

proceed with the fleet under your command, with the least possible delay, to the head of the lake, affording sufficient convoy to the small vessels containing those stores and supplies of which the army is in the most pressing want. Upon your arrival near the headquarters of the Centre Division, you will consult with Maj. Gen. De Rottenburg, who will unite in his person, the civil and military command in Upper Canada, upon my withdrawing from the province, or upon the eligibility of a combined attack, for the purpose of dislodging the enemy from the position of Fort George, by a rapid forward movement of the army, bringing up in battery at the same time, the heavy ordnance, mortars and howitzers now embarked. This attack must be supported by the countenance of your squadron, and the fire of such vessels as are armed with a description of ordnance favorable to it.—Should this attempt appear to you to be attended with too great hazard to the squadron, under the possible circumstance of the enemy appearing on the lake, you will in that case distinctly state your sentiments to Maj. Gen. De Rottenburg, who will immediately upon ascertaining your inability to assist him, take measures for evacuating the position he now occupies. In the execution of which movement, you will give his army every support and assistance, consistent with the safety of your vessels; and having performed this service, you will pursue such measures,