

The next day we were idle, but the force at and near Guelph was not, an attempt having been made to force our position. It was defeated, only to be renewed on the following day, the enemy having brought up his reserve from Paris. On hearing this, most of our Cavalry and mounted Rifles were sent to Guelph, our position at Flamboro being so strong that they were not required.

The result of the second day's fighting around Guelph was indecisive—neither party gaining any advantage. Our force at Guelph was now increased by some 5000 men from Toronto, and were in good spirits notwithstanding their hard work. The country in the neighbourhood of Guelph was admirably adapted for defensive warfare, the natural elevations, the creeks and River Speed, and the situation of the town itself being utilized in our favour.

We had still possession of the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railroad, and a strong force of Reserve and Active Militia were concentrated at Fergus preventing the enemy from turning our flank in that direction of the country between Guelph and the Burlington Bay; little need be said, but it abounded in defensive positions, our main body occupying the heights between Burlington junction and the Guelph road with strong pickets at Strabane, Freelon, Puslinch, and Aberfoyle, connecting with our army at Guelph. Constant communication was kept up by patrols from this line of pickets, and the possession of the Guelph road enabled us to follow the enemy's movements on our landward flank. Our gun boats and batteries protected our lake flank most effectually.

This being the position of affairs, the enemy attacked us at two points on the morning of the 15th, near the Railway crossing at Dundas, and at the junction of the Guelph and West Flamboro road near Greenville. The attacking force at each point was estimated at about 10,000 men. Of the remainder, some 10,000 were in reserve, and the remainder protecting the communications at Hamilton and Stony Creek. The dispositions were skillfully made, and the attack coolly and courageously sustained.

On our side, the Regular Brigade occupied the right, stretching across the Guelph Road with Artillery and Cavalry on their right, next the two divisions of Active Militia, while the three Divisions of Reserve Militia lined the earthworks on the heights stretching to the Burlington Bay. One-third of each Division was held in reserve immediately in rear of their own lines, and a considerable force of Cavalry and Artillery were held as a Divisional reserve near the centre of our line.

The battle commenced as usual, skirmishers first, next artillery, and thirdly by the advance in succeeding lines of skirmishers; the shock of the first rush being succeeded immediately by another, before we had time to recover ourselves. My position being

with the second division, I can only recount my actual observations, with a sketch of what transpired beside. It was still dark when the alarm rang through our camp, and disturbed me from repose. The infantry at once fell in at their allotted posts; cavalry mounted their horses; Artillery men stood to their guns. Beyond the occasional word of command, the trampling of horses, or the rattle of harness and sabres there was little noise, and no confusion. Our experience, and our danger, had soon made soldiers of us.

In front of us burned our lines of camp fires almost extinguished; their dull red glare occasionally revealing a passing figure. The morning, like many summer mornings, was sufficiently cold to make us long for action, and the increasing rapidity of the firing along our front, more on the enemy's side than our own, and the occasional flash and dull boom from one of their guns, led us to believe that we should not long be idle. And we were not disappointed. As day broke, revealing our lines of earthworks, and temporary batteries, with their lines of rifle pits, *trous de loups* and *abbatis* in front of them, our guns in position, their horses and limber in picturesque groups and sheltered positions, our little group of staff officers eagerly watching the front, and our reserve in anxious idle columns in rear of all:—

Our pickets dropped in, weary with their night watch, and glad to give place to the relief, who had pressed on to occupy our advanced posts. From them we learned that the enemy had advanced on our right, (the Guelph Road) feeling our pickets and driving them in, but without any demonstration in our immediate front. On the right, however, sharp firing was going on, every effort being made by the enemy to dispossess us of a brick house, enclosure, and a wood beyond it, that commanded the entrance to the road. His endeavours proved fruitless, hence his main column, which covered the Guelph road as far as the eye could see, was, perforce obliged to halt in idleness. Matters continued in this state, until towards noon; and but a trifling number of our troops were engaged.

The 2nd Division had been spectators merely, when the enemy as if worn with fatigue and disheartened with repeated failure, suddenly began to retire. His columns moved to the rear till concealed by some rising ground, and seemed to disperse, his guns were withdrawn, and his skirmishers falling back left our advanced corps in full possession of their posts. His retreat, indeed, appeared to have fairly commenced, and we all prepared to advance in pursuit. But our General keeping us steady in our places, showed himself aware of the enemy's intentions; and ordering us to prepare and eat our dinner, of which we were much in need, awaited quietly the issue of the enemy's manoeuvre. This was doubtless to withdraw us from our strong position, but it proved of no avail, thanks to our General's superior sagacity.

In the meanwhile, some spring wagons arriving, such of the wounded as were unable to crawl to the rear were collected from the various spots where they lay mingled with the dead, and borne away with as much care as circumstances would admit. And here let me remark on the heartless policy of the American service which leaves their wounded and dying to care for themselves as they best can, if their removal is calculated to embarrass their manoeuvres. I had gone to the front to examine the nature of the ground fought over. It was literally covered with dead bodies, principally Americans; round the brick house in particular they lay in clusters. Not a few bore marks in cloven caps, and gaping wounds that they had fallen by the sabre; but the great majority had been shot, and lay with ghastly distorted features turned upwards in the glaring sunlight. I was not so occupied with the dead, however, but that I cast anxious glances towards the living, nor were grounds for anxiety wanting.

The enemy had indeed fallen back and showed no masses on the road, nor on the field; but I saw men cross the road towards our right, in twos and threes at a time, as if some hidden formation was going on, intended to escape our notice.

Their intentions were soon made evident, for suddenly, as if they had risen from the earth, two strong lines of infantry covered by the fire of twelve guns, rushed forward on our right, and for the instant carried everything before them.

The corps which occupied the foremost position was broken and gave way, and the head of the enemy's columns began to show in front of our lines. Our people, casting away the fragments of their dinners, rushed to their stations, whilst the artillery opened fire; and two squadrons of Cavalry were ordered to charge and check the enemy on the right. I must say our troops executed the orders with great effect. Nothing can be more spirited and impetuous than the first attack of American troops. They come on slowly, and in silence till within, perhaps two hundred yards of the point to be assailed, then raise a discordant yell, and rush forward in successive lines. Their advance is, moreover, covered by a cloud of skirmishers, who press on, apparently in utter confusion, firing irregularly, but with great rapidity, and availing themselves of every species of cover. On the other hand their fury was admirably opposed by the coolness and undaunted deportment of our Troops.

On the present occasion our men acted as if the whole had been a field day; no man quitting his ground, and each deliberately waiting till the word of command was given, before discharging his piece.

The attack upon our post having been thus defeated, we were ordered to lie down to shelter ourselves from a heavy cannonade with which the enemy entertained us. Two Brigades were also marched towards the