

with stores to my camp) in a state of defence, by means of lumber, bags of oats, etc., and having placed $\frac{1}{2}$ "C" company Infantry School on board her under command of Major Smith, I directed her to drop down the river and anchor for the night at Gabriel's Ferry, communicate with me there and to drop down next day, so as to be abreast of Batoche about 9 o'clock A.M., by which time I calculated I should be ready to commence my attack, and they were then to create what diversion they could in our favor, if possible to break the wire of the Batoche Ferry, and if they found they could not steam back, they were to continue on to the Hudson's Bay Crossing, south of Prince Albert. What was actually done by the steamer, you will find described in the report of Major Smith, "C" company Infantry School, forwarded herewith. I may add that besides the $\frac{1}{2}$ of "C" company, Captain Wise, my A.D.C. whose wound would not allow of his accompanying the force, Lieut. H. J. MacDouald of the 90th who was ill, and Lieuts. Gibson and Elliott of the 10th Royal Grenadiers suffering from rheumatism, with Dr. Moore and Mr. Pringie of the Medical Staff, Mr. Bedson, my chief transport officer, his clerk Vinen, and four scowmen were also on board, some of whom, as will be seen by Major Smith's report performed valuable service.

On the morning of the 8th, having heard that the trail along the river to Batoche, was not good, and had some dangerous places on it, I marched out to the eastward and then to the northwest, and struck the regular trail from Humboldt to Batoche about 9 miles from Batoche, and camped there for the night. As soon as I had selected the spot for the camp, I pushed on with some of Boulton's Mounted Infantry to within 4 miles of Batoche, without meeting any resistance, merely seeing two of the enemy's scouts, which fled on our approach, and I then selected a good spot to camp in the next day, in case I found it necessary to fall back from Batoche. On the morning of the 9th I left my camp standing, and advanced on Batoche. We arrived without hindrance to a spot within about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile of the new Catholic Church, just where the trail strikes the river bank, before turning down to Batoche. There were 3 houses between us and the church where a number of men were seen, who fled on two or three shells, and some rounds from the Gatling being fired at them, and we advanced slowly towards the church. From a house just the other side of the church a white flag was being displayed, and I rode up to it, and found three or four Catholic priests in it with some sisters, and a number of women and children apparently half-breeds. Having reassured them I advanced cautiously, extending my infantry and pushing back the enemy until we reached the crest of hill, which enabled me to bring the guns down, and shell the houses of Batoche, which were visible from a spot just below the crest. As the houses were of a light construction, and not very large, not much damage was done, and just then as some shots came from across the river from a bluff along the bank and as the spot the guns were in was completely exposed to this fire, I directed the guns to retire, and as they were doing so suddenly a very heavy fire was opened from what we afterwards found were some rifle pits in a bluff just below where the guns had been but which was stopped by a rattling fire from the Gatling which was splendidly handled by Capt. Howard, ably supported by Lieut. Rivers "A" Battery. After some time, finding that the fire of the opposite side was again commencing and also from the rifle pits and that a horse had been killed and a man hit belonging to the Gatling, I directed Capt. Howard to bring his Gatling back which he did without farther loss, and the wounded man was brought in at great risks by my A.D.C. Capt. Freer "B" company Infantry School and Gunner Coyne of "A" Battery. I then went off to the right of my extended line behind the church, and found the men holding their ground but exposed to a fire from a bluff with a newly made grave in front of it railed in with wood. I then ordered the Gatling round to try and silence their fire, which it did at first, owing probably to the novelty of this weapon, as regards the enemy, but shortly afterwards the enemy's fire was renewed, and we afterwards found that they were firing from carefully constructed rifle pits, which completely covered them from any fire. During this time Capt. Peters, "A" Battery, had endeavored to drive the enemy out of the pits from whence had come the fire which caused me to retire the guns, with a portion of the Garrison Artillery of "A" Battery School, but the fire was too hot and they had to retire, leaving a wounded man behind. On my returning to that part of the attack and hearing of this I advanced a part of the Midland Battalion down a coulee or bluff on the left between the cemetery and the church, with orders to keep up a hot fire, so as to distract the attention of the enemy, from the spot where the wounded man was lying and also directed a part of the 90th and 10th who were lying down in advance across the trail, to do the same, and sent down a part of the Garrison Artillery with a stretcher to bring the man back, which they did without hesitation, and to my great satisfaction they succeeded in bringing him back, without losing another man which was what I feared, but unfortunately the man himself was dead. Our dead and wounded were temporarily placed in the church where they were attended to by the Medical men, assisted by the Roman Catholic Sisters who kindly did all they could to help the doctors. As it was now becoming late and I saw that though holding our own, we were not likely to make any advance that day, it became necessary for me to decide as to where I should camp for the night, and taking into consideration the enormous importance at that time of not even appearing to retreat even so short a distance as to where I had selected a spot for my camp I resolved to send for my tents and baggage and camp where I was, though there was no good place for it. I accordingly sent back for that purpose my second senior transport officer, Mr. Secretan, who succeeded in bringing all my old camp equipage and teams, in a remarkably short time, and having formed a Zareba with them, I then ordered the advanced parties to be gradually withdrawn which was done very creditably, as some of the enemy followed them up, probably thinking at first that they were retreating. They were however speedily undeceived by receiving a heavy fire from the Zareba, and though a few of them kept up a desultory fire for a short time, as darkness fell they retired, but not before, I am sorry to say, killing two of our horses and wounding one man in the Zareba. The pickets were then posted, a slight trench made round the Zareba and the rest of the men lay down with their arms lining the four sides of the Zareba, each side being under the charge of a Field Officer with so many sentries on each face who kept watch whilst the others slept, and so the night passed in quiet. The casualties this day were as follows: two men killed, one officer and nine men wounded.

(To be continued.)

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