

to call together the general officers to consider what, in our present situation, was best to be done, and it was determined, notwithstanding the divided state of the troops by the separation of the transports, the weak state of Fort Louis, and the impossibility of supplying it with water but from the ships, and the many other difficulties which then appeared, that it would be most for his majesty's service, and the honour of his arms, to do the utmost to keep possession of the fort, and to wait some further intelligence of the motions of the enemy.

Commodore Moore sailed the next morning for Prince Rupert's bay, with all the ships of war, except the Roebuck of 40 guns, which he left, as some protection to the transports.

From this time to the 17th I continued to direct works to be made for the security of the camp, and for the finishing, as well as strengthening the lines, when, the chief engineer, who was on board one of the transports that could not before get up, being arrived, and having made to me a report of the weakness of the Fort, I thought it necessary to call a council of war to consider the state thereof; and it being debated whether the fort might not be made tenable and kept as a garrison for his Majesty's service, on a more circumscribed plan, tho' it appeared impossible to keep it in the present extent of out-posts; it was determined after much consideration, that from its weakness and bad construction, its being commanded by several heights very contiguous to it, as well as the great difficulty (I may indeed say the impossibility) of procuring for the present, and establishing a constant supply of water, and other more necessary things for the support and defence of a garrison in this part of the World, not to be tenable. However, Sir, I was determined to hold it, until some future event might convince me what was best to be done for his Majesty's service.

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