

conclusion of the officers; he said he could have been glad we had been capable to have proceeded; but consented to their coming aboard, and said the boats should be sent ashore before day. That night we kept a very strong and strict watch. I acquainted the souldiers of their coming aboard; after midnight several of the commanders desired we might remove our army nearer to the place where we were to goe off, accordingly we silently marched off the ground, carried back our guns; when I had taken care that we had left none behind, I went to the place where they were ordered to march, found our souldiers too many of them upon the beach ready to goe off if there had been an opportunity; I caused them to be drawn up upon the upland adjoining, and put them in a posture for service if they had been attacked by the enemy, for we were within sight and hearing of the town. Before day the boats began to row ashore, but soe many of our men drew off without orders, that they might be ready to get in with the first, I foreseeing the confusion that was like to be, and perceiving there would not be time before it was light to get all off, I sent the boats all away and would not let any goe off at that time.

The 11th day, being soe near as to hear them calling one to another at the town, their drumming and ringing before day; and other noises in the woods, that we had reason to thinke they intended that day to come out against us with their whole strength; in the morning they fired several great guns at us but did us no harm. Designing to goe off that night, and there being like to be a good opportunity, I called several of the officers and acquainted them that I was designed to send three parties of souldiers to beat up the swamps that were round us, and beat off these spies that we had reason to judge lay near us, accordingly ordered three 16 files to be detached out of the several companies, and sent them out commanded by Capt. Barnett, and Capt. Minot, and that party that was sent out upon our right wing were soon engaged; sent Capt. March forthwith, who had a good company, and they then soon made the enemy give back, but they continued firing briskly at each other; I sent out several companys to relieve them, in the mean time not knowing but this party might have been sent to occasion the drawing off a great part of our forces, and they might have a greater strength near us, wherefore I sent out to make discovery, and stood ready with the rest of the army to fight them if they had come up with us. The souldiers were ordered to keep firing at the enemy, in and about the swamps

near us and where they saw the enemy until it was dark, which accordingly they did.

It then growing near night, I ordered the sick men to be carried aboard, which might be done by day light; because two or three boats might goe off well enough unsuspected. That day, Alexander Smart came ashore with a commission to be master gunner, and had 52 seamen under his command for to attend the guns. A little before night, I called him, and acquainted him that the army was to goe off that night, and gave him a charge about the guns, in particular ordered that three guns should goe off before any men went, or with the first, the other should be let alone to the last, and kept for to defend the souldiers if there had been occasion, and to be put aboard the last boats, which might be soon done; he made answer, that though he was the last man aboard, he would see all the guns off; I parted with him then, and never see him afterwards that I knew of. I then acquainted Major Savage and other officers, that we would draw off half each regiment at a time, and he should draw off half his regiment first, and ordered that those that went in the first boats should be helpfull to draw down those three guns that were to go first aboard, which they did, and concluded they were gone aboard. It growing very dark, notwithstanding I had ordered the officers to keep the souldiers to their arms, many precipitately and disorderly drew down to the beach, four times more than had leave; and a very great noise was made, which I was much troubled at, and was willing to go down to see if I could still them; I called to Major Ward, ordered him he should do what he could to keep the souldiers to their arms, and not to move without order, which he soon found too hard for him to doe; I ordered some souldiers to keep the rest from crowding down until those were gone off that were upon the flats; I called to them to be silent, but either of these were little regarded, for the crowd and the noise both increased; the seamen calling out for such souldiers as belonged to their vessels, and the souldiers for such boats as came from the vessels they belonged to, hundreds in the water up to the knees and higher, pressing into boats, the seamen and they contending, by reason whereof I see boats were like to be five times longer a loading than they needed; I saw a necessity of my going off to the boats, went aboard a small boat belonging to Mr. Winsor, commanded silence, ordered the boats to take the men in, as they came, and to carry them to the first vessels they came at, which was not minded by many, but as I was forced to goe from