

BARON VON STEUBEN
AND HIS
REGULATIONS

by
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Foreword by
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INCLUDING A COMPLETE FACSIMILE
OF THE ORIGINAL

REGULATIONS
FOR THE
ORDER AND DISCIPLINE
OF THE
TROOPS
OF THE
UNITED STATES



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BARON FRIEDRICH WILHELM LUDOLF
GERHARD AUGUSTIN VON STEUBEN

Born at Magdeburg, Prussia, September 17, 1730
Naturalized American Citizen, 1783
An organizer of the Society of the Cincinnati, 1783
Died November 28, 1794;
buried on his estate in Steuben County, N. Y.

The Baron left Paris quite discouraged and subsequently made other attempts to secure employment for his military talents; but, being unable to find anything suitable, he decided to try again to make the trip to America.

Returning to Paris, he told Franklin and Deane that he would be willing to go to America at his own expense. Actually it was his good friend Beaumarchais who had agreed to finance his trip. Franklin and Deane were pleased with this arrangement and gave the Baron letters of introduction. On September 4, 1777, they wrote jointly to Washington: "The Gentleman who will have the honor of waiting upon you with this Letter is the Baron Steuben, Lieut. Genl. in the king of Prussia's Service, whom he attended in all his campaigns, being his Aid de Camp, quartermaster Genl. etc. . . ." By this benevolent exaggeration, Franklin and Deane probably performed their greatest service to the American army.

While at Beaumarchais' home, von Steuben met a young nobleman of seventeen, Pierre Etienne Duponceau. The Baron became strongly attracted to the young man, who was proficient in the English language. Since the Baron spoke no English and was sorely in need of an interpreter to accompany him to America, he made Duponceau his military secretary. Duponceau was to stay with the Baron's staff until near the end of the Revolution. On September 10, 1777, the Baron and his staff left Paris for the port of Marseilles, accompanied by M. de Francy, the nephew and agent of Beaumarchais, and the Baron's servant, a young German by the name of Carl Vogel. Upon reaching Marseilles, the party embarked on the French frigate *L'Heureux* of 300 tons and 28 guns which was under the command of Captain Landais. Landais was experienced in the navigation of American waters, having been a member of the expedition which circumnavigated the globe under the leadership of Louis-Antoine de Bougainville in 1766-1769.

The ship's name had been changed to *Le Flamand*, and she was masquerading as a merchantman since her cargo consisted of munitions for the American army. She was one of a fleet owned by Hortalez and Company. The Baron shipped under the name of Monsieur de Frank, supposedly bearing dispatches for the Governor of Martinique, for which port the ship had been cleared. The *Le Flamand* sailed from Marseilles on September 26, 1777, bound for Portsmouth, New Hampshire—its true destination.

The voyage was marked by two violent storms, a mutiny and a fire in the fore-castle. On account of the attendant delays the ship finally entered the harbor of Portsmouth on December 1, 1777. The Baron and his party disembarked and spent eleven days in Portsmouth while they procured supplies for their journey to Boston. During this time von Steuben sent a letter to the Continental Congress informing them of his motive in coming to America and of his ambition to serve as a volunteer under General Washington. He also wrote Washington, enclosing a copy of the Franklin-Deane letter. The Baron's party then left for Boston.

They arrived in Boston on December 14 and were detained there for some weeks awaiting orders from Congress. It was here that M. Pierre Charles L'Enfant joined the Baron's staff. Leaving Boston on January 14, 1778, the Baron and his party started their journey to York, Pennsylvania, where the Congress was then sitting.

Arriving at York, the Baron was received by the President of the Congress with every mark of distinction. A committee was formed to confer with him, and he explained to them that his only wish was to serve in the army as a volunteer. He did however ask as a favor that members of his staff receive military appointments, and on February 18 these men received appointments as cap-