

What followed is thus described by him :

On their advance my 6-pounder and 3-pounder opened a heavy fire upon them, but not with the effect they should have had, being not well manned and for want of an artillery officer, which would have been invaluable to us, as they moved slowly and cautiously, declining to meet me on the open ground, but gradually gaining my left flank, which the Indians permitted even in the woods without firing a shot. I was even obliged to weaken my small front by detaching the Michigan Fencibles to oppose a party of the enemy which were advancing to the woods on my right. I now received accounts from Major Crawford, of the militia, that the enemy's two large ships had anchored in the rear of my left, and that troops were moving by a road in that direction towards the forts. I therefore immediately moved to place myself between them and the enemy, and took up a position effectually covering them, from whence collecting the greater part of the Indians who had retired and taking with me Major Crawford and about 50 militia I again advanced to support a party of the Follis Avoines Indians who, with their gallant chief, Thomas, had commenced a spirited attack upon the enemy, who in a short time lost their second in command and several other officers, seventeen of whom we counted dead upon the field, besides those they carried off, and a considerable number wounded. The enemy retired in the utmost haste and confusion, followed by the troops, till they found shelter under the very broadside of their ships anchored within a few yards of the shore. They re-embarked that evening and the vessels immediately hauled off."

Captain Sinclair, who commanded the American squadron, said that, "it was soon found the further the troops advanced the stronger the enemy became, and the weaker and more bewildered our force were; several of the commanding officers were picked out and killed and wounded without seeing any of them. The men were getting lost and falling into confusion, natural under such circumstances, which demanded an immediate retreat, or a total defeat and general massacre must have ensued."

They had lost three officers and fifteen men killed, one officer and fifty-six men wounded, and two missing, while McDonall had not a man hurt.

The leaders of the expedition were too much dispirited by the result to renew the attempt, but decided to blockade Nottawasaga and French rivers in the hope of cutting off all supplies and starving the garrison into a surrender. In this project they met with no better success, as both the vessels detached for that purpose were eventually surprised and captured by a small party of troops and seamen from the island.