

Lieut. Geo. Irwine, of the 47th, reports thus to Lieut. Francis Clark, aid-de-camp to Gen. Burgoyne:

"Fort George 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1777.

"Sir

"I think it necessary to acquaint you for the information of General Burgoyne, that the enemy, to the amount of two or three hundred men came from Skenesborough to the carrying place near Tyconderoga and there took seventeen or eighteen Batteaus with Gunboats—Their design was first to attack the fort but considering they could not well accomplish it without cannon they desisted from that scheme, they were then resolved to attack Diamond Island (which Island Capt. Aubrey commands) and if they succeeded, to take this place, they began to attack the Island with cannon about 9 o'clock yesterday morning, I have the satisfaction to inform you that after a cannonading for near an hour and a half on both sides the enemy took to their retreat. Then was Gun boats sent in pursuit of them which occasioned the enemy to burn their Gun boats and Batteaus and made their escape towards Skenesborough in great confusion—we took one Gun boat from them with a twelve pounder in her and a good quantity of ammunition—we have heard there was a few kill'd and many wounded of them. There was not a man killed or hurt during the whole action of his Majesty's Troops. I have the honor to be Sir your most obedient and most humble Ser<sup>t</sup>

"Geo<sup>e</sup> Irwine Com at Fort George

"L<sup>t</sup> 47<sup>th</sup>"<sup>1</sup>

We next give the report of Col. Brown, who writes as follows, and not without chagrin:

"Skenesboro Friday 11 o'clock, a m. Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 1777

"Dear Sir

"I this minute arrived at this place by the way of Fort Ann, was induced to take this rout on ac<sup>t</sup> of my Ignorance of the situation of every part of the continental Army—

"On the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst at 4 o'clk P.M. I set sail from the north end Lake George with 20 sail of Boats three of which were armed, Viz one small sloop mounting 3 guns. and 2 British Gun Boats having on Board the whole about 420 Men officers included with a Determined resolution to attack Diamond Island which lies within 5 miles Fort George at the break of Day the next Morning, but a very heavy storm coming on prevented—I arrived Sabbath Day point abt midnight where I tarried all night,

<sup>1</sup> Gates Papers, p. 218.