



Howe's aide Muenchhausen counted 37 wagons carrying wounded to the heights, (New Providence Road, known today as The Bloody Gap). Reports of wounded vary but from 60 to 80 of the Americans are said to have been killed including three captains and "upwards of 200 officers and men wounded and taken," 64 were known taken prisoners including a major, two captains and an adjutant. The total of 82 prisoners reported taken by the British undoubtedly included "in part country men" citizens defending their homes.

Of the British and Hessian casualties, about 70 men were killed, wounded or suffocated in the heat of the day, two Light Dragoons and 11 infantry were made prisoners.

The British offensive was stifled and Washington's "Fabian" tactics earned him the respect of Cornwallis, who in his surrender at Yorktown, in grudging admiration, said, "But after all, your excellency's achievements in New Jersey were such that nothing could surpass them."

The British soldiers, in frustration and rage, plundered and burned much of the countryside, camping overnight in areas of Westfield (Willow Grove Road-Rahway Ave., and Grove Street to Central Ave.) and in homes and stores of the village. A target of their fury was the Presbyterian Church at Broad and Mountain Avenue which not only rang its warning bell of their approach, but was to them a hotbed of radical patriotism. The church bell was thrown from its steeple and captured sheep and cattle were led into the church and slaughtered.

By nine the next morning the British columns marched out of Westfield by the roads closest to their camps (Rahway and Central Aves.) and on to Rahway by way of Grand and Rahway Aves., where they camped on the 27th on the southside of the Rahway River. American Light troops under Brig. Gen. Charles Scott with Morgan's rifle corps pursued their rear flanks ending the battle much as it had begun the day before. Two officers and a sergeant of the riflemen were taken, when they attempted to free the prisoners being transported at Rahway to New York and the rebels broke up the bridge across the Rahway River to prevent the enemy access to the town of Rahway proper.

Howe, having failed to destroy Washington's army and unsuccessful in his attempt to break through his mountain defense, decided to try an invasion of Philadelphia from the sea. The trials and hardships both to American military and civilian population of New Jersey were rewarded with the evacuation of the British on June 30, 1777, and there was great rejoicing as the entire country celebrated its first anniversary of Independence.

(Based on "War In The Countryside, June 1777," by Frederic C. Detwiller)