

**Hampton's Official Report**

The army was put in motion on the morning of the 26th October, leaving its baggage, etc., on the ground of encampment. On advancing near the enemy it was found that the column I had sent (the previous evening to cross by a ford and take the enemy in the rear) was not as far advanced as anticipated. The guides had misled it, and finally failed in finding the ford. We could not communicate with it, so waited the sound of attack from below. At 2 o'clock firing was heard on the south side of the Chateauguay river, when our troops advanced rapidly to the attack. The enemy's light troops commenced a sharp fire, but Brig.-Major Izard, advancing with his brigade, drove him everywhere behind his defenses and silenced the fire in front. This brigade would have pushed forward as far as courage, skill, and perseverance could have carried it, but, while advancing, the firing on the south bank of the river ceased, and word came the ford had not been gained. The enemy retired behind his defenses, but a renewal of his attack was expected, and our troops remained some time in their position to meet it. The troops on the south bank of the river were excessively fatigued. Its purpose having failed, Colonel Purdy was ordered to withdraw his column to a ford 4 or 5 miles above and cross over. The day was spent and Gen. Izard was ordered to withdraw his brigade to a position three miles in the rear, to which place the baggage was ordered forward. The slowness and order with which Gen. Izard retired with his brigade must have inspired the enemy with respect. They presumed not to venture a shot at him during his movement. The unguardedness of some part of Purdy's command exposed him to a rear attack from the Indians, which was repeated after dark, entailing some loss. These attacks were always repelled and must have cost the enemy as many lives as we lost. Our entire loss in killed, wounded, and missing does not exceed fifty. In its new position, within three miles of the enemy's post, the army encamped on the night of the 26th and remained until 12 o'clock of the 28th. All the deserters, of whom there were four, concurred in the information that Sir George Prevost, with three other general officers, had arrived with the whole of his disposable force and lay in rear of the defenses.