

as it is highly probable they will do, because they have there so many friends; and let no pains be spared in detecting them, making report of your proceedings, from time to time, to me or the commanding officer at this place. Putting greta trust in your vigilance, valor and good conduct, ..."[1]

"This place" referred to headquarters at Albany. Captain Patrick and his men were a detachment of Alden's Massachusetts Continental Regiment, the remainder of which was part of the Albany garrison. It was a well manned company for that time, numbering about forty. However, it was not Patrick's Company, at least five other companies were represented in the detachment. Two of the men are listed as deserters but also on command at Schoharj, which raises the possibility that in part the company was a punishment detachment. There were many other candidates for exile to the frontier among the Continentals in Albany. The Massachusetts regiments were repeatedly referred to as the least disciplined troops garrisoning Albany in the Winter and Spring of 1777, 1778. The experience of one Albany citizen illustrates well how out of hand the Continentals could get. "Being an inhabitant of this city, in low circumstances, with a large family, by occupation a cartman: did for the support of himself and his family, hire a house & spot of ground on the Hill in the Southwest part of this City, where he had with much labour & pain, manured, sown & planted a Considerable quantity of roots & vegetables &c. of which he could have some to spare to a necessitous Neighbor. That when the late Victorious Army return'd from subduing Genl. Burgoine & his army, they were encamped at and in the neighborhood of your Petitioner, that the Effects of your Petitioner as per enclosed account & much more, was entirely destroy'd by said Troops";[2] His list includes 17 fowls, 500 cabbages, and an acre of potatoes.

Both men listed as deserters yet On Command at Schoharj were of Day's Company. Private Samuel Fall survived May 30, and was among the lucky that escaped. Private Jonas was wounded, but escaped.

Also uncertain is where the Company was based. From contemporary accounts both the Lower fort and the Middle fort fit into the distances described. The Lower fort is the best candidate, given the known disinclination to the Whig cause by many in the region; Captain Patrick would have taken care to secure his line of communication with Albany. This was most easily accomplished at the Lower fort. The Lower fort was

also a more substantial fort, containing the fortified Stone Church.

On the morning of Saturday, May 30, 1778, the Company marched from its base about nine miles to the home of George Warner, where they rendezvoused with the local militia. They numbered about fifteen men under Captain Brown, all members of the 15th Albany Militia Regiment. The two companies were there a short time when about two dozen marauders fired on them from the edge of the bush. Captain Brown is reported to have been reluctant to pursue, fearing that the attackers were being offered as bait. Captain Patrick was for action and ordered a pursuit. The Indians were hotly pursued. The chase continued over a mile. The forty five to fifty valley defenders were drawn to a three hundred yard long, four foot high ridge in the forest, which formed a natural breastwork. There the remainder of the raiders under Joseph Brant waited. The Indians and Tories numbered near three hundred. The pursuit and fight in the woods was fierce. After the war there was a black who claimed to have served under Brant then, who reported that twenty five Indians were killed during the action, with seven men wounded, then expiring on their trek back to Canada.

The fighting was fierce, but short. Patrick attempted to order a bayonet charge to break the Indian line, but was killed as he tried. Two soldiers rushed up to get him off the field, but were also struck down. Captain Brown, seeing that they were badly outnumbered, ordered a timely retreat.

The chase was on. The fight til then had been fought bush style, from tree to tree. The retreat became a rout. It was over the ground that minutes before the Americans had seasoned with fallen Indians. Both sides now sped over that mile.

As the Americans streamed past Warner's house, three Continental soldiers and two Militiamen took cover there, and provided cover for the others. The inmates of the house drew the bulk of the pursuers to subdue the house. The house was set on fire, and the defenders that were still alive attempted to get out. One was killed going through a window. When the corpses were buried later it was surmised that one Continental had been captured alive, then tortured. That body was found a distance from the house. His abdomen had been slit open, and his entrails were wrapped around a nearby tree. A wad of paper Continental notes was stuffed on the corpse, mocking the Congress' inflated currency.