

Lieuts. Frazer and Riddle were engaged for most of the preceding day with fatigue parties, cutting roads for the advance of the column through the swamp, and falling timber to the rear and within 150 yards of the enemy's right, which service they executed with so much address as to avoid discovery, and on the succeeding day they conducted the two columns to the attack. Frazer was severely wounded by a musket ball while spiking a gun on the second battery; Riddle, after the first battery was carried, descended into the enemy's magazine, and after securing (with the assistance of Quartermaster Greene of the volunteers, whose good conduct deserves much praise,) a quantity of fixed ammunition, blew up the magazine and suffered severely by the explosion. I must solicit through you, sir, the attention of the general government to these meritorious young men. Captain Bigger is an excellent officer and rendered me much assistance, but was dangerously wounded. The other young gentlemen are citizens and deserve much credit for their activity and for having voluntarily encountered danger. My aide-de-camp, Major Dox, was confined at Buffalo by sickness.

On the whole, sir, I can say of the regular troops attached to the left column, of the veteran volunteers of Lieut.-Col. Dobbins' regiment, that every man did his duty, and their conduct on this occasion reflects a new lustre on their former brilliant achievements. To the militia the compliment is justly due, and I could pay them no greater one than to say, that they were not surpassed by the heroes of Chippawa and Niagara in steadiness and bravery.

The studied intricacy of the enemy's defences, consisting not only of the breastwork connecting their batteries but of successive lines of entrenchments for a hundred yards in the rear, covering the batteries and enfilading each other, and the whole obstructed by *abettis*, brush, and felled timber, was calculated to produce confusion among the assailants and led to several conflicts at the point of the bayonet. But by our double columns temporary irregularities in the one was always corrected by the other. Our success would probably have been more complete but for the rain, which unfortunately set in soon after we commenced our march, which rendered the fire of many of our muskets useless, and by obscuring the sun led to several unlucky mistakes. As an instance of this, a body of 50 prisoners, who had surrendered, were ordered to the fort in charge of a subaltern and 14 volunteers: the officer mistaking the direction conducted them towards the British camp in the route by which we had advanced and they were retaken, with the whole of the guard excepting the officer and one man, who fought their way back. Several of our stragglers were made prisoners by the same mistake. But, sir, notwithstanding these accidents, we have reason