

summit of which a large redoubt had been thrown up. The woods on the western front of these works had been obstructed by felling many large trees and converting them bodily into *abattis*. This forest was about a mile in width by four miles in length and so dense and marshy as to be impassable for troops. During the preceding winter the commandant of the fort had cut a passage through it in a north-westerly direction to the concession road for the convenience of obtaining supplies, which was commonly known as "Buck's Road."

The guns of Fort Erie and an armed schooner in the river opened fire upon the reconnoitering party as soon as it came within view. Two iron twenty-four pounders were brought forward along the river road to reply, but their fire was so ineffective that Drummond determined to defer any direct attack upon the American works until more heavy guns could be brought up from Fort George. Learning that supplies and reinforcements were constantly being sent over from Buffalo in rowboats he resolved in the first place to attempt the destruction of their depots on that side of the river. For this purpose the boats captured at the ferry opportunely afforded the means of transporting a small force. Lieut.-Colonel J. G. P. Tucker, who had gained some distinction recently while in command of the garrisons of Forts George and Missassauga during their investment, was accordingly instructed to pass the river below Squaw Island on the night of the 2d with 600 rank and file, consisting of six companies of the 41st Regiment under Lieut.-Colonel Evans, and the light companies of the 89th and 100th and flank companies of the 104th under Lieut.-Colonel Drummond. If he succeeded in landing without being observed he was directed to move rapidly up the right bank of Scajaquady Creek until he gained the main road from Williamsville to Buffalo and advance along it directly upon the latter place and accomplish the destruction of the depots of provisions and military stores, which was regarded as the principal object of the expedition. The dispersion of the troops assembled at Black Rock and the destruction of the batteries along the river were named as of secondary importance. As it was reported that this force consisted mainly of New York Militia, the veteran character of the troops detailed and the known talents and courage of the principal officers induced General Drummond to believe that this service could be accomplished with little difficulty. If his movement was discovered Lieut.-Colonel Tucker was authorized to attack Black Rock first if he deemed it advisable. The passage of the river was accomplished without opposition and a landing effected on the American side, but while the column was advancing in the dark along the narrow path by the creek it was suddenly and unexpectedly assailed in flank by