

reasons for accompanying at Valley Forge -

Had the Am. Army retired to Lancaster York & Carlisle the nearest towns affording winter quarters a large & private district would have been left exposed to the forays of the British: & the whole: dragged into submission.



A proof of the abundance of Washington on his Army's undisciplined troops, that so many remained with him in this wretched situation and that were wrecked blight through the winter. His army destitute of clothing almost naked. often in that all manner; great sickness & mortality; scarcity of medicine. often not 3 parts provisions in camp at times not enough for one day. not less than 500 horses perished from want of the severity of the season. Frequent deaths in parties from 10 to 50. In these months he had not known more of them by no means effective. might but the Brit Army neglecting all opportunities conferred at Phila when the whole winter was spent in dissipation. A want of discipline and subordination pervaded the whole army and of discipline & steadiness attended the Am: Army at Valley Forge and never & luxury perhaps did us less injury to the Brit. troops at Phila.

Misconduct of the Philadelphia. Houses occupied as barracks, without compensation. Residents expelled & plundered by the soldiers.

officers quarantined on the principal antibodies
(many of whom were snipers) some even entered
- drove them unwittingly into their snare.

Provisions ran in price. Fuel not to be
had. Gaming permitted. A forenoon officer
kept a fire back - made a prisoner and
rescued some of the enemy officers - escape.
then spread through the army -

During the whole of this long winter of
rest and dissipation Genl W was supposed to
continue with the remains of his army, not
exceeding 5,000 effective men, undisturbed
at Valley Forge. Could not be aware of any
due to them; almost in a state of nature
for want of clothing - the Europeans in the
army - known deserting - the nation and after
war - the common people of and unmerciful

A nocturnal attack might have cost
Washington to alien or compelled him to a
drabrous retreat leaving his wife, cannon
ammunition & heavy baggage - it would have
opened the way for supplies to the city and
shaken off the burthen of the British army
"Had Genl W. been led on his troops to action
Victory was in his power and conquest in
his train" Headman R. 1. P. 312.

On the whole the Pontack arms under Gen William
Honor were attended with success; but their success was
never only followed up 3 improved. The commander
had several opportunities of defeating the Genl
army of thereby of putting on and to the war.
at Long Island, in the Jerseys, at Brandywine
at White Marsh & at Valley Forge. Genl Howe had
put the enemy within his grasp, but he
declined to seize the offered advantage. None of his
military exploits promised either plan, object
or decision. The only fruit of his victories in
1777 was good winter quarters at Phila.



Headman. ibid.

