

Witnesses to Revolution

Jeremiah Greenman - A young soldier from Rhode Island

First-person account based closely on Jeremiah Greenman primary source documents

October 1775:

“Set out this morn very early. Left 5 sick men in the woods that was not able to march. Our provision being very short we killed a dog. I got a small piece of it...In a very miserable situation. This morn when we arose many of us so weak that we could hardly stand, we staggered about like drunken men. Very cold and snowing, marched down the river on the frozen ground bare-footed. In prison, 1776: Hear we live very discontented and quite out of hope of ever being reliv’d.”

Primary Source Document

November 1775:

In a very misrabel situation / nothing to eat but dogs / hear we killed a nother and cooked / I got Sum of that by good [luck] with the head of a Squirrll with a parsol of Candill wicks boyled up to gether wich made a very fine supe without salt /

...this morn marched down the river on the frozen ground bare footed and very Cold till at last I came to a french house ware I [blank] a pair of Seal Sil maugerson and had Sum fine Supe made out of cabage and bread / hear in this house I sleep by the fire.

Military Journal of Jeremiah Greenman

Source:

Robert C. Bray and Paul E Bushnell, eds., *Diary of a Common Soldier in the American Revolution, 1775-1783: an Annotated Edition of the Military Journal of Jeremiah Greenman*. Northern Illinois University Press, 1978.