lexington, MA

6/7/03 - 6/8/03 Strawberry Bank, Portsmouth, NH, ND SANCTIONED EVENT

6/15/03 - Bunker Hill Day Parade

6/28/03 - 6/29/03 Battle of Monmouth, NJ (225th), CL NATIONAL EVENT

7/12/03 - 7/13/03 Garrison of Fort Sewall, Marblehead, MA

7/26/03 - 7/27/03 New Ipswich Encampment, New Ipswich, NH

8/30/03 - 8/31/03 Battle of Rhode Island, Newport, RI

Message from the 1st Sergeant

Greetings!

Another season is close upon us. For the past few months, the LTB has been drilling hard in preparation for Battle Road 2003. The day promises to be busy, filled with marching, engagements, more marching and a few surprises along the way. Make sure you have a canteen and a knapsack, blanket roll or snapsack with you. Finally, dye those white smocks!! White would have been almost non-existent for farmers who continually labored on the field.

On a related note, the LTB has adopted whistle commands when on the field. As a reminder, here are the commands:

Fire by Whistle

“Prepare to Fire By Whistle!”

Four Blasts: Prime and Load

One Blast: ‘Bout

Three Blasts: Make Ready

Two Blasts: Present

One Blast: Fire!

On the March

One Blast: Stop

Two Blasts: Go

Three Blasts: Rally on me/ Break

This issue is one of our best! It’s a little long, but it contains invaluable information. Thanks to everyone for the contributions!!

Your Servant,

Alex Cain

Those Pesky Sailors!!

Here are some lively anecdotes about the siege of Boston furnished by Isaac Trask, who in 1775 was a ten-year-old helping his father as he oversaw an Essex County company. This is from

Trask's pension application many years later, in which he presents this work as official service for the army. It's quoted (probably with spellings and punctuation cleaned up) in John C. Dann, editor, *THE REVOLUTION REMEMBERED: EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980), 406-11. And we often wonder why we have problems with those sailors from Marblehead!!!

"My knowledge of the general officers of the army during this first term of service was quite limited. General Greene I knew well, mounted on a white horse, made frequent visits of inspection to our regiment, from which I infer I was attached to the brigade he commanded. Major General Lee I also knew, from the circumstance of his angry threats to cane an officer of considerable grade in the army for unsoldierly conduct and the high excitement the fact created among the officers of the army. . . .

"The day immediately following the expiration of my first term of service, I recommenced my duty in the service of the United States for another term the first day of January, 1776, having previously engaged so to do some day in the month of December 1775, great exertions having been made by all the patriotic officers who had determined to continue in the service of the country to induce the soldiers to reenlist for another term during the whole of said month, this period being looked for with intense anxiety and frightful apprehensions, lest the enemy should take advantage that the time of disbanding one army and forming another gave them and make a sortie from Boston and Bunker Hill and attack the then half-finished works defended by a force so greatly diminished, and seemed to be the only theme of discussion among the officers. . . .

"Sometime before the winter months of 1776 ended, the regiment was ordered to remove to Cambridge, the officers of which were quartered in the second story of the [Harvard] college buildings. It was at this encampment I saw for the first time the commander-in-chief,

General Washington. A description of the peculiar circumstances under which it took place may not be thought foreign to the object of the present narrative but tend to illustrate not only the intrepidity and physical as well as mental power of the commandant-in-chief, but measurably show the low state of discipline then in the army, and the great difficulty of raising it to a proper standard.

"A day or two preceding the incident I am about to relate, a rifle corps had come into camp from Virginia, made up of recruits from the backwoods and mountains of that state, in a uniform dress totally different from that of the regiments raised on the seaboard and interior of New England. Their white linen frocks, ruffled and fringed, excited the curiosity of the whole army, particularly to the Marblehead regiment, who were always full of fun and mischief. [They] looked with scorn on such an rustic uniform when compared to their own round jackets and fishers' trousers, [and they] directly confronted from fifty to an hundred of the riflemen who were viewing the college buildings. Their first manifestations were ridicule and derision, which the riflemen bore with more patience than their wont, but resort being made to snow, which then covered the ground, these soft missives were interchanged but a few minutes before both parties closed, and a fierce struggle commenced with biting and gouging on the one part, and knockdown on the other part with as much apparent fury as the most deadly enmity could create. Reinforced by their friends, in less than five minutes more than a thousand combatants were on the field, struggling for the mastery.

"At this juncture General Washington made his appearance, whether by accident or design I never knew. I only saw him and his colored servant, both mounted. With the spring of a deer, he leaped from his saddle, threw the reins of his bridle into the hands of his servant, and rushed into the thickest of the melee, with an iron grip seized two tall, brawny, athletic, savage-looking riflemen by the throat, keeping them at arm's length, alternately shaking and talking to them. In this position the eye of the belligerents caught sight of the general. Its effect on them was instantaneous flight at the top of their speed in all directions from the scene of the conflict. Less than fifteen minutes time had elapsed from the commencement of the row before the general and his two criminals were the only occupants of the field of action. Here bloodshed, imprisonment, trials by court-martial were

happily prevented, and hostile feelings between the different corps of the army extinguished by the physical and mental energies timely exerted by one individual. . . .

"While in Boston, the spirit of insubordination then in the army broke out in a mutiny. It was, however, without much difficulty promptly quelled and the ringleaders seized, tried, convicted, and condemned by a court-martial, two of them to be shot, both of whom belonged to the Marblehead regiment.

"The criminals were heavily ironed and strongly guarded and were by the sentence to be so kept until the day of execution. The door of the prison, by order, was left open during the daytime, with free permission to receive the visit of all, whether drawn by friendship or curiosity. Of the latter, nearly the whole army availed themselves of the liberty given. When I visited them, I learned they were both natives of Marblehead and both married men, and their wives, respectable-looking women, had taken up their temporary abode in the same prison with their husbands, the ghastly countenances of the latter on which the deepest contrition portrayed, the tears of penitence coming down their rough cheeks, made impressions on a young mind not easily effaced. The stern purposes of Washington were inflexible to the prayers and supplications of the friends of the criminals. He continued to receive in silence all solicitations in their favor until those purposes were attained. He then freely granted the unexpected pardon. . . .

"It was here I witnessed for the first time public punishment inflicted in the regiment. Five or six soldiers were condemned to be flogged for the crime, I believe, of being concerned in the mutiny at Boston. This incident was impressed on my memory with increased force from the interest made to exonerate Major Putnam's son from his share of the duty of applying the cat to the naked backs of the criminals that fell to him as a drummer in the regiment. A year or two older than myself, he was, however, obliged to submit and take his share of the unpleasant duty with his colleagues."

Beaumarchais
An Essay By
Bill Poole

PART ONE

We recently celebrated the 225th anniversary of the victory at Saratoga that led to the signing of

the French alliance and eventually the winning of American independence. You are undoubtedly familiar with the tortuous process whereby the ministers and king of France were finally convinced to sign the alliance. However, I would like to focus not on that process, but rather on the individual who almost single-handedly supplied the munitions of war that enabled us to win the battle that resulted in the alliance with France—Pierre-Augustine Caron de Beaumarchais.

Beaumarchais was born simply Pierre Caron in 1732 in the shop of his father on the Rue St. Denis in Paris, where he learned his father's trade of watch making. At age 20, he devised improvements to increase the accuracy of watches, gaining enough notoriety that he was able to sell some of his watches to King Louis XV, and was soon styling himself "Watchmaker to the King." Young Caron cut quite a figure with the ladies, eventually marrying a rich widow, and taking the name Beaumarchais from a piece of property she owned. When his wife then died within a year of marriage, he was left with sufficient funds to purchase, for eighty-five thousand francs, the office of "Secretary to the King." Absolutely no duties were associated with the office, but it did confer on him the rank of nobility. When later he was taunted with being a commoner, Beaumarchais would reply that unlike many he could prove his nobility, since he held the paper that conferred it, and a receipt for the money he had paid for it.

The gifted Beaumarchais then made use of others of his many talents to further advance his career. He charmed the daughters of Louis XV, the aunts of the future Louis XVI, by playing the harp for them and giving them lessons on that instrument. In 1767 he wrote and produced the play *Eugénie*, and the following year married a rich young widow, Madam Leveque. At the same time he was initiated into the mysteries of finance and speculation by the famous contractor, Paris Du Verney, and quickly wound up with a large part of the forest of Chinon.

However, in 1770 his world went to pieces. His young wife died, and he was accused of poisoning her, since suspiciously both of his wives had died shortly after marriage. Then, his mentor Du Verney died and the heirs sued Beaumarchais. As a result, in 1773 Beaumarchais was imprisoned, but from his cell penned a brilliant defence attacking the widely

unpopular legal system of France. His brilliance of style and savage, bitter humor made him the darling of all France, and his fame soon spread throughout Europe. He was released from prison in 1774, and the following year wrote his most famous play, *The Marriage of Figaro*.

In that same year 1775, Beaumarchais was dispatched to London on a delicate mission to retrieve some sensitive papers that could prove embarrassing to Louis XVI, and strain relations between France and England. Beaumarchais had already proven his fitness for such a task, having been sent to London earlier by the previous king Louis XV to purchase all the copies of a book purporting to detail the early career of the King's mistress, Madame Du Barry. He had subsequently been employed, this time by Louis XVI, to help suppress a libel on Marie Antoinette. Thus, it was felt he could be trusted to carry out yet one more delicate mission.

This mission concerned a document detailing a secret plan to invade England that Louis XV had endorsed in his own hand scarcely before the ink had dried on the 1763 Treaty of Paris ending the Seven Year's War. In the hands of British politicians already criticizing the terms of peace as too liberal to France, the document could prove not just embarrassing but lead England to renew the war. Louis had further compounded his indiscretion by entrusting the paper to one of his agents in England, the half-mad and completely untrustworthy Chevalier d'Eon. Eon was a cross-dresser whose behavior excited great interest over the question of whether he was a man or a woman, despite the fact that he had led the life of a man and an officer of dragoons for over fifty years. Enormous sums were wagered in the betting salons of Europe on the question of his sex. Louis XV had bought off d'Eon by paying him an annual stipend of 12,000 livres, and the chevalier kept quiet during the remainder of the King's life, but he also held onto the document.

Although neither the new king, Louis V^{XI}, nor his ministers were responsible for the plan, they realized that publication could still lead to serious complications with England. Thus, they resolved to purchase the document. So, Beaumarchais was dispatched to London to handle the transaction. Before turning over the document, d'Eon demanded a continuation of his annual 12,000 livres stipend as well as payment of his current debts, and Beaumarchais

eventually agreed to these demands. However, a rather curious condition was added to the final contract with d'Eon. Beaumarchais, exhibiting less acuteness than he usually displayed, was convinced that d'Eon truly was a woman. Consequently, as a precondition to the chevalier's return to France a provision was included stipulating that d'Eon would assume the dress of a woman, and continue to wear this for the remainder of his life. The chevalier agreed, but was wise enough to demand an extra two thousand crowns to buy the necessary woman's wardrobe. This request was also granted, and for the next twenty years d'Eon dressed as a woman. Only a postmortem would reveal that he was indeed a man.

The reason for digressing concerning this mission, in addition to the entertainment value of the story, was that while in London Beaumarchais became aware of the crisis in British-American relations. Unfortunately, he also met the American Arthur Lee who was there completing his study for a law degree. Lee was a member of the famous clan, the Lees of Virginia, but had inherited few of that families' admirable characteristics. He has been described by his contemporaries and by historians as cantankerous; bad-tempered; irritating to the extreme; having an extraordinary capacity to hate and an exhaustless capacity for lying; a poisonous, egocentric, arrogant intriguer; credited with managing to do an amount of evil all out of proportion to his mediocre abilities. On his hate list were Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Silas Deane, the first American representative to France, and unfortunately, later, Beaumarchais.

During their conversations, Beaumarchais and Lee discussed the possibility of France giving aid to the rebellious colonies. Neither man was very cautious in his statements, and this lack of circumspection led to each possibly deceiving the other. Beaumarchais believed all of Lee's rosy statements concerning the strength of the rebels, and Lee on the other hand was convinced that France stood ready to assist the cause of the colonies to the utmost of her power. Lee returned to America to describe what he thought was France's position, and Beaumarchais to France to relate the certainty of American success. However, whereas Lee always talked and never performed, Beaumarchais was a doer. He bombarded the French Foreign Minister, Charles Grevier, Comte de Vergennes with

letter after letter urging that France support the rebellious colonies. He even addressed correspondence to the King. Vergennes truly wanted to offer support, but feared British retaliation. The king was much less enthusiastic. Finally, however, Beaumarchais prevailed and was given an advance of one million livres to purchase supplies, along with permission to requisition war material from French arsenals, provided that the arms could not be traced back to the French government.

In July 1776 Silas Deane, the first American representative dispatched to France, had arrived in Paris with the mission of seeking clothes, arms, provisions, money, and any other assistance that France might be willing to give. He was also to enlist four French engineers to help design fortifications for Washington's army. The inexperienced Deane would unfortunately send over a whole host of inexperienced, self-seeking and mostly incompetent adventurers, but not the four desired engineers. With regard to supplies and munitions, Vergennes suggested that Deane contact Beaumarchais, and eventually the two signed a contract by which Beaumarchais would acquire and ship military supplies to Washington's army, and in return Congress would ship back to France tobacco and other materials as payment. It's clear that Beaumarchais was initially motivated by the possibility of realizing a profit in the venture. He was always part idealist and part speculator. Perhaps the judgement rendered by one of Beaumarchais' ancestors is as valid as any. "At the beginning he probably thought he would make a good thing of the American connection. He didn't. But unquestionably idealism came into it later."¹

Upon signing the contract with Silas Deane, Beaumarchais redoubled his efforts in rounding up supplies as well as the ships to carry them to America. He set up a bogus company, Roderigue Hortalez and Company to handle all transactions. The name of the company may have been a playful allusion to the Spanish theme of the *Barber of Seville*. Vergennes, however, remained nervous, and continually added conditions to the procurement of arms, such as filing off the royal crests from the breeches of cannon so they could not be traced to the French government. When the English ambassador lodged a protest concerning the activities of Hortalez and Company, Vergennes actually prohibited the sailing of any supply

ships. Beaumarchais was forced to continually race back and forth between Le Havre and Paris arranging for purchase and loading of supplies and at the same time attempting to allay the fears of the Foreign Minister.

Finally in December 1776 the first ship, the *Amphitrite*, got under way. But, Beaumarchais' joy was short-lived. He had placed in command of the shipment Phillipe-C-J-B Tronson du Coudray, the absolute worst of Silas Deane's enlistees, who was fortunately later to drown while crossing the Schuylkill River—much to the relief of many American — and French officers. The accommodations on board the *Amphitrite* proved not to du Coudray's taste, and he accordingly ordered her to return, and in January the boat sailed back into port. Both Deane and Beaumarchais were in despair. Beaumarchais castigated du Coudray, and placed command of the *Amphitrite* in another's hands. Two other boats were now ready to sail, and Beaumarchais gave Vergennes no peace until the sailing prohibitions were removed. With the connivance of the French Government the ships sailed and arrived safely in Portsmouth, NH where they landed the badly needed supplies that helped to defeat Burgoyne at Saratoga.

By September of 1777, Beaumarchais had shipped munitions of war to the value of five million livres. In today's money, over two and a half billion dollars. He had requisitioned from the French arsenals, 200 cannon, 25,000 muskets, 200,000 pounds of powder, 20 to 30 brass mortars, and clothing and tents for 25,000 men, and even purchased the ships that transported the supplies. He had also aided the

American cause immeasurably by earlier loaning Baron Von Steuben and his nephews the funds to make the trip to America. He also provided Von Steuben with a glowing letter of recommendation.

Announcements

Anyone interested in LTB shirts or hats, please contact Larry Conley so he may coordinate accordingly. The prices are as followed:

LTB Hat...\$10.00 ea
LTB Tee...\$10.00 ea
Sweat..... \$20.00
(new) Long Sleeve Tee..\$16.00 ea

Reports indicate our good friend Saul Adamsky is doing well after his surgery. Please keep Saul in your thoughts as he recovers. Saul, don't worry, the goat will not be mistreated (much) while you're recuperating.

Finally, with the passing of Joan French, please keep her family in your thoughts and prayer. Joan was a very big supporter of our organization. Not only would she cheer us on as we drilled at Buckman, but also she always greeted the membership with open arms on Patriot's Day. Joan will be sadly missed by all.

We are always looking for article submissions, event reviews and comments. Please feel free to send your articles to alex.cain@state.ma.us and mass1775@aol.com.

The Battle of Monmouth

An Essay By
Bill Poole

As we approach the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth, and with members of the Training Band preparing to take part in the reenactment of that event, it seems appropriate to recall and honor Lexington's connection to that battle. Most, if not all, of the men from Lexington who took part in the Battle of Monmouth belonged to Captain Edmund Munro's company of Colonel Timothy Bigelow's 15th Massachusetts Infantry regiment. The publication, *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, list the names of 45 men who served in Captain Munro's company. They came from the towns of Lexington (17), Acton (2), Bedford (1), Boston (2), Concord (7), Lancaster (3), Lincoln (3), Harvard (1), Shirley (3), Westford (1), Worcester (1), and Woburn (4). Six of the 45 men were Black, a fairly high representation of such soldiers, about 13%, particularly considering that Blacks represented 1% or less of the population of Massachusetts.

Edmund Munro, son of William Munro and Sarah Mason, was one of Lexington's more experienced military men. He served during the Seven Years War with Robert Rodgers famous corps of rangers in which unit he held the rank of Ensign. By 1761 he was functioning as acting adjutant in Colonel Jonathan Hoar's regiment at Crown Point, and in 1762 was promoted to lieutenant. He served at Forts Ticonderoga and Crown Point and their vicinity until the peace of 1763. Following the conclusion of the war, Munro returned to Lexington where on August 31, 1768 he married Rebecca Harrington, Daughter of Jonathan and Abigail Harrington. By April 1775 Rebecca had born Edmund three children and was carrying their fourth. Munro was a member of the Lexington militia, and although he may not have been on the Common on April 19, he did take part in the battle during that day. Later he captained a detachment of Lexington militia on temporary service at Cambridge, Massachusetts from May 16-20, 1775, and is listed as a lieutenant serving as a private in a detachment of Lexington Militia under Captain John Parker again at Cambridge June 17-18, 1775.

On July 10 [12], 1776 Munro was commissioned a lieutenant in Captain Charles Mile's company of Colonel Jonathan Reed's regiment and later that month appointed regimental quartermaster. In August of 1776 the regiment was ordered to the Northern Department, and on the fifth of the month Munro wrote to his wife from Charlestown, NH reporting that the regiment was to march to Ticonderoga that day. The unit remained at Ticonderoga until November, and was discharged November 30, 1776. On January 1, 1777 Edmund Munro accepted a captaincy in Colonel Timothy Bigelow's 15th Massachusetts Infantry of the Continental Line. The regiment was ordered north by General Washington to reinforce the Northern Army arriving in the vicinity of Albany in May 1777. The 15th Mass was part of Brigadier General John Glover's brigade. General Glover himself, returned from leave and arrived at Saratoga in June of 1777 to resume command of his brigade as part of General Benjamin Lincoln's Division.

Following the Battle of Saratoga, in late October, General Gates dispatched Brigadier General John Patterson's and Glover's brigades along with Colonel Daniel Morgan's Virginia Rifle Corps to reinforce General Washington forces in the Jerseys. During the month of November 1775 the 15th Mass spent most of its time breaking down and setting up camp, as a frustrated General Washington, anguished over the loss of Philadelphia and the disappointing Battle of Germantown, repeatedly shifted position to what seemed no apparent purpose. Glover's brigade had missed that engagement at Germantown, and also took no part in the brief action at Whitemarsh, PA on December 7.

General Washington led his army into winter quarters at Valley Forge on December 18. There, Glover's brigade of the 1st, 4th, 13th and 15th Mass Infantry regiments was assigned to Major General Baron Johan de Kalb's division. That winter was a dreadful one for Captain Munro's company. The company had mustered 45 men when it reached Washington's Army in late October. By January 10, 1778 the company had lost twelve out of forty-five — seven had died, three deserted, one man had transferred and another had been discharged. Only one of these twelve was a Lexington man; Jonathan Munro a private was listed as deceased on the February 2, 1778 roster. However, not all the other Lexington men escaped unscathed. In a May 17, 1778 letter to his wife, Captain Munro reported that "Levi Mead & Pomp [Pompey Blackman, a Black soldier] are not well." There may have been others who became ill, but all eventually recovered.

In the same letter that had detailed the illness of Levi Mead and Pompey Blackman, Captain Munro mentioned that he was "going on command tomorrow morning down to the Enemy's lines, there are two thousand going on the command. I am of the mind that we shall have a dispute with them before we return." This probably refers to a May 18th order of Washington's placing a force of 2,200 men under the command of General the Marquis de Lafayette. Lafayette's was surprised by a sudden aggressive move of General Howe, and nearly lost his entire command. However, the delay of a British flanking movement allowed the Americans to escape. This debacle at a place called Barren Hill near the fords of the Schuylkill River leading to Valley Forge nearly cost Washington a third of his army and Lafayette his reputation. Neither Glover's brigade nor the 15th Mass is listed as part of Lafayette's command, so Captain Munro may not actually have taken part in the expedition. If so, he perhaps did so in a detached capacity.

On June 12, Captain Munroe addressed another letter to his wife, by now the mother of five children, another son having being born in October of 1775 and a daughter in December 1777.

My Dear,

I send you these lines with the Most affectionate love and respects to you and the children, wishing they may find you in perfect health and prosperity. – I am well & in High spirits through divine goodness. – Lexington men are all well; news we havenone except the commissioners are arrived from Great Britain at Philadelphia in order to settle the dispute between us & them. They have sent a flag of truce; what they had to offer, is forwarded to Congress. – The new establishment of the

army is arrived in camp; there is to be a Large Reducement of officers; but, as it has not taken place as yet, it is not know who are to be reduced. The new arrangement is on a Better footing than it was before. As it is to take place soon I will let you know my destiny by Mr. Williams who is in a fair way to Recover of the Smallpox; by him I am in hopes to send you some money. I Received your letters and a pair gloves. I hope to Reward you for the kindness to your Satisfaction. Be kind enough to let me know Whether you have Drawn a Blank or a Prize in States Lottery. My due respect to all friends.

I am my dear your most Effectionate

Husband

Edm^d Munro

Only six days after Captain Munro penned this letter to his wife, General Washington led his army out of Valley Forge. The new British commander in North America, General Sir Henry Clinton, having found little advantage in continuing to hold Philadelphia decided to abandon the city and shift his base of operation back to New York. As Clinton moved his troops across New Jersey, Washington hoped to harry the British movement and perhaps even cut off and defeat a portion of the British force. The American army that marched out of Valley Forge on June 18, 1778 was greatly different than the one that had crept into winter quarters in December 1777. Thanks to the efforts of Quartermaster General Nathaniel Greene, Commissary General Jeremiah Wadsworth, and the training of Baron Von Steuben, the men were healthier, better equipped and clothed, and able to perform military maneuvers with skill and discipline. However, the Battle of Monmouth that took place a mere ten days later would offer a severe test of that American training, skill and discipline.

The contesting forces came in contact between the two tiny New Jersey hamlets of Freehold Meeting House and Monmouth Courthouse; the later giving the name to the ensuing battle. Following a council with his generals, who advised caution, Washington decided not to order a general attack, but to engage the British with detachments of his army. Accordingly, on June 27th Major General Charles Lee was given command of the advanced force and ordered to attack the British the next morning. When General Lee broke camp at 7:00 a. m. on the morning of June 28th the day was already sweltering, and by noon the temperature stood at 96 degrees. Lee's pursuit was slow, because he received conflicting reports as to whether the British were actually on the move, or had decided to delay their departure. He hesitated to move too quickly for fear that the British were laying a trap, and would turn on him with their entire army. When his advance guard finally contacted the enemy, Lee's forces were disorganized and disposed helter-skelter in no set order of battle. The resulting action was a series of skirmishes between brigades and regiments with orders being given and just as quickly countermanded. Lee had no overall grasp of the situation, and no obvious plan of attack. The result was chaos, leaving the confused commanders and troops ripe for rumors of defeat, and ready to misinterpret commands to change position as being orders to retreat.

And that is just what happened. Lee's entire force of 5,000 soon abandoned the field, some units in order and others in complete disorder, with the general riding along with them. When Washington arrived on the scene with his main army, in reality only slightly larger than Lee's advance force, he could not believe what was happening. There are several versions of what was said when Washington finally met General Lee, many of which cannot be printed. However, the retreat was stopped, principally due to Washington's presence and the force of his personality. The reorganized American army fought off several determined British Assaults, standing toe-to-toe, and frequently bayonet to bayonet with the best and most experienced of the British regiments. In addition, both forces were forced to endure severe and prolonged cannonading.

Suddenly tragedy struck Edmund Munro's small company. A cannon ball struck Captain Monroe, decapitating him. The same ball then smashed into the body of his kinsman George Munroe¹ disemboweling him, and crushing the leg of another man from Lexington, Private Joseph Cox maiming him for life. Of the eleven Massachusetts regiments engaged in the battle, the 15th Mass sustained nearly 32% of the total casualties, three killed, 1 wounded, two dead of fatigue and 1 missing; and the Lexington contingent had suffered nearly half of those. I have not been able to determine if Edmund and George Munro were buried near the battlefield, or if their graves were ever marked. However, it would seem fitting if the Lexington Training Band were to lay a wreath commemorating the sacrifice of Lexington at Monmouth, if not at the actual graves, then perhaps at the main battle monument.

Total Casualties of 11 Mass. Regiments. Casualties	15th Mass. Regt. % Total Massachusetts
4 k	3 k
12 died of fatigue	2 died of fatigue
5 w	1 w
<u>1 m</u>	<u>1 m</u>
22 total or 1.5 % of the 1,494 men engaged casualties	7 total or 31.8% of 22 total Massachusetts

Captain Munro's Company
 2 k + 1w of 33 men on roster or 9.1%
 3 of 7 total 15th Mass. casualties or 42.9%
 3 of 22 total Mass. casualties or 13.6%

Total American Force
 69 killed
 161 wounded
130 missing
 360k/w/m of total 13,424 or 2.7%

Captain Edmund Munro's Company, Colonel Timothy Bigelow's 15th Massachusetts Infantry

TOWN	NAME	RANK	DATES OF SERVICE	NOTES
Concord	Richard Anthony	Private	Mar. 20, 1777 - Feb. 10, 1778	reported deceased
Concord	Thomas Brooks Ball	Private	May 4, 1777 - Feb. 13, 1778	reported discharged
Woburn	Isaac Barbadoes	Private	Apr. 10, 1777 - Dec. 1, 1777	Black soldier, reported deceased
Concord	James Barrett	Private	May 4, 1777 - May 4, 1780	
Lexington	Pompey Blackman	Private	Aug. 9, 1775 - Nov. 1, 1780	Black soldier
Lancaster	William Boardman	Private	Feb. 12, 1777 - Dec. 31, 1780	
Lincoln	Peter Bowes	Private	Mar. 20, 1777 - Mar. 20, 1780	Black Soldier
Lexington	Joseph Cox	Private	Mar. 1, 1776 - Apr. 16, 1779	Transferred to Invalid Corps Apr. 16, 1779
Lexington	Samuel Craft(s)	Private	May 15, 1777 - Dec. 31, 1779	Black soldier; Also Oct. 1780 for six months
Concord	Amos Darby	Corporal	May 4, 1777 - May 4, 1780	
Shirley	Job Dodge	Private	May 15, 1777 - May 15 1780	
Lancaster	Timothy Dwier	Private	? - Feb 2, 1778	Trans. to Capt. Whale's Co. Col.Tupper's Regt.
Lexington	Nehemiah Easterbrook	Drummer	Mar. 10, 1777 - Jun. 30, 1779	
Lexington	<i>Matthew Farrington</i>	Private	? - Feb 2, 1778	Disposition on June 28, 1778 unknown
Acton	David Fish	Private	Sep. 5, 1777 - May 15, 1780	
Lexington	David Fiske	Fifer	Mar. 16, 1777 - Dec. 4, 1781	
Lincoln	Luke Fletcher	Private	Mar. 20, 1777 - March 20, 1780	reported with surgeon Mar. - Apr. 1779
Lexington	James Fowle	Corporal	May 1, 1777 - May 28, 1780	
Lancaster	Thomas Grant	Private	Jun. 22, 1777 - May 28, 1779	3 year term?
Lexington	Thomas Hadley	Corporal	May 4, 1775 - Mar. 1782	later sergeant
Boston	Thomas Hale	Private	? - Feb. 2, 1778	reported deserted
Shirley	John Haskel	Drummer	Apr. 10, 1777 - Nov. 16, 1777	reported died, but listed on Feb. 2, 1778 report
Concord	Edward Hayward	Sergeant	May 4, 1777 - May 4, 1780	
Acton	Titus Hayward	Private	Mar. 14, 1777 - Dec. 14, 1777	reported deceased, but on Feb. 2, 1778 report
Boston	William Kelly	Private	Apr. 13, 1777 - ?	reported deserted on Feb. 2, 1778 report
Woburn	Ebenezer Lock	Corporal	Aug. 21, 1775 - Dec. 31, 1779	wounded ~ Feb. 10, 1780 near White Plains
Lexington	Levi Mead	Private	Dec. 1776 - March 10, 1780	

Lexington	Edmund Munro	Captain	May 1775 - Jun. 28, 1778	[killed at Battle of Monmouth]
Lexington	George Munro	Private	Mar. 20, 1777 - Jun. 28, 1778	reported deceased [killed Battle of Monmouth]
Lexington	Jonathan Munro	Private	? 1776 – Feb. 2, 1778	reported deceased
Lexington	Thaddeus Munro	Private	Mar. 10, 1777 - Mar. 20, 1780	
Shirley	Peter Oliver	Private	Mar. 20, 1777 - Dec. 6, 1780	Black soldier
Harvard	David Parker	Private	Aug. 19, 1777 - Nov. 3, 1780	
Woburn	Jonathan Porter	Sergeant	Mar. 10, 1777 - Dec. 21, 1780	[rose to rank of Lieutenant]
Lexington	Levi Read	Corporal	Dec. 1776 - Mar. 10, 1780	
Lexington	Amos Russell	Private	Jun. 6, 1775 - Mar. 20, 1780	
Lexington	Daniel Simonds	Sergeant	Mar. 10, 1777 - May 1, 1881 & beyond	
Westford	Job Spaulding	Private	Jun. 1, 1777 - Dec. 31, 1779	
Worcester	John Stowers	Sgt. Maj.	Sep. 19, 1777 - Jun. 15, 1781 & beyond	[later a Lieutenant]
Woburn	Jeremiah Taylor	Private	Jul. 10, 1777 - Apr. 1, 1780	
Lexington	Jupiter Tree	Private	Mar. 30, 1777 - Mar. 10, 1780	Black soldier
Concord	Silas Walker	1 st Lieut.	Jun. 5, 1775 - Oct. 30, 1780	
Lincoln	Richard Wesson	Private	Apr. 25, 1777 - Aug. 26, 1777	reported deceased Feb. 2, 1778
Bedford	George Wheeler	Private	? - Feb. 2, 1778	reported a stroller; reported deserted
Concord	William Wheeler	Private	May 15, 1777 - May 15 1780	
Total 45	33 present for Monmouth			

¹George Munro died at age 45 leaving his wife the former Anna Bemis and five children, ages 2 yr. 9 mo. to 19.

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