

COPY OF OFFICIAL REPORTS

(116h.)

From Major-General MIDDLETON, C.B. (Commanding the North-West Field Force), concerning the engagements at Fish Creek, on the 24th April, 1885; Poundmaker's Camp (near Crees' Reserve). 2nd May, 1885; Batoche, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th May, 1885.

OTTAWA, July, 1885.

FISH CREEK.

NORTH-WEST FIELD FORCE,
HEADQUARTERS, FISH CREEK, 1st May, 1885.

SIR,—I have the honor to state, for the information of His Excellency the Governor General and yourself, the following particulars of the engagement between my force and that of the rebels on the 24th of April last, which I have been unable to do before, except by telegraph, owing to having so much to do in reconnoitring, getting up supplies and making arrangements for the movement of the troops in the other parts of the North-West Territory.

I had previously informed you of the division of my forces, and on the morning of the 23rd both columns advanced on the two sides of the river, with the snow moving down between them. We halted about 18 miles down the river, my column near the farm of a settler named McIntosh, the other in a line with us on the other side. After a quiet night, we started, on the morning of the 24th, at about 7 o'clock, with the usual military precaution—mounted infantry scouts spread out well in front, with support of mounted infantry, under Major Boulton, about 200 yards in rear, an advanced guard of the 90th Battalion about 300 yards in rear of that, and the main column about 200 or 300 yards in rear of the advanced guard. Though I had not been led to believe that the rebels would come so far to the front to attack us, still I was aware of the existence of a rather deep ravine, or creek, about 5 or 6 miles ahead; consequently I was, on this occasion, with the support under Major Boulton, accompanied by Capt. Haig, R.E., A.Q.M.G., and my two As.D.C., Capt. Wise and Lieut. Doucet, and Mr. McDowell, attached to my Staff. On approaching some bluffs, just as the left advanced scouts were circling round, we suddenly received a heavy fire from a bluff and some ground sloping back on our left—which fire was luckily too high to do mischief, having been evidently fired in a hurry, owing to the approach of the left scouts. Major Boulton instantly ordered his men to dismount, let loose their horses (two of which were immediately shot) and hold the enemy in check. This was done by them most gallantly—the flankers and files in front falling back on the main body. I sent Capt. Wise back with orders to bring up the advance guard and main body, which was soon done, though, in going with the order, Capt. Wise's horse was hit by a shot from the bluffs on the left. The advanced guard, on arrival, extended and took cover in the bluffs nearest us; and as the main body came up, two more companies of the 90th were extended—the rebels advancing up out of the ravine, into which, however, they again speedily retired—and a heavy fire was exchanged; but having sent a party round to a house on the enemy's right, the enemy gradually retired along the ravine, while our men advanced slowly to the crest of a deeply wooded part running out of the main ravine. In this former ravine a small party of the rebels made a stand, in which we found, afterwards, to be some carefully constructed rifle pits. These men were evidently their best shots—Gabriel Dumont being amongst them—but were, so to speak, caught in a trap, a great number of their