

[Dec 1817] 19008-9
 Statement of the Services of Major General
 Thomas Astle, Colonel of His Majesty's 7th Regt.

Rank	In what Corps	Date of Appointment	Where employed, Specifying the Period of such Service, the number of any Siege, Battle, or considerable Action, when personally present, the periods on Half Pay, Equivocal Leave of Absence, Modern Foreign Languages acquainted with.
Ensign	The 39th Regt of Foot.	28th December 1778	During the first Year of the preceding Campaign, I remained with leave from my Regiment to prosecute my Studies at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich where until then I had been a Cadet. & on the 20th Jan. 1780 I arrived at Gibraltar where my Regiment was in Garrison, & where I served with it from the beginning to the end of the subsequent Bombardment & Siege. I had consequently three Years Leave of Absence for the purpose above mentioned, whilst an Ensign, in which Rank I served Four Years & one Month.
	do	28th Jan 1783	My Regiment continued at Gibraltar until the middle of November 1783 when it was Relieved, & after having served in that Garrison for Three Years & Ten Months I then returned with it to England where on my arrival being the youngest Lieutenant I found an Exchange from the Half Pay (to which on that account I was subject) had been offered
Lieut.	do	11th Nov 1783	for me with another Lieutenant of the Regiment, by my paying him the difference between the full & Half Pay of that Rank, In consequence of which I never was removed from the

Statement of Services
 M. Genl. Astle

Establishment, & on my arrival I obtained
- In three Months leave, at the expiration
of which I joined my Regiment, & remained
with it until my Term Years, as a Lieut. &
was completed, conformable to the Regu-
lations at that Period, at the expiration
of which, I was permitted to Purchase
a Company in the 100th Regiment:

Cap. 100th 28th
Regt. Jan^{ry}
of 1785

The 100th Regiment being on its way home
from India to be reduced, when I purchased
my Company into it. ^{As a proposal was made to me by} I passed a Captain
in the 39th ~~Regt.~~ ^{for} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~purpose~~ ^{purpose} of exchanging
with one, on my paying him the regulated
difference between full and half Pay, ⁱⁿ
which arrangement, ^{meeting with my consent and} being approved of,
was immediately carried into effect, ^{and}
on the seventh day after my Promotion into
the 100th my Commission as a Captain in
the 39th Regt. was signed by His Majesty,

Do 39th 4th
Regt. Feb^{ry}
1785

Having left this Regiment in consequence
of my removal into the 100th, on my
being again placed in it, I obtained
leave of Absence for Three Months, at
the end of which I joined it again in
April 1785, and remained with it
until June 1787, when in my Tour,
I got leave for the purpose of going to
France & Germany, but the prospect
of Hostilities with Holland recurring
about this time, was then prevented
from carrying my intention into execu-
tion, & consequently employed this period
of my leave in going through a Course
of Military Surgery with the Professor
of Fortifications at Woolwich, when all

Cap. 39th
Regt. 19009

about Affairs being ordered to appear
to their Regiments, I rejoined mine
on the 5th of November at Edinburgh
Castle, where I remained with it until
the 24th December, a pacific termination
having in the mean time concluded
the difference with Holland, I was
allowed to avail myself of my
original leave, & in pursuance of
my former plan, went over to France
in January 1788, proceeding directly to
Metz, in which Garrison I stayed
Six Months; in June I went into
Germany, taking up my residence at
Brunswick, & in October following I
visited Paderborn & Berlin, where I
obtained Permission to attend the
Prussian Manoeuvres of that Period,
these being at one end. I made a Tour
through Silesia, Bohemia & Saxony
for the purpose of seeing the most
important Fields of Battle & generally
the Theatre of the most interesting
events of the Seven Years War, after
which I returned to Brunswick, but
went from thence to Hannover, where
I remained until the end of March 1789
when I rejoined my Regiment then
in Holland after my absence from it
of sixteen Months, as above described
From this period I continued with
it until the end of the Month of July
1791 when it being my turn according
to the Regimental Routine to purchase
of Absence, I accepted of it for the
purpose of making another visit to

Cap. 39.
Regt.

...
I returned to Removor, for the purpose
of resuming the Study of the German
Language, & after having in the Month
of May 1792 attended the Spring Inspec-
-tion of the Prussian Troops at
Magdeburgh, returned to England
& from thence to my Regiment then
in Galway in Ireland after an Absence
of One Year.

In the Month of December following
Major General Dundas being ^{placed} on
the Irish Staff & Stationed in Dublin
did me the Honor to appoint me ^{his} ~~Deputy~~

Caid. & Camp

On such I consequently served with him
first in that Country and on his ^{Removal} ^{from thence}
the English Staff ^{accompanied him} and ^{subsequently} ^{at} Toulon
~~accompanied him thither and served with him~~
during the Siege of that Place by the French
until the ^{final termination of the Campaign} ~~the~~ ^{which}
closed with the evacuation of that ^{Place} ~~Place~~ by the combined Forces
Forces, in the Course of the aforementioned
Siege I was present with the General
on the Trench made under his particular
Command against the French Posts
on the Heights of Arcanes on the 30th
November 1793, & on which occasion
L. General O'Hara the Commander in
Chief was taken Prisoner, the Chief
Command of His Majesty's Troops in
consequence of this unfortunate Event
devolving on Major General Dundas
He was placed in consequence of the
Resignation of Cap. O'Hara of the 8th Regt.
who held the appointment of Deputy

Capt. 39.
Regt.

business, & in the fall of the year
I returned to Remour, for the purpose
of resuming the study of the German
Language, & after having in the month
of May 1792 attended the Spring Inspec-
-tion of the Prussian Troops at
Magenburgh, returned to England
& from thence to my Regiment then
in Galway in Ireland after an absence
of one year.

In the month of December following
Major General ^{David} Dundas being ^{placed} on
the Irish Staff & stationed in Dublin

did me the honor to appoint me his

Aid de Camp & ~~to be with him~~ ~~in which I served with~~

As such I consequently served ~~with him~~ ~~in which I served with~~
~~at the Siege of Fort Mifflin in 1793~~ ~~in which I served with~~
him being removed to the Staff in England & accompanied

~~him to the Siege of Fort Mifflin in 1793~~ ~~in which I served with~~
in thither and from thence ~~to the Siege of Fort Mifflin in 1793~~ ~~in which I served with~~
to ~~the Siege of Fort Mifflin in 1793~~ ~~in which I served with~~

where we arrived ~~in the month of October 1793~~ ~~in which I served with~~
~~about that time~~ ~~in which I served with~~

~~of that place by the French, & under the~~ ~~in which I served with~~
this the principal means ~~they proposed~~ ~~in which I served with~~
of the evacuation of it by the combined

Forces, in the course of the aforementioned

Siege I was present with the General

on the spot made under his particular

Command against the French Posts

on the heights of Arannes on the 30th

November 1793, & on which occasion

L. General O'Hara the Commander in

Chief was taken Prisoner, the Chief

Command of His Majesty's Troops in

consequence of this unfortunate event

devolving on Major General Dundas
 he was placed in consequence of the
 resignation of Capt. O'Hara of the 8th Regt.
 who held the appointment of Deputy

Cap^{tn} 34.
Regt

Germany, & in the Fall of the year
I returned to Hannover, for the purpose
of resuming the Study of the German
Language, & after having in the Month
of May 1792 attended the Spring Inspec-
tion of the Prussian Troops at
Magdeburgh, returned to England
& from thence to my Regiment then
in Galway in Ireland after an Absence
of One Year.

In the Month of December following
Major General Dundas being ^{placed} ~~then~~ on
the Irish Staff & Stationed in Dublin
did me the Honor to appoint me his

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Forces, in the Course of the aforementioned
Siege I was present with the General
on the Trench made under his particular
Command against the French Posts
on the Heights of Arennes on the 30th
November 1793, & on which occasion
Lt. General O'Hara the Commander in
Chief was taken Prisoner, the Chief
Command of His Majesty's Troops in
consequence of this unfortunate event
devolving on Major General Dundas
He was killed in consequence of the
Designation of Cap^{tn} O'Hara of the 8th Regt
who held the appointment of Deputy

th
Capt. 39
Regt.

19010

Adjutant General by Commission, To
appoint me ^{acting} Deputy Adjutant General
At the Forts serving under his orders
The Troops after the evacuation of Toulon
having been conveyed by His Majesty's
Ships to the Bay of Biscay, an Expedition
against the Island of Corsica was planned
and on the ^{10th} of January 1794 sailed for
its destination, the first operations of
the Campaign being crowned with success
by the Defeat of the Enemy, & the consequent
Reduction of the Forts & Forts of St.
Florenzo, The General did me the Honor
of sending me home with his Official
dispatches announcing that event;

After my arrival in England which
was early in February 1794 I remained
without my fixed destination being
determined for me until the Month
of May following, when the late Lord
Amhurst the Commander in Chief, did
^{me the} ^{to} honor me by appointing me one
of his Aid de Camps, a Situation I
continued to fill until the 16th of August
of the same Year, when I succeeded to
the Majority of the Regiment in consequence
of the Promotion which took place in
it by the death of the Lieut Colonel
The period of my Service as a Captain
having been Nine Years & Eight
Months, out of which, as before related
I had Three Years of Regimental
leave of Absence

Major th 39
Regt. 16th
Augt. 1794

During the Period of my
- Solving -

Major. 39th Regt.

Lieut. Colonel 115th Regt.

Lieut. Colonel 39th Regt.

holding the Rank of Major, I had His Majesty's special leave to be employed in Germany, in the Service of His Royal Highness The Prince of Prussia.

On my formal return from Germany I was promoted to the Rank of Lieut. Colonel in the 115th Regt. which I joined without delay, & marched with it from York, into Camp at Blythe Burg Northumberland, where I remained with it until the end of August, when the Regt. being ordered to embark for Southampton (there to be drafted into Old Regiments under Orders for Foreign Service & consequently to be re-duced) I was recommended by Lieut. General Viscount Pelham to His Royal Highness The Commander in Chief for the Island of St. Domingo in the Antilles - then in His Regt. the 39th to which I was accordingly appointed, & in consequence of orders I proceeded immediately to Ireland, taking under my Charge the entire remains of the Regiment (after the Campaign of the preceding Year in the West Indies) being twenty three in Number, four Commissioned Officers, Drummers & Private, on my arrival in Dublin I was ordered to proceed immediately to Cork & from thence to Spike Island, where on my arrival the whole of the 104th Regiment, between Eight & nine Hundred Men strong, was turned over

Lt. Col. 39th Regt.

Lieut. Colonel 39th Regt. Foot 1796

19011

to me becoming thereforward the 39th Regiment; this circumstance took place in September, from which period until the 13th of February the Year ensuing 1796, the Expedition to which we belonged, & destined for the West Indies was detained by contrary Winds, finally on that day we put to Sea, & arrived at Barbadoes on the 5th day of April following; on the 16th of the same Month a secret Service having been voted by Lt. General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, the then Commander in Chief in the West Indies of which the 39th formed a part, I proceeded with it to our destination, which proved to be against the Dutch Colonies of Demerara, Essequibo & Berbice; all of which surrendered to His Majesty's Arms by Capitulation; I was by the particular Order of Sir R. Abercrombie left there with the Military Command; The Inhabitants of these Colonies having immediately determined to raise a Corps from among their Negro Slaves for the defence & Protection of these Colonies, & the offer being accepted of by Sir R. Abercrombie he was pleased to nominate me Lt. Colonel thereof, & this Corps being afterwards put upon the Establishment of the Army and denominated the 11th West India Regt. His Majesty was graciously pleased to confer on me the Rank of Lt. Colonel Commandant of the same by His Commission. The Command of these Colonies continued uninterrupted to hold for Six Years & Eight Months, when at the conclusion of the War & on the 2nd December 1802, I gave them over pursuant to His Majesty's commands to the Batavian Government.

Colonel by ^{28th} April
Brevet ¹⁸⁰²

A Brevet Promotion having taken place
in the Army in the early part of this Year
I became included therein, & orders having
been given for the drafting of my Regiment
My Services were no longer required in
the West Indies, & in consequence I was
permitted to return to England in the begin-
ning of Feb. 1803. His Majesty was in the
mean time pleased to order the drafting
of my Regiment to be discontinued, & on
the 25th September 1803 It was put on the
Establishment as the 8th West India Regt.
On my Arrival in England I found that
I had been placed on the Staff of the
Windward Leeward Islands, & by reason
of certain events I was ordered in the
Month of May to proceed without delay
to take upon me the Command of the Troops
in the Island of Trinidad, His Majesty
confering on me at the same time His
Commission as Lt. Governor of that Colony.
In consequence of this order I arrived at
Trinidad on the 18th July 1803, & continued
to serve in it as a Brigadier General
until the late Promotion.

Colonel 8th
Commander West
-dant- India
Regt

Major on the
General Staff 25
of the 25th
Windward
and Leeward
Islands Oct. 1809

Shortly after the Notification of my
Promotion to the Rank of Major General
it was notified to me by a letter from
Lt. General Sir George Beckwith K B, Com-
mander of the Forces that I should
hold myself in readiness to be called for
service in the Field, & in pursuance of
a subsequent order I left Trinidad on
the 10th January 1810, & joined him at
Martinique, when I found myself
already appointed to the Command of
the 1st Division of the Army destined
to —

19012

Major Staff
Gen. Windward
Leeward
Islands

19012

To Attack the Island of Guadeloupe
being at the same time the second in
Command of the Expedition; The
Campaign having terminated suc-
cessfully, & having remained at Guadeloupe
until all important arrangements were
made, The Commanders of the Forces per-
mitted me to return to Trinidad where
I arrived on the 17th of the ~~present~~ month
of March following. I continued in the
Command until the 24th of April in the
present Year, when in pursuance of
leave from Lt Genl George Buxtehute
K.B. Commander of the Forces in the
Windward & Leeward Islands, I returned
to England.

Dates of Commission	Present		On Leave		Served in each Rank	
	Years	Months	Y ^{rs}	Months	Y ^{rs}	Months
1778. Dec: 28. Ensign	3	1	1	-	4	1
1783. Jan: 28 Lieutenant	1	9	-	3	2	-
1785. Jan: 28 Captain	6	7	3	-	9	7
1794. Aug: 16 Major	-	8	-	-	-	8
1795 April 25 Lt Colonel	7	-	-	-	7	-
1802. 2 ^d : 28. Colonel	7	4	-	2	7	6
1808 Oct 25 Maj ^r General	1	7	-	7	2	2
	<u>28</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	Total 33. 0. of Service	

		Served & employed in	
On Home Service	8 - 8	Siege of Gibraltar I st of Toulon Expedition to Corsica D ^o to the Dutch Colonies in Guyana D ^o against Guadeloupe.	
On Foreign D ^o	19 - 4		
Absent for professional Studies.	1 - 5		
At Woolwich	1 - 5		
In France & Germany	2 - 4		
Absent - For private affairs	1 - 3		
Total of Years		33 - -	

Modern Foreign Languages Acquired. German. Spanish. French.

London. December 1811.

A. Milope
Maj^r Genl.

[Faint, illegible handwriting on aged paper, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through.]