



T H E  
*Gentleman's Magazine,*  
For J U L Y 1750.



*Some account of HANNAH SNELL, the Female SOLDIER.*



**HANNAH SNELL**, was born in *Fryer-street, Worcester*, April 1723. Her father was a *hosier and dyer*, and son to *lieut. Snell* who was at the taking of *Namur*, in the reign of *K. William*, and afterwards served in *Q. Anne's wars*.

When her father and mother, who by their industry brought up 3 sons and 6 daughters, died, *Hannah* set out for *London*, where she arrived on *Christmas day*, 1740, and resided some time with

her sister, who had married one *Gray*, a carpenter, and lived in *Wapping*. Here she became acquainted with *James Summs*, a *Dutch* tailor, to whom she was married in 1743; but he treated her with great inhumanity, and left her when seven months with child, which dying at six months old, she decently buried it. She put on a suit of her brother-in-law's apparel, on *Nov. 23*, 1745, left her sister without communicating her design, and went to *Coventry*, where she enlisted herself in *Guise's* regiment of foot, and march'd with it to *Carlise*. Here her serjeant, whose name was *Davis*, having

having a criminal inclination for a young woman, applied to *Hannab* to assist him. *Hannab* went to the girl, but instead of executing his commission, warn'd her to avoid him. This instance of virtue, so uncommon in a soldier, created an intimate friendship between them; and *Davis* finding them together, and being unexpectedly repulsed, became jealous of *Hannab*, and to gratify his revenge, accused her of neglect of duty to the commanding officer, and she was sentenced to receive 600 lashes, 500 she did receive, having her hands tied up to the castle gate; but by the intercession of some officers, the other hundred was remitted. Soon after this whipping, a recruit was brought to the regiment who had seen her at her sister's, and by whom she fear'd she should be known. This circumtance, with the ill treatment which she still received from the serjeant, induced her to desert; and her female friend having furnish'd her with some money, she set out on foot for *Portsmouth*, and exchanged cloaths with some people who were cutting pease near *Carlisle*. At *Portsmouth*, she enlisted in *Frazer's* marines, and a draught being made for *Boscawen's* fleet, she as one of them went on board the *Swallow* sloop, capt. *Rosier*. Lieut. *Wyegate* of the marines, observing *Hannab* to be expert at washing and dressing victuals, took her into the officers mess. She was regarded as a boy, and in case of an engagement, her station was on the quarter-deck, to fight at small arms, and she was one of the after guard; she was also obliged to keep watch every four hours night and day, and frequently to go aloft.

The *Swallow* being in great distress, in two violent storms, *Hannab* worked at the pump in her turn, and the ship at last putting into *Gibraltar*, she there attended lieut. *Wyegate* at his lodgings, during a dangerous illness.

From *Gibraltar* they proceeded to the *Madeiras*, and the cape of good hope. During this passage they were reduced to short allowance, and but a pint of water a day: Here they joined the admiral in the *Namure*, and the rest of the fleet, which proceeded on their expedition, and *Hannab* soon after signalized herself at the attempt on the island of *St Mauritius*. See vol. xix. p. 135.

From *St Mauritius* they sailed to *St Davids*, where *Hannab*, with the rest of the marines, joined the *English* army, that was encamped, after a march of 3

weeks, before *Aria Coupan*, which was to have been stormed, if a shell had not blown up their magazine, and obliged the besieged to abandon it.

They proceeded with the army to *Pondicherry*, before which they lay 11 weeks, and were great part of the time up to the middle in water, without bread, and exposed to a terrible fire from the forts. An attack was at length made, in which *Hannab* having fired 37 rounds, receiv'd a ball in the groin, six wounds in one leg, and five in the other.

The siege being raised, she was sent to the hospital at *Cuddylorum*, to have her wounds dress'd, but she extracted herself the ball from her groin with her finger and thumb, after she had endured a most violent pain for two days, and always dress'd it herself. In about 3 months she recovered, and was put on board the *Tartar* pink, and when the fleet came from *Madrass*, was turned over to the *Eltham*, capt. *Lloyd*, with whom she sail'd to *Bombay*.

Here the captain being on shore, one night on her watch Mr *Allen*, who had the command of the ship, desired her to sing; she excused herself as not being well; but he absolutely commanding her to sing, she as absolutely refused, alledging, that to sing was no part of a soldier's duty, and that he had no authority to require it. He, fond to shew his power, caus'd *Hannab* to lie in irons five days, then to receive a dozen lashes at the gangway\*; and sent her to the fore-top mast head for four hours: This injustice of his, did not however go unpunished, for as they were unrigging the ship, after her arrival in *England*, one of the sailors let a block fall upon his head, which hurt him greatly, and endanger'd his life.

She was on board the *Eltham* in the hurricane, in which the *Namure*, the *Pembroke*, and other ships, were lost: And coming to *Lisbon*, on her return, she went often on shore with the men, and entered readily into schemes of pleasure, to prevent suspicion; she was of a party that went to an *Irish* house to drink wine. At the door of this house was sitting an *English* sailor, who had lately come from *Genoa* in a *Dutch* ship, and was

\* She prevented a discovery of her sex, by tying an handkerchief round her neck, and spreading the ends of it over her breasts. When she was whipped at *Carlisle*, she was not so full, and her arms being drawn up, the protuberance of the breasts was inconsiderable, and they were hid by her standing so close to the gates.

was known to some of *Hannab's* company: This man was taken into the party, and each one beginning to relate his adventures, *Hannab* enquired if he knew one *Summs*, a *Dutchman*; the stranger immediately replied, that he knew him well, and that he was executed at *Genoa*, for giving a *Genoese* a mortal stab with his knife; that he visited him in prison, where he expressed great remorse for ill treating his wife, whom he left in *England*.

*Hannab* heard his relation, without discovering any extraordinary emotion, and soon after arrived at *Portsmouth*, where the house being full, she was obliged to accept of a male bedfellow, and lay three nights with two different men, one of them her ship mate on board the *Eltham*; but conducted herself with so much caution, that her sex was not suspected. Here she fell in company with her female friend, for whose sake she had been whipp'd at *Carlisle*. This girl was then single, and remembering *Hannab*, wou'd have married her, but as she did not chuse to discover herself, nor rudely to refuse the favour, she deferr'd it 'till she had been at *London* and receiv'd her money. She accordingly came to *London* soon afterwards, and when in company with her fellow-adventurers, after receiving their pay, and she was about to part with them forever, she discover'd her sex, that they might be witness of the truth of her adventures. One of them, who had been her bedfellow, immediately offered her marriage, which she refused.

She wears man's cloaths, a lac'd hat, and cockade, sword and ruffles, and is not to alter the military dress, 'till further orders from the duke. See p. 283.

For a supply of ready money, she has been induced to sing a song, and perform the military exercise at *Goodman's-Fields-Well's*; which is alluded to in the conclusion of the following verses, published about her.

#### THE FEMALE SOLDIER.

**H**ANNAH in breeks behav'd so well,  
That none her softer sex could tell:  
Nor was her policy confounded,  
When 'near the mark of nature wounded:  
Which proves, what men will scarce admit  
That women are for secrets fit.

That healthful blood could keep so long,  
Amidst young fellows hale and strong,  
Demonstrates, tho' a seeming wonder,  
That love, to courage truckles under.

O how her bed-mate bit his lips,  
And mark'd the spreading of her hips;

And curs'd the blindness of his youth,  
When she contels'd the naked truth!

Her Fortitude, to no man's second,  
To woman's honour must be reckon'd.  
Twelve wounds! 'twas half great *Cæsar's*

A number,  
That made his corpse the ground encumber,  
How many men, for heroes nurs'd,  
Had left their colours at the first?

'Twas thought *Achilles'* greatest glory,  
That *Homer* rose to sing his story:

And *Alexander* mourin'd his lot,  
That no such bard could then be got.—

But HANNAH's praise no *Homer* needs;  
She lives to sing her proper DEEDS.

An explication of the flux and reflux of the sea, or of the tides, with their true and proper circumstances; 4 to, p. 489. Paris.

**T**His author, (M. l' Abbe de B.) had lately proposed a new system of the world, different from those of *Copernicus*, *Ptolemy*, *Descartes* and *Newton*. [See his hypothesis. Vol. XIX. p. 403.]

As it is natural for learned men to have a mean opinion of the systems of others, when they have a mind to establish their own, it is no wonder that our author speaks with little deference, of all the naturalists who have before him endeavour'd to account for the flux and reflux of the sea. They have, in his opinion, suppressed the principal circumstances, and that with design; because, says he, their explications are not to be reconciled with facts, and their hypotheses are only to be regarded as ingeniously fram'd romances: on 'y contrary, his own system is that of nature, since it is the only one that is conformable to observations and the laws of mechanics.

The whole work is divided into 4 parts; the first chapters of the first part enlarge principally on the necessity the Abbe was under of inventing a new system, in order to account for a vast number of effects, which were never 'y he thinks, explained; he then makes some reflections on the mean time of the high tides in the ports of *Europe* at the syzygies, or conjunctions of the sun and moon. He enlarges much on the vertical and lateral compression of the atmosphere by the beds of æther; and, lastly, treats of the most essential cause, or that which regards the flux and reflux. This is the substance of his system; his own explication follows.

“The flux comes in every division of the sea, which may be distinguished by the difference of its time of full sea, and