

angle about the centre of the hill, the right face flanking the intrenchments on that side and the left commanding the approaches along the lake from the west. Each face had embrasures for three guns, and the work of enclosing it in rear had made some progress. A double row of *abattis* was constructed along its front, reaching some distance into the lake. This redoubt was defended by Towson's company of United States Artillery, the 21st and a detachment of the 11th United States Infantry, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel E. D. Wood, chief engineer. The 1st, 22d, 23d, 25th and part of the 11th United States Infantry, were retained as a reserve near the centre of the camp. The principal encampment, grand parade, hospital and magazine had all been protected by traverses of a substantial description, which sheltered them from the fire of the siege batteries. The total loss of the garrison during the two days bombardment had amounted only to ten killed and thirty-seven wounded, among the latter of whom were four officers.

The cheers of the besiegers upon hearing the explosion, and signs of activity which he had observed in their lines, led General Gaines to suspect that an assault might be attempted by them that night, and soon after dark he took the precaution of going the round of his works in person to urge the officers on duty to be particularly vigilant and well prepared. The chief engineer and other staff officers followed in turn, giving such advice as they deemed necessary. All the guns were unloaded and recharged, piles of round and case shot and bags of musket balls were piled beside them in readiness for immediate use. Dark lanterns and port fires were constantly kept burning in all the batteries.

Night set in cloudy and dark and a heavy rain soon began to fall, thoroughly drenching Fischer's column in its bivouac. The remainder of the British troops scarcely fared better as they had scanty shelter. The rain ceased shortly before midnight, but the darkness was little abated. The left and centre columns splashed forward to the trenches, and moving silently beyond took their allotted positions in the ravine within three hundred yards of the fort, apparently without attracting observation.

At the time appointed Fischer's column advanced to the assault in the following order. The forlorn hope, composed of a sub-division of the light company of the 8th, commanded by Lieut. Young and guided by Sergeant Powell of the 19th Light Dragoons. It was followed in succession by the light companies of DeWatteville's and the 100th, a second sub-division of the 8th light company, the grenadiers of DeWatteville's, the 89th light company, volunteers from the battalion companies of DeWatteville's and the remainder of the 8th.