

**GENERAL ORDERS ISSUED BY  
MAJOR-GENERAL ISRAEL  
PUTNAM, WHEN IN COMMAND  
OF THE HIGHLANDS, IN THE  
SUMMER AND FALL OF 1777**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649024773

General Orders Issued by Major-General Israel Putnam, when in Command of the Highlands,  
in the Summer and Fall of 1777 by Worthington Chauncey Ford

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**WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD**

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Presented by the  
Connecticut Historical Society  
Hartford, 1893. Frank B. Gay, Sec

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EDITED BY

WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD.

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BROOKLYN, N. Y.:  
HISTORICAL PRINTING CLUB.

1893.  
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200 copies printed.

No. 167.

*Q 35816*

**FEB 23 1900**

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

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Early in May, Washington, governed by his anxiety for the safety of the Highlands, and harassed by the uncertainty of the enemy's movements, wished to place a Major-General in command on the Hudson. Arnold was first appointed; but he was too much engaged in seeking a "vindication" from a slight passed upon him by Congress in some recent promotions. Putnam was then selected. On May 24th, Washington wrote to the President of Congress: "I have sent General Putnam to command in that quarter;" but the choice was determined upon some time before. For McDougall, who was in command at Peekskill, was informed of it as early as the 16th, and the wish expressed that he would find his command "a happy one." General Parsons, then superintending the recruiting in Connecticut, was also ordered to Peekskill, to remain there until further orders.

Exactly when Putnam assumed command, I have been unable to determine; but it must have been about June 1st, and on that day he issued an order constituting a court martial. The interest of the campaign of 1777 centered on the incursion from Canada under Burgoyne, and the Highlands were the pivotal point. I sought long before I found a copy of the General Orders issued by Putnam during the summer and fall of 1777, but was finally rewarded by discover-



ing a mutilated record in the Connecticut Historical Society.

The entries began with that of July 19th, and in the regiment with which Sergeant Daniel Ware was connected, and ended when that regiment was ordered to join the main Continental army under Washington. After I had received a copy of Ware's book, further inquiries produced from the cabinet of the New York Historical Society a second record, kept by Major Richard Platt, of McDougall's brigade, more full and complete than the Connecticut Sergeant's, but still lacking some entries. Further interest is given to Platt's books by the fact that half of one volume is in McDougall's *MS*. This record also ceases in the fall, when Washington ordered the Brigade to join him in the Jerseys.

The following orders are, therefore, taken from two sources, and may be readily distinguished by the erratic spelling of Sergeant Ware. The entries to July 19th are taken from Platt; after that date Ware's record is taken as the basis, and where a word, name or phrase is inserted from Platt, it is printed in italics. Where the orders for a day, or a paragraph, is taken from Platt, it is not printed in italics, the spelling being sufficient to distinguish its authorship. I have inserted [ ] the full names of the officers, where ascertainable; but the absence of any official roster of Massachusetts has made it impossible to be as complete as could be wished. Where Platt varies essentially from Ware, I have inserted the variation in ( ) and italics. The map is a copy, somewhat reduced in size, of one pre-

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pared by Claude Joseph Sauthier, in 1774, and published by William Faden.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the permissions granted me by the Historical Societies of Connecticut and New York, and of the courteous assistance given by the Secretaries, Mr. Frank B. Gay, of Hartford, and Mr. William Kelby, of New York. For the map I am indebted to Harvard University and its able librarian, Mr. Justin Winson. I am also indebted to Mr. Albert C. Bates, of Hartford, for his accurate and painstaking transcript of the Ware Orderly Book.

WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD,

*Brooklyn, N. Y., October, 1892.*

