

carried; we blew up his principal work, destroyed his battering pieces and captured 400 prisoners. The enemy resisted our assault with firmness, but suffered greatly; his total loss cannot be less than 800 men.

In such a business we could not but expect to lose many valuable lives; they were offered up a voluntary sacrifice to the safety and honor of this army and nation.

I will forward to you the particulars of this splendid affair, with a return of the killed and wounded, in the course of a few days.

---

**Gen. Brown to Gov. Tompkins.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE, Sept. 20, 1814.

MY DEAR SIR,—Your Excellency is no doubt aware how much the army under my command has suffered from the fire of the enemy's batteries, of which the first and second were not more than 500 yards distant. Soon after my arrival, I ascertained they were day and night employed in erecting a third, to the right of the others, which would rake obliquely our whole encampment. About the 12th this new work was nearly completed, and in it were mounted some long 24-pounders. Being very impatient under the fire of the old, and knowing that our difficulties would increase from the opening of the new, battery, I determined to hazard a sortie with a view of carrying them and destroying the cannon. On the 17th inst. an order was given to this effect and executed in the most gallant style.

The batteries were carried, the principal work blown up, and the cannon effectually destroyed. It was a desperate conflict. The loss of the enemy cannot be less than 800 men. Our own is severe, in officers particularly. The militia of New York have redeemed their character—they behaved gallantly. Gen. Davis was killed, and General Porter slightly wounded in the hand.

Of the militia that were called out by the last requisition, fifteen hundred men have crossed. This reinforcement has been of immense importance to us; it doubled our effective strength, and their good conduct cannot but have the happiest effect upon the nation. The brave men deserve well of their country; and I flatter myself that the legislature about to convene will notice them as becomes the representatives of a generous people.

---