

be made. Two messengers who had been sent to communicate with the gunboats having been intercepted and captured, Private Broome of the Marines, volunteered to make a third attempt. The message was enclosed in lead and placed in his mouth and he succeeded in running the gauntlet of the enemy's fire.

Meanwhile the Voltigeurs from Whitman's, with a few Indians, had joined the Grenadiers of the Canadian Fencibles at Burtonville by a roundabout route; and the whole force moved down the Lacolle to the relief of the besieged post. But the stream had already flooded the roads and in several places, they were obliged to wade to the waist in ice-cold water and mud. However, they moved resolutely forward, and dashed through the gap in the enemy's lines into the mill about an hour before sunset. It was at once determined to make another attempt upon the guns. Lieutenant Barton, of the Marines, offered to lead the charge; and the remnant of the three companies of the 13th, supported by the Fencibles and Voltigeurs, was formed into a column of sections under Captain Blake. This attack was so far successful that they obtained momentary possession of the guns, which were spiked either by the men serving them or by the assailants as they came up. An instant later they were swept back by a murderous fire from the infantry in the woods. They were rallied, and again dispersed. Lieut. Barton fell beside the guns, where he lay apparently lifeless until dark, when he recovered consciousness and crept back to the mill. The dauntless courage of this small party excited the outspoken admiration even of their adversaries. A letter published in the *American Daily Advertiser*, of Philadelphia, relates, "sixty of the British made a rush for the artillery and actually got possession of it, and a grenadier was killed in the act of spiking a gun." Another, quoted in the *Salem Gazette*, (6th May, 1814,) is still more explicit:

"About 300 British made a sally with a view to take a piece of artillery that was playing upon the mill, charged upon our troops and they all gave way except one man. He waited until they advanced within about three feet and then fired the twelve-pounder and made his escape. At the report of the piece our troops took courage and fired from the flanks and the enemy retired to the mill again. However incredible it may appear, 120 men charged our army and they gave way, a fact which no one disputes in this place."

As the gun he had relied upon to effect a breach was disabled, and it was rapidly growing dark, with every sign of a rainy night,