

probably owing to the immediate dispersal of a large portion of their militia. A week after the battle, Van Rensselaer stated officially that it would be impossible to furnish an exact return, but estimated the number of killed at sixty, and of wounded at one hundred and seventy. It was but natural that he should attempt to minimize his losses, and accordingly we find others inclined to believe them very much greater. Lossing and J. L. Thomson, neither of whom would be prone to exaggeration in this respect, agree in placing the number of killed at ninety, but diminish the number of wounded. Contemporary accounts generally put both still higher. Colonel Mead, a prisoner, estimated the killed and drowned at one hundred, and the wounded at twice that number, while Colonel Bloom, who was wounded but escaped capture, thought that a hundred were drowned alone, and three hundred killed and wounded. An eye-witness, whose letter was published in the *Boston Messenger*, stated that 1,600 Americans were engaged, of whom 900 were regulars, and that the number of killed was variously estimated from 150 up to 400. A letter in the *Ontario Repository*, also from an eye-witness, computed the killed and missing at 250, while still another in the *General Gazette* raised the number to 300. But a British officer writing from Fort George on the 17th of October, fairly distanced all others by the conjecture that 500 of their men must have perished in the action, or in the river, relating in support of his opinion that one boat was seen to sink with about fifty men, while two others, each having as many on board, did not bring more than half a dozen ashore alive in either of them.

There can be no doubt that the loss of the vanquished was severe. A single company of the 13th lost thirty men in killed or wounded, and four out of the five captains of that regiment engaged were disabled by wounds. Three captains and three subalterns were killed, and besides those who were taken prisoners, two colonels, four captains, and five subalterns were wounded. There were one hundred and twenty wounded officers and men among the prisoners, thirty of whom died. The hospital at Niagara was filled, and the remainder sheltered in the court house and churches. One hundred and forty others had been removed before the