

courtments and stores of the Fenians were of excellent description in most cases.

I cannot too highly commend to your notice the conduct of the officers and men of our force, who took part in the engagement, the same spirit with which the records of the Militia of Canada abound was again fully displayed.

Where all behaved well, I can make no special mention, with the exception of expressing my high admiration of the manner in which Lieutenant-Colonel Chamberlin steadily and determinedly, with the handful of men at the outpost, repelled the first rush of the Fenians; the facts, however, so strongly speak for themselves, that no eulogium on my part is required to bring his conduct to your notice.

I have also to express my sincere thanks to Captain Gascoigne for the ready and valuable assistance he rendered to me, not only by the energetic manner in which he hastened forward the force at Stanbridge, but also for the subsequent aid afforded by him in the field.

I forward herewith a memorandum of our troops engaged on the occasion.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed,)

W. OSBORNE SMITH,

Lieut.-Col. D. A. G. M.

5th Military District.

To General the Hon. JAMES LINDSAY,

Commanding H. M. Forces in Canada.

MONTREAL, June 5, 1870.

SIR,—In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to report to you that on the 22nd ult. I received from you a telegram, directing me to be prepared for a Fenian raid on the frontier lying within the District under my command, instructing me at the same time to keep the communication perfectly confidential.

I had, however, in consequence of information I had myself received, telegraphed to several of the principal officers of the frontier militia, to be on the *qui vive*.

On the succeeding day, I received your order to communicate with, and place myself under the orders of, the Lieutenant-General Commanding.

On the morning of the 24th inst., (which, being the anniversary of Her Majesty's Birthday, was an occasion of assembling all the town corps of Militia), I received private advices from sources that I knew were trustworthy, that Fenian bodies of men were on the move to the frontier. I also ascertained that the telegraph wires had been cut in two or three places.

Not receiving a reply from Ottawa to one or two telegrams; and the order which I was expecting for the calling out of the Militia not arriving, I feared interrupted communication, and I therefore took the extreme responsibility permitted by the 60th Section of the Militia Act, and called out a large portion of the Militia of my district, including all the frontier and Montreal Corps.

I reported my action to the Lieutenant-General Commanding, who was pleased to approve of my suggestions as to the disposal of the troops instantly required on the frontier; and further, that I should personally assume command at the threatened point of attack in the neighbourhood of Frelighsburg. I therefore, having the great advantage of the Montreal force being assembled for the celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday parade, was enabled to address the men, informing them that raiders were on the frontier, that from that moment they were on service, and that I required five companies at once to proceed to the frontier with me.

It is gratifying in the extreme to report, that the whole Brigade responded most enthusiastically, and was ready then and there, if required, to move off to the frontier.

I proceeded the same afternoon, taking with me the Montreal Troop of Cavalry, and companies from the 1st Prince of Wales, 3rd Victoria Rifles, 5th Royals and Hochelaga, (together with an officer and 20 men to reinforce Isle aux Noix, from the Montreal Garrison Artillery), to St. Johns.

I took on the troop and the company of the Victoria Rifles to Stanbridge Station, leaving, with the exception of the detachment which went to Isle aux Noix, the remainder of the companies from Montreal to garrison St. Johns, together with the 21st Battalion and the Garrison Battery of Artillery of that place.

I directed Lieut.-Col. Fletcher to secure the safety of St. Johns from a sudden dash with the force enumerated, and, on the following morning, to proceed to the Huntingdon frontier, and assume command, with the same orders as given in the previous muster in April.

At Malmaison, I detached a party of the 21st Battalion to guard the bridge there, over Pike River.

Arriving at Stanbridge Station, about midnight, I at once marched to Stanbridge, between seven and eight miles from the station, with the troop and the company of the Victoria Rifles.

The roads were deep and mired from heavy rain, and the night intensely dark, but the men who had been under arms, and with little refreshment since early morning, performed the march uncomplainingly; at day-break we arrived at Stanbridge, and procured such shelter for the men as could be obtained. Here the 60th Battalion were assembling; and here I ascertained that, in accord with a telegraph dispatched on the previous day by me, through Colonel Chamberlin, a body of farmers and others, to the number of 20 or 30, had occupied a strong position, called "Eccles Hill," and I further ascertained that Lieutenant-Colonel Chamberlin, who I had seen the previous day, in Montreal, and instructed as to the disposition of his battalion, had with soldier-like instinct, reinforced these farmers, known as the "Home Guard," with a subdivision of one of his companies of the 60th Battalion.

I have omitted to mention that, before leaving Montreal the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding had been pleased to place at my disposal the services of his aid-de-camp, Captain Gascoigne, of the Fusilier Guards, whose energetic and willing assistance, I beg to remark upon.

Accompanied by Captain Gascoigne, and leaving the troop and company of rifles, together with the assembling men of the 60th at Stanbridge, to gain a little rest, I proceeded to the frontier at Eccles Hill; and conclusively ascertained the presence of a Fenian force at the other side of the frontier. I disposed the men of the 60th there present, and the Home Guard Volunteers, in such positions as seemed best; and having received information that the Fenians were getting reinforcements, and would attack next morning, determined to strengthen the handful defending Eccles Hill, and make it, as I always thought it should be, the point of defence of the Missisquoi frontier.

The further proceedings of the men of the gun under my command and the engagement with the Fenians, and their absolute repulse and rout on the 25th, are so fully given to you already in the copy of my report to the Lieutenant-General, that it is needless to recapitulate the same.

On the 26th instant, the force under my command having been considerably strengthened by the arrival of men belonging to the 60th Battalion, I was enabled thoroughly to picket the front of my position.

On the 27th I ordered up the whole of the 52nd Battalion which had arrived at Frelighsburg (with the exception of a subdivision which, with the Cookshire Cavalry, was then as a post of observation), to Eccles Hill, as information was given of a fresh attack being imminent.

On this day, the United States Marshal for Vermont, General Foster, came over the lines, and informed me that a company of United States troops was on its way to Franklin, about two and a half miles from my position, and that the Fenian arms which had been abandoned after their flight from our troops were to be seized.

The officer commanding the company, with officers under his command was good enough to pay me several visits and to assure me of his intention to endeavour to prevent any further Fenian attacks.

With the exception of shots fired at a long distance from the woods on the United States side of the frontier, no further annoyance was offered after the attack on the 25th.

The field-piece which was captured remains with the men of the Home Guard of Missisquoi, who seized it by my direction when brought into our lines.

At the request of the friends of a Fenian shot and buried in our lines, which was conveyed by a Deputy of the United States Marshal, I gave the body to them.

Several stragglers who were either Fenians or friends of Fenians, were, during two or three days succeeding the attack of the Fenian leader, O'Neill, found in our lines, but being without arms and not the slightest proof of guilt being forthcoming, after due investigation I dismissed them.

One Captain (so-called) Murphy, with his driver I have committed under the "Habeas Corpus Suspension Act" to Sweetsbury gaol. The proofs of this man's guilt seem to me complete; he is, I believe one of the raiders and pillagers of Frelighsburg in 1866. I am waiting for some evidence from Missisquoi in relation to him before sending a full report.

For four nights, the men under my command at Eccles Hill were without blankets, and, in some cases, even great coats, but there was not a complaint.

Their conduct as regards sobriety, amenability to discipline, endurance of hardships and courage in the field, enable me to state to you with pride that I believe them to be inferior to no troops in the world for the qualities I enumerate.

The orders which have been issued for their dismissal from actual service have been promptly carried out.

The pay not having arrived for billets, &c, previous to the dismissal, I have authorized the pay of the quartermasters, &c., to be continued until the billet accounts are settled, which I doubt not you will approve of.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. OSBORNE SMITH, Lt. Col.

Deputy Adjutant General Militia, No. 5 Military District.

Col. Davis, of the Haldimand Rifles, has been notified that the County Council of Haldimand have voted full pay for board and billets for the whole time the men were at the frontier to all the men of the Haldimand Rifles, and \$50 to the annual rifle match.