

Erratum: “Artillery Supported by Infantry: The Royal Artillery at the Battle of Monmouth”

By Michael Timpanaro and Victor Pidermann

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14713/njs.v8i1.278>

This erratum corrects an oversight in the Winter 2021 publishing of the article “Artillery Supported by Infantry.” It was brought to the attention of the authors that there is a mathematical inconsistency in the section entitled “The Royal Artillery’s Number of Guns in the Monmouth Campaign,” specifically in Table 5, “Dispositions Compared – December 1, 1777 & May 22, 1778.” The article asserts that the December 1777 disposition presents a total of 46 artillery pieces, exactly matching the “very number and type of guns” as shown in the May 1778 disposition. If one were to add up the number of artillery pieces in the December 1777 disposition, one would come away with 44 guns, and not 46 guns; the error was in the counting of two unaccounted-for six-pounders. An edited version of the table in question is presented to correct this first error:

Table 1. Dispositions Compared (Corrected) – December 1, 1777, & May 22, 1778¹

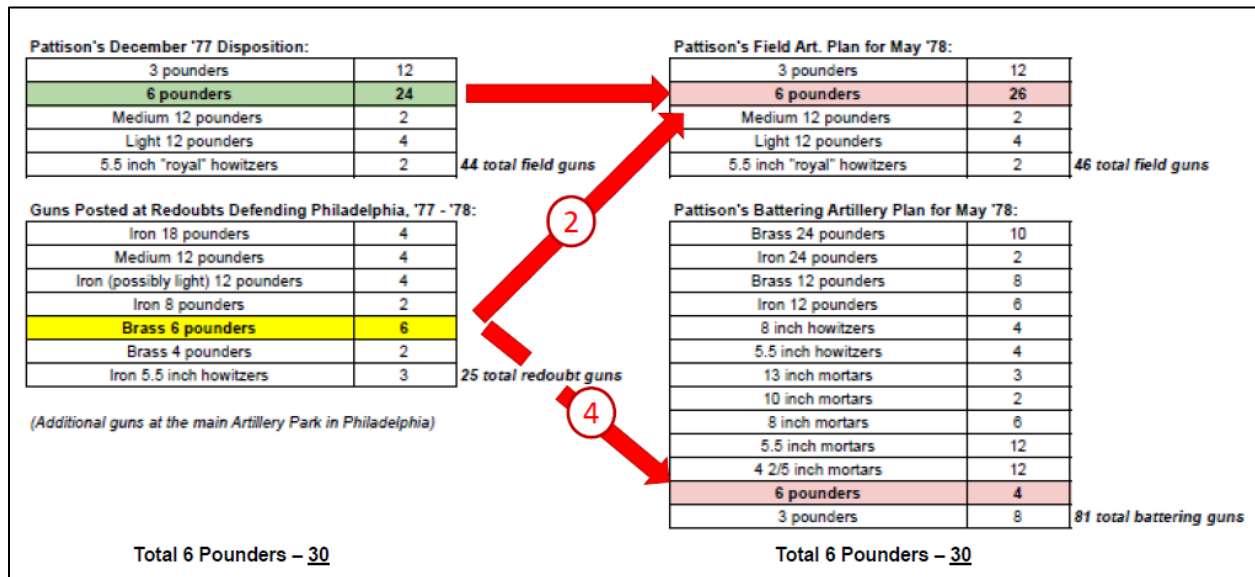
Disposition of December 1, 1777		Disposition of May 22, 1778	
Number & Nature of Guns	Corps Detached to	Totals:	Totals:
2 - 3 pounders	1st Light Infantry Battalion	3 pounders - 12	3 pounders - 12
2 - 3 pounders	2nd Light Infantry Battalion	6 pounders - 24	6 pounders - 26
2 - 6 pounders	1st Grenadiers Battalion	medium 12 pounders - 2	medium 12 pounders - 2
2 - 6 pounders	2nd Grenadiers Battalion	light 12 pounders - 4	light 12 pounders - 4
2 - 6 pounders	1st Battalion of Guards	5 ½ inch howitzers - 2	5 ½ inch howitzers - 2
2 - 6 pounders	2nd Battalion of Guards	Total guns - 44	Total guns - 46
2 - 6 pounders	} 1st Infantry Brigade		
2 - 6 pounders			
2 - 6 pounders	} 2nd Infantry Brigade		
2 - 6 pounders			
2 - 6 pounders	} 3rd Infantry Brigade		
2 - 6 pounders			
2 - 6 pounders	} 4th Infantry Brigade		
2 - 6 pounders			
2 - 3 pounders	} 5th Infantry Brigade		
2 - 3 pounders			
2 - medium 12 pounders	} Artillery Park		
4 - light 12 pounders			
2 - 5 ½ howitzers			
4 - 3 pounders*			

**An additional detachment of 3 pounders was ordered to the Park on 12/2/1777.*

¹ Pattison, Brigade Orders, Disposition of Officers and Men, December 1, 1777, 29, *Pattison Papers*; Pattison, Brigade Orders, December 2, 1777, 29, *Pattison Papers*; Pattison, Letter Book, Letter to Lord George Townshend, Master-General of Ordnance, May 22, 1778, 125–126, *Pattison Papers*.

Despite this correction, it is still asserted that Brigadier-General James Pattison of the Royal Artillery used a very similar, albeit not identical, arrangement of forces for the Monmouth campaign as the artillery brigade had operated under during the previous campaign season and the early days of the British occupation of Philadelphia. The difference lies only in the placement of the two six-pound artillery pieces in question. This new chart depicts the data gathered from several sources that shows the placing of these additional guns into the artillery pieces in play for the Monmouth campaign and that was accidentally omitted in the original article:

Table 2. Redistribution of the Royal Artillery’s Six-Pounders



There were 24 six-pounders in Pattison’s disposition of December of 1777. Additionally, there were six more six-pounders used in the redoubt defenses of Philadelphia during the British occupation of the city from late 1777 until early 1778. Therefore, there was a total of 30 six-pounders in use by this British army during this period. In Pattison’s plans for May 1778, the general redistributed the six-pounders, along with other artillery pieces previously used for the redoubts’ defenses. Of those six guns, he included four of them with the “battering artillery” force that he shipped back to New York; the remaining two guns he kept with the main army. This brings

the total number with the army to 46 guns, and the number of six-pounders in particular to 26 pieces. As all of the assignments for artillery distribution among the infantry elements of the army had already been made prior to this point, these two additional six-pounders were likely added to the reserve of guns available for the new campaign within the artillery park.²

Michael Timpanaro is currently the Resource Interpretive Specialist at Monmouth Battlefield State Park in Manalapan, New Jersey, serving as the Park Historian. He has over thirty-five years' experience as an archaeologist, historic researcher, and historian.

Victor Pidermann (M.A. History, Monmouth University, 2014) is the Senior Seasonal Educational Interpreter of History at Monmouth Battlefield State Park and has also served in the past as an Adjunct Professor of History at Monmouth University.

² Pattison, Brigade Orders, Disposition of Officers and Men, December 1, 1777, 29, *Pattison Papers*; Pattison, Brigade Orders, December 2, 1777, 29, *Pattison Papers*; Pattison, Letter Book, Letter to Lord George Townshend, Master-General of Ordnance, May 22, 1778, 125–126, *Pattison Papers*; Bob Ruppert, "Fortifying Philadelphia: A Chain of Redoubts and Floating Bridges," *Journal of the American Revolution* (2015): 6, accessed October 23, 2021, <https://allthingsliberty.com/2015/02/philadelphia-chain-of-redoubts-floating-bridges/>.