

## REPORT of Lieutenant-Colonel BOOKER.

SIR,

Port Colborne, June 2, 1866.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with instructions received from Colonel Peacocke, through Captain Akers, I proceeded by train at 5 A.M. to-day, to Ridgeway station, on the B. and L. W. railroad with the Queen's Own, of Toronto, Major Gilmor, say 480 men, of all ranks; the York Rifles, Captain Denis; the Caledonian Rifles, Captain Jackson, and the 13th battalion, of Hamilton, together about 360 men, total of all ranks, say 840 men, in order to form a junction with Colonel Peacocke, at Stevensville at 9 to 9.30 A.M. On arriving at Ridgeway I sent the Great Western train away, and as I could not obtain a horse or waggon in the place for the conveyance of stores, I was compelled to leave without the stores, and sent them back to Port Colborne. At a little before 8 A.M. we were feeling our way upon the Stevensville road, and were about three miles from that village, when our advanced guard felt the enemy. Major Gilmor extended the Queen's Own in skirmishing order, in admirable style; the men advancing in good spirits, they were supported and relieved as required by the 13th of Hamilton, and the Rifle Companies from York and Caledonia. After Major Gilmor had expended much ammunition, he reported to me that his ammunition was failing, at 9.30, after being engaged under a hot fire for an hour and a half, I observed the enemy throwing back his right and reinforcing his left flank, I immediately ordered up two companies, in support, to counteract the movement; at this moment, I received a telegram by the hands of Mr. Stovin, Welland railroad, on the field, informing me that Colonel Peacocke could not leave Chippawa before 7 o'clock, instead of 5 A.M. the hour named by Captain Akers, on his behalf. The enemy was strongly posted in the woods, on the west of the garrison road, the road forming an entrance as it were, to a *cul-de-sac*. We outflanked him, when he brought up his centre reserves, and outflanked us, we drove them in the first place, over a mile, and held possession of their rifle pits. A cry of cavalry from the front, and retreat of a number of men in our centre on the reserves, caused me to form a square, and prepare for cavalry. This mistake originated from relieved skirmishers doubling back. I immediately reformed column and endeavoured to deploy to the right; a panic here seized our men, and I could not bring them again to the front; I regret to say we have lost several valuable officers and men, I estimate the strength of the enemy as greater than ours, and from the rapid firing they were evidently armed with repeating rifles.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. BOOKER, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Commanding Volunteer Militia.

P.S.—We are destitute of provisions here.

A. B.

If I had only one gun of artillery I feel sure the result would have been different.

A. B.

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**List of Killed and Wounded in the Engagement at Ridgeway, on the 2nd June, 1866.**
**13th Infantry Battalion.****Killed.**—None.**Wounded.**—Lieutenant Routh, dangerously; 6 privates.**Queen's Own Rifles****Killed.**—Ensign McEachun; 5 privates.**Wounded.**—Captain Boustead, Lieutenant Berau, Lieutenant Campbell, Ensign Fahay, 1 Colour Sergeant, 3 Sergeants, 2 Corporals, 15 Privates.**Missing.**—1 Private.

(Signed) G. NAPIER, Major-General.

The return I received from the Queen's Own, does not, as you will perceive, state the nature of the wounds, I will send for another properly filled in to-morrow.

(Signed) G. NAPIER, Major-General.

Toronto, June 6, 1866, 10.30 A.M.

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