

Cold and stormy weather had again set in and on November 22, Dearborn began his retreat with the avowed intention of placing his troops in winter quarters at Plattsburg, Burlington and Greenbush. This fact was definitely reported to Prevost on November 26 and he immediately disbanded the sedentary militia by a highly complimentary general order. On the following day the greater portion of the troops were again withdrawn into cantonments. Major de Salaberry was deservedly praised for his capable conduct while in command of the outposts and was soon after granted a step in rank.*

Finding that the American forces had been massed on the extreme right of their line, Prevost had determined some days before the attack upon Odelltown, to create a diversion by a counterstroke on the post at French Mills on their left, which was a standing menace to the navigation of the St. Lawrence as well as a source of serious alarm to the Indians of St. Regis. Captain Gray was accordingly instructed to attempt to take it by surprise while on his way to Kingston in charge of a brigade of boats. Gray was accompanied by two senior officers, Major Macdonell of the Glengarry Light Infantry and Major Clerl. of the 49th, whose presence seems to have caused him some embarrassment. On November 22, the convoy arrived at Glengarry House and orders were sent to Lieut. Colonels McMillan and McLean, commanding the 1st Glengarry and 1st Stormont Militia to march to that place with all the men they could collect. As the flank companies of his regiment were in garrison at Prescott, McLean was obliged to call upon the militia residing in the neighbourhood of Cornwall, yet in two hours more than 250 had assembled. He was materially assisted by the energetic exertions and great influence of Reverend Alexander Macdonell, their parish priest. At 11 p.m. the troops were embarked and two hours later landed below St. Regis whence a road led to the enemy's position. McLean was detached with his men to occupy St. Regis village and prevent its inhabitants from giving the alarm. The remainder of the force, numbering 150 of all ranks, preceded by Roxborough's company of the Glengarry Light Infantry, under Major Macdonell, at a distance of sixty paces, as an advance guard began its march through the woods towards the mouth of Salmon river where the enemy had built a blockhouse, which they had named Fort Invincible, in honour of a company of volunteers, who had rather boastfully assumed the title of the Troy Invincibles. The main body was entirely composed of Glengarry militia under Lieut. Colonel McMillan. Thirty Indians commanded by Captain Anderson brought up the rear. Before reaching the village of French Mills the column was compelled to pass two bridges. After crossing the first, the advanced guard was fired upon

*General Orders, Nov. 26 and 27.