

and Pottawatamies came to the fort, and begged for peace tired out by the length of the blockade and by military operations for which they were not prepared.

To the Wyandots peace was granted, but the Pottowatomies were ordered to surrender all their prisoners with which they reluctantly complied. This was a fortunate circumstance for the garrison as it neutralized the hostility of those Indians who had so vigilantly guarded the river and frustrated a reinforcement already on its way from Niagara.

Immediately on the disastrous intelligence of the loss of the frontier posts reaching Sir Jeffrey Amherst, at New York, that energetic and zealous officer countermanded the order for the miserable remnants of the Havana expedition which were about to sail for England, and distributing them throughout the sea port garrisons, he ordered the efficient soldiers therein to march at once for Detroit, under his Aid de Camp, Captain Dalzell. The convoy consisted of twenty-two barges armed with swivels carrying 280 men and a fresh supply of provisions and ammunition. On the evening of the 26th July, the detachment reached Sandusky and marching inland, burnt the village of the Wyandots and the corn which this tribe more provident than the rest had planted in the spring. All this was done in ignorance of the peace concluded between them and Gladwyn, and no doubt this act of aggression influenced their future conduct for which Dalzell suffered dearly. On the evening of the 28th, the detachment reached the mouth of the Detroit which was cautiously ascended under cover of the night and a dense fog.

It was evident that the vigilance of the Wyandots had relaxed since the treaty with Gladwyn, otherwise this convoy would have had a hard fight, before they could have reached the fort.

Early on the morning of the 29th, the rising fog disclosed to the beleagured garrison the glad sight of the boats ascending the river, fearful, lest they might have experienced the fate of Cuyler's convoy, their course was watched for some time with very great interest, but a gun from the fort being answered by a swivel from the boats, and all doubts as to their safety were removed. In passing the villages of the Wyandots and Pottowatomies a hot fire was opened on the boats, and replied to by swivels and muskets, but before it had ceased fifteen of the English were killed or wounded. The loss of the Savages could not be ascertained but it was very severe; they had no doubt, received intelligence of the destruction of their village, and the description of force by which it was effected, their habitual caution would not allow them to risk an engagement on the open water with such powerful antagonists.

The detachment was composed of soldiers of the 55th and 80th regiments with 20 inde-

pendent rangers commanded by Major Rogers. On the day of its arrival, Captain Dalzell had a conference with the commandant at the quarters of the latter and strongly urged that the time was come when an irrecoverable blow might be struck at Pontiac and wanted permission to march out the following night to attack the Indian camp—Gladwyn who was better acquainted with the affair was averse to the attempt, but Dalzell urged the matter so strenuously and being the confidential aid-de-camp of Sir J. Amherst supposed to know his wishes, that at last the commandant yielded although against his own better judgment. Accordingly on the evening of the 30th July, orders were issued and preparations made for the meditated attack, through the carelessness of some of the officers, the design became known to some of the Canadians about the fort who immediately informed Pontiac thereof. At two o'clock, on the 31st, the gates were opened in silence and a detachment of 250 soldiers passed noiselessly out. They filed two deep along the road while two large bateaux each carrying a swivel on the bow moved up the river ahead of them. Lt. Brown led the advanced guard of 25 men, the centre was commanded by Captain Gray, and the remainder by Capt Grant. About a mile and a half from the fort Parent's creek ever since that night called Bloody Run, descended through a wild and rough hollow and entered Detroit amid a growth of rank grass and siege. Only a few rods from its mouth the road crossed it by a ruined wooden bridge not existing at the present day. Beyond this bridge, the land rose in abrupt ridges parallel to the stream, along the summits were rude intrenchments made by Pontiac to protect his camp which had formerly occupied the ground immediately beyond; here too were many piles of firewood belonging to the Canadians besides strong picket fences enclosing gardens and orchards connected with the neighboring dwellings. Behind the fences, wood piles and intrenchments crouched, an unknown number of savages with levelled guns awaiting the approaching column. The English apprehensive of danger pushed rapidly forward, the advanced guard were half way over the bridge and the main body just entering on it, when the war whoop in their front was followed by a general discharge of the Indian guns which laid half of the advanced party low, the remainder ran in on the head of the column, throwing it into confusion, but Dalzell's voice was heard above the din and advancing to the front, he rallied the men and led them forward to the attack. Again the Indians poured in their volley and again the column hesitated, but Dalzell shouted from the front and they charged furiously towards the bridge and up the heights beyond, but the subtle Indians had fled though their whoops were still heard and their fire still enlightened the gloom. The English pushed forward amid the pitchy darkness quite ignorant

of the road, and soon found themselves involved in a range of outhouses and enclosures, at every halt the retiring foe would gather to resume the attack and firing briskly, mostly on the front and flanks. To advance further would be useless, the only alternative was to wait for daylight. Captain Grant and his Company recrossed the bridge and formed on the road above, the rest followed, a small party remaining to keep the enemy in check while the dead and wounded were placed on board the two bateaux which had moved up to the bridge during the action.

This attack was commenced amid a sharp fire from both sides, and before it was completed heavy volleys were heard from the rear where Grant was posted. A great force of Indians had fired on him from the house of Meloche and the neighboring orchards, he pushed up the hill drove them from the orchard by a bayonet charge, drove them also out of the house in which he found two Canadians who told him the Indians were bent on cutting off the English from the Fort, and that they had gone in great numbers to occupy the houses which commanded the road below. It was now evident retreat was necessary, and the orders being issued the men fell back into marching order. Grant was now in the van and Dalzell in the rear, some of the Indians followed keeping up a scattering fire, and from time to time the rear faced about and gave back a volley of musketry at their pursuers. For half a mile the retreat was conducted with skill and order, but at this point a farm house with many barns, outhouses, and a strong picket fence commanded the road; behind these and in a newly dug cellar a multitude of Indians lay concealed, they suffered the advance guard to pass but when the centre and rear closed up they raised a terrific yell and poured in a volley among them; this threw the troops into disorder, but Dalzell's exertions restored the broken column—the savages had taken possession of the farm house, but Rogers with his rangers cut down the door with an axe, rushed in and bayoneted every Indian in the house. Captain Gray in dislodging them from the fences was mortally wounded, and it is quite possible that if they had not been aided by the skill of Major Rogers the whole detachment might have been cut off. Thoroughly well posted in Indian warfare, able to take advantage of every degree of shelter, that astute warrior soon found another house which he effectually held against all the efforts of Pontiac and his savages. Meantime Dalzell in an heroic attempt to bring off a sergeant of the 55th had fallen, and the command devolved on Rogers. Grant had moved forward with his company half a mile further, where he found a strong position in which he could maintain himself till the centre and rear closed up—thus front and rear were effectually covered, while Gladwyn by detaching assistance from the Fort completed the communications. Meantime