

British Regiment - Major William Tomkins

You are the third son of a moderately well-to-do member of the House of Lords. Since no significant inheritance was likely to be forthcoming, you sought a career in the military. Unlike many officers, you welcomed the news that your regiment was to be posted to the colonies. The opportunities for gain and advancement are much greater here than in the Old World.

Your regiment has been ordered to a small village near Philadelphia, where supplies for the army (powder, munitions, and the army paychest) have been waiting to be escorted into the city. There is a small group of colonists being held there, under suspicion of supporting the rebellion, whom you are also to escort back. The flank companies of your regiment are already there, serving as guards, but since rebel activity in the area is rampant, a more formidable escort was thought necessary.

Since the Lieutenant Colonel has other business to attend to in Philadelphia (probably with his mistress), you have been entrusted with the command of the regiment for this task. This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate your ability to handle an independent command, and uphold the honor of the regiment.

You had been courting a likely wife, daughter of a wealthy landowner here in Pennsylvania, but met difficulty in overcoming her father's reluctance to having a British officer in the family; not that he wasn't loyal to the King, but other members of his family were known to be giving assistance to the rebels, and he feared reprisals. Now, since his brother is known to be a local rebel militia leader, he has been taken into custody with other suspected disloyal colonists, and is among those you have been assigned to escort to Philadelphia. Perhaps a good word from you regarding his loyalty would influence the military court to release him. Hopefully, his gratitude for your intercession on his behalf would take the form of consent for his daughter to marry. Conversely, should anything untoward happen to him while in your custody, it is unlikely that his daughter would ever forgive you.

Their family estate is nearby the village where you are headed and you may have an opportunity to see that it is not harmed while you are in the vicinity, thus taking on the aspect of a protector and possibly further softening his opposition.

Hessian Regiment - Colonel Heinrich von Kropp

You are a career officer in the Hessian army, with many years of service, and were just contemplating taking your pension and retiring to take up the life of a gentleman farmer with your dear wife, when this damned unpleasantness between the King of England and his colonies erupted into violence. Now, your regiment has been rented out to the English and your only hope of seeing home again anytime soon is to get this rebellion over with as quickly as possible.

Your regiment has been assigned a small village near Philadelphia as quarters, and, while it's nothing fancy, it is decidedly better than sleeping on the ground in the open. The area is rife with rebel activity and your superiors hope that your regiment's presence there will help curb the supply of recruits and material that the region has been providing to them.

On your way to take possession of your new quarters, your column has been harassed by occasional musket fire from surrounding woods and farms, and the troops have taken to venting their frustration on the locals by looting and burning farmsteads along your route. You know you should keep them under better control, but a rebel sharpshooter killed your favorite horse this morning (while you were on it!) and you're not in the mood to be gracious to these violently disloyal scum.

Continental Regiment - General Nathaniel Browne

Your position of influence in the colonies before this recent unpleasantness helped get you an appointment as an officer in Washington's army. Now in command of a small brigade, you have little experience in commanding bodies of troops in battle (being more of an administrator and politician than a soldier) but you are anxious to show what you can do. And success in the field could translate into an influential position of authority in the new government when the British are finally convinced that the colonies simply cannot be tamed by force.

Messengers have been bringing news of skirmishing in the vicinity of a small village near Philadelphia all day long, and

now the General is informed that a column of British regulars is coming out from Philadelphia. In order to support the local militia, and perhaps to put a twist on the Redcoats (who seem to be a single regiment in strength) you have been ordered with your brigade to the area.

Even without the local militia, you will certainly outnumber them, in addition to which they won't likely be expecting Continentals to show up. This is your chance to punish the English for their cocky presumptions of superiority, and maybe to show that some politicians know how to fight, too!

Pennsylvania Regiment - Colonel John Fenwick

When disagreements between the colonies and the King turned violent, and the State of Pennsylvania called for volunteers, you were among the first to offer your services to your home state. Your experience as a young officer in that nasty affair with the French back in the 50's led to your receiving a field-grade commission with the State forces, and ultimately, command of your own regiment.

It galls you that, in this time when everyone should be bending every effort to the task of pushing out the British, many of your fellow officers are tied up in petty politics and little jealousies among themselves. In particular, you find it annoying that so many of the Continental officers seem to give themselves airs, and consider themselves superior to their brothers in the State services. You bear it in silence and good humor, however, even when they brigaded your regiment with a Continental unit and gave command of the brigade to the utterly inexperienced politician who had somehow weaseled his way into the Colonelcy of that regiment.

Now, it seems the Redcoats are coming out of Philadelphia, and the Brigadier has informed you that your two regiments will be going out to intercept them. The men are certainly ready for a fight, and you are confident that, even though your boys don't have the fancy blue coats and cocked hats of the Continentals, they are every bit as good when it comes down to trading volleys with the British.

This is particularly so, since many of the men are local residents, and they are fed up with the soldiers of the King taking (or burning) what they please from them and their neighbors.

Militia Regiment - Colonel of Militia Jonathon Burke

You are a member of a wealthy Pennsylvania family of farmers and merchants, and have always resented the interference of the English King and Parliament in your affairs here, an ocean away. When shots were fired in Boston, you were one of the first to pick up a rifle and join the American army. Now, having risen in rank through good service, you were sent back to your home state to raise a regiment of militia to help fight the British, who, not content to send just their own troops to put out the fire of rebellion, have sent hordes of German mercenaries tramping through the countryside, taking what they wanted and burning what they didn't.

Now, adding insult to this injury, they have taken your brother into custody (who has never raised his hand against the soldiers of the King, much to your chagrin) because of your reputation as a leader of the rebellion. He is being held in a small village near the estate where you all grew up as children, and where he and his family still reside. You mean to free him. Perhaps this latest indignity will finally swing him over to the right side of this fight and the two of you together can help free Pennsylvania from the yoke of the English King and his German vermin.

On the way to the village, your militia have been paralleling the route of some Hessian mercenaries who seem to be headed in the same direction (for what purpose you know not) but you have outdistanced them because of their propensity for pausing to pillage farmsteads on the way. Your men have been exchanging shots with the Hessian column all day, and now you are lying in wait for them . . .