TRANSCRIPTION

William Woodford Letter about the Battle of Great Bridge, December 9, 1775

Sir.

Great Bridge 9th Decr. 1775

The Enemy were reinforced about three Oclock this Morning with (as they tell me) every Soldier of the 14th Regt. at Norfolk, amounting to 200 commanded by Capt. Leslie, & this Morning after Revelle Beating crossed the Bridge by laying down some plank, & made an attempt to Force our breast worke, the prisoners say the whole number amounted to 500, with Volunteers & Blacks, with two peices of Cannon but none marched up but his Majestys Soldiers, who behaved like English men—we have found of their Dead Capt. Fordice & 12 privates, & have Leiut. Bettet wounded in the Leg & 17 privates prisoners all Wounded, they carried their cannon back under cover of the guns of the Fort, & a number of their Dead, I should suppose (to speak within Cumpas) their Loss must be upwards of 50, some powder & carterages were taken. I sent an Officer to inform them If they would not fire upon our people, they should Collect the Dead & wounded, this they agreed to, & there has been no Fireing since, we are now under Arms expecting another Attack, please forward Doctr. Browns chest of Medecines & Baggage down, the Convention will be so good to excuse the incorrectness of this Letter wrote in the greatest Hurry—I am, with great Respec[t]

Sir

Your Most Obedt. Servt

WM WOODFORD.

NB. but one Man of ours Wounded in the Hand—the prisoners inform Ld Dunmore has got a Reinforcement of Highlanders—they I expect will be up Next—the 2 Mates of the 1st Regt I shall keep till further orders—hurry down, a Reinforcement & more Amunition or this Lower part of the Country will be theirs.

Citation: William Woodford to the President of the Virginia Revolutionary Convention, December 9, 1775, Revolutionary Government, Papers of the Fourth Convention, Record Group 2, Accession 30003, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.