

days, and it was not until November 1st that his last brigade of infantry succeeded in getting over. This convinced him that it would be imprudent to retain possession of Fort Erie during the winter, and he gave orders for its destruction. The artillery was accordingly removed and mines were run under the bastions to assure their complete demolition. On the morning of the 5th the garrison embarked after setting fire to the barracks, and the mines were exploded, totally destroying the bastions and the Snake Hill redoubt. A dragoon, who had deserted from the American picquet guard a few nights before, had already given Drummond information that led him to suspect that the place would soon be evacuated, and he despatched Captain FitzGibbon of the Glengarry Regiment to reconnoitre it. That officer arrived upon the ground soon after the explosion of the mines, and rode quietly through every part of the deserted and dismantled works, around which so much gallant blood had been shed to no purpose.