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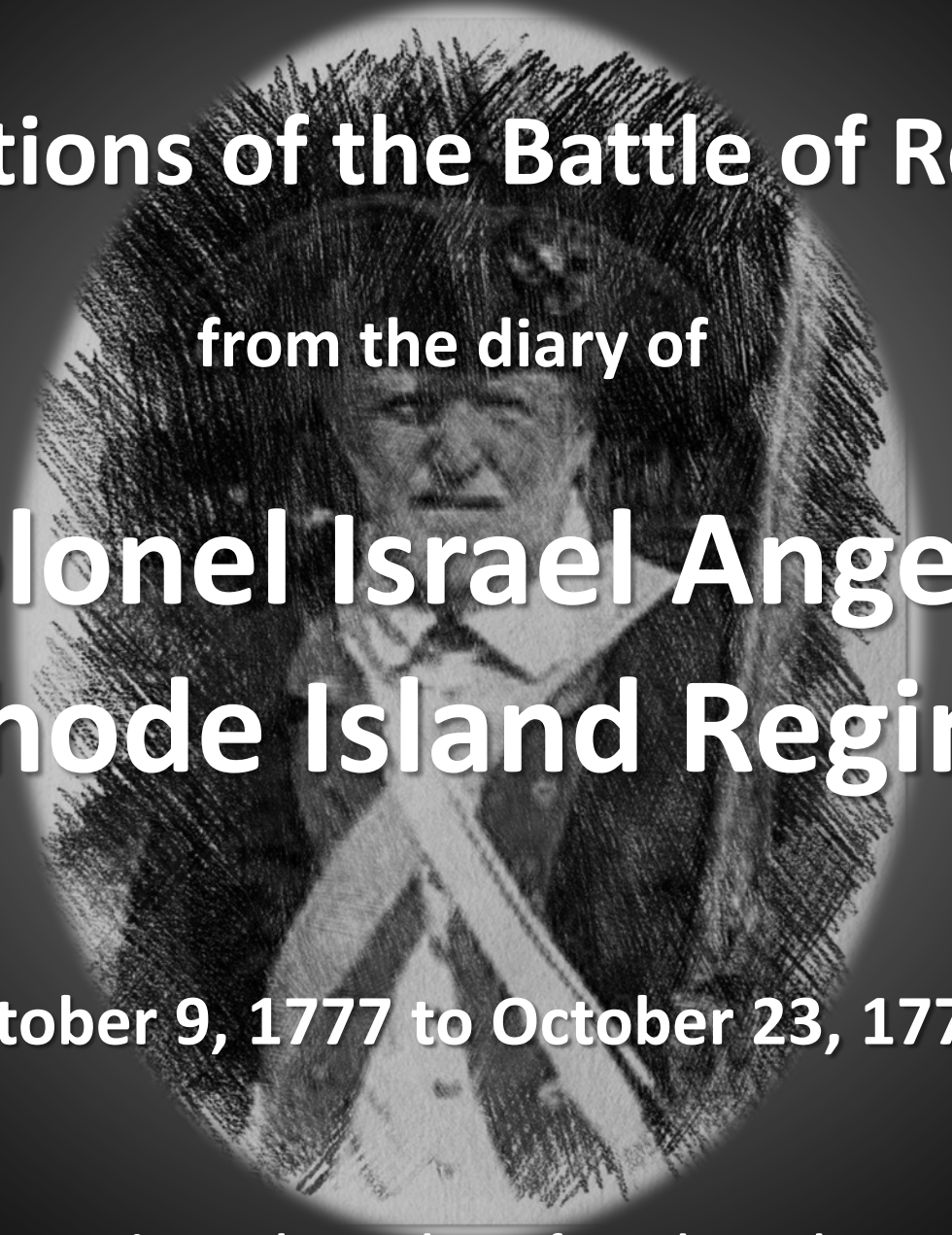
A

Recollections of the Battle of Red Bank

from the diary of

Colonel Israel Angell
2nd Rhode Island Regiment



October 9, 1777 to October 23, 1777

Experience the Real War for Independence

Excerpt from the diary of Colonel Israel Angell 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

Colonel Israel Angell
2nd Rhode Island Regiment
portrayed by Reenactor Paul Ferrante

October 9th 1777

Marched very early this morning, went to Buckingham, there halted to cook our provisions, but met with some difficulty in cooking on account of the extreme heavy rain -- -- After we had cooked, marched on to New Town there we dried ourselves and lodged that night.

October 10th 1777

Marched very early this morning -- went within three miles of Bristol then overtaken by an express which ordered my Regiment back to the Grand army -- we parted with great reluctance -- Colonel Green went on for Red Bank and my Regiment for the Grand Army -- I marched about 12 miles back then lodged that night in Wrights town.

Excerpt from the diary of Colonel Israel Angell 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

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October 11th 1777

Drew provisions this morning and cooked -- Marched by eight o Clock -- there was a heavy cannonading this morning which continued all the day -- this cannonading was below Philadelphia -- we marched as far as new Brittan township -- There lodged within 6 miles of General Washington's quarters.

October 12th 1777

The firing begun yesterday morning still continues -- Supposed to be at the Chevaux de frize below Philadelphia -- This afternoon the cannonading ceased -- About Six O Clock we lay still this day to clean our army and wash our clothes.

Excerpt from the diary of Colonel Israel Angell 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

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October 17th 1777

Turned out half past three O clock got our breakfasts and marched off -- Went to Bristol there crossed the Delaware and marched through Burlington. Drew provisions and cooked, then marched on all the night following

October 18th 1777

This day we arrived at Red Bank about seven o Clock in the evening after marching sixty miles without sleeping.

Excerpt from the diary of Colonel Israel Angell 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

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October 19th 1777

Rested this day after pitching our tents until ten o Clock in the evening -- Then both officers and soldiers went to work and worked all night on our fort as we expected an attack that night or in the morning -- This day there was a heavy cannonading on Fort Mifflin.

October 20th 1777

This morning the cannonading ceased until the afternoon when the cannon and mortars begun to play very brisk, more so than they had any time before -- The greatest part of my Regiment was in the Fort as they relieved Colonel Greens Regiment.

Excerpt from the diary of Colonel Israel Angell 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

October 21st 1777

Colonel Israel Angell
2nd Rhode Island Regiment
portrayed by Reenactor Paul Ferrante

Last evening we had one man brought from Fort Mifflin dead and three more wounded, one mortal wounded -- His accident happened by a shell coming into one of the portholes in the block house -- The row galley last evening run down and attacked a ship and a galley of the enemies and obliged them to tow off -- This cannonade was very smart, the enemy had landed on Log Island and was endeavoring to erect a battery but could not effect it -- This evening we received certain intelligence that the enemy was coming to attack us which obliged us to work all the night long.

Excerpt from the diary of Colonel Israel Angell 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

October 22nd 1777

Colonel Israel Angell
2nd Rhode Island Regiment
portrayed by Reenactor Paul Ferrante

This day we continued diligent on our works until the afternoon about one O clock when the enemy arrived within musket shot of our fort. We fired a cannon or two at them on which they retired and kept skulking in the woods until half after four O clock --They sent in a flag demanding the fort but was answered that the fort was not to be given up on any terms -- In reply to this, they answered that if we still remained obstinate, our blood might be upon our own heads, for we should have no mercy shone us. our answer was we asked for none and expect none.

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October 22nd 1777

Colonel Israel Angell
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Then begun as smart a fire as ever I heard from eight field pieces and two howitzers they had placed against us -- At the same time they advanced in two columns to attack our fort by storm -- There begun an incessant fire of musketry which continued forty minutes -- When the Hessians retreated in the most prescipited manner leaving 200 killed and wounded in the field, we spent the greatest part of the night in bringing in the wounded.

Excerpt from the diary of Colonel Israel Angell 2nd Rhode Island Regiment

October 23rd 1777

Colonel Israel Angell
2nd Rhode Island Regiment
portrayed by Reenactor Paul Ferrante

This day was spent the greatest part in bringing in the slain and burying them and taking proper care of the wounded -- What time we had to spare was spent on our works, preparing them for the second attack, as we had intelligence of them coming the second time -- But it only proved to be a covering party for their retreat -- The galleys made an attack on the Augusta man of war as she had gotten aground and by some accident she took fire and blew up with a most terrible explosion -- Another twenty gun ship of the enemies got a ground and they set her on fire which also blew up, one fifty gun ship got off clear.