

"No force was sent out to amuse or divert Lieut. Colonels De Haren and Bisshop while the post at De Coo's should be attacked. A simultaneous movement had been planned against St. Catharines (Lieut. Colonel De Haren), but was not executed.

"The expedition under Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler appears to have been founded upon information derived from Captain Chapin. His information is proved to have been erroneous.

"The guide furnished to conduct the expedition was the same Captain Chapin and at nine or ten miles from Fort George, he was, or appeared to be, ignorant of the roads. Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler took an inhabitant of the country and compelled him to become the guide.

"The detachment was ordered to lay at Queenston on the night of the 23rd and march early the next morning. It did so, laying upon its arms in silence without lights and having taken precautions to avoid surprise and from preventing the country people from carrying intelligence to the enemy.

"On the march, advance and rear guards, with flankers from each side were kept constantly out. Captain Chapin's mounted men formed the advanced guards and frequently pushed out patrols in search of discoveries.

"Between eight and nine o'clock on the morning of the 24th at a place called the Beaver Dams, a mile and a half in advance of De Coo's, the enemy's Indians were first discovered issuing from the woods in rear of the detachment and moving across the road upon which it had marched. The action commenced immediately and the column quickly forming into two lines fought at the same time to the front and rear. Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler was at the head of the first and Major Taylor at the head of the second.

"The action continued upwards of three hours. The American troops contended with a superior force of Indians, British regulars and Provincials. Several changes of position, rendered necessary by circumstances, had been executed in an orderly and military manner and every officer was at the head of his command and every company did its duty, a majority of the mounted gunmen and their commander excepted.

"But the ammunition had been nearly exhausted, all the boxes had been exhausted of their cartridges, replenished from the wagon and again nearly exhausted; the wagon itself was emptied, or nearly so; the artillery had but two or three rounds of canister and a small number of round shot remaining. The heat of the day was oppressive and the men exhausted with the length of the action and the march in the morning.

"Seventy or eighty of the detachment were killed or wounded. Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, Captain Machesney, Captain Cummings, and Lieutenants Marshall and Randall were among the latter.