

occupation of the fort at Amherstburg, under Lieut-Colonel J. B. Baby. Every man considered fit for field service was marched across the river on the ice to Brownstown, where the Indians were likewise directed to assemble.

By great exertions a force of 578 of all ranks belonging to ten different corps was scraped together. Of these, 366 were regular soldiers or Provincial seamen. Three three-pounders and three small howitzers, mounted on sleds, were manned by squads of the Royal Artillery and seamen and escorted by a company of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Four weak companies of the 41st Regiment officered by four subalterns and eight sergeants, formed the backbone of this motley array under command of Captain Joseph Tallon. As inspecting field officer, Lieut-Colonel St. George superintended the movements of the militia, of whom there were eight small companies commanded by Major Reynolds.¹

There were nearly five hundred Indians, mainly Wyandots and Pottowatomies, directed by nineteen white officers headed by Elliott and Caldwell. A good number of these Indians were armed with muskets and mounted on their own horses. Before dark, Procter advanced twelve miles to Swan Creek, where he bivouacked in the open air. Two hours before dawn the march was resumed, and just as day was breaking the head of the column arrived within gunshot of the village. As the deployment began in the fields on the left of the road the drums in the American camp were heard beating the reveillé. Then three shots were fired by their sentries in rapid succession, one of which struck down a leading grenadier of the 41st. Procter has been strongly censured for not charging at once with his infantry, instead of waiting for his artillery, which actually made little impression upon the enemy's defences and gave them time to recover from their surprise. But their position was not yet precisely ascertained, and it was still so dark that the palisades with little jets of flame darting from the loopholes were at first mistaken for a line of men drawn up in front.²

Three guns were placed in position in the orchard near the hollow; the others were moved to the right of the road to enfilade the village from that direction, and were supported by a small party of Indians. The whole of the militia and the great body of Indians made a wide circuit to the left to turn that flank. In this they entirely succeeded, and rushing suddenly from their concealment, with shrill whoops upon the 17th United States Infantry, which was wholly unprotected by

¹ Staff, 3; Royal Artillery, 23; 10th Battalion Royal Veterans, 4; 41st Regiment, 244; Royal Newfoundland, 61; Marine Department, 28; 1st Essex Militia, 116; 2nd Essex Militia, 96; Commissariat, 1. Field Train, 1; Royal Engineers, 1.

² Narrative of Shadrach Byfield, 41st Regiment.