

# Luck was With Him

Lieutenant Ebenezer Coe joined the militia and fought in the battle on Long Island and was captured by the British on Aug. 27. He wrote: *“On the 15th of September, providentially escaped from the enemy to Harlem Hills and arrived home on the 17th, after which I was sick some months.”*

In 1777 Coe was called up again, this time to help fight off a British invasion of Connecticut. On April 25, about 2,000 British Troops landed at Compo Beach in Westport and marched inland to Danbury, where they captured an American supply depot and set fire to the town. The militia was gathered under generals Benedict Arnold, Isreal Putnam and David Wooster. As the British left Danbury and headed south toward Ridgefield their rear guard was attacked by General Wooster. (See **diorama**) Having his horse shot out from under him, he mounted another to continue to lead the attack. He was then shot in the groin and died in Danbury a few days later.

Of the Battle of Ridgefield, Ebenzer Coe (now a captain) wrote: *“On the 25th of April 1777, twelve o’clock at night marched to Fairfield. The next day to Danbury; 27th to Ridgefield, it being the Lord’s day; attached the enemy; received a musket ball through my head, cutting off part of my right ear and carrying away my right eye. I fell as dead, lay a time, but recovered by thoughts, after being inhumanly stabbed with a bayonet in my side and right hand while I lay unfeelingly as dead; which perhaps was the means, by turning the stream of blood the other way, of saving my life. At this time, being come to my thoughts, was abused, robbed, and repeatedly threatened with instant death.”*

As Captain Coe lay wounded, a British soldier was about to pierce him with a bayonet when an officer stopped the soldier and carried Coe to a schoolhouse, where he apologized for not being able to help him further and left him.

Following the battle, the British troops continued back to their ships. In all 200 British soldiers were lost – ten percent of the entire force – while the Americans lost 100 men.