

THE PUBLICATIONS OF
THE CHAMPLAIN
SOCIETY

XIV

THE
PUBLICATIONS OF
THE CHAMPLAIN
SOCIETY

SELECT BRITISH DOCUMENTS OF
THE CANADIAN WAR OF 1812

VOLUME II



TORONTO
THE CHAMPLAIN SOCIETY

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SELECT BRITISH
DOCUMENTS OF THE
CANADIAN WAR OF
1812

EDITED, WITH AN INTRODUCTION, BY
WILLIAM WOOD

IN THREE VOLUMES
VOLUME II

TORONTO
THE CHAMPLAIN SOCIETY

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NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP III

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1. *Detroit Frontier* : FRENCHTOWN, January 22, 1813
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NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP III

OPERATIONS IN THE WEST, WINTER OF 1813

1. DETROIT FRONTIER: FRENCHTOWN, JANUARY 22, 1813

Archives, C. 678, p. 25.

Extracts from a Letter from Colonel Procter at Sandwich to Major-General Sheaffe at —.

Sandwich, Jan^{ry}. 13th: 1813:—

Nothing can be more gratifying to me than to find effectual measures taken to ensure the Superiority on the Lakes, so requisite to the security of the Country. Every exertion is making and shall be persevered in, as far as depends on me, to attain that object.

The Gun boats are to be built on the Thames, by which much time and expense will be saved. I want no assistance towards building the Gun boats. The Labor and Materials I have at hand. It is not so with respect to the Ship: however no time need be lost. An estimate of the materials is sent, and a saving of time and expense will arise in proportion to the number of Shipwrights employed in building Her.

In the rigging of the Ship, a Naval Officer should direct, and Sailors be employed. I do not believe there are either here properly qualified. I have taken it for granted that we are to receive Officers and Seamen from the only adequate source, the Royal Navy. There are two very important

points, which I conceive it requisite to occupy with Block Houses : the expense will be very trifling, the Timber being at hand, and the effect they may produce on our Allies very beneficial : as calculated to preserve our Communication with them, and ensure their Retreat. One Gun only will be requisite in each.

Mature reflection on the *Reading* within my reach had determined me against demanding the military Service of the Inhabitants of the ceded Territory. I dread the consequences on their account solely, of the Enemy's entering into the Territory. No Commands nor influence of mine will be of sufficient weight to preserve the Property, and I doubt the Lives of most of the Inhabitants, in the event of it. With my inadequate means the Game will be a difficult one, however I will do my best, and trust that the Result may be as favorable as hitherto.

The Indians in Council have formally requested the Aid of such a Corps (Butler's) as were attached to, and acted with them, during (as it is called) the Revolutionary War, and that Captain Caldwell whom they well know, and think highly of, may be employed. A Corps of that Description, would be, I am convinced, of the highest utility,—both in restraining, and directing the hostility of the Indians to the proper objects of it. I would propose one Company at first, and if found to answer the intended purpose, a second might be added under a Major. It would soon prove a good substitute for Militia, whose Officers here are almost all, as bad as can be. An efficient Corps of the Description proposed, I doubt not could soon be raised in this District. From the Indians I have had many applications for the regular Troops to move and serve immediately with them, and which with some difficulty I have been able to evade, since the expedition intended for Fort Wayne, often much to their dissatisfaction. Having the Corps in question, no other would be required to act immediately with them.

The Indians are endeavouring to get those Nations which are in the United States, from among the Americans. Their plans are well laid—The Americans, I understand, have in considerable force ascended the Illenois, in Boats, Shot proof, intending to build, or establish themselves half way up;—thence proceed to Chicago, and there establish themselves again. You will perceive their object to be, the cutting off from us, of the most formidable Indian Nations. Mopock whom we knew here, has collected a body of Indians to oppose them. Tecumshee I fear has scarcely recovered his health. I have just learnt that the Enemy are at the foot of the Rapids, computed at a thousand men. Two days since a few Indians and Americans encountered each other, when the latter had two killed and some wounded, and the former one wounded. The Indians contrived to bring off three of the Enemy's Horses. It may be requisite to dislodge the Enemy from their present position, which is in the Territory: and therefore we have no choice nor option, but to employ all and every description of force in our reach. I am under the necessity of calling out some more of the Militia, but I hope it will be for a short time.

(signed) HENRY PROCTER,
Colonel comm^d.

True Extracts.

ROBERT R. LORING, Captⁿ. A.D.C.

*Col. Baby at Sandwich to Capt. Jacob (or in case of
absence Capt. McCrae) at Raleigh.*

4 O'Clock in the Morning,
Sandwich 19th January 1813

Captⁿ. Geo. Jacob,
Sir,

The Enemy is at the River Raisin they were left fighting with the few Indians who were there—Send up as

expeditiously as possible to the other Captain, and let all haste be made to send down (without balloting) every Militia man that can be spared on the River for a very few days,—remember that every one be provided as already recommended—The Captains will use their discretion as to such men as cannot possibly be spared from their homes—Your's

J. BABY, *Col: K.M.*

[Endorsed] Rec^d. about 11 O'Clock in the morning on the same day p. A. Trudelle a Copy of which was immediately sent Cap^t. M^cCrae.

Archives, C. 678, p. 23.

From Procter at Sandwich to Evans at Fort George.

Sandwich Jan^y. 24th 1813

My dear Major,

Tho' much occupied I shall take a few Minutes to acquaint you, that, on the 19th Ins^t. at 2 AM I was informed that the Enemy were in complete Possession of the Settlement at the River Raisin; and that on the 22^d Ins^t. at Break of Day I attacked him with all the Forces I could collect, the Result of which is that B^t. General Winchester, his surviving Officers and upwards of four hundred men are Prisoners, the Remainder (I believe) about the same Number being killed by the Indians in their Flight. I am sorry to say that our Loss has been, for our numbers, considerable. We had no Time to lose for M^r. Harrison is on the Advance—a week's Delay would have cost us every Thing. Perhaps this Specimen of what they are to expect in the Territory may deter them f^m making another Attempt soon. The Troops, Marine, & Militia displayed great Bravery as did also the Indians. The Officers did their Duty well. It would be scarcely just to mention Individuals. Colonel S^t. George received four Wounds, whilst acting very gallantly. Lieut. Kerr NFL

is, I fear, mortally wounded. I have not Time for further Particulars. Believe me

With Regards & Esteem

ever Yours

HENRY PROCTER.

Archives, C. 678, p. 31.

From Procter at Sandwich to Sheaffe at Fort George.

Sandwich Jan^y. 25th 1813

My dear General

In my last Dispatch I acquainted you, that, the Enemy was in the Territory, and that I therefore, deemed it requisite, that, he should be attacked without Delay, and, with all, and *every Description* of Force, within my Reach. Early in the Morning of the 19th Instant, I was informed of his being in Possession of Frenchtown, on the River Raizin, 26 Miles from Detroit, after experiencing every Resistance that Major Reynolds had it in his Power to make, with a three Pounder well served & directed by Bombadier Kitson of the Royal Artillery, and the Militia Men, whom he had well trained to the Use of it. The Retreat of the Gun was covered by a brave Band of Indians who made the Enemy pay dearly for what he obtained. The Indians fell back 18 Miles to Brown's Town, the Settlement of the brave Wyndotts where I directed my Force to assemble. On the 21st Instant I advanced twelve Miles to Swan Creek, whence we marched to the Enemy, and attacked him at Break of Day on the 22^d Instant; and after experiencing, for our Numbers, a considerable Loss, about half of the Enemy's Force posted in Houses and Enclosures, and which, in Dread of falling into the Hands of the Indians, they most obstinately defended, at last surrendered at Discretion. The Other Part of their Force in attempting to return, whence they came, were, I believe, all, or perhaps, excepting a very Few, killed by the Indians.

Brigadier General Winchester was taken in the Pursuit by the Wyandot Chief Roundhead. He was cut off from those who were posted, and whom he afterwards surrendered. I had much Difficulty in bringing the Indians to consent to the Sparing of their Lives. You will perceive that, I have lost no Time, indeed, there was none to spare; as they would have been joined by M^r. Harrison in a Few Days, and the People in Detroit had already began to shew themselves. The Troops, the Marine, and Militia displayed great Bravery, all behaved well. Where so much Zeal & Spirit were displayed by all, it would be unjust to attempt to particularize; I shall only venture to mention some of the Wounded, L. Colonel S^t. George who received four Wounds in a gallant Attempt to occupy a Building favorably situated for the Enemy's Annoyance. Lieut^t. Kerr of the Royal NFL Reg^t., who, I fear, is very dangerously wounded. The Zeal & Courage of the Indian Department never were more conspicuous than on this Occasion. The Indian Warriors displayed their usual Courage. I am much indebted to the different Departments. The Troops &c having been well, and timely supplied, with every requisite, the District can afford. We feel the Insufficiency of surgical Assistance. If the Indians had not appeared quite so soon, in the Enemy's Rear, which deter[r]ed them f^m. quit[t]ing their Fastness, scarcely a Man could have escaped Death. I send my ADC Lieut^t. M^cLean with this Dispatch, He will be able to answer any question respecting the Affair of Frenchtown; that you may be desirous of asking; or concerning our Situation here generally. I have decided to the best of my Judgement respecting The Prisoners, which is to send them by the River Thames to be passed over on your Frontier. The Reasons for not sending them back, the Route by which they came, are so obvious, that I shall not, except required, obtrude them on you. Indeed, I see no Option, or Arrangement that could be made but, the one directed. I fortunately

have not been deprived of the Services of Lieut^t. Troughton of the Royal Artillery, and acting in the QMG^{ls} Department, tho' he was wounded. I am indebted much to his Zeal & unwearied Exertions. I could wish his Continuance in the QMG^{ls} Department. Were it not unjust to particularize any Corps, where all did their utmost I would mention the Zeal and Courage of the Royal Artillery. Each Officer is deserving of being named, could I do it within the Compass of a Dispatch. I enclose a List of the Killed & Wounded. I lament there having been so many of Both, but of the latter a large Proportion will return to Duty, and most of them before long. Before this Reduction of my Force I had too few, for the Defence of this Frontier. May I not hope, that you will send me, a Company of the 41st Reg^t.; You are aware of the insufficiency of my Means. I also send a Return of the Arms, Ammunition &c. taken on the 22^d Instant. Likewise of the Prisoners, whom you will perceive to be equal to my utmost Force, exclusive of the Indians, who tho' a powerfull Aid is an uncertain one, being dependant on Success, and who would have strongly appeared had I failed on the 22^d Instant, nor could I have been sure of the Militia in the Event of any Disaster. I have not heard it, officially, but, I believe that a Party of the Enemy, one Hundred bringing 500 Hogs for Gen^l. Winchester's Force has been completely cut off. I shall defer untill the next Opportunity, which shall be in a few Days, saying any Thing more, having already detained Lieut^t. M^cLean too long, of whose Courage and Exertions displayed on the 22^d Ins^t. I would speak, did I think it just to attempt particularizing any one, especially where I may be supposed partial.

I remain,
my dear General,
faithfully yours

HENRY PROCTER
Colonel com^s.

Officers Wounded.

Lieu^t. Col. Tho^s. B. S^t George, I.F.O. Mil.
 Lieu^t. Troughton, R. Art^y.
 Captⁿ. Tallan } 41st Reg^t.
 Lieu^t. Clemow }
 Ensⁿ. Kerr, R. Newfoundland (since Dead)
 L^t. Rolette }
 L^t. Irvine } Pro. Marine
 Midshipⁿ. Richardson }
 Captⁿ. Mills }
 L^t. M^cCormick } 1st Essex Mil^a
 L^t. J Gordon }
 Ensⁿ. Garvin, 2^d Essex Mil.

Officers engaged in the Action.

Colonel Procter, 41st Reg^t. Commanding.

Staff.

L^t. Col. T. B. S^t. George, I.F.O. Militia.
 Capt. Dixon, R. Eng^{rs}., acting on the Staff.
 Lieu^t. Allan H. M^cLean, 41st Reg^t. Aid de Camp to Col.
 Procter.
 Lieu^t. Col. Francis Baby, D^y Q^r M^r. Gen^l. of Militia.
 Rob^t. Reynolds, Esq^r., D^y Ass^t Comm^y. General.
 Rob^t. Richardson, Esq^r., Garrison Mate.
 M^r. Sam^l. Wood, Field Train Dep^t.
 Matthew Elliott, Esq^r., Superintendant Indian Affairs.
 Captain Caldwell, Indian Dep^t.
 Will^m. Jones, Esq^r., Storekeeper Indⁿ. Dep^t.

Royal Artillery.

Lieu^t. Felix Troughton41st Reg^t.Captain Jos^h. TallanLieu^t. Jno. Clemow

,, Benoit Bender

,, Harris Hailes

,, William Watson.

Royal Newfoundland.

Captain Robert Mockler

Lieu^t. John GardenEns. Tho^s KerrProv^l Marine.Lieu^t. Frederick Rolette

,, Robert Irvine

Mid^m. Robert Richardson,, Tho^s. Barwis1st Essex Militia.

Major Reynolds

Captain Caldwell

,, W^m. Elliott

,, Maisonville

,, Buchannon

,, Mills

Lieu^t. James Gordon

,, James Lytle

,, John Lytle

,, Nicholas Lytle

,, Tho^s Caldwell

,, Francis Caldwell

2^d Essex Militia.

Captain Alexis Maisonville

,, Julien Labut

,, William Smith

Lieu^t. Joseph Parent

,, Dedine Batishon

Ensⁿ. Bryce Woods

,, Joseph Eberts

,, Glaude Garvin

Lieu^t. Alex^r. Pringle Pay-
master

Volunteers.

M^r. Henry Procter } 41st
M^r. John Richardson } Reg^t.
M^r. Patterson } attached to
M^r. Pastoieus } the Artillery.

Indian Interpreters.

Edward Sayer

Samuel Saunders

Matthew Elliot, Jun^r.

Barnett Lyons

George Ruppe

William Gruet

Thomas Guthrie

Jacob Gruserat

George Bluejacket

F. X. Cadotte

J. B. Sans-crainte

Joseph Drouillard

Francis Roi

J. B. Askin

Peter Schwartz

John Wilson wounded

severely.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP III (*continued*)

OPERATIONS IN THE EAST, WINTER OF 1813

2. THE UPPER ST. LAWRENCE : OGDENSBURG,
FEBRUARY 22, 1813

Archives, C. 678, p. 79.

From Pearson at Prescott to de Rottenburg, Montreal.

Prescott, Feby 7th 1813.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit a letter this moment received from Lt: Colonel Sherwood Commanding 1st Regiment Leeds Militia detailing an account of a descent made early this morning by a Party of Americans from the Garrison of Ogdensburg, at the Village of Brockville in which was posted one of the Flank Companys of the Leeds Regiment of Militia. Exclusive of the named Officers who have been taken I am sorry to say about twenty Militiamen have fallen into their hands : it appears the Enemy after liberating the Prisoners from the Gaol, immediately recrossed the River to their own Shores. I attribute this disaster chiefly to the incautious conduct of the Comm^{rs}. Officer of the Post, a Cap^{tn}. of the Leeds Militia who it appears was surprised in his bed as well as the rest of the Garrison. There being no public Stores, and as the place is of no consequence in a Military View, it is not my intention to reinforce that Post otherwise than by the Sedentary Militia of the County, as being such a distance from Prescott, it will be only the means of hazard- ing the safety of the Troops stationed there, not having any Officer in whom I can rely to take charge of a

Detachment. I beg to inform you that Major Macdonnell and Captⁿ. Irvine Ass. Q^r Genl. are both withdrawn from this Post to Kingston, and that I have no Officer here to do the duties of Quarter Master Gen^l. a circumstance I have much to regret as the duties of that department are more than I can personally attend to. Should it not interfere with the views of His Excellency Sir George Prevost, I beg to suggest that the destruction of Ogdensburg could be easily effected, provided a Party of Regulars were sent for that Purpose, with two hundred in addition to my present Force, I have no doubt but I could succeed in effectually destroying this Post.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your most obedient

T. PEARSON, Lt: Col.

Maj: Gen^l. de Rottenburg
&c &c
Montreal

Archives, C. 678, p. 95.

From Macdonell at Prescott to Harvey at Kingston.

Prescott Feby 22^d 1813. 3 o'clock P.M.

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, that immediately after his departure from this post I made a demonstration of crossing to Ogdensburg, by advancing on the right of the Enemys line with my principal Column, while Captain Jenkins of the Glengarry Light Infantry moved on to turn his left—Finding that the Enemy's means of defence ensured success to the respectable [*sic*] force I had with me, I availed myself of the conditional permission I had received this morning from His Excellency to undertake the measure

& accordingly moved on to the attack—The Enemy's batteries opened upon us, but by moving on as rapidly to the charge as the depth of the snow would admit I succeeded effectually in turning his right flank & got possession of three field Guns & his Eastern Battery—I then formed my line on the Commanding ground & summoned the Enemy to surrender the old french fort which he still occupied, with his advanced Battery & five pieces of Ordnance from whence my right Column was much galled by a heavy fire of Grape & Cannister shot, which I lament to say deprived me of the invaluable services of Captain Jenkins who at the moment that he was most gallantly charging the Enemy's was severely wounded in both Arms one of which he has lost—Immediately charged the Enemy across the Black River, but by a rapid retreat from the back of the fort, he escaped, leaving One Officer & some wounded—I kept possession of the village till three o'clock & brought off all his Artillery, except one field piece which he escaped with, Ordnance, Naval & Commissariat stores—I was well supported by Colonel Fraser & L^t. Colonel Fraser & all the Officers of the Militia, & by Captain Le Lievre of the Newfoundland whom I had attached to the Militia & by Captain Eustace & the Officers of the Kings Reg^t.—The Advanced Guard was led on with great spirit by Staff Adjutant Ridge of the King's Reg^t. & the Field Artillery well served by Ensigns M^cKay of the Glengarry L^t Infantry & Kerr of the Militia—I am much indebted to Lieutenant Gaugreben of the Royal Engineers who directed the service of the field piece with Captain Jenkins' Column & the good conduct of Lieut^t. M^cAulay & the other subaltern of the Glengarry Light Infantry who gallantly emulated the bravery of their disabled Captain—As the Action took place in Open day & that the men had to charge thro deep snow for a great distance, I trust His Excellency will not think the capture too dearly purchased by the loss we have sustained—

I transmit herewith returns of the killed, & wounded, &

of the captured Stores—The action lasted One hour & a half—

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obed^t. humble serv^t,

G MACDONELL Major Glengarry Reg^t.

Lieut^t. Col^l

L^t. COLONEL HARVEY,

Deputy Adjutant General of the Forces

Kingston.

P.S. I am not able to transmit the details of Capture this day, but we brought over Eleven Guns, several hundred stand of Arms, &c &c & burnt their Barracks & Shipping—

Archives, C. 678, p. 99.

Return of the Killed Wounded and missing of the Regulars,
and Militia in the attack on Ogdensburg

22nd Feb^y 1813—

Royal Artillery, 1 Man Killed

King's 1 Sergeant, killed, 1 Subaltern, & 12 Privates Wounded.

Nfld. 1 Private Killed and 4 Wounded

Glengary Light Infantry 2 Privates Killed, 1 Field Officer
1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, 2 Sergeants, & 7 Privates Wounded.

Militia 2 Privates killed, 1 Captⁿ. 3 Subtⁿ., 1 Serg^t. &
29 Privates Wounded

Names of the Wounded Officers Lt. Col^l. Macdonell
Captⁿ. Jenkins (lost an Arm, & severely) Ensⁿ. M^cCoy Glen-
gary Reg^t., Ensⁿ. Powell King's Reg^t. Captⁿ. M^cDonell, Lieu^t.
Empy (lost a leg,) Lieu^t. M^cLean & Lieu^t. M^cDermid.

G MACDONELL

L^t Col. Comm^s

Archives, C. 1170, p. 108.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head Quarters, Kingston, 23^d February, 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, has the satisfaction of announcing to the Army in British America, the complete success of an Attack made by Lieutenant Colonel MacDonell of the Glengary Light Infantry, and the Detachments stationed at Prescott, yesterday morning, on the Enemy's Position of Ogdensburgh, which terminated in the Capture of that place, and of eleven pieces of Cannon, and all the Ordnance and Marine Stores, Provisions and Camp Equipage, and the Destruction of two Schooners, and two Gun Boats—Such of the Enemy's Garrison as did not fly to the Woods, were made Prisoners.

The conduct of every Individual engaged (and which includes the whole of the Troops, Regular and Militia stationed at Prescott) appears to have been highly honorable to them.—The following Officers are particularly noticed by Lieutenant Colonel MacDonell as having distinguished themselves—Captain Jenkins of the Glengary Light Infantry, who the Commander of the Forces laments to find is severely wounded; Staff Adjutant Ridge of the King's Regiment, who led the advanced Guard, and Lieutenant McAuley of the Glengary Light Infantry.

Lieutenant Colonel MacDonell reports that he was well supported by Captain Eustace and the Officers of the King's Regiment, by Colonel Fraser and Lieutenant Colonel Fraser, and all the Officers of the Militia, as well as by Captain Le Leivre of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles attached to the Militia. The Field Artillery was well served by Ensigns M'Kay of the Glengary Light Infantry and Kerr of the Militia, and the good conduct of Lieutenant Gaugrebin of the Royal Engineers is likewise particularly noticed.

The Commander of the Forces was induced to authorize this attack, not by any means as an act of wanton aggression, the Troops under his command having been ordered at all times to abstain from all acts of that nature, but as one of just and necessary retaliation of that which was recently made on the British Settlement of Brockville by a party from Ogdensburgh, and in consequence of frequent depredations from that Garrison committed on the Persons and Property of his Majesty's Subjects within its reach, and in announcing its result, his Excellency feels much pleasure in publicly expressing his entire approbation of the Gallantry and Judgment with which it appears to have been conducted.

His Excellency directs that the Officers and Men taken Prisoners on this occasion be sent to Montreal, there to remain until further orders.

A Salute to be fired immediately.

J. HARVEY,
Lt. Col. and Dy. Adjt. Gen.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 106.

G.O.

Montreal 25th Feb^y. 1813.

The Major General Commanding has much Satisfaction in announcing to the Troops in the Lower Province, that he has received a report from Lieut^t. Colonel Macdonnell, of the Glengary Light Infantry, stating, that in consequence of the wanton attack lately made by the Enemy on the Village of Brockville, it had been determined on, to retaliate by an assault on his position at Ogdensburg,—This took place in a gallant and Spirited manner, under the Command of that Officer, on the morning of the 22^d Ins^t, and was crowned with complete success after an Action of an Hour and a half, in which the Enemy had about twenty Men Killed, and a great Number of Wounded.

Lieu^t. Colonel M^cDonell reports his having taken possession of all the Enemy's Artillery (with the exception of one piece), as well, as Naval, Military and Commissariat Stores—and of his having destroyed the Barracks & Shipping.—A detailed return of the Stores has not yet been received, but Eleven pieces of Artillery, and several hundred Stand of Arms, had arrived at Prescott.

Lieu^t. Colonel M^cDonell speaks in high terms of the conduct of the Force under his Command, particularly of the gallantry of Captain Jenkins, of the Glengary Light Infantry, who was severely wounded.

The Lieutenant Colonel also mentions the support and assistance, which he received from Colonel Fraser, Lieu^t. Colonel Fraser, and all the Officers of Militia, from Captain Eustace and Officers of the Kings Regiment, Captain Le Lievre, of the Newfoundland Reg^t. Lieu^t. Macaulay, and the Officers of the Glengary Light Infantry, and from Lieutenant Gengreben, of the Royal Engineers.—

Ensign M^cKay of the Glengary, and Kerr of the Militia, who directed the Service of the Field pieces, as well as of the spirited manner in which the advance was led on by Staff Adjutant Ridge.

List of Killed and Wounded, in the attack on Ogdensburg
22^d February 1813.

Royal Artillery.—One Rank and File Killed.

Kings Regiment.—1 Serj^t. Killed—12 Rank and File Wounded.

Newfoundland Reg^t.—1 Rank and File Killed and 4 rank & File Wounded.

Glengary Light Inf^y.—2 Rank and File Killed—One Lieu^t. Colonel, One Captain, One Lieutenant, two Serjeants, Seven rank and File Wounded.

Militia—2 rank and File Killed, 1 Captain, 3 Subalterns, 1 Serjeant, 15 Rank & file wounded.

Total—1 Serjeant, 6 Rank and File Killed—One Lieu^t. Colonel, 2 Captains, 4 Subalterns, 3 Serjeants, and 38 Rank and File Wounded.

Names of Officers Wounded.

Glengarry Light Infantry, Lieu^t. Colonel M^cDonell, Captain Jenkins severely, Lieu^t. M^cKay.

Militia—Captain J. M^cDonnell, Lieu^t. Empe severely, Lieu^t. M^cLean and Lieu^t. M^cDermott.

(Signed) JAMES ROWAN
Dep^y. Ass^t. Adj^t. G^l.

Archives, C. 678, p. 100.

From Macdonell at Prescott to [Harvey] at Kingston.

Prescott February 25th 1813.

Sir,

In my hasty dispatch of the 22^d Inst. I was unable to detail the operations of that day—I now have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency The Commander of The Forces, that, immediately on his departure from this post on that morning, I commenced my arrangement for the demonstration he had authorized me to make, by drawing in my Night picquets, &, to gain time, made my disposition for the movement without waiting for the troops of the line to take off their watch coats, which I afterwards much regretted when I found the depth of the snow on the Enemy's shore—My principal column, on the left, consisted of about 120 of the King's Regiment & 30 of the Newfoundland, with about 230 of the Militia—

My Right Column was composed of the Right flank Company of the Glengarry Light Infantry & 70 Militia, & was commanded [by] Captain Jenkins of the Glengarry Regiment—I advanced with my principal Column in front of the

Enemy's right as did my other Corps on his left, on the signal of a Gun, which I fired, with a view, principally, to rouse the Enemy, that I might judge from his appearance of the propriety of an Assault—It was past seven o'clock when I began to cross the River—I could plainly discover with my glass that the Enemy's force would prove no great obstacle, compared with the advantage attending success, which the confidence I had in the gallantry of my troops convinced me would be the result.

As I advanced, I conceived additional hopes of success & determined on the assault—My advanced Guard consisting of the Company of the Newfoundland & volunteer light Company of the Militia, moved quickly on under the command of Staff Adjutant Ridge of the King's Regiment, & was followed by the detachment of the King's Regiment under Captain Eustace, & the Militia under Colonel Fraser & Captain Le Lievre of the Newfoundland Regiment—The Enemy's advanced Battery opened on the flank of this Column, which was soon after exposed to the direct fire of Grape & Cannister shot from a twelve, nine & six pounder—Here the depth of snow & the commanding position of the Enemy's line of musquetry gave him a great advantage of fire.—Being determined to carry everything with the Bayonet I pushed on my advance which was gallantly led on by Staff Adjutant Ridge & nobly supported by Captain Eustace & the detachment of the Kings & well followed up by the Militia—The advance took the Guns in front & the King's rushed up a parallel street to flank them, & driving the Enemy's Infantry, carried the Guns one of which was turned upon them—Giving them in charge of a division of the Militia, the Column pursued the Enemy thro' the main Street leading to the bridge over the Black River, under a galling fire from the windows, & from the Guns in the old fort when it had gained the high bank of this River—The men being much fatigued & out of breath I then halted & lined this height with the

King's Regiment, keeping a reserve of Militia in Column & detaching small parties on my left flank to dislodge the Enemy from the houses & woods—My field pieces now came up from the bank of the S^t Laurence, where we had left them sticking in the snow, & were ably directed by Ensign MacKay of the Glengarry Light Infantry & Ensign Kerr of the Militia & the Royal & Militia Artillery—It required some rounds of grape & round shot to silence the musquetry from the Windows—I now detached my advance & a Company of Militia to take a twelve pounder on the eastern Battery near the large Store which they soon effected—In the interim my right Column was gallantly led on by Captain Jenkins at the head of his own Company in advance in extended order and supported by his Militia, as a reserve—He kept pace with my Column & moved on as rapidly as the snow, which had drifted very deep, the preceding evening, would admit—In their eagerness to reach the Enemy they also lost breath, but notwithstanding pushed on bravely in face of very heavy fire of five guns, & when he had gallantly led them on to within charging distance, he fixed bayonets & pushed forward, but had not proceeded many paces, when his left arm (which he has since lost) was smashed to pieces with a grape shot & his Right immediately after severely lacerated by cannister, but he still ran on cheering his men to the attack, till his arms dangling useless before him & becoming faint with loss of blood, he was compelled to stop—His Company continued to advance with Lieut^t. Macaulay & Ensign Macdonell, but the reserve not being able to keep up with them & being quite exhausted, they were compelled to fall back about the time that my Column gained the height on the other flank—Having soon formed my storming party, I sent in a flag to the Fort to require an immediate surrender on pain of being put to the Bayonet—The Enemy refused to comply “without more fighting”—I immediately ordered a charge & Captain Eustace with Ensigns Powell

& Lowrie (the latter of whom had left a sick bed to join his Company) & his men gallantly rushed on to the charge covered by a three pounder under Ensign Kerr, but the men, cheering loudly, prevented my orders being distinctly heard, to keep the road which lead to the proper declivity to descend to the River—This however enabled me to form them in a better manner with the Company of the Newfoundland & Glengary Militia, under cover of a large building, & again they pushed on & entered the fort, just as the Enemy had evacuated it on the opposite side & was retiring to the woods—If Captain Skinner & the Indians had not been detached in the morning as an escort to His Excellency, I would have employed him in intercepting the Enemy on his retreat & would unquestionably have captured the whole Garrison, which retreated that day fourteen miles, leaving Officers & 70 men prisoners—The Enemy's force consisted of about 500 men including Militia—The action lasted about One hour & a half—The Gallantry displayed by all ranks under my command was highly gratifying—The Regular troops including the Royal Artillery maintained the high character of their respective Corps & their example was nobly followed by the Militia—I was well supported by Colonel Fraser of the Militia & Lieutenant Colonel Fraser of the same Corps who joined me towards the close of the action, & I am much indebted to Captain Le Lievre, for his active superintendance of this force, to which I had attached him, & for his occasional service at the Artillery—The Officers of the King's Regiment have my warmest commendation—The name of Ensign Powell, who was wounded by a bayonet was omitted in the return I had the honour of forwarding to you—I cannot sufficiently admire the heroic bravery of Captain Jenkins who speaks in such high terms of his gallant Company, that I am convinced they would themselves have carried the fort & Guns with the bayonet if he had not been disabled—Lieutenant Gaugreben of the Royal Engineers rendered essential

service in bringing up the reserve of this Column after his gun had been disabled by a shot from the Enemy—I must not omit to mention the brave conduct of the Newfoundland Company who had no Officer of that Regiment with them & led the advance Guard—Having dislodged the Enemy from houses and woods I detached the Indians, whom the Cannonade had brought back to me, to pursue him, but without effect—I took the necessary precautions to secure my position & emptying the Magazine, burnt the old & new Barracks, together with two Schooners & the gun boats, Guard houses, scows & boats &c & in a few hours evacuated the town, after carrying off all the Ordnance, Commissariat & Marine stores, and a quantity of camp equipage & clothing—

I have the honour to be

Sir, Your most obedient humble Serv^t.

G. MACDONELL Lieut^t. Colonel

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP IV

OPERATIONS IN THE WEST: THE MAUMEE, FORT MEIGS AND FORT STEPHENSON

1813

United States Lake Erie Frontier :

1. THE MAUMEE, May 5, 1813; FORT MEIGS, May 9, 1813
2. FORT STEPHENSON, August 2, 1813

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP IV

OPERATIONS IN THE WEST, 1813

UNITED STATES LAKE ERIE FRONTIER: I. THE MAUMEE,
MAY 5, 1813; FORT MEIGS, MAY 9, 1813

Archives, C. 1170, p. 126.

G.O.

Niagara, 1st March 1813.

The Head Quarters of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment is to be removed to York; Colonel Pearson will give the necessary Orders and Instructions for Major Heathcote proceeding with such proportion of the Regiment now at Kingston, as can be spared from the Marine Service at that Post.

In consequence of the Severe Wounds of Colonel St. George incapacitating [*sic*] him from the Discharge of his duty as Inspecting Field Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Warburton is directed to proceed immediately to Amherstburg, and place himself under the Orders of Brigadier General Procter.

(signed) EDWARD BAYNES
Adjut^t. Gen^l. N.A.

Archives, C. 797, p. 60.

Copy.

Instructions from Major General Sheaffe to Brig^r General Procter, for the formation of a Corps in the Western

THE CANADIAN WAR OF 1812

District of Upper Canada, which is to be commanded by Colonel Caldwell.

B GEN^L PROCTER'S REPORT.

Sandwich March 20th 1813

Brig^r General Procter is fully of Opinion that Colonel Caldwell is the properest person to command the proposed Corps.

It is to be regretted that the recruiting for this Corps should be strictly confined to the District instead of being limited in the number to be taken from other Districts.

This Corps would supersede the necessity of ever having recourse to the Militia, but in the event of absolute invasion, when required en Masse.

Every Article of Necessaries is very dear here. But if the Militia are to have the allowance in question, it may be the same as theirs.

The raising of the Corps proposed or any other in this District *on these terms* is entirely out of the question—Women & children can scarcely ever be with the proposed Corps, and a larger proportion it would be politic to provision than are allowed to other Corps.

This Corps may be expected often to feed itself at the Enemy's expense.

This Corps should be armed similarly to the Indians.

It is supposed that the North & South West Companies might afford some assistance in this respect. Under present circumstances, the proposed Corps is requisite to render our Indian Force here a disposable one, and to bring it in any degree under Military influence or direction.

INSTRUCTIONS FROM M G: SHEAFFE
TO B GENERAL PROCTER

Head Quarters York, 5 March 1813

Major General Sheaffe is pleased to authorize the formation of a Corps in the Western District under the direction of Brig^r. Gen^l. Procter, to be Commanded by Col. Caldwell of Amherstburgh.

This Corps to be composed of as great a number of men fit for the purpose as can be raised in the Western District, who do not belong to the Militia of any other District.

For each man of this Corps a Sum will be granted to furnish an Outfit, and Brig^r. General Procter will state what sum in his opinion would be adequate to the purpose.

The Pay and allowances of this Corps will be the same as those of the other Troops; and Rations will be issued to their wives and children in the same proportion, and in the like manner as to the wives & children of Soldiers of the line—Clothing, Arms & Accoutrements will be provided for it.

The Major General desires it to be understood that the Service of this Corps is to be confined to the Acting with the Indians or in their own District, unless on some pressing emergency, it should be requisite to employ them in some other part of the Province, or otherwise, as is required of the Militia generally.

* A dark green plain Jacket, Grey Pantaloon, and a low Bucket Cap, quite plain, is the fittest dress. I shall by next opportunity be able to speak more fully on this head.

It is supposed that from Two hundred & forty to perhaps Five hundred men may be raised in this District; and that for the Service in question Sixty men would be the best proportion to a Captain, and two Subalterns.

The Brigadier would wish to nominate two Captains, the One Senior of the Corps, being from the line, and the Paymastership.

Colonel Caldwell to whom it is hoped the situation of Lt. Colonel may be given, proposes his four Sons—two as Captains—indeed it is conceived that the nomination or rather recommendation should, as much as possible, be left to him.—it is a peculiar kind of Service, & requires Officers particularly Suited to it.—No individual can be admissible but of determined courage and hardy constitution. — Individuals who come often or continue long on the Sick List, except from wounds, cannot continue in this Corps, or the intention of forming the Corps will not be answered.

Several applications have been already made which have been answered as above.

A Corps to serve with the Indians, from the nature of that

Brigadier General Procter will Report the probable Number of men that may be raised, and the proportion of Officers proposed for them, and the Nomination of Officers he would wish to reserve for himself, as well as those which Colonel Caldwell may be desirous to make, with the names of the Gentlemen recommended for appointments.

The Engagement of the men is to be for the duration of the War with the United States.

Brig^d. General Procter will report, if a Corps of this description can-

* The clothing proposed in this article resembles that provided for Upper Canada by His Excellency's direction—the scarlet collar and cuff, as being perhaps too conspicuous, might be taken off and green, brown, or black substituted: the proportion of the clothing and articles of equipment intended for Amherstburgh would probably be sufficient for a greater number than will be obtained for this corps.

R H SHEAFFE.

service, being exposed not only to an extraordinary wear and Tear of Necessaries, but also to the occasional loss of them very often, and being also from their State precluded from the practice of economy could not exist on the same pay as the regular or any other kind of Troops in His Majesty's Service.—

Colonel Butler's Corps of Rangers which stood the test of a long War, in which they were constantly and most actively employed, and found of the greatest use in the description of Service in question : I would propose as a guide in the rates of pay—The Privates to receive daily 2s/6d. and 4s York Currency, according to their Capacity and utility—

Non Commissioned Officers in proportion. It is conceived that not less than two hundred and forty Men would answer the proposed purpose ; and it is hoped that they might be speedily raised, in four or five Companies.

A Company of Rifles may it is hoped be raised on the Thames by the Dolsons, who of course would be the Captain & Subaltern—

One Company it is hoped may be raised in the Territory, whence, of course, the Captain at least must be taken. It may become a question the withholding the larger Pay until the Companies are complete.

The present Season is favorable for recruiting—When the Authority is given, no further time shall be lost in recruiting and rendering the proposed Corps as efficient, & as useful as possible. And as the Brigadier gains further information on the Subject he will report to Major General Sheaffe.

(signed) HENRY PROCTER
Brig^d. General.

not be formed with the ordinary pay, what in his opinion would be sufficient, and how much he would himself recommend—He will add any other suggestions which may offer themselves to him as calculated to promote the object of this Plan, which is to be considered rather as a proposition to be reported on, than an Order to be acted on. It is supposed that a Company only can be formed in the first instance. Brig^d. General Procter will please to furnish Speedily all the information in his power on the Subject.

(signed) R H SHEAFFE
M.G. &c.

Archives, C. 797, p. 64.

Extract of a Letter from the Military Secretary to Major Gen^l. Sir Roger H. Sheaffe B^t., Dated Quebec 16th April 1813.

“The Commander of the Forces having had under his consideration, the proposed Conditions for the formation of a Corps of Rangers in the Western district of Upper Canada Under Col: Caldwell which accompanied your Letter to the Adj^t. Gen^l. of the 27th ulto., I am commanded by His Excellen^y to Signify to you, that, the terms suggested by Brig^r. Gen^l. Procter, are by far more extensive than were ever in Contemplation, and it is his wish, that an experiment of one or Two Companies only, should in the first instance be made, the propriety therefore of encreasing the Establishment beyond that Strength, would depend upon the success which may attend the formation of the Company or two, agreeably to Sir Geo. Prevost’s original intentions.”

Archives, C. 678, p. 167.

York 19th April 1813

Extract of a Letter from Brig^r. General Procter dated Sandwich April 3^d 1813. to Major General Sir Roger H. Sheaffe, B^t.

“The Enemy are at the Foot of the Rapids—their strength I have not been able exactly to ascertain, but they are well provided with Artillery, and some 18 p^{rs}. also Howitzers They have an hundred Artillerists with three Officers.

Tecumthe is I have reason to believe on the way here. I have directed some Provisions to be sent to meet him.”

Archives, C. 678, p. 167.

Extract from a Letter from Gen. Procter Sandwich 9th April

“The Enemy are at the Foot of the Rapids of the Miami, as already reported. General Harrison has returned to them. Of Tecumthe I have not heard lately”

(Signed) HENRY PROCTER
Brig^r. Gen^l.
Comm^s.

True extracts.

ROBERT R LORING ADC

Archives, C. 678, p. 216.

From Prevost at Montreal to Procter at Detroit.

H^d Q^r Montreal 7 May 1813

Sir,

The Enemy having with a very superior force made an attack upon York on the 27th ult^o & succeeded in getting possession of that place obliging Maj^r Gen^l. Sheaffe to retire upon Kingston I have thought it necessary to despatch to you my Provincial Aid de Camp L^t. Col. De Boucherville with intelligence of this circumstance. I am happy at the same time to acquaint you that there is every prospect that the triumph of the Enemy will be of short duration & that if they have not already retired from the Province the measures I am pursuing will in all probability soon oblige them to relinquish whatever conquests they may have made in it.

Four hundred & fifty picked seamen under the command of Sir J. L. Yeo with several Captains & Lieu^{ts} under him have arrived from England for the Service of the Lakes & are now near Montreal part of them having reached us this m^s who will proceed immediately to Upper Canada—

This most seasonable reinforcement will I hope enable

us to regain an ascendancy upon Lake Ontario. I am also strengthening the Forts in that Province by additional troops—And I shall not fail to supply you with whatever you may stand in need of as soon as your wants are made known to me—Under such circumstances I trust I may confidently rely upon a continuance of your best exertions for repelling any attack of the Enemy upon your frontier & for preventing them from getting a footing in the Province

[*Not signed*]

Archives, C. 678, p. 261.

From Procter at Sandwich to Prevost at Quebec.

Sandwich May 14th 1813

Sir

The usual Communication being interrupted by the Capital of the Province being in the Possession of the Enemy, I have judged it expedient to make a direct Report to your Excellency of our Operations and present State in this District.

In the Expectation of being able to reach the Enemy, who had taken Post near the Foot of the Rapids of the Miami, before the Reinforcement and Supplies could arrive for which only he waited to commence active Operations against us, I determined to attack him without Delay, and with every Means in my Power; but from the necessary Preparations, and some untoward Circumstances it was not in my Power to reach him within three Weeks of the Period I had proposed, and at which he might have been captured or destroyed. From the incessant and heavy Rains we experienced, and during which our Batteries were constructed, it was not until the Morning of the 1st Ins^t. the fifth Day after our Arrival at the Mouth of the River, 12 Miles from the Enemy, that our Batteries could be opened. Illness from excessive Fatigue deprived me of the Services early of the only Artillery

Officer, on an Occasion, when three would have found ample Employment. The Enemy who occupied several Acres of commanding Ground strongly defended by Blockhouses and Batteries well furnished with Ordnance, had during our Approach so completely entrenched, and covered himself as to render unavailing every Effort of our Artillery tho' well served, and in Batteries most judiciously placed, and constructed under the able Direction of Captain Dixon of the Royal Engineers; of whose Ability and unwearied Zeal, shewn particularly on this Occasion, I cannot speak to highly. Tho' our Attack has not answered the Purpose intended, I have the Satisfaction to inform your Excellency of the fortunate Result of an Attack of the Enemy, aided by a Sally of most of their Garrison, made on the Morning of the 5th Ins^t. by a Reinforcement, which descended the River, a considerable Distance, in a very short Time, consisting of two Corps of Kentucky Militia, Dudleys and Boswells, amounting to 1300 Men, under the Command of Brig^d. General Green Clay. The Attack was very sudden, and on both Sides of the River. The Enemy were for a few Minutes in Possession of our Batteries, and took some Prisoners. After a severe Contest tho' not of long Continuance, the Enemy gave way and excepting the Body of those who sallied from the Fort, must have been mostly killed or taken. In this decisive Affair, the Officers & Men of the 41st Regiment who charged, and routed the Enemy near the Batteries well maintained the long established Reputation of the Corps. Where all deserve Praise it is difficult to distinguish. Captain Muir an old Officer who has seen much Service, had the good Fortune to be in the immediate Command of these brave Men. Besides my Obligations to Captain Chambers for his unwearied Exertions, preparatory to, and on the Expedition, as DAQMG, I have to notice his Gallant Conduct in the Attack of the Enemy near the Batteries, at the Point of the Bayonet, a Service in which he was well sup-

ported by Lieutenants Bullock 41st Regiment and Le Breton of the RNF Land Reg^t. The Courage and Activity displayed throughout the whole Scene of Action by the Indian Chiefs & Warriors contributed largely to our Success. I have not been able to ascertain the Amount of Prisoners in Possession of the Indians. I have sent off, agreeable to the Agreement, near 500 Prisoners to the River Huron, near Sandusky. I have proposed an Exchange, which is referred to the American Government. I could not ascertain the Amount of the Enemy's Loss in Killed, from the Extent of the Scene of Action, and mostly in the Woods. I conceive his Loss to have been between a thousand and twelve Hundred Men in Killed and Prisoners. These unfortunate People were not Volunteers, and complete Kentucky's Quota. If the Enemy had been permitted to receive his Reinforcements and Supplies undisturbed, I should have had, at this critical Juncture, to contend with him for Detroit, or perhaps on this Shore. I had not the Option of retaining my Situation on the Miami, if it had appeared to me, a judicious Measure. The mode in which the Militia turned out raised Hopes & Expectations that were very far from being realized in the Sequel. The Day after the enclosed Letter was received half of the Militia had left us, and the Remainder declared their Determination not to remain longer. I also received a Deputation from the Indian Chiefs, counseling me to return, as they could not prevent their People, as was their Custom after any Battle of consequence, returning to their Villages, with their Wounded, their Prisoners and Plunder, of which they had taken a considerable Quantity in the Boats of the Enemy. Before the Ordnance could be withdrawn from the Batteries, I was left with Tecumthe and Less than twenty Chiefs and Warriors. A Circumstance which strongly proves, that, under present Circumstances at least, our Indian Force is not a disposable one, or permanent, tho' occasionally a most powerful Aid. I have, however, brought

off all the Ordnance, and indeed, have not left any Thing behind. Part of the Ordnance was embarked under the Fire of the Enemy. The Service on which we have been employed has been, tho' short, a very severe one, and too much Praise cannot be given to both Officers & Men for the Cheerfulness with which, on every Occasion, they met the Service. To Lieu^t. Colonel Wharburton I feel many Obligations for the Aid he zealously afforded me, on every Occasion. From my Brigade Major Lieu^t. M^cLean, I received the same zealous Assistance as on former Occasions. To Captain Mockler, who acted as my Aid de Camp, I am much indebted, for the Assistance he afforded me. Lieu^t. Le Breton of the RNFL Reg^t., assistant Engineer, by his unwearied Exertions rendered essential Service, as did also Lieut: Gardiner of the 41st Reg^t. from his Science in Artillery. The Royal Artillery in the laborious Duties they performed displayed their usual unwearied Zeal, and were well assisted by the Royal Newf^d Land under Lieu^t. Garden as additional Gunners. The Laborious Duties which the Marine under the Command of Commodore Hall have performed, have been most chee[r]-fully met, and the most essential Service rendered. I have the Honor to send an Embarkation Return of the Force that served under my Command at the Miami, exclusive of Indians who may be stated at twelve Hundred. I also enclose a Return of our Killed, wounded, and Prisoners who have however, been exchanged. I had taken upon me, to give the Rank of Major to the six Captains of the Line as Militia were to be employed, on the same Service, with them. Some of them are old Officers, all of them deserving. Any Mark of Your Excellency's Approbation of them would be extremely grateful to me. I beg Leave to mention the four Volunteers of the 41st Regiment, Wilkinson, Richardson, Laing and Procter as deserving of Promotion. Your Excellency will perceive that the Reinforcement you intended I should have long since received, has not been sent ; nor do I expect

to receive any, whilst, any Circumstance may seem to justify their Detention. I had only half the 41st Reg^t. before the late Action. Daily Experience more strongly proves that a regular Force is absolutely requisite to ensure the Safety of this District; and which may be endangered by the Detention of the intended Reinforcement. My Brigade Major Lieut^t. M^cLean, who is the Bearer of my Report, will be able to give your Excellency any further Information relative to this District, or our late Movements that may be required. I hope my sending him, and by the only secure Route at present, will meet with your Excellency's Approbation.

I have the Honor to be

Sir,

With the highest Respect,

Your most Obedient Servant

HENRY PROCTER

Brig^t. General com^d.

I beg to acknowledge the indefatigable Exertions of the Commissariat.

HENRY PROCTER

B^t Gen^l com^d

Archives, C. 1170, p. 214.

G.O.

Kingston 21st May 1813.

The Commander of the Forces has great satisfaction in announcing to the Troops, the brilliant result of an action which took place on the banks of the Miami River on the 5th Ins^t. with part of the North Western Army of the United States under Major General Harrison, and which terminated in the complete defeat of the Enemy, and the capture dispersion or destruction of 1300 Men by the Gallant division of the Army under the Command of Brig^t. General Procter

Archives, C. 695A, p. 272.

RETURN OF OFFICERS, NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND PRIVATES TAKEN PRISONERS FROM THE ENEMY
ON THE 5TH MAY 1813 AT THE BATTLE OF THE MIAMIS.

| Total | United States Regulars. | | | | | | | | | | | 10th & 13th Detach ^t . Kentucky Militia. | | | | | | | | | | | Prisoners since delivered up by the Indians. | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|---|--------------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|--------------|------------|-----------|--------------|---------|--|--------------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|--------------|------------|--------------|----|--|
| | Leut. Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Serjeants. | Drummers. | Rank & File. | Leut. Colonels. | Majors. | Brigade Inspector. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Adjutant. | Paymaster. | Surgeon. | Asst. Ditto. | Serjeants. | Drummers. | Rank & File. | Majors. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Adjutant. | Paymaster. | Surgeon. | Asst. Ditto. | Serjeants. | Rank & File. | | |
| | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 21 | .. | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | 26 | 3 | 373 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 12 | |
| Grand Total. | 547 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

N.B.—There are a Number of Prisoners not yet come in who are in the Possession of the Indians, but they are bringing them in daily.

PETER L. CHAMBERS, Major
& Captain 41st Rgt. DAQMG¹

Since the above Return was made out more than eighty Prisoners have been brought by the Indians.

H PROCTER
Br Gen^l com^d

—Five hundred Prisoners were taken, exclusive of those who fell into the hands of the Indians, and whose numbers could not be ascertained—

Brig^r. General Procter praises the gallant behaviour of the Troops and refers his official dispatch, not yet received.

The Enemy's loss was very great, while that of the British amounted only to 14 Rank and File Killed—One Subaltern—4 Serjeants and 37 Rank and File Wounded—Militia One Captain Killed—4 Rank and File Wounded.

(Signed) EDW^p. BAYNES
Adj^t. Gen^l. N.A.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP IV (*continued*)

OPERATIONS IN THE WEST, 1813

UNITED STATES LAKE ERIE FRONTIER: 2. FORT STEPHENSON,
AUGUST 2, 1813

Archives, C. 679, p. 177.

From Procter at Sandwich to McDouall at —.

Sandwich July 4th 1813

My dear Sir

Tho I had not the Pleasure of hearing from you by the last Opportunity I flatter myself that you are still with the Army whose Movements are of so much Consequence to us. In my last Letter I mentioned that I conceived it requisite, the whole of the 41st Reg^t. should be in this District, with as little Delay as possible. I have only to say, that the Detention of the Force ordered here, by the Comm^r. of the Forces, has prevented this District being in a State of Security,

which the Destruction of the Enemy's Vessels at Presqu'isle would have effected. A Service that might very easily have been completely effected, a very short Time since; but which I apprehend may now be attended with much Difficulty. I should also have had it in my Power to have supplied myself at the Enemy's Expence, with Provisions; of which we have not an adequate Supply at present. I shall not make the Attempt willingly, on Presqu'isle, except I have the *whole* of the first Battalion, which I have Reason to believe there is not any real Intention of sending me, notwithstanding His Excellency's Orders. I believe the Intention is to detain a Portion of the Corps, whom they have found very usefull such as Artificers, additional Gunners, Clerks, and Servants. So much Consideration is there for the Corps, or for me. It is the Inconvenience that Individuals would suffer, that has caused the Detention of the 41st Reg^t. in the Niagara District, so long after it was ordered here. I am sorry to tell you that the 41st has lost all it's Books which were very complete, and consequently every Register, every Document. An irretrievable Loss. The total Want of Military Artificers in this District, has been very injurious to the Service here, and you know that no Corps in this District can spare additional Gunners to the other District. We have not above five & twenty Gunners serviceable. I feel myself fortunate that you are still with the Army; if you were not, General Vincent would not be left at Liberty to consider me at all. I begin to think you have Dickson with you. If he can be spared, which I suppose will soon be the Case, he would be a powerful Assistant to me, and might soon reach Long Point. I am sorry to say that from the repeated, and recent Treacheries of the Inhabitants of the River Raisin Settlement it will not any longer be in my Power to preserve it.

Our Safety or rather that of the Territory is absolutely endangered by them.—

They sent Information to the Enemy, by which they had

nearly cut off a Party of Indians. I understand that Mr Harrison has a Body of Horse and that on their Vessels being ready, we are to be attacked in different Quarters. The Enemy have certainly paid a Visit, last Week at the said Settlement, where I as certainly would have a Post, had I the Means. I must mention the Wants among others, of Money, and Indian Powder. I hope for some agreeable Information from your Quarter, very shortly.

In the Mean Time believe me

truly Your

HENRY PROCTER.

July 5th. Dickson left Mackinac twelve Days since for this Place.

H P

Archives, C. 679, p. 181.

From Procter at Sandwich to Prevost at Kingston.

Sandwich

July 4th 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 4th Ult^o.; and am fully sensible that this District has received a due Share of your Excellency's Attention. I beg to add that if I had received from the Niagara Line, the Reinforcements which you directed should be sent, I should by this Time, have had it in my Power, by the Destruction of the Enemy's Vessels, in the harbour of Presqu'isle, to have placed the Dock Yard, and Post of Amherst in a State of Security, that, under existing Circumstances, it cannot be said they are in at present, however, tho' certainly more difficult to be effected it may not be too late, if agreeable to Requisition, the Remainder of the 41st Reg^t. are immediately sent to Long Point. There seems to have been, with Respect to the Provincial Marine, a general

Error, which cannot Rest with me, as I early reported to Maj. Gen^l Sir R Sheaffe that an entire Change was as requisite on this as on the lower Lake. Captain Barclay also arrived here in Error. I am confident of the most cordial Cooperation and Aid from Captain Barclay whose Arrival lessened considerably my Anxiety. I have the Honor to transmit a Letter from him to me, for your Excellency's Consideration. I have also to mention his strong Desire to have some more of the R.N.Fland Reg^t: as his greatest Reliance is on those of that Corps at present employed as Marines. The Service in this District has been much impeded by the total want of military Artificers. I have Reason to apprehend, an Intention of detaining in the other District a Portion of the 41st Reg^t: whom they have found usefull as Artificers and others, which if so, I heartily hope will not be sanctioned. We have scarcely the Means of constructing even a Blockhouse. I have the Pleasure to acquaint your Excellency that M^r Dickson was at Mackinac on the eleventh Ult^o, but whether he is on the Route here, or gone by Lake Huron to York, I cannot at present say. The Weather has been much against him lately. He had succeeded to the full Extent of his Hopes among the Indian Tribes. I understand that M^r Harrison has arrived at Fort Meggs on the Miami, with a Body of horse, with which he is to advance into the Territory of Michigan whilst the Flotilla, is to land Troops on our Shore. Each of the Corvettes seen by Captain Barclay he thinks equal to His M^{ys} Ship the Queen Charlotte, there were eleven Vessels in the Harbour of Presqu'isle. It will not any longer, from the repeated, and recent Treacheries of the Inhabitants on the River Raisin be in my Power to save that Settlement. They endanger the Safety of the Territory. They conveyed Intelligence to the Enemy which nearly caused a Party of Indians to be cut off. It is incumbent on me to acquaint Your Excellency that the Service has been much impeded

by the very scanty and irregular Supplies of money which have been received by the Commissariat in this District.

I have the honor to be

With the highest Respect

Your Excellency's Most Obedient Servant

HENRY PROCTER

Brig^r. General com^d.

Archives, C. 679, p. 371.

From Procter at Sandwich to Prevost at Kingston.

Sandwich

August 9th 1813

Sir

It being absolutely requisite, for several urgent Reasons, that my Indian Force should not remain unemployed, and being well aware that it would not be moveable except accompanied by a regular Force, I resolved, notwithstanding the Smallness of that Force to move, and where we might be fed at the Expense of the Enemy. I had however the Mortification to find that, instead of the Indian Force being a disposable one, or under my Direction, our Movements would be subject to the Caprices and Prejudices of the Indian Body, to the Degree in which my regular Force was disproportionate to their Numbers. For several Days after the Arrival of M^r R Dickson his Indians were restrainable, and tractable to a Degree that I could not have conceived possible. I am sorry to add that they have been contaminated, by the other Indians. I was, very contrary to my Judgement, necessitated to go to the Miami, in the Vicinity of the Enemy's Fort, where I remained a few Days, in the Hope that General Harrison might come to the Relief of the Fort, which was invested, in the Indian Mode, when finding that the Indians were returning to Detroit and Amherstburg I moved to lower Sandusky where however

we could not muster more Hundreds of Indians than I might reasonably have expected thousands. The Neighbourhood of Sandusky, and the Settlement on the Huron River, eight Miles below it could have afforded Cattle sufficient to have fed my whole Indian Force for some Time, had they been induced to accompany us. Sandusky is nearly fifty Miles, by Water, from Lake Erie; and nearly forty from several Points whence strong Reinforcements might be expected; I could not therefore with my very small Force remain more than two Days, from the Probability of being cut off, and of being deserted by the Few Indians who had not already done so. The Fort at Sandusky is composed of Blockhouses connected by Picketing which they flank, and is calculated for a Garrison of five or six hundred Men. On Viewing the Fort I formed an Opinion entirely different from any Person under my Command. The general Idea being that the Garrison did not exceed fifty Men, and that the Fort could be easily carried by Assault. On the Morning of the 2^d Instant the Gentlemen of the Indian Department, who have the direction of it, declared formally their decided Opinion that unless the Fort was stormed we should never be able to bring an Indian Warrior into the Field with us, and that they proposed, and were ready to storm one Face of the Fort, if we would attempt another. I have also to observe, that, in this Instance, my Judgement had not that Weight with the Troops, I hope, I might reasonably have expected. If I had withdrawn, without having permitted the Assault, as my Judgement certainly dictated, much Dissatisfaction would have followed me, and I could scarcely have reconciled to myself to have continued to direct their Movements. I thus with all the Responsibility resting on me, was obliged to yield to Circumstances I could not possibly have prevented. The Troops, after the Artillery had been used for some Hours, attacked two Faces, and, Impossibilities being attempted failed. The Fort, from

which the severest Fire I ever saw was maintained during the Attack, was well defended. The Troops displayed the greatest Bravery, the much greater Part of whom reached the Fort and made every Effort to enter : but the Indians who had proposed the Assault, and had it not been assented to, would have ever stigmatized the British Character, scarcely came into Fire, before they ran off out of it's Reach. A more than adequate Sacrifice having been made to Indian Opinion, I drew off the brave Assailants who had been carried away by a High Sense of Honor to urge too strongly the Attack. I enclose a Disembarkation Return which will shew how small my disposable Force was. The Enemy had a six pounder ; and smaller one in the Fort. I also enclose a Return of the Killed, wounded, and Missing. Our Loss tho' severe, and much to be regretted, is Less, every Thing considered, than could have been expected. You will perceive that the Indian Force is seldom a disposable one, never to be relied on, in the Hour of Need ; and only to be found useful in Proportion as we are independent of it. Ten Indians were surpris'd on a Plain near Sandusky, and were cut to Pieces. The Indians have always had a Dread of Cavalry, of which the Enemy have a considerable Number. A Troop of the 19th would be of the greatest Service here, in the Confidence they would give to our mounted Indians. I have experienced much Deficiency in my Artillery ; another Officer at least, is absolutely requisite, and one of Science and Experience. The Enemy's Defenses are composed of Wood, if we knew how to burn them, as they did ours at Fort George, M^r. Harrison's Army must have been destroyed long since. The Enemy's Vessels are out of Presqu'isle Harbour, and so decidedly stronger than ours, that Captain Barclay has been necessitated to return to Amherstburg, and with all Haste to get the new Vessel ready for Sea, which she will be, in eight or ten Days at farthest, and then only want Hands. Whatever may happen, to be regreted, may

be fairly attributed to the Delays in sending here the Force your Excellency directed should be sent. Had it been sent at once, it could have been used to the greatest advantage, but, it arrived in such small Portions, and with such Delays, that the Opportunities have been lost. The Enemy are in great Numbers at Presqu'isle, and have been already reinforced at Fort Meggs. General Harrison's Head Quarters are near lower Sandusky where he arrived on the 3^d Instant. I must now look for the Enemy, from two Quarters, and will have to meet them with my small Force divided, for the Indians will make no stand without us. You will probably hear of the Enemy's Landing shortly at Long Point, whence they may gain the Rear of the Centre Division, and also affect my Supplies. An Hundred & fifty Sailors would have effectually obviated this Evil. I apprehend the Enemy's rapid advance to the River Raisin in Force, & establishing himself there which he can do surprisingly soon. If I had the means I would establish a Post at that River, but not having two or three Hundred Men to send there it is not in my Power. I must entreat your Excellency to send me more Troops, even the second Battalion of the 41st Reg^t: tho weak would be extremely acceptable. If the Enemy should be able to establish themselves in the Territory it will operate strongly against us with our Indian Allies. Your Excellency may rely on my best Endeavours, but I rely on the Troops alone, and they are but Few, and I am necessitated to man the Vessels with them. I have never desponded, nor do I now, but I conceive it my Duty to state to Your Excellency the Inadequateness of my Force.

I have the Honor to be

With much Respect

Your Excellency's Obedient Servant

HENRY PROCTER

Brig^t. General com^d

August 12th
1813.

Archives, C. 679, p. 476.

From [Prevost] at St. David's to Procter at —.

[Rough draft, unsigned.]

Hd Quarters—S^t Davids
August—22^d—1813.

Major Gen^l. Procter

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your letters of the 9th & 18th Inst^t. The first I received at York, in my way to the center Division & I cannot refrain from expressing my regret at your having allowed the clamour of the Indian Warriors to induce you to commit a part of your valuable force in an unequal & hopeless combat.

You cannot be ignorant of the limited nature of the force at my disposal, for the defence of an extensive frontier & *ought therefore* not to count too largely upon my disposition to strengthen the right division.

The 2^d Battⁿ. of the 41st Reg^t. is under orders to move forward to your support but when it will arrive at Amherstburg is uncertain. I have also ordered a second Captain of Artillery with a N.C. Off^r. & 18 Gunners from Lower Canada to reinforce your Division. Of the three Troop Ships which arrived with De Meuron's Reg^t two have conveyed to Halifax 500 Amⁿ. Prisoners of War & the third (the Dover) is laid up in consequence of my having directed three fourths of her Officers & Seamen to be landed & sent forward for the naval service on the Lakes—I have the satisfaction to inform you that the first L^t of that Ship with 50 or 60 Seamen are now at Kingston from whence they are to be forwarded without delay to Amherstburg.—You will make this circumstance known to Captⁿ. Barklay.

You will not fail in forwarding frequent & very particular

details of the state of public affairs in the Western District, & as the movement I have made to this place from the center of operations has arisen in a great measure from my anxiety respecting your situation, & altho' it may be one of some difficulty you cannot fail in honorably surmounting it notwithstanding the numerical superiority of the enemys force which I cannot but consider as overbalanced by the excellent description of your Troops & Seamen valorous & well disciplined.

The experience obtained by Sir Ja^s. Yeo conduct towards a Fleet infinitely superior to the one under his command will satisfy Captⁿ. Barclay that he has only to dare & the Enemy is discomfited.

It will afford me much saitisfacton to learn that a spirit of cordiality exists between the two services & that you have succeeded in conciliating the well disposed Inhabitants & that the Indian Warriors are once more able & willing to assist powerfully in the defence of your position—I conclude that M. Gen^l de R requisition for the temporary aid of 4 or 500 Indians has been complied with by you & their Leaders.

Archives, C. 19, p. 208.

From Procter at Sandwich to Baynes at Kingston.

Sandwich

August 22^d 1813

My dear Sir,

I have the Pleasure to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 12th Ins^t. and to beg you will accept of my best thanks for the very handsome manner in which you inform me of my Promotion as also for the very gratifying Terms in which His Excellency's Pleasure has been communicated to me on this, and on former Occasions.

The Approbation of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces affords me much Gratification, and I sincerely

hope that whilst I have the Honor to serve under his Command no Effort of mine shall be wanting to attain it.

I have the Honor to be

Dear Sir,

With much Esteem

Your faithful Servant

HENRY PROCTER

M. General com^d

Archives, C. 1171, p. 14.

G.O.

Head Quarters Kingston.

Adjutant Gen^ls. Office 3rd Sept^r. 1813—

His Excellency The Commander of the forces has Received a Dispatch from Major Gen^l. Procter reporting the circumstance of an Attack, made by a Small portion of Regular Troops, and a Body of Indian Warriors, on the 2nd August, on the American Fort of Lower Sandusky, which owing to the strength of the Enemy's Works, which resisted the fire of the light Field Guns brought against it—so that a practicable breach could not be effected—as also from the want of Sufficient Cooperation on the part of the Indian Warriors, unused to that mode of Warfare, the assault was not attended with that brilliant Success which has so uniformly signalized the gallant exertions of the Right Division.

The Major General extols the intrepid bravery displayed by the Detachment under Brevet L^t. Colonel Short ; in endeavouring to force a Passage into the Enemy's Fort, and laments the loss of the brave Soldiers who have fallen in this gallant although unsuccessful assault.—

Return of Killed and Wounded.

| | Capt ⁿ . | Sub. | Serj ^t . | Dr ^s . | Rank & file |
|---------------------|---------------------|------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Killed | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 21 |
| Wounded and Missing | — | — | 1 | — | 28 |
| Wounded | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 35 |
| | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 84 |

Killed, B^t. L^t. Co^l. Short, Lieut^t. Gordon 41st Regiment, —
Lieut^t. Lassaussiege Indian Department.

Wounded Captⁿ. Dixon Royal Engineers, Captⁿ. Muir &
L^t. M^cIntyre 41st Reg^t. all slightly.—

By His Excellency's Command

(Sig^d.) EDWARD BAYNES,

Adjut^t. General.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP V

OPERATIONS ON LAKE ONTARIO, SPRING OF 1813

1. YORK, April 27, 1813
2. FORT GEORGE, May 27, 1813
3. SACKETT'S HARBOUR, May 29, 1813

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP V

OPERATIONS ON LAKE ONTARIO, SPRING OF 1813

I. YORK, APRIL 27, 1813

Archives, C. 728, p. 115.

From Sheaffe at Fort George to Prevost at —.

Fort George 23rd November 1812.

Sir,

I have this day received a packet from York containing a letter from Colonel Vincent apprising me of the return of Paymaster Brock of the 49th Regiment from Sackett's harbour, and of the intelligence brought from thence by him; it fully confirms that which had been previously received through several channels, of the activity of the Enemy in preparing the most formidable means for establishing a superiority on the lakes: if the weather at this advanced period should counteract their design of employing them against us this Season, and we should be fortunate enough to maintain our military positions in this Province during the winter, it will require exertions of the most energetic kind to enable us to contend with them in the Spring for the ascendancy on the lakes, to obtain which engages the particular attention of the American government as being necessary to the attainment of what is evidently the main object of the war, the possession of the Upper Province, with an ulterior

view to establishing a control over the numerous Indian Nations.

I have the honour of transmitting to Your Excellency a copy of an Address which I have received from the Committee of the Executive Council of this province respecting the comparative state of its Marine—the subject is indeed interesting and has a special claim on the attention of the Guardians of the public welfare.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's,

Most obedient,

humble Servant,

R. H. SHEAFFE

M. Genl. &c.

His Excellency

Sir George Prevost

&c &c &c

Archives, C. 728, p. 113.

Enclosure. Address from a Committee of the Executive Council Upper Province to President Sheaffe.

[Copy]

To His Honor Roger Hale Sheaffe Esq^r. President, administering the Government of Upper Canada, and Major General, Commanding his Majesty's Forces in the same &c &c &c.

May it please your Honor—

We trust that Your Honor will believe that the following observations proceed from the purest motives, which we as a Committee of the Executive Council do now submit to your consideration.

We rejoice with our Fellow Subjects at the success which

has hitherto attended his Majesty's arms ; but while reflecting with pleasure on the past, we cannot conceal our anxiety for the future.

By Land our success has exceeded our hopes—not so is our Warfare on the Lakes—Whether this is to be attributed to inferiority of strength on our part, to accident, which the wisest and bravest can neither foresee nor prevent, or to the inexperience of our Naval Commanders, we presume not, even to hint at an opinion.

But altho' our hopes may have in some instances been disappointed, *nothing* has as yet taken place, to lead us to despair—*much* to excite our most active exertions.—If faith is to be given to Report, and that not slightly founded, our Enemies are using every effort to strengthen their marine on the Lakes. At this moment, it is said, they are building a Vessel, superior in force to any that has as yet appeared on Lake Ontario : The consequences that will necessarily follow, from the command of the Lakes being in the power of the United States, would be distressing in the extreme to this Province.

We speak from the strongest conviction, we believe it would be fatal.

But it is the farthest from our thoughts officiously to interfere with such measures as may be deemed expedient by those entrusted with Command ; We only as Subjects, and as Men who have everything that is valuable or dear to them at Stake, offer our feeble aid, by stating with the greatest deference and respect, to Your Honor, as President of that Board to which we belong, our unanimous and solemn opinion, that to strengthen our Marine on the Lakes, is absolutely necessary, under existing circumstances ; for the Defence and preservation of this Province.

(signed) THOMAS SCOTT
Chairman.

Nov^r. 17th 1812.

Archives, C. 728, p. 119.

From Gray at York to Prevost at —.

York 11th Dec^r. 1812

Sir,

I had the honor to Report to your Excellency from Kingston, upon certain points connected with the safety of this Province. Since my arrival at this place, I have endeavoured to acquire such additional information relative to the state and resources of our Marine, as to enable me to submit such ideas for your Excellency's consideration, as appear to me best adapted to meet the exigencies of the service.

The first consideration, I conceive, is to prevent, if possible, our ships from falling into the enemy's hand, till we can procure Officers to command, and Seamen to man them. This will be no easy task, as the moment the Navigation opens, the first object of the enemy will be to destroy, or capture our Ships. They feel so confident of possessing the means of effecting object [*sic*], that they make no secret of their intentions. To guard against any attempt of this nature, I should beg leave to recommend that 10 or 12 long Guns (18^s or 12^s) may be sent up immediately, one half to Kingston, and the other half to York; and placed in situations best calculated to guard the shipping laid up, and to protect such as it may be Judged expedient to build. I imagine there is round shot enough of the Calibre above stated, to supply the additional guns required. A few additional Artillerymen would also be necessary, to assist in working the guns. This, as a measure of precaution, is calculated upon the lowest scale, as I am aware of our limited means below. I should not have proposed the measure, if I did not see clearly what we have to expect in a few months.

In my last letter I had the honor of submitting a measure

to your Excellency, which, if executed with promptitude, might recover what we have lost. The more I reflect upon that subject, the more I see grounds for *hope*, as well as *fear*. What I apprehend is the probability there is of the enemy's strengthening his Post by temporary means, which he has so much at his command, such as Abbatis, and Barricades of Wood, of which he has plenty, and axe men and Carpenters in abundance. I know what an active enemy may do in that way, and they have an idea that we may make the attempt. The only alteration I would propose in the means of attack, is some increase to the Field Artillery, to break down any temporary Defenses (for such they must be as the season will not admit of any other) which they may in the meantime erect.

The other mode of proceeding (should this fail, or not be adopted) is to endeavour to secure in Part what we have, and build so as to keep pace with the enemy. For this purpose I should submit that a Ship Corvette mounting 30, 32 p^r. carronades should be laid down at York, and two Vessels of the Class of the Royal George built, one at Kingston, and the other at Amherstburg. If these Vessels are built of Fir, or in short of such Timber as comes first to hand, they may be got ready by the time their Guns, Stores and Crews arrive in the Spring. To carry this plan into effect, about 50 or 60 Ship Carpenters would be required. or if that number could not be found; Axemen might be substituted for a part of them, as all idea of neatness in the execution of the Work must be given up—Strength and dispatch are the objects at present.

I have called upon the Master Builder for an Estimate of the Articles required to be sent up for the Hulls; But Captⁿ. Stut can make that calculation with equal accuracy. The difference of expence in the carriage of Stores by Land, or water, is not a material object, compared with that which is now at stake.

I shall only add, that at Kingston there is but little protection afforded the Vessels from the Works on shore,—here there is none.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,

A. GRAY,

Act^s. D^y.Q.M.G^l.

His Excellency

Sir George Prevost, Bart.

&c—&c—&c.

Archives, C. 728, p. 125.

From [Prevost] at Quebec to Gray at —.

[An unsigned and unfinished rough draft.]

Castle S Lewis,

Quebec 19th Dec^r 1812

Cap^t Gray

Sir

I have rec^d your letters of the 3^d & 11^h ins^t. containing your report upon the State of the Marine of the Upper Province together with your suggestions upon the most effectual mode of obtaining & preserving a naval superiority on the Lakes—

I am fully aware both from your representations and from what I have heard from other quarters of the low & inefficient State of our naval establishment in the Upper Province & of the necessity of the most vigorous exertions to place it upon that footing as shall enable us with any hope or prospect of success to meet the Force of the Enemy in that Q^r.

I have therefore made the strongest representations to His Majestys Gov^t at home which have been seconded by Sir John Warren of the necessity of an immediate supply of

Officers & Men for the Ships now upon the Lakes as well as those to be built. A Mr. Plucknet an experienced officer in the Kings Naval Yards has been appointed as Superintendent of the Dock Yards & of the work to be carried on for the construction of the new Vessels & has already proceeded together with 120 Shipwrights & Carpenters to Upper Canada—thirty-four seamen are also on their way & the Ass^t. Q^r. Master Gen^l. has been directed to procure as many men as can be obtained & a further supply of Shipwrights & Carpenters will be sent to you if required.

With these aids you will be enabled to enter upon the execution of the plan you have submitted & of which I approve of laying down at York a Ship Corvette to mount 30 32 p^r Carronads & two Vessels of the class of the Royal George the one at Kingston & the o^r at Amherstburg.

For the security of the vessels now on Lake Ontario & to guard ag^t any attempt of the Enemy to destroy them when the Navigation opens I have directed 4 long 18 p^r & 2 12 to be forwarded from Quebec & 2 twelves from Montreal as soon as it can be done consistent with the other Services going on M^r. Clark having this day commenced the transporting from England of the ordnance stores & necessary for the two 18 Gun Vessels.

A Company of the 49^h with a proportion of Artillery have been ordered from Kingston to York & their places will be supplied by a Company of the Glengarys & a detachment of Artillery from Montreal.

I have also given directions for the building of — block houses at Kingston Prescott & Chippewa.

These precautionary Measures will I trust be sufficient to ensure the safety of our shipping on the Lakes until the expected reinforcement of Naval Officers & Men arrive from England in Halifax.

With regard to your plan for the destruction of the Enemy Naval Force in Sacket's Harbour it will require some

consideration before I can determine whether under all circumstances it would be proper to adopt it.

The object is certainly highly important but whether it can be effected must depend upon the Force I shall have at my disposal at the period when you think it can be accomplished & the movements of the Enemy on our Frontiers.

In the Corvette of 30 Guns you propose building you will of course make an immediate requisition for the necessary Iron and other Stores [] in order that they may be forwarded as soon as they can be procured. I rely upon your best exertions for forwarding this important branch of the public Service & trust that with the assistance that will be afforded during the Winter and in the Spring you will be enabled at least to keep the Enemy at bay until our plans shall be so far matured as to ensure to us that Superiority on the Lakes which I too much fear we are now losing.

Should Lt. Col. Myers be still detained Upper Canada when you receive this letter you will please to communicate with him fully respecting all the within commands [*sic*].

Archives, C. 117, p. 1.

From Sheaffe at Fort George to Prevost at —.

Fort George 6th January 1813.

Sir,

I have this day received a communication from Deputy Commissary General Couche, a copy of which I have the honour of transmitting; the issues of provisions have considerably diminished in this district, and will remain some time much below their late amount; at York and Kingston they will be but little if at all reduced owing to the increase of the Marine establishment; and, at Amherstburgh it appears probable that the consumption will be augmented during the winter, as sources of supply which the milder

seasons furnished to the Indians, will no longer exist—and there, too, there will be an increased issue for the Marine establishment.

Several Corps and departments in this province have been compelled to apply to the Commissariat for pecuniary aid, it not being found practicable to obtain money from any other source: The pay of the Militia and other provincial expenses have also been disbursed by the Commissariat; and as it may not be proper that such monies should be finally accounted for through it, it may be necessary to establish some mode whereby the Province should be made chargeable with them through its Receiver General: I entreat Your Excellency's advice and instruction on this head, as it appears to be of importance that a plan to regulate such matters should be speedily adopted, for the simplifying and facilitating the settlement of the public accounts.

I propose going to York in the course of a few days, the passage of the Niagara River being impracticable, and likely to remain so for some time.

It has been suggested to me that two or three battalions might be raised in this province with the encouragement of a promise of land &c., and a proposition has been made to me by a Major of Militia to raise a corps of two or three hundred men in York and its vicinity, and to increase it to five or six hundred by enlistments elsewhere, on a condition not to serve out of the Province, except in such cases as it may legally be required of the Militia: I beg leave to submit this subject to Your Excellency's consideration with the hope of being honoured by an early intimation of your opinion thereon, and of the principals on which Your Excellency would recommend and approve of the formation of such corps: it is thought by some that the enlistment of a Militia Man is prohibited by the 23rd Article of the provincial act passed on the fifth of last August; but such a construction appears to me to be controvertible. I shall not urge the

necessity of a considerable reinforcement to this province, as it must be sufficiently obvious to Your Excellency that it will be required to resist the augmented force which the Enemy will probably direct against us, and to aid in protecting our Dock yards from the early attempts which will no doubt be made on them to defeat our efforts for establishing a naval superiority.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

and most humble Servant,

R H SHEAFFE

M Gen Comm^{rs}. &c. &c.

His Excellency

Sir George Prevost, Bart.

&c &c.

Archives, C. 387, p. 10.

From Lt.-Col. Bruyeres at Kingston to Prevost at —.

Kingston 19th January 1813

Dear Sir

I left Prescott on Friday last after having given the necessary directions to Lieut. de Gaugreben to proceed with the Survey of that Post, and to erect without delay a Block House on a small commanding spot in the rear of the present Battery which it will completely protect; it is also intended to improve, and close this Battery as soon as it is possible to break ground.—I slept that night at Brockville, twelve Miles from Prescott which is the most improved Village on the communication; it has some very handsome Houses with a Church, and Court House, and is situated on an elevated & commanding spot of ground. there is a small Troop of Cavalry, with a Volunteer Rifle Company and some Militia stationed here; they are however very inefficient, a

large proportion of them being absent, and returned to their own homes.—The only position that is occupied from hence to Kingston is at the River Canonoqui about 36 Miles from Brockville. this is a good Post with a Company of Militia stationed under the command of Col: Stone; they are Building a Block House on a strong point of ground near the River; the lower story is nearly raised, and the whole will be completed in about six Weeks.

I arrived late on Saturday Evening at Kingston about 24 Miles from the River Canonoqui.—I have been fully occupied since that time in minutely examining this important place, and communicating with Colonel Vincent on the measures necessary to be adopted for the security of the Post, and the Marine establishment so as to retain our ascendancy on the Lake.—The latter is a very serious and difficult task which must require the greatest exertion, and assistance from the Lower Province, in order to Arm the new Ship that is now Building; for unless this Vessel is completely armed, and well Manned it will not be possible to effect a junction with the Ships at York.—The following statement will explain to your Excellency the Shipping, and resources in this Port which I trust will be equal to meet that of the Enemy, and to effect their passage to York Harbor, which if once accomplished you will then have the decided superiority on the Lake which may be easily maintain'd.

| | | | |
|--------------|---|----------|--|
| Royal George | { | 20 . . . | 32 Pd ^{rs} . Carronades. |
| | | 2 . . . | 9 Pd ^{rs} . long Guns. |
| Moira | { | 10 . . . | 18 Pd ^{rs} . Carronades. |
| | | 4 . . . | 9 Pd ^{rs} . long Guns. |
| New Ship | { | 20 . . . | 12 Pd ^{rs} . long Guns temporary armament. |
| Total . | | 56 | |

there are besides four Merchant Vessels in the Port that may be Manned and Armed equal to oppose the smaller Vessels of the Enemy.—

To oppose this Force the Enemy have

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| One Ship of | 18 Guns |
| One ditto | 24 ditto. |

with seven or eight well armed Schooners.—

Taking advantage of a fair Wind there is every reasonable expectation to hope you may force your passage to York.

In order to put the Naval force at present here in a state to venture on the Lake it is indispensably necessary to send up without loss of time twenty 12 Pd^{rs}. Guns with Ship Carriage complete to arm the new Vessel in a temporary manner untill the armament required from England shall arrive here. these long Guns may then be most usefully employed, and are required to Arm the different positions on the communication from hence down the S^t. Lawrence. It will be further necessary to lower and alter the Moira (as proposed) as that Ship is now totally inefficient. The Merchants I have no doubt will very willingly permit their Vessels to be made use of for one Voyage. they must all be well armed, and altered to contain the Guns. It will also be requisite to send Officers, and Sailors for the whole of this Flotilla ; that each Vessel may be well Manned and have good Officers for those at present employed, are totally incapable for any hasardous undertaking. Captain Gray has most positively assured me that the new Ship will be ready in time ; the progress hitherto made is not equal to realize that expectation, and many have their doubts on the subject. The Keel is at present only laid, but many of the Timbers are prepared for raising, and the Work once in fair train the progress will be more expeditious.

It is much to be regretted under present circumstances that the whole of the Naval establishment had not been

concentrated at this Post. it would have saved much time, and expence in Transport,—united all the Workmen under one Head,—and insured the armament of your Ships.—It would then have been only necessary to secure this Post against attack untill your Fleet was fully prepared, and equipped to proceed on the Lake.

The evil is now without remedy, and the best must be done to concentrate, and unite as soon as possible, but by *no* means to venture from hence till your Vessels are rendered fully efficient with Men, and Arms.—

I have consulted with Colonel Vincent on the practicability of an expedition to destroy the American Ships in Sackett's Harbor. It is now so long since any information has been obtained from that Post (being previous to the closing of the Navigation) that it is indispensably necessary first to procure a correct knowledge of the force at present there, and whether they have Fortified and strengthened their position with the Ship Guns, for it is ascertained they have nearly 100 pieces of Artillery in that Harbor for Naval purposes,—much will therefore depend to what use they have applied these Guns during the Winter.—Col: Vincent intends to take advantage of a circumstance that has lately occurred at Prescott in consequence of an attempt to form a predatory attack on the Post to serve as a plea to send an intelligent Officer as a Flag of Truce to the Commanding Officer at Sacket Harbor, besides which he will endeavour to procure a confidential Man that will undertake to examine the Post, so that I am in hopes that on my return from Fort George we shall be enabled to give your Excellency correct information on this subject for could this expedition be undertaken with any hope of success all our difficulties would be immediately obviated.—

It is expected that the first effort of Commodore Chauncey will be to endeavor to destroy York previous to the Ice being dispersed in the narrow part of the Lake towards this place,

and then to proceed here ; but I hope we shall be well prepared to resist him. I have directed the Block House on Point Henry to be raised and improved ; also to erect another Block House on Point Frederick which will effectually protect the Dock Yard. The Batteries can only be repaired, and enclosed as soon as the first thaw takes place. It is indispensable to erect a new Powder Magazine at this Post, the present one is an old Wind Mill converted to this purpose very insecure, and improperly situated surrounded with Wooden Buildings in the Barrack Yard. The present Building may be very usefully applied as a place of Defence by placing a Gun on the top of the Arch when the Powder is removed. I very earnestly beg leave to impress upon your Excellency the necessity of keeping this Post as strong as possible in point of Garrison untill our Naval force shall be prepared to quit the Harbor for it is reasonable to expect that every possible effort will be made to destroy it. This is a very defendable position but owing to the extent of the Posts (which cannot possibly be contracted) it will require at least 800 effective Men not including the Militia of the Country with more of the Roy^l. Artillery to defend the position with more certainty of success.—Col: Vincent is fully of this opinion, and has approved of all the measures herein suggested.

I shall depart from hence for York to-morrow morning, and shall arrive there on Saturday next.—

I have the honor to remain with the greatest Respect

Your Excellency's Most obedient,

and most faithful Servant

R. H. BRUYERES.—

Archives, C. 117, p. 19.

*From Molson at Montreal to Commissary General Robinson
at Quebec.*

Montreal 6th Feb^y 1813

Sir,

I received a Letter from the Military Secretary under date of the 15th Dec^r. last, informing me of His Excellency's approval of a Tender I had made (thro' Col: Baynes) of the Steam Boat for the use of Government; wherein I am likewise informed that you would receive instructions to cause an arrangement to be made for her Service during the ensuing Season.

For the Transport of Troops and conveyance of light Stores; it will be necessary to fit her up in a manner so as to be best adapted for the purpose which will be in my opinion something after the mode of a Transport.

For a passage Boat she would have been fitted up quite in a different manner.

If you wish her to be arranged in any particular manner under the direction of any Person, I am agreeable.

I should be glad to be informed if His Excellency wishes or expects that I shall Sail in her myself.

Whether Government or I furnish the Officers and Men to Navigate and Pilot her; The Engineer excepted; The fuel and all other necessarys that may be required for her Use.

I imagine the arrangement must be for the Season; not by the Trip as Government may wish to detain her for particular purposes.

Ensurance I do not believe can be effected for less than 30 p. Cent for the season; therefore must take the risque upon myself.

It now being requisite to make the necessary preparations for the opening of the Navigation your answer will particularly oblige.

Sir,

Your most obedient hble Serv^t.

JOHN MOLSON.

Archives, C. 78, p. 44.

From Sheaffe at Fort George to Prevost at Quebec.

Fort George 8th Feb^y. 1813

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you that the Deputy Commissary General has handed me a Statement of the Several Sums advanced by him to this date, for Provincial Services in Upper Canada amounting to Twenty five Thousand Pounds Army Pay (£25,000 A.P.).—I am therefore to request that you will be pleased to grant your Warrant to that amount, in favor of the receiver General of the Province.

And as a further Sum will be required immediately in aid of the Civil Chest.—I beg you will be pleased also to grant another Warrant for Twelve Thousand Pounds Army Pay (£12,000, A.P.) & that the Commissary General may be directed to forward the amount to the Receiver General.

The average Provincial Expences arising out of the War with the United States. May be Stated in round sums as follow—

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Amherstburg & Detroit . . . | £2,000 p ^r . Month. |
| Long Point &c. | 500 ” |
| Fort George & Dependencies . . . | 5,000 ” |
| York | 800 ” |
| Kingston | 2,000 ” |
| Prescott & Eastern District . . . | 2,000 ” |

£12,300

Exclusive of Rations }
of Provisions. }

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's Most Obedient Humble Servant

R. H. SHEAFFE

M. Gen^l. &c. &c.

Archives, C. 387, p. 15.

From Lt. Col. Bruyeres at Kingston to Prevost at —.

Kingston 13th February 1813

Dear Sir

I should have written to Your Excellency from Fort George to report the state of that Frontier but the extreme illness of Major General Sheaffe during the time I was there prevented my communicating with him on business until two days previous to my departure, in order to obtain his approbation, and concurrence to the measures I proposed to adopt for the Defence of that Line.

The Work at Fort George is in a very ruinous, and unfinished state; fortunately the line of Parapet to the Curtain opposite the American shore, was completed last Fall, and has been the means of protecting the Troops during the severe Cannonading that took place at that time.—It will be indispensably necessary to complete this Fort as a Field Work as soon as the Season can possibly admit of removing Earth; to form the Parapet of good Sod Work of sufficient height, and thickness to resist Battering from the opposite Shore. It will be further very desirable to diminish the Line as much as possible by cutting off the present Work on the South East Front in order to reduce the extent of the Fort which is rendered very weak by enclosing too large a space of Ground; it will then become much more compact, and Defendable; at the same time it will decrease the Labor, and Expence necessary for its construction.

Major General Sheaffe has Approved of the manner in which this Work is proposed to be done; which I will have the honor more fully to explain to Your Excellency on my arrival at Quebec.—Splinter proof Barracks to contain about 400 Men will be required to be constructed in the rear of the Curtains to secure them from the effects of Shot or Shells.

Stabling for the Artillery Horses with Barracks for the Drivers, and Royal Artillery must also be provided within the Fort.—The present Block Houses are so much exposed that it will be necessary to take down, and remove the Upper story of these Buildings, and to lower the whole to the proposed Terreplein. They will then become sufficiently secure to contain the Ordnance, and Commissariat Stores for the use of the Garrison.—The Powder Magazine can only at present be made temporary constructed of Log Work well covered with Earth.—The public Buildings near the River at Navy Hall should all be removed as soon as possible, and rebuilt in a place of security at some distance from and in the rear of the Fort ; the Stores they contain and the Buildings themselves are so exposed to immediate destruction that no delay should take place in this Service.—Gun Sheds are required for the Car Brigade, and Field Guns in the Fort.—An Hospital for the Troops to be built out of range of the Enemy's Guns in the rear of Fort George to consist of four Wards for one hundred Patients with a Surgery, and Surgeon's Quarters is strongly recommended, and applied for by the Medical Department ; the Sick, and Wounded are at present accommodated in a Church within range of the opposite Batteries.

There are six Detached Batteries containing eleven pieces of Ordnance of different Natures between the Lake, and Fort George. Four Batteries with five pieces between Fort George and Queenstown.—Two Batteries with two Guns on the Mountain at Queenston. Two Batteries with three Guns at Chippawa. Three Batteries with three Guns opposite Black Rock below Fort Erie. This number of Detached Batteries may at first sight appear superfluous and unnecessary, but the commanding positions they each of them occupy are so very essential that it is not possible to diminish or reduce them without the greatest risk of making the point so reduced the place of debarkation for

Troops.—The only object necessary to be accomplished is to secure these Batteries with a strong Line of Palisades in the rear to guard against surprise, or sudden attack.—This would have been done last Fall, but both Regulars, and Militia were so constantly harassed, and employed to protect this extensive Line they had not a Man to spare either to procure the Palisades or to fix them.—Small temporary Magazines constructed of Log Work covered with Earth to contain each a few Barrels of Powder are required for the Service of these Batteries. I have directed these Magazines to be immediately constructed, and the Batteries to be enclosed.

A Tower or small Redoubt to command the entrance of the River is essentially necessary to be erected on Missisagua Point.

It is also requisite that the Work at Fort Erie may be continued, and completed as early as the season will permit ; altho' liable to some objections, it will in my opinion be the most expeditious, and best system to finish what is already began rather than to take up a new position.—The Battery to protect the Front may be constructed with Sod Work ; the Guns to be mounted on Traversing Platforms and elevated as much as possible to guard against the commanding Batteries on the opposite shore.

A Magazine will be required within the Fort which may in the first instance be built with Timber in a temporary manner that no delay may take place in securing the Powder.—Accommodation is very much wanted for the Troops on this part of the communication particularly Officers quarters ; so many of the Houses on this Line have been destroyed by Fire that it becomes a very serious deprivation, and Quarters must be built to lodge the Men.—Splinter proof Barracks may be constructed within the Fort similar to what is proposed at Fort George.—The number of Men for the Defence of this Line must indispensably be augmented to afford

any reasonable expectation of maintaining the different positions on this Frontier.—The distance from Fort George to Fort Erie is Thirty six Miles.—Twenty eight Miles of this distance is accessible and favorable to disembark at any point from the opposite shore.—I have arranged with Major General Sheaffe relative to the most material of the Services herein-mentioned.

On Friday the 5th Ins^t. I left Fort George accompanied by Lieu^t. Colonel Myers. we arrived at York the next day.— I am very sorry to observe that the progress of the Ship Building at that Post is not equal to the expectation I had formed, or equal to realize the hope that the Ship will be ready in sufficient time to take advantage of the first opening of the Navigation for active operation—

The Letter I herewith enclose from Lieu^t. Colonel Myers to M^r. Freer on that subject will explain his sentiments and opinion on this point. M^r. Plunknett in conversation with me expressed his own confidence of having the Ship ready in time ; I however entertain great doubts of his success, he appears to me to want method to keep the workmen employed to the best advantage ; and I have some doubt of his capacity in the general Line of his profession. it is to be regretted that Captain Gray is returned to Lower Canada as Lieu^t. Colonel Myers cannot under present circumstances leave the frontier on the River Niagara during the absence of Major General Sheaffe at York to meet the Legislature of this Province which will take place on the 25th Ins^t.—We had made the arrangement to arm this Ship at York with eight 18 Pd^r. Carronades that were to spare at Fort George, and are now on the way to York, two long 18 Pd^{rs}. expected from Lower Canada, and ten 12 Pd^r. Carronades from the Prince Regent, making a total of twenty Guns untill a junction can be formed. The Prince Regent to be armed with 6 Pd^{rs}. from the Gloucester, and to endeavor to run and make good her passage to Kingston.—Should the Ship not be ready in

time it will be a most serious disappointment, and the evil can only be remedied by the destruction of the Naval preparations in Sackett's Harbor.

Colonel Vincent has not yet been able to obtain any information of the Force stationed there; two persons are now employed for that purpose, and I shall wait here for two, or three days in hopes of their return.—from the best reports I have hitherto been able to collect the Enemy are extremely active and using the greatest exertions to strengthen the whole Line of Frontier both on the St. Lawrence, and Niagara Rivers with Troops, and will be prepared with a formidable Marine Force to act on this Lake very early in the Spring.

In my Letter of the 28th Ult^o. from Fort George I expressed the unfavorable opinion I had respecting York as a Naval establishment under the present pressure of the public Service, as it is much too remote and distant a Port to obtain the necessary resources to carry on any great undertaking. I am more fully confirmed in this opinion since my last visit there.—Nature has done very little to the position as a Military Post,—or to the Harbor for the purposes of a Dock Yard; every thing must be created which will require considerable time, and Expence.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Letter of the 29th Jan^y. I shall observe your commands in every respect, and you may rely upon my utmost, and most zealous exertions to fulfill the Instructions that I have received, and to make myself fully acquainted on every point connected with the public Service, that may become of use in stating local information for any future operations to be carried on in this part of the Province. I intend to leave Kingston on my way to Lower Canada on Tuesday next. I shall wait that time in hopes of hearing from the opposite shore, the Season is advancing fast, and no time to be lost.—

Very great progress is making here with the new Ship;

also in the temporary Works of Defence I find Lieut. Kitson a very active, and intelligent Officer, Colonel Vincent is well satisfied with him. No part of the Guns or Carronades on the way from the Lower Province are yet arrived.—I shall proceed from hence to Montreal in hopes of seeing your Excellency before I cross to the South side of the S^t. Lawrence to visit Isle aux Noix &c^a.—

Colonel Vincent has strongly represented the necessity of additional Officers Quarters at this Post.

I have the honor to remain with the greatest respect

Your Excellency's Most obedient,

and most faithful Servant

R H BRUYERES.

Archives, C. 729, p. 135.

From Croker at Admiralty Office to Yeo at —.

Admiralty Office
19th March 1813.

Extracts from Copy.

Sir.

Referring you in the first instance to the order of my Lords Commrs. of the Admiralty of this days date which you will receive herewith, I have their Lordships commands to acquaint you that arrangements have been made for conveying you and the Officers and Men under your Command to Quebec in His Majesty's Troop Frigate the Woolwich.

On board this ship the commissioned warrant and petty Officers and Seamen stated in the enclosed list have received directions to embark, and to follow your orders for their further proceedings.

On your arrival in the River S^t. Lawrence you are to take the earliest opportunity of communicating your Instructions to Lieut^t. General Sir Geo. Prevost Captain General and Governor in Chief of His Majesty's Provinces in North

America of explaining the amount of the Force under your Orders, of learning from him all the details of the Ships and Vessels employed on the Lakes, and of consulting and arranging with him with regard to all the various particulars of the important Services to which your joint efforts are to be directed.

I am, &c.
(signed) J. W. CROKER.

Archives, C. 729, p. 132.

[Endorsement] Duplicate Copy of Commission Appoint^d
Sir J. L. Yeo Comm^r. of the Naval Forces in the Lakes
of Canada. 19 March 1813

BY THE COMMISSIONERS &c.

WHEREAS the Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, hath signified to Us the Pleasure of His Royal Highness The Prince Regent that We should take under our direction and control His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed on the Lakes of Canada; We having the greatest confidence in your gallantry, judgement, and zeal for His Majesty's Service, have thought fit to select you for the command of the said Naval Force; and We do hereby require and direct you to proceed to the said Lakes of Canada, and there take the command of the several Ships and Vessels belonging to His Majesty on those Lakes, appointing and distributing amongst them the Officers and Men under your orders, according to the Instructions which we have directed Our Secretary to transmit herewith for your guidance.

The first and paramount object for which this Naval Force is maintained being the defence of His Majesty's Provinces of North America; We do hereby require and direct you in the Employment thereof to cooperate most

cordially with His Excellency the Captain General and Governor in Chief of the said Provinces, not undertaking any operations without the full concurrence and approbation of him or of the Commanders of the Forces employed under him ; and on all occasions conforming yourself and employing the Force under your command according to the Requisitions which you may from time to time receive to this Effect, from the said Governor or Commander of the Forces.

During the continuance of your Command you are hereby authorized to hoist a distinguishing Pendant as Commodore on Board such one of His Majesty's Ships as you may select—

You are further required and directed to pay particular attention and obedience to the Instructions herewith transmitted, & to all other Instructions or directions which you may hereafter receive from us or from Our Secretary by Our Command.—

Given under Our hands, 19th March, 1813.

(Signed)

MELVILLE
W^M. DOMETT
J S YORKE
J OSBORN

By Command of their Lordships

(Signed) J W—CROKER—

Archives, C. 1170, p. 129.

G.O.

Adjutant Gen^{ls}. Office

Quebec 20th March 1813.

The Commander of the Forces directs that a Detachment consisting of Four Complete Companies of the Canadian Voltigeurs under the Command of Major Heriot should proceed to Kingston in Upper Canada :—

Major General De Rottenburg will cause this Detachment to commence its march from the Montreal District,

as soon as it may be in readiness after the Settlement of their Accounts to the 24th Instant.

G.O.

All Officers entrusted with the Command of Corps, and Detachments are invariably to accompany them when on a march ; that the Soldiers may experience the good effects of their unwearied endeavours to alleviate as much as possible the hardships attending on marches undertaken at this inclement Season of the Year. Nor is the attendance of any Officer to be dispensed with, except in cases of urgent necessity, when Troops are marching on a line in view of the Enemy.

(signed) EDW. BAYNES,
Adjut^t. General N.A.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 142.

G.O.

Quebec 27th March 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is pleased to order the following movement of Troops.

Major Drummond with the Flank Companies of the 104th Regiment to proceed to Montreal, and from thence to Kingston.

Major General De Rottenburg will direct a complete Company of the 1st (or Royal Scots) to March immediately to Prescott to relieve the two Companies of the 8th (or Kings) at that Post—the Officer in Command of this Company to send by an Express, previous notice of the day he will arrive at Prescott, in order that the two Companies of the King's may be prepared to March at day break on the same day for Kingston.—The Flank Companies of the 8th (or King's) Regiment, to continue their March to Niagara.—

The Battalion Companies of the 104th Regiment, to

march to Montreal, and from thence to Kingston, in two Divisions on Monday and Tuesday next.—

The 8th (or Kings) Regiment to march to Niagara.— Colonel Young to assume the Command of the Kings Regiment, and will cause the march of the Regiment, to be conducted by Companies in succession—to insure the necessary accomodation and means for Transport of the Troops upon this route. No Superfluous Stores or heavy Baggage to be carried.—The Officers Commanding Detachments of the 8th or 104th Regiments, are immediately on their arrival at Prescott, to send forward by Express notice of the time that their respective Detachments will arrive at Kingston, and the Officer Commanding at that Post will hold the 8th (or Kings) in readiness to forward a Detachment of the Kings on the morning of the day, that a Detachment is destined to relieve them—so that the last Company of the 8th Regiment, may March from Kingston, on the morning of the day that the rear Detachment of the 104th will arrive at that Station.—

The Battalion Companies of the 1st (or Royal Scots) to be quartered at Montreal.—A Battalion Company of the 1st (or Royal Scots) to March from Quebec to Montreal, on Wednesday next at 7 OClock.—

These Movements to be made with the least possible delay, and every aid that can expedite and facilitate the march, is to be afforded by the Officers of the Commissariat and Quarter Master Gen^l. Departments, without waiting for further Authority.

G.O.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, deeming it for the benefit of His Majesty's Service, is pleased to sanction and grant all Majors in the Army, serving in the Canada's the Local and Temporary Rank of Lieutenant Colonel's.—

Colonel Halkett and the Officers of the 104th Regiment

being under Orders to March, other Officers are to be nominated as Members of the General Court Martial in their stead.

(Signed) E. BAYNES A.G.

Archives, C. 78, p. 54.

From Sheaffe at York to Freer at Quebec.

York 30th March 1813.

Dear Sir,

In explanation of the accompanying letter I have to state that the sum is wanted in *sterling*, and that the Receiver Gen^l. wishes "they may be mostly in 25 and 50 Dollar bills, and £150—in 4 dollar bills—if remitted in Army Bills.—

Captain Liddell's division is on its way to F^t. George in boats, with favorable weather.—

I expect a communication from M^r. Couche to state that he also wants a supply of Money: I know not what he has lately received, but I have no doubt that Sir George will pay a timely regard to our being supplied with that essential article.

After Col. Claus went to Fort George he discovered that M^r. Couche had the money for the Indians.

I am, Dear Sir,

Very truly Yours,

R H SHEAFFE.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 177.

G.O.

Quebec 22^d April 1813

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent having been graciously pleased to Command, that a division of Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy should be assigned for the Service of His Majesty's Fleets in the Lakes of Upper Canada.—

Admiral Sir John B. Warren in prompt obedience to His Royal Highness's Command, and to accelerate the beneficial effects which cannot fail to accrue to His Majesty's Service from so wise and judicious a measure, has directed Captain Barclay and other Officers of the Royal Navy to proceed by Land from Halifax—and it is with the highest satisfaction that the Commander of the Forces has the pleasure of announcing to the Army the auspicious arrival of these Officers, for the purpose of assuming the Command of His Majesty's Armed Ships and Vessels on the Lakes, and of making the necessary arrangements for the new organizing the Marine Establishment—The Officers of the Provincial Marine will for the present be suitably provided for without diminution to their Salaries.—

His Excellency feels He is performing an unnecessary duty, in recommending to the Troops that unanimity and cordial cooperation, which smooths the rugged path of War, and strengthens all its Sinews—

The Brave Soldiers of Upper Canada will greet with heartfelt joy, the arrival of a Gallant Band of British Seamen—and will cease to view the Waters of the Lake as the boundaries of their Victories, but as a new field for Triumph opening to their Arms.—

The Commander of the Forces directs to be inserted in General Orders the following Extract from His Majesty's Regulations regarding, the relative Rank and Precedence of Naval and Land Officers.—

Rear Admirals to have Rank as Major Generals.—

Commodores with broad Pendants are to have Rank as Brigadier Generals.

Captains Commanding Post Ships, after three Years from the date of their first Commission for a Post Ship are to have rank as Colonels.

All other Captains commanding Post Ships are to have rank as Lieut^t. Colonels.—

Captains of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels, not taking Post, are to have Rank as Majors.—

Lieutenants of His Majesty's Ships are to have rank as Captains.—

The Rank and Precedence of Sea Officers, in the classes abovementioned, are to take place according to the Seniority of their respective Commissions.—

Post Captains Commanding Ships or Vessels that do not give Post, rank only as Majors during their Commanding such Vessels.—

Nothing in these Regulations is to authorize any Land Officer to command any of His Majesty's Squadrons or Ships, nor any Sea Officer to command on Land.—

But as local circumstances will unavoidably lead to a more constant and intimate intercourse between the Naval and Land Forces, than is customary to the Service in general, particularly during the Winter Season. His Excellency thinks it proper to explain that the prohibition expressed in His Majesty's Regulations is not merely limited to Officers of the Army not assuming command on board Ships of War, they are to refrain from all interference or controul in Marine Establishments on Shore, and the Crews of Ships of War when quartered on Shore, are to be considered under the immediate direction of their own Officers, nor is any Officer of the Navy to assume the Command of the Troops of any Garrison, or to interfere in the detail and discipline of the same altho' Senior in Rank to the Officer Commanding at the Post.—But in all combined operations of Active Warfare—the Senior Officer will be invested with the Command of the whole, and direct the general plan of Attack, but this is never to prevent the Commanding Officer of each Branch of the Service retaining the immediate Command and conduct of his own Force, subject to the Orders of the Senior Officer.—

The Public Vessels—Dock Yards—Arsenals—and Marine Stores, of every description are to be delivered over to the

Navy—But all Officers of the Quarter Master General's and Commissariat Departments in trust and charge are to continue to discharge their respective duties untill proper Persons are selected, and necessary arrangements made to relieve them from their responsibility.—

In conformity to the General Order of the 27th March granting to all Majors of the Kings Regular Forces the Local Rank of Lieutenant Colonels—The Commander of the Forces is pleased to extend the same parity of Rank to all Captains of the Royal Navy Commanding Armed Ships on the Lakes.—

(Signed) EDW^D. BAYNES,
Adjut^t. Gen^l.

Archives, C. 678, p. 172a.

Capitulation of York.

28 April 1813.

Terms of Capitulation entered into on the 27th April 1813 for the surrender of the Town of York in Upper Canada to the Army & Navy of the United States under the commands of Major Gen^l. Dearborn & Commodore Chauncey.

That the Troops Regular & Militia at this post & the Naval Officers & Seamen shall be surrendered Prisoners of War the Troops Regular & Militia to ground their arms immediately & parade and the Naval Officers & Seamen be immediately surrendered.

That all public stores Naval & Military shall be immediately given up to the Commanding Officers of the Army & Navy of the United States.

That all private property shall be guaranteed to the Citizens of the Town of York.

That the papers belonging to the Civil Officers shall be retained by them.

That such surgeons as may be procured to attend the

wounded of the British Regular & Canadian Militia shall not be considered prisoners of War. That one Lieut. Col^l. one Major thirteen Captains nine Lieutenants eleven Ensigns one Q^r. Master and one Deputy Adjutant General of the Militia . . . [list of names follows] shall be surrendered Prisoners of War & accounted for in the exchange of Prisoners between the U States & Great Britain.

Signed W^m CHEWETT *L^t. Col 3rd*

Reg^t York Militia

W^m ALLEN *Major 3rd*

Regt. York Militia.

F GAUVREAU [— ?]

C. MITCHELL, *Col. 3rd*

Artill^y. of US Army.

S. CONNER *Major*

Aid de Camp to Maj^r G^t. Dearborn

ARCH. KING *Major 15 US Infantry*

JESSE D. ELLIOT *L^t. US Navy*

York 28th April 1813.

The foregoing Agreement or Terms of Capitulation is approved by us.

H DEARBORN *Maj Gen^t.*

ISAAC CHAUNCEY *Commodore.*

Archives, C. 678, p. 178.

From Sheaffe at Haldimand to Prevost at —.

Haldimand 30th April 1813.

My dear Sir George,

I have the mortification of reporting to you that York is in the possession of the Enemy—it having on the 27th Inst. been attacked by a force too powerful to be resisted with success:—sixteen Vessels of various descriptions full of Men, including their new Ship the Madison, formed their flotilla:—the Grenadiers of the King's suffered first in the

action with the Enemy (in which Captⁿ. M^cNeale was killed) and afterwards severely in common with other Corps by the accidental explosion of a battery Magazine, which at the same time disabled the battery.—I caused our Grand Magazine to be blown up, and have reason to believe that the new Ship and Naval Store were destroyed.

We met the Light Company of the Kings four or five Miles from York—the troops consisting of the flank Comp^y. and Capt: Eustace's of the King's.—

Capt. M^cPherson's company of the Glengary L^t. Infantry, and some of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment are about a day's march in the rear—they were but ill supplied with provisions for the first and second days—but by coming forward myself assisted by Major Rogers (a Member of the Provincial parliament whom I had sent for to York to employ him in superintending the improvement of the roads) a sufficient quantity has been procured for them.—

I am now in his house, and am this moment interrupted by the arrival of Captain Munday with letters from the Military Secretary of the 6th & 7th Ins^t.

I cannot inform Your Excellency what our loss has been—I shall as soon as possible get the Returns, and from Kingston do myself the honour of writing to you in a more official shape.—

I am, My dear Sir George,

Your very faithfully devoted Servant,

R. H. SHEAFFE &c.

I did not bring anything from York except a writing case containing Your Excellency's despatches and some other papers.

Firing from Niagara was heard in the afternoon of the 28th and both yesterday and to-day—the firing at York, though the wind was fresh at East, was heard even at this distance.—

Archives, C. 678, p. 190.

Memorandum by A. McLean.

On the 28th April a Capitulation took place which was signed by L^t. Col. Chewett 3rd Reg^t. Y.M. Major Allan same Reg^t., and by L^t. Gauvreau in behalf of the Naval Department—

By the Capitulation, all Public Stores were to be given up to the Captors, Private Property was *agreed* to be respected. All the Troops, Regular and Militia were to ground their Arms and to be considered as Prisoners of War, such Surgeons as could be procured to attend the Sick and Wounded excepted.—All the Papers belonging to the Civil Officers were to be retained by them.—These Terms were approved and signed by Gen^l. Dearborn and Commodore Chauncey on the Part of the United States.—During the Day the Prisoners were all detained in the Garrison while a number of the American Soldiers were plundering in the Town—

On the 29th the Prisoners were ordered to attend and were allowed to go to their Homes on parole. I am not certain whether the Marine Department were paroled or not. It was reported that it was intended to take all the Seamen, Ship Carpenters and Regulars who were captured to Sackets Harbour. From the best Information it appears that the Enemy had 2,500 men landed besides 500 who were on board Ship, the Sailors and Marines not included in this number—I learn'd from a M^r. Pelham of the 21st U.S. Reg^t. that Gen^l Pike was killed by the Explosion of the Magazine and his two Aid De Camps wounded, one of them it was supposed would be under the necessity of having his Leg amputated.—It appears that they lost a great number of Men in killed and wounded by the Explosion, they do not acknowledge the loss of many men during the Engagement—Application was made to Gen^l. Dearborn, for Permission to

bury the dead, which was refused—On the 29th at 12 o'clock all the American Vessels except two small ones were at Anchor in York Harbour—The Enemy were joined by a number of Vagabonds who gave them every information—M^r. S^t. George's Store & House were plundered and a large Quantity of Flour was sent on board the Ships which belonged to M^r. S^t. George—A number of the Private Houses have suffered.—About 250 Prisoners have been taken by the Enemy.—

Signed, A. M^cLEAN
Kingston May 4th 1813—

Archives, C. 1170, p. 194.

G.O.

Quebec 4th May 1813.

Immediately on the receipt of this Order Colonel Scott will cause the Grenadier Companies to march from Chambly by the shortest road to Cochanawaga—where Boats are to be prepared to Transport them to Kingston, the whole under the Command of Major De Haren.

Major General De Rottenburg will give the necessary Orders for the immediate formation of the Two Light Infantry Battalions, by directing the Flank Companies of Battalions of Embodied Militia to march with the least possible delay to Chambly to be Incorporated and Organised in conformity to the Gen^l. Orders issued on the 12th Ultimo, under the Command of Colonel Scott, the Senior Captains of the Light Infantry of the Line in each Battalion to Act as Major of the same.—

His Excellency expects all movements of the Troops will be conducted with the utmost celerity by all Persons concerned. . . .

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES
Adjut^t. Genl.

Archives, C. 678, p. 195.

From Sheaffe at Kingston to Prevost at Montreal.

Kingston 5th May 1813.

Sir,

I did myself the honour of writing to Your Excellency on my route from York to communicate the mortifying intelligence that the Enemy had obtained possession of that place on the 27th of April, and I shall now enter into a fuller detail, than I was enabled to do at the date of that letter.

In the evening of the 26th of April I received information that many Vessels had been seen from the Highlands to the eastward of York, soon after daylight the next morning the Enemy's Vessels were discovered lying to not far from the shore of the peninsula in front of the town; they soon afterwards, made sail with a fresh breeze from the eastward, led by the Ship lately built at Sackett's harbour, and anchored off the point where the french fort formerly stood; many boats full of troops were soon discerned assembling near the Commodore's Ship, apparently with an intention of effecting a landing on the ground off which he was anchored; our troops were ordered into the Ravine in the rear of the Government Garden and fields; Major Givens and the Indians with him were sent forward through the wood to oppose the landing of the Enemy—the Company of Glen-gary Light Infantry was directed to support them, and the Militia not having arrived at the Ravine, The Grenadiers of the King's Regiment and the small portion of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles belonging to the Garrison of York were moved on, led by L^t. Colonel Heathcote of that corps commanding the [mutilated] this movement was directed to be made within the [mutilated] parallel to the Lake side, and only so far from it, as not to be discovered by the Enemy's Vessels, several of which were not at a great distance

from the shore : Captain Eustace's company of the King's Regiment, and some Militia that were quartered at the east end of the town, and had been left there during the night, lest the Enemy might make some attempt on that flank, were ordered, with the exception of a small party of the Militia, to join these troops—which was soon effected : while these operations were going on Major General Shaw Adjutant General of Militia led a portion of the Militia on a road at the back of the wood to watch our rear, and to act according to circumstances ; by some mistake he led the Glengary Company away from the direction assigned to it, to accompany this detachment, so that it came late into action, instead of being near the Indians at its commencement ; the movement of the other troops was retarded by the difficulty of the wood, while the Enemy being aided by the wind, rapidly gained the shore under cover of a fire from the Commodore's ship and other vessels, and landed in spite of a spirited opposition from Major Givens and his small band of Indians ; the Enemy was shortly afterwards encountered by our handful of troops, Captain M^cNeal of the King's Regiment was early killed while gallantly leading his Company which suffered severely : the troops fell back, I succeeded in rallying them several times, and a detachment of the King's with some Militia, whom I had placed near the edge of the wood to protect our left flank repulsed a column of the Enemy which was advancing along the bank at the Lake side : but our troops could not maintain the contest against the greatly superior and increasing numbers of the Enemy—they retired under cover of our batteries, which were engaged with some of their Vessels, that had begun to beat up towards the harbour, when their troops landed, occasionally firing, and had anchored at a short distance to the Westward of the line from the Barracks to Gibraltar Point ; from that situation they kept up a heavy fire on our batteries, on the Block house and Barracks, and on the communications between them,

some of their Guns being thirty two pounders; to return their fire, we had two complete twelve pounders, and two old condemned guns without trunnions (— eighteen — pounders) which, after being proved, had been stocked and mounted under the direction of Lieu^t. Ingouville of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment; whom I had appointed Assistant Engineer; a twelve pounder of the same description was added during the engagement; with these defective means the Enemy was kept at bay for some time, when, by some unfortunate accident, the travelling Magazine at the Western battery blew up, and killed and wounded a considerable number of Men; many of them belonging to the Grenadier company of the King's Regiment, the battery was crippled, the platform being torn up, and one of the eighteen pounders overturned: the Magazine was replaced and the battery restored to some order, but it was evident that our numbers and means of defence were inadequate to the task of maintaining possession of York against the vast superiority of force brought against it, though providentially little mischief had hitherto been done by the long continued cannonade of the Enemy, except to some of the buildings: the troops were withdrawn towards the town, and the grand Magazine was at the same time blown up, the Enemy was so near to it, that he sustained great loss, and was, for a time, driven back by the explosion; some of our own troops were not beyond the reach of fragments of the stone, though they escaped with very little injury; Captain Loring my Aide de Camp received a severe contusion, and the horse he rode was killed.

The troops were halted at a ravine not far to the westward of the Shipyard, I there consulted with the superior Officers, and it being too apparent that a further opposition would but render the result more disastrous, some of the Enemy's Vessels indicating an intention to move up the harbour in order to cooperate with their land forces, I

ordered the troops of the line to retreat on the road to Kingston, which was effected without any annoyance from the Enemy ; when we had proceeded some miles we met the Light company of the King's Regiment on its march for Fort George, I had sent an express the preceeding evening to hasten its movement, but it was at too great a distance to be able to join us at York.

The Ship on the Stocks and the Naval Stores were destroyed to prevent the Enemy from getting possession of them, an attempt to set fire to the Gloucester, that was fitting out for purposes of transport, proved abortive ; she was aground a mere hulk, her repairs not being half finished : I have been informed that the Enemy succeeded in getting her off, and putting her into a state to be towed away, a number of Shipwrights having arrived from Sackett's harbour with the expectation of employing them in a similar task on our New Ship.

The accounts of the number of the Enemy landed vary from eighteen hundred and ninety to three thousand ; our force consisted of a Bombardier and twelve Gunners of the Royal Artillery to assist whom Men were drawn from other Corps, two Companies of the 8th or King's Regiment, one of them, the Grenadier, being on its route for Fort George, about a Company in number, of the Royal Newfoundland regiment, and one of the Glengary Light Infantry, and about three hundred Militia and Dock Yard Men ; the quality of some of these troops was of so superior a description, and their general disposition so good, that, under less unfavourable circumstances, we might have repulsed the Enemy in spite of his numbers, or have made him pay very dearly for success ; as it was, according to the reports that have reached me, his loss was much greater than ours, a return of which I have the honour of transmitting, except of that of the Militia, of which a return has not yet been received ; but I believe it to have been inconsiderable : Donald M^eLean Esq^r Clerk

of the House of Assembly gallantly volunteered his Services with a musket, and was killed.

Captain Jarvie of the Incorporated Militia, a meritorious Officer, who had a share in the successes at Detroit and Queenston, had been sent with a party of Militia in three batteaux for the Militia clothing, which had been left on the road from Kingston, he came to me during the action to report his arrival, and soon afterwards he was severely wounded: a few of the Indians (Missasagus & Chipeways) were killed and wounded, among the latter were two Chiefs.

Thinking it highly probable that the Enemy would pay, an early visit to York, I had remained there long beyond the period I had originally assigned for my departure to Fort George, in order to expedite the preparations which the means in my power enabled me to make for the defence of the place; Your Excellency knows that I intended to place Colonel Myers, Acting Quarter Master General, in the command there, at least for a time; I afterwards learnt that Colonel Young was in movement towards me with the 8th or Kings Reg^t., I then decided to give him the command, to avoid the inconvenience of seperating the head of a department from me, and being informed that he was to move up by himself as speedily as possible, I was for some time in daily expectation of seeing him; at length, having reason to believe that he was to accompany one of the divisions of his Regiment, I wrote to him both by the land and by the water route to come to me without delay; about the 25th of April I received certain intelligence, of what had been before rumoured, that he was detained at Kingston by a severe illness, and on the 26th I learnt that Colonel Myers was to leave Fort George that day for York; I therefore determined to wait for his arrival, and to leave him in the command until Colonel Young might be in a state to relieve him; it was in the evening of the same day that I heard of the approach of the Enemy: I have thought it proper to enter into this

explanation, as Your Excellency may have expected that I had returned to Fort George before the period at which the attack was made on York. I propose remaining here until I shall have received your Excellency's commands.

I have the honour to be,

With great respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient,

humble Servant

R H SHEAFFE

M Gen^l &c. &c.

Archives, C. 679, p. 17.

*Enclosure in letter from Mr. Justice Powell, dated 4 June 1813.
Copy of the Proceedings of the Magistrates, &c., at York
during the possession of that place by the Enemy.*

At a meeting of the Magistrates resident in the Town of York, attended by the Judges, the Sheriff, and the Reverend Doctor Strachan.

The actual situation of the Town & District was taken into consideration.

The Enemy's Fleet and Army lying in the harbour, all our Military defences at the Post destroyed, the Inhabitants disarmed and on parole, it is obvious that measures of as much energy as our circumstances admit should be instantly adopted to preserve order and prevent anarchy; to support & encourage the loyal; to suppress the disloyal and to confirm the wavering.

It is therefore, unanimously declared, that by the irruption of the Enemy and temporary possession of this Post, no change has taken place in the relation of the Subject to His Majesty's Government & Laws, except as to such who were parties

to the Capitulation as prisoners of war, and are under parole of honor not to bear Arms until exchanged—

That it is equally now, as before the invasion, high treason to aid, assist, counsel or comfort the Enemy—That all Felons and evil doers are equally amenable to the laws as before—That the power of the Magistrates and Ministers of the law are unimpaired, and continued to be so even during the actual possession of the Enemy, as the Commander of their Forces declared, by a Military General Order to his troops.—That private property having remained unchanged not only in construction of the law, but by the express terms of the Capitulation: the Enemy himself disclaims the right, assumed by some Individuals to transfer it from the owner.—That it is the duty of every good subject to declare to the Magistrate all instances of such unjust possession as may come to their knowledge, and of the Magistrate to enforce the restitution.

That persons desirous to signify their abhorrence of anarchy, which must prevail if principles adverse to the above declaration gain ground, are called upon to associate in support of the laws and to afford their aid to the civil Magistrates and their Ministers.

That the high Sheriff do publish & enforce this declaration.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 233.

G.O.

H.Q^{rs}. Kingston, 8th June 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is pleased to direct that the following extracts from a District General Order given out in Upper Canada by Major General Sir R. Hale Sheaffe, be published for the information of the Forces serving in the North American Provinces.

By His Excellency's Command.

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES

Adjt. Genl.

DISTRICT GEN^l. ORDERS.Kingston, 13th May 1813

The Major General Commanding having received the Returns from the Corps of the Line engaged with the Enemy on the 27th Ultimo, laments to find that so many brave men suffered on that day—Though the result of it was not such as has been customary whensoever the Enemy has been encountered in his attempts on this Province, it is consolatory to reflect, that in gaining this novel success, accidental circumstances to which the operations of War are always liable, concurred to favour the Enemy's vast superiority of numbers and combination of Force, to oppose which the means of defence and situation of York could afford but inadequate aid—

By the explosion of a Battery Magazine, the loss which the Forces had in the previous action sustained of some of its best Soldiers, was considerably augmented. Our total loss in Killed and Wounded was about 130, among the former the Major General deeply regrets that Captain M^cNeale of the 8th (or Kings) Regiment is numbered. He nobly fell at the head of his brave Grenadiers—The loss of Donald M^cLean Esq^{ro} Clerk of the House of Assembly; is also to be lamented; he gallantly volunteered his services with a musquet, as did M^r. Beikie, M^r. Alex^r. Wood, M^r. Quetton St. George, and perhaps others whose Names are at present unknown.—Captain Jervie of the Incorporated Militia, and Lieutenant De Koven of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, were wounded.—The Number of the Enemy's Troops that landed are stated to have amounted to 2,500—It was not disgraceful for 200 to retreat from such a force.—

The Powder Magazine was blown up, and the New Ship and Naval Stores destroyed to prevent their falling into the Enemy's hands.

(Signed) RICH^d. LEONARDA.D.A. A.G^l.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP V (*continued*)

OPERATIONS ON LAKE ONTARIO, 1813

2. FORT GEORGE, MAY 27, 1813

Archives, C. 678, p. 136.

From Bissbopp, Fort Erie, to Vincent, Niagara.

Copy
Sir,

Fort Erie March 18th 1813

I have the honor to inform you that the Enemy commenced a Cannonade on our Lines, at a quarter past 12 o'clock on the morning of the 17th instant, which lasted till six o'clock the next evening, during which time we succeeded in dismounting three of the Enemy's Guns. Our fire was extremely well directed and must have done great execution. Our loss is only one killed and seven wounded. I am particularly obliged to Captain Bridge commanding the Royal Artillery, for his attention and alacrity on this occasion. The Men stationed at the Guns behaved most gallantly. Lieutenant Armstrong of the Royal Artillery was detached three miles from Fort Erie, at the Mortar Battery having in his charge Two Field Pieces.

Lieutenant Garden of the Newfoundland had the direction of two three pounders and was attached to the Troops from Fort Erie under the command of Major Ormsby of the 40th Regt, who were all night under arms, on the Road between Fort Erie and the Batteries, ready to oppose the landing of any force from Black Rock, and to support the Detachment of the 41st and Royal Newfoundland Fencibles on the left.

I beg leave to recommend particularly to your notice, Captain Whelan of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles who commands at the 12 pound Battery, and whose conduct upon all occasions, and particularly upon this, has shewn him to be a very valuable Officer. To D^r. Harford and the Medical Staff the greatest credit is due, in procuring sleighs to carry off the wounded, and in their attention to them afterwards. I am happy to say the Men are all doing well. Had the Enemy attempted to land above Fort Erie across the Ice, every thing was to be expected from the good conduct of the Militia, under the Command of Lieut. Colonel Clarke 2^d Lincoln Regt, stationed up the Lake. Every Individual, both Regulars and Militia, were anxious for the moment, which would have given them an opportunity of serving their King and Country.

Lieutenant Barnard my Staff Adjutant will have the honor of delivering to you this report, he is well acquainted with every circumstance that has occurred and will give you any information that may be required.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

(Signed) CECIL BISSHOPP

Lieut Colonel.

True Copy

ROBERT R LORING.

Archives, C. 678, p. 301.

From Vincent at Fort George to Prevost at Montreal.

Fort George 19th May 1813

Sir,

I was this day honored by your Excellency's communication (Duplicate) dated Montreal 7th instant, which was

brought by an officer of Militia dispatched by Major General Sheaffe from Kingston—

In expressing my high sense of obligation for so prompt an assurance of support, in my efforts to maintain the independence of this frontier of His Majesty's dominions from invasion, I should be wanting in duty and justice to the zeal and energy of those Officers who participate so largely in my confidence, were I not to assure your Excellency, that the flattering assurance held forth in your communication has not only been truly gratifying to our mutual feelings, but has created new energies throughout this command—

Your Excellency will have been apprized thro' my Letters to Colonel Baynes, that the American Flotilla after remaining at anchor of this harbour for three days without attempting any enterprize, proceeded down the Lake, and the wind being fair for Sacketts Harbour it is probable its destination was to that place—

Some of the smaller vessels remained and continued cruising for several days, between this post and York and previous to their final departure they landed a party of nearly two hundred men at the Head of the Lake for the express purpose of destroying the Government House and out buildings—The small force stationed there for the sole purpose of keeping up our communication with York—not being sufficiently strong to oppose the landing of that number, their debarkation being covered by the guns in the vessels—it was deemed prudent to fall back upon the reinforcements, which, tho' quickly brought forwards, were too late to chastise the morauding acts of an Enemy who had precipitately retreated and avoided a contest—With the exception of an almost constant ostentatious parade of troops artillery and boats immediately in our view on the opposite shore, no event has hitherto occurred deserving of notice on this frontier. Within the last few days the Enemy has been busily employed in the construction of Batteries opposite

to this post, with an apparent intention of threatened invasion—

I am happy to assure your Excellency, that the best spirit, zeal and exertions continues to animate every individual of the Army on this frontier—and I feel confident that no effort will be wanting to repel invasion whenever it may be attempted, and no exertions will be omitted to prevent the Enemy gaining a footing in this Province—

Lieu^t. Colonel Bisshopp is perfectly aware of my ideas, and a plan of cooperation is mutually arranged in the event of that measure becoming necessary.—I have considered it expedient to establish a Depot of Ammunition and Provisions in a very central and commanding position near a place called the Beaver Dams in a stone house belonging to a Captain of Militia who is a loyal and faithful subject—

I have judged it proper to divide the force of this post into three divisions—The right under Lieu^t. Colonel Harvey—The left under Colonel Myres and the center under my own immediate direction, each being so circumstanced as to give the most prompt support to each other—I propose leaving in the Fort a Company of the 49th Regiment—The Guard and Gunners with a portion of the Militia under Colonel Claus and Captain Norton whose anxiety and zeal for the public service is so constantly conspicuous is encamped on my left towards the Lake with about one hundred Indians where it is probable the Enemy might make a descent—

With respect to the Militia, it is with regret that I can neither report favorably of their numbers nor of their willing cooperations—Every exertion has been used and every expedient resorted to, to bring them forwards and unite their efforts to those of His Majesty's Forces with but little effect and desertion beyond all conception continues to mark their indifference, to the important cause in which we are now engaged—In considering it my duty, thus to offer a frank exposition, of my sentiments to your Excellency, respecting

the Militia of this province, I must at the same time, express a belief, that when the reinforcements reach this frontier, many of the Inhabitants, who have been for some time wavering and apalled, by the specious force of the Enemy's resources, will instantly rally round the standard of their King and Country—

Your Excellency's condescension in allowing me to point out my wants, calls for my most respectful acknowledgments—impressed with a conviction of the urgency and importance of sending off immediate aid to Brigadier General Proctor, I only wait the arrival of the Queen Charlotte at Fort Erie to move a Company and the Head Quarters of the 40th Regiment to Amherstburg, risking this diminution of my force, under a confident persuasion, that reinforcements are near at hand to replace them.

I herewith enclose a return of the Regulars and Militia on this line—

I have the Honor to be
Sir Your obedient
humble servant

JOHN VINCENT
Brig. Gen.

Archives, C. 678, p. 305.

From Vincent at Fort George to Sheaffe at —.

Fort George 20th May 1813.

Sir—

I have to inform you that seven Vessels appeared on the lake about sun set last night, and this morning we discovered at Anchor Two Brigs and fifteen smaller Vessels—with each a long batteau.

At Day light They were seen in the act of disembarking Men—

I have every reason to expect an immediate attack especially from a movement The Enemy made yesterday—bringing a strong force from their left to the Fort and encampments in the rear of it—

At all events, I do not think a moment should be lost in giving you the information of this portion of the Enemy's Fleet being at this Quarter—

I have made no change in the Distribution of Troops since my return to you of yesterday except that I have ordered The Detachment with the six pounder at Chipawa to Queenston—

I have the honor to be
 Sir Your obedient
 humble Servant
 JOHN VINCENT.
 Brig. Gen.

Archives, C. 678, p. 311.

From Harvey at Fort George to Baynes at Kingston.

Fort George 25 May 1813

My dear Col.—

The whole of the Enemy's Fleet are here (the Maddison having arrived early this morning)—We have been cannonaded since Day light—the Enemy's fire has been wholly (& most successfully) directed hitherto against the Fort which is made a compleat example of—every Log Barrack in it being burnt down—As soon as his purpose is effected against the Buildings in the Fort I have no doubt of his directing his fire against the Town—which you know is compleatly at his mercy—that this will be followed by an attack in front and on both Flanks either tonight or early tomorrow morning none of us can doubt, the information we have received will not allow us to doubt it.—What their

actual Force is immediately opposite to us is of course difficult accurately to state—but in estimating it at 6000 I do not think I overrate it—this force with abundant Means of Transport aided by a powerful Flotilla is not in our circumstances, to be *despised*—We are accordingly preparing in *the first place* to give them as warm & hearty a Reception as may be in our power (& the Men I can assure you are *infuriated* against them) and in the second, to concentrate our Force should that distressing alternative be forced upon us—General Vincent & Col: Myers are writing to you—it might therefore have been wholly unnecessary for me to have likewise troubled you with a repetition of the Detail which they will give you—As however I find some of our Letters sometimes fail when others reach you, I have scribbled a few Lines to guard against a similar accident—After what I have said in the former part of this Letter it is quite unnecessary for me to suggest the absolute necessity of immediate reinforcements—

truly yrs

J HARVEY

[*Endorsed*] Private.

Archives, C. 678, p. 318.

From Vincent at Forty Mile Creek to Prevost at Montreal.

40 Mile Creek May 28th 1813—

Sir,

I have the honor to inform your Excellency that yesterday morning about day break the Enemy again opened his Batteries upon Fort George; the Fire not being immediately returned, it ceased for some time.—About 4 o'clock A.M. a combination of circumstances led to a belief that an invasion was meditated; the morning being exceedingly hazy, neither his means or his intention could be ascertained, until the mist clearing away at intervals, the Enemy's Fleet consisting of

fourteen or fifteen vessels was discovered under weigh standing towards the Light House in an extended line of more than two miles covering from ninety to one hundred large boats, and scows, each containing an average of fifty or sixty men.—Though at this time no doubt could be entertained of the Enemy's intention his points of attack could only be conjectured ;—having again commenced a heavy fire from his Fort, line of Batteries and Shipping, it became necessary to withdraw all the Guards and Piquets stationed along the Coast between the Fort and Light House, and a landing was effected at the two mile creek, about half a mile below the latter place. The party of Troops and Indians stationed at this point, after opposing the enemy and annoying him as long as possible, were obliged to fall back, and the fire from the Shipping so completely enfiladed and scoured the plains that it became impossible to approach the beach.—As the day dawned the Enemy's plan was clearly developed, and every effort to oppose his landing having failed, I lost not a moment in concentrating my Force, and taking up a position between the Town of Fort George and the Enemy, there waiting his approach. This movement was admirably covered by the Glengarry Light Infantry joined by detachments from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and Militia, which commenced skirmishing with the Enemy's Riflemen, who were advancing through the Brush-wood. The Enemy having perfect command of the Beach, he quickly landed from three to four thousand men with several pieces of artillery, and this Force was instantly seen advancing in three solid columns, along the Lake Bank, his right covered by a large body of Riflemen, and his left and front by the fire of the Shipping and Batteries in their Fort. As our Light Troops fell back upon the main body which was moved forwards to their support, they were gallantly sustained by the 8th King's Regiment commanded by Major Ogilvie, the whole being under the immediate direction of Colonel Myers Acting

Quarter Master General, who had charge of the Right Wing. In the execution of this important duty, gallantry, zeal, and decision were eminently conspicuous, and I lament to report that I was deprived of the Services of Colonel Myers, who having received three wounds was obliged to quit the Field.—Lieut^t. Colonel Harvey the Deputy Adjutant General whose activity and gallantry had been displayed the whole morning, succeeded Colonel Myers, and brought up the right division consisting of the 49th Regt and some Militia.—The Light artillery under Major Holcroft, were already in position waiting the Enemy's advance on the plains.—At this moment the very inferior force under my command had experienced a severe loss in officers and men, yet nothing could exceed the ardour and gallantry of the Troops who shewed the most marked devotion in the service of their King and Country and appeared regardless of the consequence of the unequal contest.

Being on the spot, and seeing that the Force under my command was opposed with tenfold numbers who were rapidly advancing under cover of their Shipping and Batteries from which our positions were immediately seen and exposed to a tremendous fire of shot and shells, I decided on retiring my little force to a position which I hoped might be less assailable by the heavy ordnance of the enemy, and from which a retreat would be left open in the event of that measure becoming necessary.—There after waiting the approach of the Enemy for about half an hour, I received authentic information, that his force consisting of from four to five thousand men had reformed his columns and was making an effort to turn my right flank.—At this critical juncture not a moment was to be lost, and sensible that every effort had been made by the officers and Men under my command to maintain the Post of Fort George, I could not consider myself justified in continuing so unequal a contest, the issue of which promised no advantage to the interests of His

Majestys Service. Having given orders for the Fort, to be evacuated, the Guns to be spiked, and the Ammunition destroyed, the Troops under my Command were put in motion and marched across the Country in a line parallel to the Niagara River, towards the position near the Beaver Dam beyond Queenston Mountain, at which place I had the honour of reporting to Your Excellency a depôt of provisions and ammunition had been formed some time since. The rear guard of the army reached that position during the night, and we were soon afterwards joined by Lieut^t. Col. Bishopp with all the detachments from Chippawa to Fort Erie.—The Light and one Battalion Company of the 8th King's joined us about the same time as did Captain Barclay with a detachment of the Royal Navy.—

Having assembled my whole force the next morning, which did not exceed sixteen hundred men, I continued my march towards the head of the Lake, where it is my intention to take up a position and shall endeavour to maintain it until I may be honoured with Your Excellency's Instructions which I shall feel most anxious to receive. I beg leave to suggest the great importance there exists for a communication being opened with me through the medium of the Fleet; the anchorage under M^{rs}. Brandts house is perfectly good and very safe.—I believe Your Excellency need not be informed that in the event of its becoming necessary that I should fall back upon York the assistance of Shipping would be requisite for the transport of my artillery. I cannot conclude this long communication without Expressing a well merited tribute of approbation to the gallantry & assiduity of every officer of the Staff and indeed of every individual composing my little army; every one most gallantly discharged the duties of his respective station—The struggle on the 27th continued from three to four hours and I lament to add it was attended with very severe loss.

I have the honour to enclose a list of killed and wounded

and missing with as much accuracy as the nature of existing circumstances will admit; many of the missing will I hope be found to be only stragglers, and will soon rejoin their corps.—I shall reach the Head of the Lake tomorrow evening.—Hitherto the enemy has not attempted to interrupt my movements:—information reached me this morning through an authentic channel that he has pushed on three thousand infantry and a considerable body of Cavalry towards Queenston.—His whole force is stated to amount to nearly ten thousand men and I cannot conceal from Your Excellency my conviction that unless some disaster attends their progress, that force will daily increase. My sentiments respecting the Militia are already known, and it will not be supposed that their attachment to our cause can be very steady under the peculiar complexion of the present times.—

I have the &c &c.,

JOHN VINCENT
Brig Gen^l

PS.—I send this despatch by M^r. Matheson who acted as a volunteer on the 27th and I am happy to inform Your Excellency—that his conduct was very honourable to his character, and merits my marked approbation.—Ammunition will be wanted by the first vessel.—Captain Milnes has been kind enough to remain with me 'till my next Despatch.—

Archives, C. 678, p. 344.

Postscript added by Harvey to a letter from Fowler at Forty Mile Creek to Baynes at Quebec, 29th May 1813.

PS.—Not having time to address you officially myself I have requested Captain Fowler to allow me to add a Postscript to his Report which contains a most perfect account of the operations of the 27th.

An officer of Militia resident at Fort George & a Prisoner

on his Parole has just arrived from that place.—His information confirms our calculation of the Enemys strength disembarked on the 27th. He says that they did not land less than 5,000 in the first instance and 3,000 more in the course of that day—of these 4,000 had been detached to occupy Queenston, Chippawa & Fort Erie—they also talk of following us in Force.—J. H.

29th May.—The enclosed from B. General Proctor has just been received—J. H.

Archives, C. 678, p. 354.

From Vincent at Bazyleys to Baynes at —.

Bazyleys Head of The Lake, 31st May 1813

Sir,

I have to inform you for the information of the Commander of The Forces that I have arrived here this Evening and have taken up a strong position which I propose keeping until I receive your orders or reinforcements arrive. I have just heard from Major Allan that some Companies of the 8th were expected into York this Evening. I have sent off an Express to have them march to join me without delay, and not to remain one night at York as Commodore Chauncey and his whole Fleet got under way this day at one oClock as I suppose for York.—I hope our fleet will be on the Lake tomorrow to meet them and give me an opportunity of retaking Fort George. I shall write to you more fully by Doctor Strachan [? Stockarn] tomorrow—

We want everything—*Shoes, Stockings—Blankets—Tents* and Shirts—I have written to York to forward me all they may have at that post—

I wrote to Gen Dearborn to send all the Officers families to either York or Kingston—which you will find by the enclosed letter he has consented to provided we sent a Vessel

for them which I hope will be done immediately. I am happy to inform you that Col Myers is much better he is wounded in five places but not dangerously.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient
humble Servant

JOHN VINCENT.

Brig Gen

Archives, C. 257. p. 84.

*From Norton, the Indian leader, at Burlington Bay to Prevost
at —.*

Copy for Office

Burlington Bay June 1st 1813

Sir,

I am highly impressed with the honor you have done my Friends, and myself, in Noticing our humble exertions Against our Enemies, at the same time that I regret with an Aching heart, their having been less efficient in the late Unfortunate Affair.—This Misfortune does not however in any manner diminish the Confidence I have in God, and the Justice of our Cause, and when our Force shall be so augmented, as to put us in a Condition to try again the fortune of War : I hope that the Blood of our Enemies shall obliterate the Remembrance of our Misfortune.—

I am equally desirous with yourself to increase the number of the Warriors who follow me to the Field ; but to effect this I am deficient in the means, except such as Nature may have given, consequently I am only warmly supported by such, who are induced from personal affection, or a love of Glory to risk with me.—

To enable me to preserve that good order necessary in

War, among our People, and to induce the Warriors of other Tribes to join them, it appears to me necessary that I should have the power of Rewarding them According to their merits, and that the Indian Department should not step in between them, and Me ; for I have had too much reason to suspect, that the influence which the King's liberality gives, has operated to Weaken my Authority ; I have been candid in laying before Your Excellency these remarks, because I am determined to exert myself to the utmost to annoy the Enemy, and should I be thwarted in this Country in prevailing on a sufficient number of Warriors to second my endeavors, I shall be obliged to make trial to the Westward, where from the Nature of the Country and disposition of the People, such influence has less Weight.

With the greatest respect I have the honor to be,
 Your Excellency's faithful Friend and humble Servant.
 (Signed) JOHN NORTON

Archives, C. 1170, p. 223.

[GENERAL ORDERS.]

Kingston 3^d June 1813.

The Commander of the Forces has received from Brig^r. General Vincent, a report announcing that the Enemy having Cannonaded from his Batteries and Ships the whole of the 24th and 25th of May, the Troops and Works at Fort George, and very materially destroyed and injured the defences of that Post—on the 27th at day break, made a general attack upon that position, and under cover of their Fleet, which kept up a tremendous and most destructive fire, effected the landing of a body of Troops tenfold as numerous as the Detachment allotted for the defence of that portion of the Niagara Frontier.—Regardless of the immense superiority of the Enemy, his advance was gallantly and obstinately disputed—a judicious position was occupied

by Lieut. Colonel Myers, and when that zealous and meritorious Officer was obliged to quit the Field, having received three Wounds, he was ably replaced by Lieut. Colonel Harvey, and the unequal contest continued with unshaken gallantry and determination.

Brig^r. General Vincent considering further perseverance against an overwhelming Force, a fruitless sacrifice of invaluable lives, having gained by their intrepid resistance the means of dismantling the Fort, and destroying the Stores, he directed the Troops to fall back on Queenston, which was done with perfect Order.

Brig^r. General Vincent reports that the movements were ably covered by the Companies of the Glengary Light Infantry, strengthened by a Detachment of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles and Militia, and these Troops were gallantly sustained by a division of the 8th (or Kings) Regiment, commanded by Major Ogilvie.

Brig^r. Gen^l. Vincent has concentrated his Force in a strong position at the head of the Lake—

By His Excellencys Command.

EDW^d. BAYNES A. G.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP V (*continued*)

OPERATIONS ON LAKE ONTARIO, 1813

3. SACKETT'S HARBOUR, MAY 29, 1813

—
Archives, C. 678, p. 232.

From Gray at Kingston to Sheaffe at —.

[Endorsement] STATE OF MARINE FORCE, KINGSTON.

Kingston Dock Yard 4th May 1813

Sir,

I have the honor to report the present state of our Marine force at this Post.

| | <i>Total</i> |
|--|--------------|
| 1 Royal George 20—32p ^f . Carronades 2 long 9 p ^{rs} . | —22. |
| 2 Moira — 10—18— Do — 4 do do | —14. |
| 3 Prince Regent 10—12— Do — 2 do—6 p ^f . | —12. |

The above are completely equipped and ready for Sea

4 Sir George Prevost pierced for 24 Guns now lying alongside the Wharf taking in her Masts will be ready for her Guns and Crew in about three weeks.

5 The Brig now on the Stocks is intended to carry 16 Guns (24 or 32 p^f. Carronades) This Vessel is Seventy feet Keel, and twenty four feet Beam, and will be ready for sea in about five weeks or probably sooner if our Stores arrive from below.

In reporting upon the state of the Marine of Lake Ontario, I beg leave to suggest the Propriety of laying down a Vessel of a large Class, upon the Slip, from whence the Sir George Prevost was launched, to replace the Sir Isaac Brock recently destroyed. This measure may easily be carried into effect,

as I have engaged (provisionally) as much Timber as will effect this object, and the Shipwrights on their way from York will furnish an abundant supply of workmen.

There is every reason to suppose that a Vessel of this Description may be built in four or five weeks. In short something must be done to recover the loss we have sustained at York, and this appears to me to be the only mode of recovering our Naval ascendancy.

I am far from thinking the cause lost, as we have, still entire, the principal part of our Naval force, and with the addition of the Sir George Prevost, and the Brig on the Stocks, I have every reason to believe we shall be enabled to cope with the Enemy. It is however adviseable to put this matter past a doubt by persevering in our exertions in the Dock Yard.

If this measure meets your approbation, the Keel of the new Ship may be laid the instant the Shipwrights from York, arrive.

I have the honor to be
 Sir your most obedient humble Servant
 (Signed) A. GRAY
 Act^s D^y Q^r M^r Gen^l

True Copy
 Robert R. Loring ADC

Archives, C. 678, p. 234.

From Barclay at Kingston to Sheaffe at —.

[Endorsement] CAPTAIN BARCLAY, NAVAL ARRANGEMENT,
 5th May 1813.

Naval Yard Kingston 5th May 1813

Sir,

As I understand that you wish your despatches to leave this to day, I give you what small arrangements can be made in so short a time.

I take command of the Sir George Prevost, and Captain Pring is appointed to the Royal George. Captain Finnis when he arrives will have the Moira—and the Lieutenants of the Navy will also be appointed to the different Vessels when they arrive. Lieut: Scott is to command the Moira until Captain Finnis arrives, and will examine into the State of her Stores &c., which reports shall be made to you as soon as I am furnished with them.

I cannot enter into the intentions of Captain Earl, but I think that he will decline going afloat in any capacity. I think that it may be arranged so as to have him in the Arsenal in Capacity of Naval Officer.

I hope the above will be sufficient for your information at present, and that it will suffice for His Excellency the Commander of the Forces until the next Post leaves Kingston.

I have the honor to be

Your most obed^t Serv^t

(Signed) R. H. BARCLAY.

True Copy
Robert R Loring ADC

Archives, C. 678, p. 236.

From Barclay, H.M.S. Sir George Prevost, off Kingston, to Sheaffe at Kingston

H.M.S. Sir George Prevost May 5th 1813

Copy

Sir,

I beg leave to suggest to you the propriety of laying down at least ten gun boats of a sufficient strength to admit of carrying one 18 or 24 p^r. in the bow, and one carronade in the Stern. When the Shipwrights arrive from York, there will be a sufficient number to begin and probably to finish

some of them in readiness to receive the Guns when they arrive,—and I have also to remark that although a large ship may be necessary, the smaller vessels are of no less consequence.

I have the honor to be &c &c
(Signed) R. H. BARCLAY Captain &
Senior Naval Officer.

Archives, C. 729, p. 183.

From Barclay at Kingston to Freer at Quebec.

H.M.S. Wolf Kingston. Lake Ontario
May 9th 1813

(Duplicate)

Sir,

I had the honor of receiving His Excellency's letter dated the 26th of April, and am happy to say that all the Naval force, with the Exception of the Gloucester, is now in Kingston, and that the Ship formerly named the "Sir George Prevost" now by his Excellency's desire named the "Wolf" was launched without any accident on the 27th of April, and is now in a considerable state of forwardness.

You will be pleased to assure His Excellency that no exertion on my part, or on that of the other Naval Officers shall be wanting, to put in force his wishes of having His Majesty's Squadron on the Lake equal to going out, and utterly destroying that of the Enemy—

I enclose lists of Stores &c which are required to supply the immediate wants of the Squadron, and have to beg His Excellency will be pleased to cause them to be sent up with all convenient despatch, as they will much accelerate the equipment of it, particularly the Cables, Cabouses, Pitch and Tar; of these four articles we are totally destitute, and although all the requisition is highly requisite, if there is an

opportunity of procuring these before the rest, it would be advisable to do so.

In the Royal Navy, the sea men are allowed Butter, and cheese, or in cases where these are not to be obtained Cocoa, and Sugar; I perceive that neither is allowed in the Provincial Marine.—I beg leave to suggest to His Exc^y the propriety of sending up from Quebec a sufficient supply of these provisions to be ready to issue to the crews when they arrive, as part of their accustomed Rations.

As at the Capture of York the Enemy deprived us of the finest Vessel on the establishment—I propose to His Exc^y to lay down a ship here of the same force. The Shipwrights from York furnish us with men, and Capt: Gray has with the greatest promptitude provided a sufficient quantity of wood, (provisionally) to carry the project into execution, should it be approved of—

I have taken on myself, with the concurrence of Sir Roger H. Sheaffe to order Six Gun boats to be laid down, capable of carrying a long 24, or 18 pounder, as the guns can be procured. I hope they will be ready in time to be useful, and that His Exc^y will approve of the measure.

The state in which I found the executive part of the Dock Yard reflects the highest credit on Capt: Gray—but it will require a great change in the System to prevent the great abuse of public Stores; which shall be adopted as soon as possible; he retains his situation as Commissioner and I have no doubt, that every thing will be amply provided for by him

The Ships are I think as fine vessels of their kind as I have ever seen. The Moira is small, it is true, but she is by no means so despicable as was represented. The Regent is a fine vessel for a despatch boat, but I do not think her capable of much severe active service.

The Provincial Officers appear to feel the loss of their commands more sensibly than was expected, and with the

exception of two or three, will, I think apply for retirement or any other situation they may be judged fit for—Capt: Earl would accept the post of Master Attendant of this arsenal, and in the event of Lieu^t. Platt preferring active service, I should think him a very fit person for it—I can easily feel for Capt: Earl, but as to the rest who have been placed in their situations from so low a sphere, I think it requires his Excellency's consideration what remuneration they deserve, if any, on their retirement from active service at this time when their local knowledge is so much wanted.

I enclose also a list of the distribution of Officers for His Excellency's information those of the Provincial Marine therein mentioned told me that they would serve with pleasure, if their *local* rank and pay was continued, *subordinate* to the Officers of the Royal Navy; but since that they have, I suspect, been tampered with, and I understand wish to rank with us according to the dates of their Commissions which is totally inadmissable.

Tobacco is another great essential to the comforts of a seaman, the want of it would be severely felt, and there is none here. I think it might be sent up with the Cocoa and Sugar; I know that a seaman would forego almost any comfort rather than his tobacco. They are accustomed to have it provided with the Slop Cloathing and may of course expect it here.

As I understand that the Ships on the Lakes are intended to be put on the list of the Navy; would it not be better to alter the name of the "Royal George" as there already appears one bearing the same on the Navy List—not that I think it of any great consequence, I merely mention that it is so.

As I am not aware of what Slop Clothing may come from Halifax I shall only state in a general manner what will be necessary to begin with.

Captain Sampson was put in arrest by Captain Gray, and

M^r. Smith from the Royal George was put in the Command of the Moira instead of him.—When Captain Finnis joined M^r. Smith returned to his Ship again, and L^t. Sampson is out of Employment I shall enquire into his case and make a report to you for his Excellency's information

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most obd^t. & Humble Servant

R. H. BARCLAY Com^d. & Senior Officer

Archives, C. 729, p. 189.

REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE FITTING OF HIS MAJESTY'S
SHIPS AT KINGSTON

POINT FREDERICK *May 8th 1813*

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|---|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Anchors of 14 Cwt. | . | . | . | N ^o | . | One |
| D ^o — of 3 Cwt. | . | . | . | " | . | One |
| D ^o — of 2 Cwt. | . | . | . | " | . | One |
| Canvas | N ^o . | 1 | . | Y ^{ds} | . | One hundred & 40 |
| D ^o | . | 2 | . | " | . | Three thousand |
| D ^o | . | 3 | . | " | . | One thousand |
| D ^o | . | 7 | . | " | . | One thousand |
| D ^o | . | 8 | . | " | . | Five hundred |
| *Cabouse to cook for 140 men | . | . | . | N ^o | . | Two |
| * D ^o — D ^o — for 100 men | . | . | . | " | . | Two |
| *Compasses Brass box | . | . | . | " | . | Three |
| D ^o Wood D ^o | . | . | . | " | . | Three |
| Lanterns Horn | . | . | . | " | . | One hundred |
| D ^o — Signal | . | . | . | " | . | Ten |
| Lines log | . | . | . | " | . | Fifty |
| D ^o — Hambro | . | . | . | " | . | Fifty |
| D ^o — Marline | . | . | . | Skains | . | One hundred |
| *Tar | . | . | . | B ^{ls} | . | Twenty |
| *Pitch | . | . | . | " | . | Twenty |
| Rosin | . | . | . | " | . | Ten |
| *Rope, 3½ inches | . | . | . | Coils | . | Five |
| * D ^o — 1½ " | . | . | . | " | . | Five |
| * D ^o — 1 inch | . | . | . | " | . | Ten |
| * D ^o — ¾ " | . | . | . | " | . | Ten |
| Scrubbing Brushes | . | . | . | N ^o | . | Twenty |
| *Paint White | . | . | . | Cwt | . | Four |
| * D ^o . Yellow | . | . | . | " | . | One |
| * D ^o . Black | . | . | . | " | . | Two |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| *Oil Linseed | Gall ^{ns} | . Sixty |
| D ^o . Train | " | . Sixty |
| Cables of 14 inches | N ^o . | . Two |
| Lead Sheet | Cwt | . Two |
| Copper Sheets | N ^o | . Two hundred |
| D ^o — bolts | Cwt | . Two |
| Reflectors patent | N ^o . | . Thirty |
| Brass locks for Cabins | " | . Ten |
| Padlocks | " | . Twenty |
| Nails for Joiners | Cwt | . Five |
| Compasses Carpenters | Pr | . One hundred |
| Rules | N ^o | . One hundred |
| D ^o — | " | . One hundred |
| Chizels of sorts | " | . One hundred |
| Handsaws | N ^o | . Fifty |
| Mauls | " | . Fifty |
| Whipsaws | " | . Six |
| D ^o — files | " | . One Hundred |
| Hand | " | . Fifty |
| D ^o — | " | . Fifty |
| Crosscut | " | . Twenty |

NB The Articles thus mark'd * are wanted immediately This requisition is in addition to those forwarded by Captⁿ Gray excepting the Anchors Cables Cabouses & Compasses

R. H. BARCLAY
Sen^r. Off^r.

May 9th 1813

Archives, C. 729, p. 191.

Ordinance Required.

(Duplicate)

For the use of His Majesty's Squadron on the Lake Ontario

| | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|--------|
| prs. 42 | prs. 24 | prs. 18 | Total. |
| 6 | 12 | 12 | 30 |

The above are exclusive of those expected from Halifax.

May 9th 1813.—

R. H. BARCLAY *Sen^r. Off^r.*

Archives, C. 729, p. 192.

Slop Clothing required.

(Duplicate)

| Jackets blue | Trowsers Blue | Shirts | Pair Stockings | Pair Shoes | Duck Frocks | Duck Trowsers Pairs | Hats | Beds | Blankets | Rugs | thick Great Coats | Drawers flannel | Waistcoats flannel |
|--------------|---------------|--------|----------------|------------|-------------|------------------------|------|------|----------|------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 150 | 150 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Memo.

The Duck to make Frocks and Trowsers will be preferable
Those will be sufficient for a first Supply

May 9th 1813

R. H. BARCLAY
Sen^r. Off^r.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 207.

Adjutant Gen^s. Office Head Quarters
Kingston 19th May 1813.

GENERAL ORDERS.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is pleased to approve of the following movement of the Troops and directs that the instruction herein detailed be strictly complied with.

The 1st Brigade of the Line, and the 1st Demi Brigade of Light Infantry, with a Car Brigade of Light Artillery to proceed immediately to Kingston in light marching Order—but such baggage as is indispensably requisite to preserve the comfort and health of the Troops is to be brought on in Batteaux direct to Kingston—a small baggage Guard to be

allotted for that Service, and His Excellency strongly urges the precaution of the Men being amply provided with necessaries, particularly Shoes, as are indispensable in the Field, and which cannot be procured in the Upper Province—

This movement is to be conducted by Column of Grand Divisions, of two Companies each, to follow in daily succession—and for this purpose Divisions of Batteaux are to be assembled at La Chine, and at the Ferry above Coteau du Lac—the Troops are to disembark at the Cedars, and to March to the Ferry Six Miles above Coteau du Lac, where they will embark in the Second Division of Boats and proceed towards Cornwall, untill they arrive where the road becomes good—they will then land and the Batteaux are to return without delay to their respective Stations to bring on the following divisions of Troops—and each Officer in charge of a Grand Division, is to see that this Order is promptly executed—

The Royal Artillery will conduct their Horses by the inland communication from Coteau du Lac to Cornwall, the Guns and Carriages to be sent forward by Water—Captain Ilbert is appointed to Command the Car Brigade, and to march with three Six Pounders, One Howitzer, and such proportion of Gunners and Drivers with Horses, as will when joined by the Detachment and two Guns under Lieut^t. Jones complete a Brigade—and Captain Sinclair is directed to make such arrangements as may be necessary to render it perfectly efficient, by supplying the deficiency from the other Brigade, which is however to be immediately replaced from Quebec—and Major General Glasgow is directed to prepare a sufficiency of Guns to complete another Car Brigade for Montreal, to replace that brought forward to Kingston, to be sent on when the Artillery Company expected arrive, at Quebec—in the mean time the Car Brigade to be equally divided between Chambly and Montreal—Major General Glasgow will cause the Six Companies of the 103^d Regiment to

proceed by the most convenient and expeditious route to Chambly—and he will also take measures to forward with all convenient expedition the Troops daily expected from England in the following Order—to Montreal the 19th Light Dragoons taking with them such Horses as may have been procured for them—the 2^d Battⁿ. 41st Regiment, the 98th Regiment, and the Regiment De Meuron—To Chambly the 13th Regiment—all Recruits are to be sent to their respective Corps—and all Sick and convalescents are to be detained at Quebec—

Major General De Rottenburg will give the necessary Orders for the 3^d Battalion Militia proceeding to Montreal—as also Six Companies of the Canadian Fencibles—on the arrival of the Regiment De Meuron at Montreal, the Canadian Fencibles are to proceed to Chambly—the 98th and 2^d Battⁿ. 41st Regiments are to be sent forward to Kingston

On the completion of the Service on which the Grenadier Companies are now employed, they are to join their respective Corps, and Major De Haren of the Canadian Fencibles will assume the Command of the 2^d Light Battalion—

Camp Equipage for 1000 Men to be forwarded to Kingston from Montreal, and in Order that these movements may not interfere with, or retard the Transport of Marine and Ordnance Stores which are to be sent on with the utmost expedition—His Excellency is pleased to direct that the 5th Battⁿ. of Militia furnish Crews for conducting the Divisions of Batteaux to Transport the Troops from La Chine to the Cedars and from Coteau du Lac to Cornwall, and further with a view to facilitate the Service, His Excellency approves of a sufficient Number of Men being selected from the Militia Companies of the 1st Light Battalion to conduct the Batteaux with the baggage of the two Brigades.

The Troops are to bring with them a good serviceable Blanket for every man, which are to be packed in Bales and sent in the Boats—The Men to carry their great Coats—

Colonel Young with the division of the 8th (or Kings) Regiment to be in readiness to march at the shortest notice to Niagara.

In case of any impediment arresting the progress of the Column, the Division obliged to halt is immediately to send intelligence of their detention to the rear, to prevent the column crowding, the whole will halt till the obstacle is removed.

Volunteer Donald M^eDonnell is transferred from the 49th Regiment to the 8th (or Kings) Regiment—

EDW^d. BAYNES.

Archives, C. 678, p. 347.

Baynes at Kingston to Prevost at —.

Kingston 30th May 1813.

Sir,

I have the honor to report to your Excellency that in conformity to an arranged plan of Operations with Commodore Sir James Yeo, the Fleet of Boats assembled Astern of his Ship, at Ten OClock on the night of the 28th Inst, with the Troops placed under my Command; and led by a Gun Boat under the direction of Capt. Mulcaster Royal Navy, proceeded towards Sacketts Harbour in the order prescribed to the Troops, in case the Detachment was obliged to march in column—viz. the Grenadier Company of the 100th with one Section of the Royal Scots—2 Companies of the 8th (or Kings), 4 of the 104th & 2 of the Canadian Voltigeurs, Two Six pounders with their Gunners, and a Company of the Glengary Light Infantry were embarked on board a Light Schooner, which was proposed to be Towed under the direction of Officers of the Navy, so as to ensure the Guns being landed in time, to support the advance of the Troops.—

Although the night was dark with rain the Boats assembled in the vicinity of Sackett's Harbour by One O'Clock, in compact in regular order—and in this position, it was intended to remain until the day broke, in the hope of effecting a landing before the Enemy could be prepared to line the Woods with Troops, which surrounded the Coast, but unfortunately a strong current drifted the Boats considerably, while the darkness of the night and ignorance of the Coast prevented them from recovering the proper Station, while the day dawned, when the whole pulled for the point of debarkation.

It was my intention to have landed in the Cove formed by Horse Island, but on approaching it, we discovered that the Enemy were fully prepared, by a very heavy Fire of Musquetry, from the surrounding Woods, which were filled with Infantry, supported with a Field Piece. I directed the Boats to pull round to the other side of the Island where a landing was effected, in good order and with little loss altho executed, in the face of a Corps formed with a Field piece in the Wood, and under the enfilade fire of a heavy Gun of the Enemy's principal Battery. The advance was led by the Grenadiers of the 100th Regiment with undaunted Gallantry, which no obstacle could arrest—a narrow causeway, in many places under Water, not more than four feet wide and about four hundred paces in length, which connected the Island with the main land, was occupied by the Enemy in great Force with a Six Pounder, it was forced and carried in the most spirited manner, and the Gun taken, before a Second discharge could be made from it a tumbril with a few rounds of Ammunition was found but unfortunately the Artillery Men were still behind, the Schooner not having been able to get up in time—and the Troops were exposed to so heavy and galling a Fire from a numerous but almost invisible Foe, as to render it impossible to halt, for the Artillery to come up—at this Spot two paths led

in opposite directions round the Hill; I directed Colonel Young of the Kings Regiment with half the Detachment to penetrate by the Left—and Major Drummond of the 104th to force the path by the right, which proved to be more open, and was less occupied by the Enemy; on the left the Wood was very thick and was most obstinately maintained—The Gun Boats which had covered our landing afforded material aid by Firing into the Woods but the American Soldier secure behind a Tree, was only to be dislodged by the Bayonet. The spirited advance of a Section produced the flight of hundreds—from this observation, all firing was directed [to] cease—and the Detachment being formed in as regular order as the nature of the ground, would admit, pushed forward through the Wood upon the Enemy, who although greatly superior in numbers and supported by Field Pieces and a heavy fire from their Fort—fled with precipitation to their Block House and Fort abandoning one of their Guns—the Division under Colonel Young, was joined in the charge by that under Major Drummond, which was executed with such spirit and promptness that many of the Enemy fell within their enclosed Barracks, which were set on fire by our Troops—at this point the further energies of the Troops became unavailing—their Block House and Stockaded Battery, could not be carried by assault—nor reduced by Field Pieces had we been provided with them, the Fire of the Gun Boats had proved inefficient, light and adverse wind continued; and all our larger vessels were still far off—the Enemy turned the heavy Ordnance of the Battery to the interior defence of his post, and had set fire to the Houses in the vicinity of the Fort. Seeing no object within our reach to attain that could compensate for the loss we were momentarily sustaining from the heavy fire of the Enemys Cannon—I directed the Troops to take up the position on the crest of the hill, we had last charged. From this position we were ordered to reembark—which

was performed at our leisure and in perfect order, the Enemy not presuming to show a single Soldier without the limits of his Fortress.

Your Excellency having been a Witness of the zeal, and ardent courage of every Soldier on the Field—it is unnecessary in me to assure your Excellency, that but one sentiment animated every breast, that of discharging to the utmost of their power, their duty to their King and Country, but one sentiment of regret, and mortification prevailed on being obliged to quit a beaten Enemy, whom a small band of British Soldiers had driven before them for Three Hours, through a Country abounding in strong positions of defence, but not offering a single spot of cleared ground, favorable to the operations of Disciplined Troops—without having fully accomplished the Duty we were ordered to perform.

The two Divisions of the Detachment, were ably Commanded by Colonel Young of the Kings and Major Drummond of the 104th—the Detachments of the Kings under Major Evans nobly sustained the high established Character of that distinguished Corps—and Captain Burke availed himself of the ample field afforded him in leading the advance to display the intrepidity of British Grenadiers.—the Detachment of the 104th Regiment under Major Moodie, Captain M^cPhersons Company of Glengary Light Infantry and two Companies of Canadian Voltigeurs Commanded by Major Heriot, all of them levies of the British Provinces of North America evinced most striking proof, of their Loyalty, steadiness and Courage—the Detachment of the Royal Newfoundland Reg^t. behaved with great gallantry.

Your Excellency will lament the loss of that active and intelligent Officer Captain Gray Acting Deputy Quarter Master General who fell close to the Enemys work while reconnoitering it, in the hope to discover some opening to favor an Assault.

Commodore Sir James Yeo conducted the Fleet of Boats,

to the Attack and accompanying the advance of the Troops, directed the co-operation of the Gun Boats.—

I feel most grateful for your Excellency's kind consideration in allowing your Aides de Camp, Majors Coore and Fulton to accompany Me in the Field and to those Officers for the able assistance they afforded me.—

I have the honor to be with respect, Your Excellency's
Most obedient

Humble Servant

EDWARD BAYNES.

Colonel Gleng^{ry} Lig^t Inf^y.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 216.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Kingston 30th May 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces considers it an act of justice due to the Detachment placed under the Command of Colonel Baynes, to express his entire approbation of their conduct in the recent attack made upon Sacket's Harbour at day break on the morning of the 29th Ins^t.; the regularity and patient firmness exhibited by the Troops under circumstances of peculiar privation and fatigue, have been exceeded only by their intrepid gallantry in action forcing a passage at the point of the Bayonet through a thickly wooded Country, affording strong positions to the Enemy, but not offering a single spot of cleared ground favourable for the operations of disciplined Troops.—The Woods were filled with Infantry, supported by Field Pieces, and an incessant heavy and destructive fire from a numerous and almost invisible foe, did not arrest the determined advance of the Troops, who after taking three Field pieces, 6 Pounders from the Enemy, drove him by a spirited charge to seek shelter within the Blockhouses of his enclosed Forts, and induced him to set fire to his Store Houses.—Unfortunately light and adverse Winds prevented the co-operation

of the larger Vessels of the Fleet ; the Gun Boats under the direction of Captⁿ Mulcaster, rendered every assistance in their power to support the landing & advance of the Troops, but proved unequal to silence the Guns of the Enemy's Batteries or have any effect on their Block Houses, and it being found impracticable without their assistance, and the co-operation of the Ships, to carry their post by assault, the Troops were reluctantly ordered to leave a beaten Enemy, whom they had driven before them for upwards of Four Hours, and who did not offer the slightest opposition to the reembarkation of the Troops, which was effected with perfect order.

The Grenadier Company of the 100th Reg^t. commanded by Captain Burke, to which was attached a Subalterns Detachment of the Royal Scots, led the column with undaunted Gallantry, supported by a Detachment of the King's Regiment, under Major Evans, which nobly upheld the high established character of that distinguished Corps ; the Detachment of the 104th Regiment under Major Moodie, behaved with the utmost gallantry and Spirit, and their example was followed by Captain M^cPherson's Company of the Glengary Light Infantry.—

The Detachment of Canadian Voltigeurs under Major Heriot, behaved with a degree of spirit and steadfastness so as to justify expectations of their becoming a highly useful and valuable Corps.

The two Divisions of the Detachment were most ably commanded by Col. Young of the Kings, and Major Drummond of the 104th Regiment—


Commodore Sir James Yeo, conducted the Brigades of Boats to the attack, and accompanying the Troops on their advance directed the co-operation of the Gun Boats. The Enemy had a few days before received strong reinforcements of Troops, by the report of the Prisoners, and a Corps of 500 Men, arrived the night preceeding the attack ; and from every source of information his force must have been

quadruple in numbers to the Detachments taken from the Garrison of Kingston—

Captain Gray Acting Deputy Quarter Master General, was killed close to the Enemy's block House.—In him the Army have lost an Active and intelligent Officer.—Returns of Killed and Wounded have not yet been received from the Corps.

By His Excellency's Command.

(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES
Adj^t Gen^l.

—The Fleet have returned this morning and landed the Troop, with four American Officers and about 150 Soldiers Prisoners.

Archives, C. 729, p. 201.

From Yeo at Kingston to Prevost at Kingston.

His Majesty's Ship Wolfe at Kingston

31st May 1813

Sir,

I have the honor to propose to your Excellency, in consequence of the Enemy having a large Ship Building in Sackets Harbour, and to counteract their growing force, that a Ship of the enclosed dimensions, may be Built at this Yard, that proposals may be sent to Quebec, for a Master Shipwright and such quantity of Workmen, as would complete her as quick as possible.

Also request your Excellency will be pleased to cause the Schooner Simcoe, now laying in this Port, to be taken into the Service, she being a useful Vessel, and at present, much wanted.—

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's

most obedient

humble Servant

JAMES LUCAS YEO Commodore

*Dimensions of a new Vessel proposed to be Built
at Kingston*

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Length of Keel | 129 feet |
| „ on Deck | 136 „ |
| Breadth moulded | 36 „ |
| Depth under the Upper Deck | 13—3 |
| „ To Top of the Bulwark | 18—0 |
| Ports fore and aft | 2—10 |
| Assunder in the Clear | 7 |

JAMES LUCAS YEO,
Commodore

Archives, Q. 121, p. 232.

(Transcript from the original in the Public Record Office, London.)

Prevost to Bathurst.

No. 64.

Head Quarters,
Kingston 1st June 1813.

My Lord,

The dispatch I had the honor of addressing to Your Lordship on the 26th Ult^o. was scarcely closed when Information arrived of the Enemy's Flotilla being off Niagara having on board a second reinforcement of troops calculated to carry the Force acting against Colonel Vincent to at least Eight thousand regulars besides Volunteers and Militia, the Colonel having only on that Frontier Two thousand Men to oppose to this formidable preparation. When the last accounts left Fort George it had sustained an incessant Cannonade of twenty-four hours duration, which deprived our Troops of every building within and near the work except the Powder Magazine and the splinter proof Barracks. No reinforcements being as yet within many days march of this Post, & the situation of Upper Canada becoming extremely critical, I determined in attempting a diversion in Col. Vincents favor, by embarking the principal part of

the small Garrison at this place and proceeding with them to Sacketts Harbour. Accordingly the Troops being placed under the command of Colonel Baynes were embarked on board of His Majesty's Vessels the Moira, Beresford, Sir Sidney Smith, Wolfe and Royal George and arrived in sight of the Enemy's Post at Sacketts Harbor at break of day on the 27th Ulto., but light and adverse winds preventing their nearing the Fort until the evening, arrangements were made for the attack at the dawn of the following morning.

Altho' as Your Lordship will perceive by the report of Col. Baynes, which I have the honor herewith to transmit the expedition has not been attended with the complete success which was expected from it, I have great satisfaction in informing Your Lordship that the courage & patience of the small band of Troops employed on this occasion, under circumstances of peculiar hardship & privation, have been exceeded only by their intrepid conduct in the field, forcing a passage at the point of the Bayonet thro' a thickly wooded Country affording constant shelter and strong positions to the Enemy, but not a single spot of cleared ground favorable to the operations of disciplined Soldiers. The Enemy filled the woods with Infantry, supported by Field Pieces & kept up a heavy and destructive fire which could not however stop the determined advance of His Majesty's Troops, who after taking three of their Field pieces, drove far superior numbers by a spirited charge to seek shelter within their Block houses & enclosed works. At this moment the Enemy were induced to burn their store houses, but a heavier fire than that of Musquetry having become necessary in order to force their last position, I had the mortification to learn that the continuation of light and adverse winds had prevented the co-operation of the Ships, & that the Gun-boats were unequal to silence the Enemys elevated Batteries or to produce any effect on their Block houses. Considering it therefore impracticable without such assistance to carry the strong works by which the Post was defended, I reluctantly

ordered the Troops to leave a beaten Enemy whom they had driven before them for upwards of three hours, & who did not venture to offer the slightest opposition to the re-embarkation, which was effected with proper deliberation & in perfect order.

Apprehensive that if I continued any longer in the Enemy's port, their Flotilla might return and meet our Vessels encumbered with troops & inferior in numbers, I returned with the Fleet on the 30th & landed the Troops together with the brass field pieces six pounders taken from the Enemy & four Officers and one hundred & fifty of their Soldiers made Prisoners.

Having placed the Force employed on this occasion under the immediate Command of Colonel Baynes, I beg leave to refer Your Lordship to his report for the further particulars of this Affair.

I have now the honor to acquaint Your Lordship that whilst the numbers of the Enemy are rapidly increasing, those with which I am to defend an extensive Frontier have as yet experienced no material augmentation as the reinforcements of Troops announced to me by Your Lordship in your dispatch No. 24 of the 12th of March as coming from the Mediterranean, Cadiz & the West Indies have not yet arrived, the inevitable consequence will I fear be the loss of a part of Upper Canada from my total inability to support the extraordinary exertions making by His Majesty's Forces in this unequal contest, in the conducting of which the Enemy now evince both a system and a sufficiency of means,

I have the honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordship's

Most obedient

humble Servant

GEORGE PREVOST.

The Right Honb^{le}

The Earl Bathurst.

Archives, Q. 121, p. 245.

(Transcript from the original in the Public Record Office, London.)

RETURN OF KILLED, WOUNDED & MISSING IN AN ATTACK ON SACKETT'S HARBOUR
ON THE 29TH OF MAY 1813.

| Corps. | Colonels. | Majors. | Genl. Staff. | Captains. | Lieut. | Ensigns. | Serjt. Majors. | Serjts. | Drummers. | Rank & File. | Bombrs. | Gunners. |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|----------------|---------|-----------|---------------|---------|----------|
| General Staff | . | 1 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 2 |
| Royal Artillery | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Royal Scots | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 2 1 4 | . | . |
| 8th or Kings | . | . | . | 2 | 2 | 1 | . | 3 | . | 5 7 60 | . | . |
| 100th Regt. | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | . | 5 3 19 | . | . |
| 104th Regt. | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 2 | . | 20 1 57 | . | . |
| Royal N.F. land | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 3 | . | 4 1 13 | . | . |
| Glengary Lt. Infy. | . | . | . | 1 | . | 1 | . | 1 | . | 6 17 | . | . |
| Canadian Voltigeurs | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 2 2 | . | . |

EDWD. BAYNES Adj Genl.

TOTAL OF KILLED, WOUNDED & MISSING AT SACKETT'S
HARBOUR 29TH MAY 1813.

| | Colonels. | Majors. | Genl. Staff. | Captains. | Lieut's. | Ensigns. | Sergt. Majors. | Serjts. | Drumms. | Rank & File. | Bomb's. | Gunners. |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------------|---------|---------|--------------|---------|----------|
| Killed | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 44 | .. | .. |
| Wounded | .. | 3 | .. | 3 | 5 | 1 | .. | 7 | 2 | 172 | .. | 2 |
| Wounded & Missing | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | 13 | .. | .. |
| Total | .. | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 2 | .. | 10 | 2 | 229 | .. | 2 |

Officers }
 Killed } Cap^t. A. Gray, Act^g. Dep^y. Q^r. M^r. Gen^l.
 Wounded. Maj^r. Drummond 104th Reg^t. }
 „ Moodie . d^o } Slightly
 „ Evans . 8th Kings }
 Cap^t. Blackmore d^o Dangerously
 „ Tytler . d^o Severely
 „ Leonard . 104th Severely
 „ Shore . d^o Slightly
 „ M^cPherson Glengarys Severely
 Lieu^t. Nutall . 8th Kings Since dead
 „ Lowry . d^o Wounded
 „ Rainsford . 104th Reg^t. d^o
 „ Moore . d^o d^o
 „ Delancey . d^o d^o
 Ensgⁿ. Mathieson Glengarys Slightly
 Ensgⁿ. Greig . 8th Kings Wounded &
 Prisoner.

EDW^p. BAYNES, Adj^t. Genl.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VI

OPERATIONS ON THE FRONTIERS SUMMER OF 1813

- Niagara Frontier* :
1. STONEY CREEK, June 6, 1813
 2. BEAVER DAMS, June 24, 1813
 3. FORT SCHLOSSER, July 5, 1813
 4. BLACK ROCK, July 11, 1813
 5. FORT GEORGE, August 24, 1813
 6. YEO ON LAKE ONTARIO, 1813
- Montreal Frontier* :
7. ISLE-AUX-NOIX, June 3, 1813
 8. LAKE CHAMPLAIN, July 29, 1813

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VI

OPERATIONS ON THE FRONTIERS SUMMER OF 1813

NIAGARA FRONTIER: I. STONEY CREEK, JUNE 6, 1813

Archives, C. 679, p. 19.

From Vincent at Bazyley's to Baynes at —.

Bazyley's 4th June 1813

Dear Colonel,

I have made no change in my situation since I wrote last—
The Enemy are advancing but not so rapid or in such force as I expected They have taken post at the 40 Mile Creek and I just understood that their strength at that post consists of One Hundred Dragoons and Two Thousand Men—I have likewise reason to suppose that Men will be embarked at The Fort of Niagara to attack me in front on *the Lake side*—but still if they do not come on me in an overwhelming force I do not think they will find it an easy matter again to make me quit my post—If I am reduced to the necessity of retiring to Kingston—I am afraid it will be adding to Brig^d. Gen Proctors misery in sending him the remaining Companies of the 41st The Newfoundland and a part of the Glengary—according to the instructions I received this day by Captain M^cDouall—as I am too much afraid he is at this present moment in great distress for

Provisions and unfortunately the Queen Charlotte was only able to take thirty Barrels of Pork from Point Abino—I am doing every thing I possibly can to assist him—Six Militia Officers—all active and picked men—are sent forward to purchase and drive all the Cattle they can find from this to Sandwich—I have been able to procure to assist this Service from Col Clark five Hundred Guineas which I hope will remove all difficulties with those Farmers who will not take paper Money.

Captain Milnes will I suspect be the bearer of this—I am sorry to part with him as I found him not only of the greatest service to myself but as active an Officer in the Field as any under my Command. He is perfectly able to explain our situation and what can be expected from us.—I am so hurried with other matters that I have requested Col Harvey would write you on all the particulars of this post at this present moment and Believe Me

Dear Colonel

Your very obliged

JOHN VINCENT.

By a report I have just received from my out posts—an *attack* cannot be far distant—as *circumstances* are at present I am *determined if possible* to be *before hand with them*—I shall therefore detain Captⁿ. Milnes until tomorrow.

J. V.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 229.

G.O.

Kingston 6th June 1813

The following Detachments of Troops to be held in readiness, to proceed at the shortest notice to join the Forces under Brigadier General Vincent.

The Flank Companies of the 104th Regiment. One Company Glengary Light Infantry each Sixty Rank and File.

A Select Detachment from the recruits of the 8th and

49th Regiments.—All men sufficiently recovered belonging to Regiments above Kingston are to join their Corps—the Detachment is placed under the Command of Major De Haren Canadian Fencibles, to be provided with Camp Equipage and ten days Provisions.

Lieut. Colonel Hamilton 100th Regiment to proceed to Prescott with four Companies of the 100th Regiment, where the Grenadier Company will join,—Major Taylor with four Companies to Garrison Isle aux Noix, together with such further force as may be deemed expedient.

G.O.

Captain Hall Canadian Fencibles is to proceed to the Station of Brig^r. General Vincent with a Detachment of One Subaltern, One Serjeant, One Trumpeter and Twenty four Troopers to march tomorrow morning.

Major General De Rottenburg will deliver the Commands of the Troops and Civil Administration of the Province of Lower Canada to Major General Glasgow, and is to arrive at Kingston on the 20th Instant. Major General Sir R. H. Sheaffe will meet Major General De Rottenburg at Cornwall on the 15th Ins^t. and from thence proceed to Montreal, to assume the Command of the Troops in that District.

Lieut^t. Colonel Smelt 103^d Regim^t. is appointed to Command the 2^d Light Battⁿ. forming at Chambly.

(Signed) EDW^p. BAYNES

Adj^t. Gen^l.

Archives, C. 679, p. 38.

From Harvey at Burlington to [Baynes] at —.

Burlington Heights

Sunday 6th June 1813

My dear Colonel,

The Enemy having dared to *pursue* (as he arrogantly termed it) this Division by moving a Corps of 3500 Men with

4 Field Guns and 150 Cavalry to Stony Creek (within ten *miles* of this Position) I strongly urged General Vincent to make a forward movement for the purpose of beating up this encampment—In the course of yesterday afternoon our advanced Post (at Davis's 8 Miles from hence towards 40 Mile Ck) consisting of the Light Company of the 49th Regt was driven in—I instantly went out for the purpose of reconnoitring & found the Enemy had again withdrawn to his Camp at Stony Creek—I therefore recommended to the General to move the 5 Co^s. of the Kings (say 280) & the 49th Reg^t. (say 424) total 700 men—which was accordingly done at half past 11 oClock—Gen^l Vincent accompanied these Troops the conduct & direction of which he was so good as to give me—the Troops moved in perfect order & profound Silence the Light Companies of the 49th and King's in front, the 49th Reg^t. in the center, and the King's as a Reserve—In conformity with directions I had given the Sentries at the outskirts of the Enemy's Camp were bayoneted in the quietest manner and the Camp immediately Stormed—the Surprize was tolerably compleat but our Troops incautiously advancing & charging across the Line of Camp Fires and a few Musquets being fired (notwithstanding my exertion to check it) our Line was distinctly seen by the Enemy whose Troops, in some degree recovered from their Panick and formed upon the surrounding Heights poured a destructive fire of Musquetry upon us which was answered on our part by repeated charges whenever a Body of the Enemy could be discerned or reached—the King's Regiment & part of the 49th charged & carried the 4 Field Pieces in very gallant Style and the whole sustained with undaunted firmness the heavy fire which was occasionally poured upon them—In less than three quarters of an hour the Enemy had compleatly abandoned his Guns & everything else to us—Our Loss has been severe but that of the Enemy much more so—our trophies, besides the 3 Guns & Howitzer, (two of these Guns by the

bye were spiked by us & left on the ground for want of means of removing) are two Brigadier Generals, 1 F^d. officer 3 Captains 1 L^t. & about 100 Men Prisoners—

General Vincent being too much hurried & fatigued to write today has desired me to forward to you with this Letter the Returns of Killed & Wounded, as well as those of the Prisoners and Ordnance &c taken—The Brigadier General, despatch will be forwarded tomorrow—In the meantime he desires me to congratulate His Excellency on the complete and brilliant Success of this Enterprize and on the beneficial Results with which it has already been attended.—Information has just been received that the Enemy has entirely abandoned his Camp, burnt his tents, destroyed his Provisions, Ammunition &c. & retired precipitately towards the 40 Mile Creek—our Advance Posts occupy the Ground on which his Camp stood.—

I am My dear Colonel
very faithfully &c &c

J HARVEY

L^t Col. DAG.

PS—This is sent by Captain Milne, who proceeds with Brigadier Generals Chandler & Winder & who from having been present both in the Action of this day & that of the 27th Ultimo & all the intermediate operations is *perfectly* qualified to give His Excellency every satisfactory information on those Subjects.—

J H.

The circumstances in which I write will I hope excuse this hasty & inaccurate Scrawl of which moreover I have no Copy.

Archives, C. 679, p. 27.

From Vincent at Burlington to Prevost at Kingston.

(For the Office)

Burlington Heights,
Head of Lake Ontario.
6 June 1813.

Sir

Having Yesterday rec^d. informatⁿ. of the Enemy having advanced from the 40 Mile Creek with a Force consisting of 3500 men, 8 or 9 Field Pieces and 250 Cavalry for the avowed purpose of attacking the Division under my Command in this Position, & having soon afterwards rec^d. a report that he had passed the Swamp, & driven in my advanced Posts from Stoney Creek and Brady's, L^t. Col: Harvey D.A.G. immediately went forward with the Light Companies of the King's and 49th Reg^{ts}. and having advanced close to, & accurately ascertained the Enemy's Position, sent back to propose to me a night attack on his Camp. The motives which induced L^t. Col. Harvey to make and me to agree to this proposal were these: this position tho' strong for a large Body is far too extensive for me to hope to make any successful Stand in against the superior force understood to be advancing against me in three separate points, Viz: by the Lake, by the center road, and by the Mountain on my right.

The Attack I knew would not be delayed, I had neither time or inclination precipitately to retreat from my position, I therefore embraced the proposition of L^t Col Harvey, as an alternative not only more worthy of the gallant Troops under my command, but as offering the best chance of crippling the Enemy, and disconcerting all his plans, as well as gaining time for retreat, should that measure still be found necessary. The Enemy's Camp was distant about 7 Miles;

about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 I moved forward with the five Comp^s. of the 8th (or Kings) & the 49th Reg^{ts}. amounting together to only 704 Firelocks; L^t Col: Harvey who conducted it with great regularity & judgement, gallantly led on the attack. The Enemy was completely surpriz'd & driven from his Camp, after having repeatedly formed in different bodies & been as often charged by our brave Troops, whose conduct throughout this brilliant enterprize was above all praise. The Action terminated before day-light, when three Guns, & one brass Howitzer, with their Tumbrils, two Brig. Gen^{ls}. Chandler and Winder, first & second in Command, & upwards of a 100 Officers, non-commission'd Officers & Privates remain'd in our hands.

Not conceiving it prudent to expose our small Force to the View of the Enemy, who, tho' routed & dispersed, was still formidable, as to numbers & position, he having fled to the surrounding heights, & having still 4 or 5 Guns, the Troops were put in motion at day-break and marched back to the Cantonments. After we had retired & it had become broad day, the Enemy ventur'd to re-occupy his Camp, only however for the purpose of destroying his incumbrances, such as Blankets, Carriages, Provisions, spare Arms, ammunition &c. after which he commenced a precipitate retreat towards the 40 mile Creek, where he effected a junction, with a body of 2000 men who were on their march from Niagara to reinforce him. I cannot conclude this Dispatch without calling your Excellency's attention to the following Officers.

To L^t. Col. Harvey the Dep. Adj Gen^l. my obligations are particularly due: from the first moment the Enemy's approach was known he watch'd his movements & afforded me the earliest information; to him indeed I am indebted for the suggestion and plan of Operation;—nothing could be more clear than his arrangements, nor more completely successful in the result. The Conduct of Maj: Plenderleath

who commanded the 49th Reg^t. was very conspicuous, by his decision & prompt efforts. The Surprize of the Enemy's Camp was completed, and all his Efforts to make a stand was render'd ineffectual by the Bayonet, which overthrew all opposition; a Party of the 49th with Maj: Plenderleath at their head gallantly charged some of the Enemy's Field Pieces & brought off two six-Pound^{rs}.—Major Ogilvie led on in the most gallant manner the 5 Comp^s of the King's Reg^t. & whilst one half of that highly disciplined & distinguish'd Corps supported the 49th Reg^t. the other part moved to the right & attacked the Enemy's left Flank, which decided our midnight Contest. I have also received the greatest assistance from Maj: Glegg, Brig: Maj: to the Forces, & beg leave to mention the names of Capt^{ns}. M^cDouall and Milnes Your Excellency's Aides de Camp who accompanied me in the Attack, & upon all occasions have volunteer'd their Services. I have likewise to acknowledge the assistance of Captⁿ. Chambers of the 41st Reg^t. who had arrived some days before from Amherstburg, & M^r. Brock B.M. 49th who assisted me as Act^s Aid de Camp.

To M^r. Hackett Act^s Staff Surgⁿ. to this Army I feel myself particularly indebted for his judicious arrangem^t. by which the wounded have rec^d. every attention, & are, most of them, likely to be restored to the Service.

It would be an act of injustice were I to omit assuring your Excellency that Gallantry and Discipline were never more conspicuous than during our late short service, & I feel the greatest Satisfaction in assuring you that every Officer & Individual seem'd anxious to rival each other in his efforts to support the honor of his Majesty's Arms, & to maintain the high character of British Troops.

On leaving this Position to march against the Enemy it was immediately occupied by L^t. Col. Bisshopp with Detachm^{ts}. of the 41st Reg. Glengary & Newfoundland & Militia, & the Artillery under Maj: Holcroft, who were in a

Situation to move towards my support or to either Flank, as circumstances might require.

I directed Capⁿ. Fowler the Dep. Ass: Q^r. Maj: Gen^l. to remain in the rear with a view of reconnoit'ring the Country, collecting the resources & keeping open the Communication.

I am happy to assure your Excellency, that had any extreme case happen'd, I felt the fullest confidence in the zeal and Exertions of those Officers for making the most judicious arrangements.

I beg leave to refer Your Excellency to the enclosed Reports for particulars respecting our Loss which I regret has been very severe.

I have the honor

&c &c &c

(Sign'd) JOHN VINCENT
Brig. Gen^l.

Archives, C. 679, p. 61.

From Evans at Forty Mile Creek to Vincent at ———.

Forty Mile Creek

half past seven oClock P.M.

8th June 1813

Sir,

I have the honor to report to you that part of the Force of which you honor'd me with the Command has taken possession of the Post hastily abandoned this morning by the American Army under Major Gen^l. Lewis ; so precipitate has been their flight that their Tents were in part left standing, and various Articles of Stores, Arms, Ammunition, and Provisions have been secured—The Naval part of our Force has captured or destroyed fourteen or Sixteen Boats laden with Supplies, and many Prisoners have been made—The American Force is stated to have consisted of from 4, to 5,000 Men and represented as in a *sickly* condition—I have stationed

my Force best calculated for its immediate security, and pushed on the Indian Force in hopes of intercepting the Enemy's Command, and troubling his rear.

I enclose for your information a Return of Ammunition carried for the use of the Army in the Lady Gore Schooner and have the honor to be

Sir,
 With great Respect
 Your Most Obedient
 Humble Servant
 THO^s. EVANS,
 Lieutt. Colonel.

PS—The Detachments of the 41st and 49th under Lieut. Co^l. Dennis arrived in time and took possession of the Post abandoned by the Enemy at Milton—

Archives, C. 679, p. 53.

From Vincent at Burlington to Prevost at Kingston.

Burlington Bay—
 8th June 1813—

Sir,

In consequence of our attack on the Enemy's camp on the Morning of the 6th Inst^t., they have made a Movement to their rear, and retired back to the Forty Mile Creek, which has given me an opportunity of pushing out my Patrole to their late Camp.

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 2nd Inst^t. with a Memorandum enclosed.—The Fleet are this moment reported. I am therefore confident I am perfectly secure in this post as long as we have the Lake open to us.—I have this morning made a change of Position to a place named Coot's Paradise, on which I am throwing up a strong fortification in my front, all other parts are so strong as to secure themselves from an attack of an Enemy. In this

situation I am determined to hold out if their whole Force of Twelve Thousand is brought against me. Col. Harvey and Captain M^cDoual will write very fully on the subject of this new situation to Col. Baynes

I have to report the arrival of Sir James Lucas Yeo,—he informs me that this morning he cannonaded a Camp at the Forty Mile Creek, which he dispersed,—with some Bateaux.—I had hardly given orders for the Detachment of the 8th being disembarked then I received a private express from the Forty Mile Creek, that in consequence of our Fleet being up the Lake, the Enemy struck their Tents and are retiring to Fort George.—I have therefore sent this Detachment back to the Forty Mile Creek with the Commodore, and I have pushed forward my outposts, with some Indians to cooperate with our Fleet, and take up their quarters this night at the 40 as my advanced post.

I can assure Your Excellency that a Troop of Dragoons will be of the greatest service in this country.

I have the honour to be

Your Excellency's

Most obd^t. humble Serv^t.

JOHN VINCENT,
Brig: Gen^l.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 232.

G.O.

H.Q. Kingston 8th June 1813
5 OClock, P.M.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has just received an Express, announcing that a strong division of the American Army had advanced to the Forty Mile Creek, with the intention of attacking the position occupied by Brig^t. General Vincent at the Head of Burlington Bay. The Enemy's plan was however anticipated by the Gallant General, and completely defeated by a spirited attack at daybreak

on the 6th Ins^t. on the American Army, which was completely defeated and dispersed.—Twelve Officers, two of whom were Generals, and five pieces of Cannon were taken—and the fugitives were pursued in every direction by a numerous body of Indians under the Chief Norton.—The Enemy's Force is stated at 200 Cavalry and 4,000 Infantry, besides a strong force in Boats.

This intelligence was communicated off York at 2. P.M. to Commodore Sir James Yeo, who had sailed with the Fleet on the 3^d. Ins^t. to co-operate with General Vincent—and immediately proceeded with reinforcements on board to support the General's further attack upon the Enemy.—Further reinforcements under Major De Haren, proceeded this day from Kingston to join General Vincent.—The British loss has been very slight.—The official dispatch is hourly expected.

(Signed) EDW^p. BAYNES,
Adj^t. Gen^l.

Archives, C. 679, p. 58.

From Vincent at Burlington to Prevost at [Kingston].

Burlington Bay 9th June 1813

Sir,

I had the honor of writing to Your Excellency yesterday—That The Enemy in consequence of our Fleet appearing off the 40 Mile Creek—had been reported to me as retiring towards Fort George I immediately pushed on our outposts consisting of the Grenadier Company of the 49th and a strong Company 41st Regiment under the Command of Lieu^t. Col Dennis—with two Three Pounders—to take post at Miltons on the Mountain at the 40—and Major Evans with The Detachment of the 8th Kings—not yet being disembarked from our Fleet—Commodore Sir J. L. Yeo—immediately got under way in hopes of cutting off their boats—I have now the pleasure of reporting from letters I received

—dated 7 oClock last night from The Commodore and Major Evans that They were in possession of the 40 Mile Creek The Wolfe at anchor within musket shot of the shore—

We have got into our possession a number of their boats—a quantity of baggage and more than 200 Tents—

I herewith forward for your Excellencys information Major Evans letters—

I have directed the Boats and Camp Equipage to be forwarded to this post without delay.

It is my intention to keep possession of the 40 as long as I possibly can—If the Troops there are kept on the alert—they will at all times have an opportunity of retiring on me here—

I have taken the liberty to open Brigadier General Proctor's letter to your Excellency and I find his want of the remaining Companies of the 41st Regiment is so great that I think it advisable to send him the whole of the Detachment of that corps at present with me—and they can be parted with at this present moment better than at any other period—as I can now defend myself where I am in my present situation and more especially as I do not intend to act on the offensive until I receive reinforcements—

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your Obedient

humble Servant

JOHN VINCENT

Brig. Gen^l

Archives, C. 1170, p. 236.

G.O.

H.Q^{rs}. Kingston 11th June 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has the highest gratification in publishing to the Forces a District General Order issued by Brig^r. General Vincent—His Excellency avails himself of the Words of the Brig^r. General—

He is at a loss for language to do justice to the distinguished bravery and good conduct of the Troops engaged.

A Royal Salute to be fired in celebration of this splendid achievement.

By His Excellency's Command.

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES

Adj^t. Gen^l. N.A.

D.G.O.

Head Quarters 7th June 1813

Brigadier General Vincent congratulates the Troops on the success which crowned the attack made by the Kings and 49th Regiments on the Enemy's position & Camp at Gage's yesterday morning when his force consisting of not less than 3,500 men, advantageously posted and protected by a considerable number of Guns was completely routed and driven off the Field:—4 Pieces of Cannon with their Tumbrils, Horses &c^a. two Brigadier Generals, five Field Officers & Captains, and upwards of 100 Prisoners were the Trophies of this brilliant enterprize:—Immediately after our Troops had retired towards their Cantonements, the Enemy abandoned the position to which he had fled, and after burning and destroying a quantity of Baggage and Provisions, Carriages, Blankets, Arms &c^a. commenced a precip[it]ate retreat, and did not halt until he reached the 40 Mile Creek, 12 Miles (through the worst possible roads) from the scene of Action; here he effected a junction with a reinforcement which was on its march to join him.

Brig^d. General Vincent is at a loss for Language to do justice to the distinguished bravery and good conduct of the Troops engaged.

To Lieut^t. Colonel Harvey Deputy Adjutant General, who planned the enterprize and conducted the columns to the attack, every degree of praise is due, and his distinguished Services are duly appreciated.—The 8th (Kings) and 49th Regiments, he was rejoiced to observe, vied with each other

in acts of intrepidity and Gallantry, though at the unavoidable expence of many of their Valuable Officers and Men.

To Major Ogilvie and the Officers and Men of the King's, and to Major Plenderleath and Officers and Men of the 49th Regiment, the Brigadier General offers his grateful thanks.

To the Officers of the Staff as well as to Captain Chambers and to His Excellency's Aides de Camp, Captains M^cDouall and Milnes, Brig^r. General Vincent feels great obligations.

To the Royal and Provincial Artillery under Major Holcroft—To the 41st Regiment and Detachments of the Glengary and Newfoundland and Militia, under Lieut. Colonel Bishopp, was confided during the absence of the other Troops, the important trust of the defence of this extensive position, menaced on the right by the Enemy's Rifle Men, and on the left by a numerous Brigade of Boats filled with Troops—

Had the threatened attack been made, the Brig^r. General feels the utmost confidence that those Troops would have gallantly discharged their duty.

(Signed) JOHN VINCENT

Brig^r. General Commanding.

A true Copy.

(Signed) J. B. GLEGG,

Lieut^t. Col^l. Brig^r. Major.

When the express left Burlington Bay, Commodore Sir James Yeo, was acting in co-operation with the Army, and had dislodged the Enemy with great loss in Men, and Stores, from his position at the forty Mile Creek, where he had retreated.

British Force Engaged

| | |
|--|------------|
| 8 th or Kings) Regiment | 280 |
| 49 th Regiment | 430 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | <u>710</u> |

Archives, C. 679, p. 76.

From Harvey at Forty Mile Creek to Baynes at —.

40 Mile Creek

11th June 1813

My dear Colonel—General Vincent has desired me to forward to you the enclosed Report from L^t. Col. Evans and accompanying Return from L^t. Col. Nicholls Q^r. M^r. Genl. of Militia who have been actively and carefully employed here for this Day or two—The Panic of the American Army you will perceive has been most complete & had the whole of this Division been *at hand* to take advantage of it doubtless very many Prisoners might have been taken and probably some more Guns—but I am not aware that any further result could have rationally been hoped for—It was quite impossible however for us to know to what a degree the Panic prevailed & even if we had, to have moved sufficiently rapidly with *all* the Troops to take advantage of it—What we *could* do was however done & I think you will be of that opinion when you know that the Enemy only retired from *this Post* at 12 oClock on the morning of the 8th and our advanced Troops (amounting to 400 Men) were in possession of it, and *advancing from it after the Enemy*, by seven oClock the same evening—The distance is 20 Miles from our Position at the Head of the Lake—

The Principal objects Gen^l. Vincent has had in view in making a forward movement with the greatest part of the Troops to this Place was to communicate with & give any support & assistance in his power to Sir Jas Yeo & the Fleet—& be at hand to take advantage of the success which we sanguinely anticipate from his approaching rencontre with [] Chauncey—to give encouragement to the Militia and Yeomanry of the Country who are everywhere rising upon the fugitive Americans, making them Prisoners &

withholding all *Supplies* from them and lastly (and perhaps *chiefly*) for the purpose of sparing the resources of the Country in our rear and drawing the Supplies of the Army as long as possible from the Country immediately in the Enemy's Vicinity—our Position here secures all these important objects—& so long as our Fleet is triumphant it is a secure one—should any Disaster (which God forbid) befall *that*, we have no longer any business *here* or in this *part of Canada*.

We have just been (Gen^l. Vincent & myself) on board the *Wolfe*—she is a *warm* Vessel indeed & Sir Jas says admirably manned, as are I understand the rest—we have given them however 60 Vol^s. from the Kings to assist & a few Gunners & Bombadiers for the Heavy Carronades. Sir Jas. I am happy to observe is fully impressed with the necessity of having a *commanding Breeze* before he makes his Attack—In light ones or Calms the Enemy's flotilla of small Vessels would have incalculable advantages. There is scarce a Breath of air at this moment—the moment there is wind he purposes sailing to attack.—The anxiety with which we shall *witness* and *await* the Result you will readily conceive—

I am My dear Colonel

faithfully

Yours

J. HARVEY

NB. Be cautious of exchanging *General Winder* (*my Prisoner*)—he possesses more Talents than all the rest of the Yankee generals put together—

PS. The Return of Captured Articles is transmitted rather for the purpose of shewing to what a degree the Enemy has suffered in his equipment &c. as the greatest part of the Articles are in the hands of the *Indians* or scattered throughout the Country, they are however *collecting* as fast as possible.

J H

Archives, C. 679, p. 80.

From Evans at Forty Mile Creek to Harvey at —.

40 Mile Creek 10th June 1813

Sir,

Conformable to the wish of Brigadier General Vincent Commanding I herewith transmit a concise and connected Narrative of the late Operations of the Detachment with which he honor'd me with the Command—In consequence of your Orders given immediately after my arrival 8th June I embarked in company with Sir James L. Yeo and proceeded for the Squadron then laying off the Mouth of Burlington Bay, which on our reaching was ordered by Signal to weigh and stand for the 40 Mile Creek, a steady breeze soon enabled us to gain and come to Anchor close in with the Enemy's Position with which we had a brush, on passing in the morning. By the excellent arrangements of the Commodore the whole of my Detachment composed of about 220 of the Kings, was on Shore and in possession of the Enemy's Encampments by half past Seven P.M., little more than three hours after receiving my Instructions. Lieut^t. Colonel Dennis with the Detachment ordered on by Land joined me soon after, and the Indians quickly followed—The Enemy's flight and terror is best evidenced by the precipitate manner in which he abandoned every thing which was valuable, or could be called to constitute his Equipment for Field Operations—Aware, from the nature of the Country, that a further cooperation of the Naval Force could not be expected, I lost no time in taking measures for a close pursuit by the Indians detaching Lieut^t. Col^l. Dennis with the Grenadiers of the 49th and part of a Company of the 41st to the Twenty, with directions for that Officer to push his Dragoons, and Indians just to the skirts of Fort George, These movements tho' not coming up to my expectations

by the capture of the Enemy's Cannon were otherwise productive of the most beneficial Results. Many Prisoners were taken, the spirit of the loyal part of the Country aroused, the little remaining Baggage of the Enemy destroyed, his panic increased, and confirmed, and what is of the utmost consequence certain information acquired of all his Movements, On the Evening of the 9th the Enemy set fire to, and abandoned Fort Erie, withdrew his Forces from Chippawa and Queenston, concentrating them at Fort George, and hastily began throwing up Field Works, either there to defend himself or cross the River by means of Boats, which he holds in a constant state of readiness, according to circumstances—Yesterday I had information of the Militia having taken a Depot of Arms &c. in the neighbourhood of Queenston, and in the evening had actually possessed themselves of the Town I have every thing to say in praise of the good conduct of my Men, and Officers but have most particularly to remark the zeal, spirit and ability with which Lieut^t. Colonel Dennis conducted his share of the Operations.—

I have the honor to be

Sir, Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant

THO^s. EVANS

Lieu^t. Colonel.

Archives, C. 679, p. 91.

From Vincent at Forty Mile Creek to Baynes at ———.

40 Mile Creek 14th June 1813

Sir,

I have just been informed by a confidential friend at Fort George that a greater part of the Enemys force have returned to Fort Niagara and that Line, and at present the force at this side is not more than six thousand, numbers of whom, are in a sickly state. If this is a correct statement, on my

next communication with the Fleet—and that our reinforcements are arrived—I am determined, if Sir James Yeo thinks he can cooperate with us—to push forward and retake Fort George—I can see none of our Fleet on the Lake, I have therefore to suppose, they might have made a run on Kingston for Provisions, but if this circumstance has taken place it will not in the least change my intention or situation, as I am very confident from Sir James's assurance, that he would not be many days, absent from this army.

The Americans have passed a Brig up the rapids at Fort Erie on the 10th inst.—They have two brigs and six large Gun Boats at Presque Isle—not yet ready but expected in three weeks—I have sent this information to Amherstburg—

Notwithstanding I cannot well spare Troops but supposing Brigadier General Proctor may be in more want than myself—I have ordered One Hundred Rank and file with the Head Quarters of the 41st Regiment to proceed by land, which I hope will meet with His Excellency's approbation—

By a letter I received from the Brigadier 10th instant—I have every reason to expect some hundred of Indians are on the march to join me and I make bold to say, one Thousand men more added to this army will drive every part of the Enemy out of this country. I have to request shoes may be sent we are more in want of them than any other Article—

I have the honor to be

Sir Your Obedient Serv^t

JOHN VINCENT
Brig. Gen.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 244.

G.O.

Kingston 15th June 1813

The Forces serving in Upper Canada are to be distinguished in future in the following manner.—

The Division serving under Brigadier General Procter

at Detroit to be styled the Right Division of the Army of Upper Canada—The Forces at Niagara and York, the Center Division—and the Troops at Kingston and below that Post, to form the Left Division of the Army of Upper Canada. . . .

A Subaltern Officer is permitted to Act as Adjutant to the 1st Light Demi Brigade.

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES
Adj^t. Gen^l.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 266.

Head Quarters

General Orders.

Kingston 18th June 1813

Major General De Rottenburg having arrived will take upon himself the Command of the Troops in Upper Canada and the Civil Administration of the Province.

Major General Sir R. H. Sheaffe will proceed to Montreal and assume the Command of the Troops in that District. . . .

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES,
Adj^t. Gen^l.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 269.

G.O.

Kingston 20th June 1813

A Second Troop of the 19th Light Dragoons, to compose with that already under Order, to March, one compleat Squadron under the Command of a Field Officer, is to proceed immediately to Kingston—it is not desirable that more than two Thirds of the men should bring their Horses—but all their Horse appointments compleat are to be brought by Water, and a proportion of Horses to mount the whole will be procured in the Upper Province—

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES,
Adj^t. Gen^l.

Archives, C. 679, p. 306.

*From Major Plenderleath, of the 49th, at St. David's to
Vincent at —.*

St. Davids 23^d July 1813

Sir

I have much satisfaction in relating to you such of the particulars of the distinguished conduct of Serjeant Alexander Frazer of the 49th, Assistant Serjeant Major, in the action at Stoney Creek on the 6th Ultimo, as fell under my own observation

After our first advance, and dispersion of the Enemy on the right, I was proceeding across the meadow guided by a fire of Musquetry to find the Enemy more to the left, when the discharge of a Field piece pointed out the position of his guns upon the top of the hill at a very inconsiderable distance

Another having been fired without doing any injury, altho' so close upon them, I told the men about me the moment must be seized to charge the Guns before they were re-loaded, when Serjeant Frazer very gallantly advanced, setting a noble example to about fifteen or twenty men, who rushed forward with him, and carried a howitzer and three six pounders, killing at the same time a great number of the Enemy—the party afterwards charged and put to flight a body of Infantry formed immediately in rear of the guns, which gave us possession of the Caissons, and some of the horses.—General Winder surrendered to, and gave up his Sword to Serjeant Frazer, who immediately presented it to me, and I afterwards delivered it to Lieut Colonel Harvey

I have been informed General Chandler was made prisoner also at the Guns—There were some officers taken, but his name was not then reported to me.

Serjeant Frazer is the son of a Soldier of the Royal Veterans, and a young man, whose general character is not

unknown to you. I consider it only necessary to mention that at the age of 23, he has been for the last six months Assistant Serjeant Major of the Regiment.

I have the honor to be

Sir, Your most obedient
humble Servant

C. PLENDERLEATH
Major 49th Reg.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VI (*continued*)

OPERATIONS ON THE FRONTIERS

SUMMER OF 1813

2. NIAGARA FRONTIER : BEAVER DAMS, JUNE 24, 1813

Archives, C. 679, p. 140.

From Fitzgibbon at Township of Louth to Major de Haren at —.

Township of Louth
24th June 1813

Sir,

At De Coris this morning about 7 O'clock I received information that about 1,000 of the Enemy with 2 Guns were advancing towards me from St. Davids, I soon after heard a firing of Cannon and Musketry, and in consequence rode in advance two Miles on the St. Davids Road, I discovered by the firing that the enemy was moving for the Road on the

Mountain, I sent off Cornet M^cKenzie to order out my Detachment of the 49th consisting of a Subaltern and forty-six Rank and file, and closed upon the enemy to reconnoitre, I discovered him on the Mountain Road, and took a position on an eminence to the Right of it :—my men arrived and pushed on in his front to cut off his retreat, under a fire from his Guns, which however did no execution—after examining his position, I found it difficult to approach him, their being no wood in front or on the flanks to cover the Indians, and his force, apparently 600 I could not approach, I was here informed he expected reinforcements, therefore decided upon summoning him to Surrender, after the exchange of several propositions between L^t. Co^l. Boerstler myself, in the name of Lieut^t. Co^l. De Haren,—Lieut^t. Co^l. Boerstler agreed to surrender on the terms stated in the articles of capitulation, on my return to my men to send on an Officer to superintend the details of the Surrender—you arrived—

I have &c

(Sig^d) J. FITZGIBBON,
Lieut^t. 49th Regiment

Archives, C. 679, p. 138.

[Endorsement] 24 JUNE 1813, CAPITULATION OF L^t. COL
BOERSTLER'S DETACHMENT—

24th June 1813.

Particulars of the Capitulation made between Captain M^cDowell on the part of L^t. Colonel Boerstler of the United States Army, and Major D'Haren of His Britanic Majestys Canadian Reg^t. On the part of L^t. Colonel Bisshopp Commanding the Advance of the British respecting the Surrender of the Force under the command of L^t. Colonel Boerstler—

First

That L^t. Colonel Boerstler and the Force under his command shall surrender Prisoners of War—

Second

That the Officers shall retain their Horses Arms & Baggage—

Third

That the Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers shall lay down their Arms at the Head of the British Column and become Prisoners of War.

Fourth

That the Militia & Volunteers with L^t. Col. Boerstler shall be permitted to return to the United States on Parole—

AND^w. McDOWELL,

Cap^t. U.S. Light Art.

C G BOERSTLER

L^t. Col Comg Detach^t. U.S. Army

acceded to

P W DE HAREN

Maj. Canad. Regiment.

Archives, C. 679, p. 130.

From Boerstler at Twenty Mile Creek to Dearborn at ———.

20 Mile Creek 25th June 1813

Sir,

I am permitted to state the misfortune which has befallen myself and detachment entrusted to my care we proceeded yesterday morning until near the Beaver dams where we were attacked by a large number of Indians who were reinforced by regulars under Col de Heran while other reinforcements marched in the direction of our rear, the action lasted 3 Hours

VOL. II.

L

10 Minutes, during which time we drove them some distance into the wood, but finding our men not equal in that mode of fighting I changed my position twice during the Engagement to get more open ground but such was the situation that the Enemy's Balls reached us from every direction, while he was concealed our Ammunition being nearly expended surrounded on all sides Seventeen Miles to retreat where my force would have constantly diminished (especially after Spending our Ammunition) while the Enemy was gathering in from various out Posts—myself—Captain Macherney—Captⁿ. Cummins, L^t. Randall L^t. Marshall wounded I saw that in the exhausted state the men were in that far greater part could never reach Fort George (if any) therefore was compelled to Capitulate the Off^{rs}. under my Command will state what may be requisite as to my conduct

The p^{rs}. amount to—

| | C. | Sub. | Sjts. | Dr. | R. | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Artilly | 1 | 1 | 2 | .. | 31 | |
| 14 Regt | 3 | 11 | 13 | 2 | 301 | |
| 6 | 1 | 1 | 3 | .. | 54 | Major Taylor—20 |
| 23 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 57 | Surgeon—14 |
| D ^s | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 19 | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| | 6 | 15 | 23 | 4 | 462 | |

You will find enclosed articles of Capitulation

I have the honor to be your distressed H^{le} S^t.

C. G. BOERSTLER

L^t. Col 14th.

I presume my destination will be Quebec

I beg I may be exchanged as soon as possible

M^r. Gen. DEARBORN

Archives, C. 679, p. 137.

RETURN OF AMERICAN PRISONERS TAKEN NEAR FORT
GEORGE ON THE 24TH JUNE 1813

| Corps. | Lt Colonels | Majors | Captains | Lieutenants | Cornets | Surgeons | Serjeants | Drummers | Rank & File | Remarks |
|---|-------------|--------|----------|-------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|---|
| Light Dragoons . | .. | .. | .. | .. | I | .. | I | .. | 19 | Two Field pieces taken. 1-12 pounder 1-6 do 2 Cars taken. |
| Light Artillery . | .. | .. | I | I | .. | .. | 2 | .. | 31 | |
| 6 th Reg ^t . Infantry | .. | .. | I | I | .. | .. | 3 | .. | 54 | |
| 14 " do . | I | .. | 3 | II | .. | I | 15 | .. | 301 | |
| 20 " do . | .. | I | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 23 " do . | .. | .. | I | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 2 | 57 | |
| Total . | I | I | 6 | 13 | I | I | 25 | 2 | 462 | |

OFFICERS' NAMES AND RANK.

| | |
|--|---|
| Lieut Col. Boerstler—14 th Reg ^t . | Lieu ^t . Karney —14 th Reg ^t . |
| Major—Taylor —20 th " | " Marshall —14 " |
| Captain McDowell Lt. Artillery | " Waring —14 " |
| " McKensey —6— — | " Mudd —14 " |
| " McKenzie —14 — | " Murdoch —14 " |
| " Cummins —14 — | " Goodwin —14 " |
| " Flemming —14 — | " Clarke —14 " |
| " Roach —23 — | " Robinson —14 " |
| Lieutenant Morris—Lt. Artillery | " Randall —14 " |
| " Shell —6 — | Cornet Bird—Dragoons |
| " Saunders —14 — | Surgeon Young—14— |
| " Arnell —14 — | |

Copy.

J HARVEY

L^t. Col. D.A.G.

Archives, C. 679, p. 135.

From Vincent at Forty Mile Creek to Prevost at [Kingston].

40 Mile Creek 25th June 1813

Sir,

I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency a report I received from Lieu^t. Col Bisshopp Commanding The

Troops in advance of the success of a skirmish with a strong Detachment of Cavalry and Infantry—advancing with two field Pieces—

To the vigilance of Lieutenant Col Bisshopp I feel much indebted—and beg leave to refer your Excellency to his report of the conduct of the Officers and Men under his command, which is deserving every commendation—I cannot but particularrise that of Lieu^t. Fitzgibbon 49th Regiment Commanding a small reconnoitering Party cooperating with The Indians thro' whose address—in entering into the capitulation, Your Excellency will perceive, by Lieu^t. Col Bisshopps report—that the surrender of the American Detachment is to be attributed—I beg leave to recommend this Officer to Your Excellencys protection.

I have the honor to be

Sir Your Obedient

humble Servant

JOHN VINCENT

Brig.-G^l.

Memoir of Mrs. Secord.

“DEAR SIR,—I will tell you the story in a few words.

“After going to St. David's and the recovery of Mr. Secord, we returned again to Queenston, where my courage again was much tried. It was there I gained the secret plan laid to capture Captain Fitzgibbon and his party. I was determined, if possible, to save them. I had much difficulty in getting through the American guards. They were ten miles out in the country. When I came to a field belonging to a Mr. de Cou, in the neighbourhood of the Beaver Dams, I then had walked nineteen miles. By that time daylight had left me. I yet had a swift stream of water (Twelve-mile Creek) to cross over on an old fallen tree, and to climb a high hill, which fatigued me very much.

“ Before I arrived at the encampment of the Indians, as I approached they all arose with one of their war yells, which, indeed, awed me. You may imagine what my feelings were to behold so many savages. With forced courage I went to one of the chiefs, told him I had great news for his commander, and that he must take me to him or they would all be lost. He did not understand me, but said, ‘ Woman ! What does woman want here ? ’ The scene by moonlight to some might have been grand, but to a weak woman certainly terrifying. With difficulty I got one of the chiefs to go with me to their commander. With the intelligence I gave him he formed his plans and saved his country. I have ever found the brave and noble Colonel Fitzgibbon a friend to me. May he prosper in the world to come as he has done in this.

Laura Secord.

“ CHIPPEWA, U.C., Feb. 18, 1861.”

Fitzgibbon's Certificate.

“ I do hereby certify that Mrs. Secord, the wife of James Secord, of Chippewa, Esq., did, in the month of June, 1813, walk from her house in the village of St. David's to Decamp's house in Thorold, by a circuitous route of about twenty miles, partly through the woods, to acquaint me that the enemy intended to attempt by surprise to capture a detachment of the 49th Regiment, then under my command ; she having obtained such knowledge from good authority, as the event proved. Mrs. Secord was a person of slight and delicate frame ; and made the effort in weather excessively warm, and I dreaded at the time that she must suffer in health in consequence of fatigue and anxiety, she having been exposed to danger from the enemy, through whose line of communication she had to pass. The attempt was made on my detachment by the enemy, and his detachment, consisting of

upwards of 500 men, with a field-piece and fifty dragoons, was captured in consequence. I write this certificate in a moment of much hurry and from memory, and it is, therefore, thus brief.

“(Signed) JAMES FITZGIBBON,
“ *Formerly Lieutenant in the 49th Regiment.*”

Archives, C. 257, p. 93.

From Norton at Forty Mile Creek to Major Fulton at —.

Forty Mile Creek, June 26, 1813

D^r Sir,

As the Five Nations themselves appointed me a leading Chief many years ago, and the late General Brock when he nominated me Captain, also, added, and Commander of the Warriors of the Five Nations, I must consider any interference between them and me as an injustice, and as an attempt to degrade me. With respect to Col. Claus I consider him as the Deputy of Sir John Johnson equally connected with the different stations and branches of the Department; but in no manner peculiarly attached to the Five Nations or any other tribe—and whatever controul it might please the Commander of the Forces to give him over myself I cannot admit that he should have any right to interfere with the people that I am to lead or countenance any of them that endeavor to counteract me in the different arrangements which circumstances may require me to make.

The warriors who have or may distinguish themselves, I hope to be enabled to reward & that something may be allowed for the orphans and widows of those who have fallen, and to assist those, who have been disabled by wounds.

That our efforts may be more efficient I hope that we may not be split into small parties; but that our warriors may have fair scope to support the character of their ancestors.

At York I gave General Sheaffe a list of War Chiefs who I recommended to the notice of Government as being peculiarly serviceable to me, as also the names of the killed and wounded, that their families or themselves might receive the necessary assistance.

As to myself I have nothing to say, leaving that part entirely to the decision of His Excellency—as he may best judge in which manner to render my services most efficient,

D^r Sir

I have the honor to be

Your faithful friend

& humb. Servt.

JOHN NORTON.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 281.

G.O.

Kingston 28th June 1813

The Commander of the Forces has great satisfaction in announcing to the Army that a report has just been received from Brig^d. General Vincent, of a most judicious & spirited exploit achieved by a small Detachment of the 49th Regiment, amounting to Forty Six Rank and File under Lieut^t. Fitz Gibbon, and a band of Indian Warriors—which terminated in the defeat and entire Capture of a considerable detachment of the American Regular Army under the Command of Lieut^t. Colonel Boerstler, of the 14th United States Regiment, after sustaining considerable loss.

Lieut^t. Fitz Gibbon on reconnoitering the Enemy's position, and finding him too numerous to oppose with his small force, with great presence of mind kept him in check, while he sent and summoned him to surrender in the name of Major De Haren, and which he was fortunately enabled to enforce by the prompt and timely advance of the Light Division under that Officer, by whose vigou[r]ous co-operation,

the Capture of the Enemy's Forces, consisting of One Lieut. Colonel, One Major, Six Captains, Fifteen Inferior Officers—25 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 462 Rank and File—One 12 Pounder, One Six Pounder, Field Pieces, and a Stand of Colours, was effected on the Field.

Not a single British Soldier is reported to have fallen on this occasion.—

The Indian Warriors behaved with great steadiness and courage, and His Excellency has great Satisfaction in learning that they conducted themselves with the greatest humanity and forbearance towards the Prisoners, after the Action.

By His Excellency's Command

(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES

Adj^t. Gen^l. N.A.

Archives, C. 797 p. 131.

From Baynes at Kingston to Prevost at ———.

Head Quarters

Kingston 1st July 1813

Sir,

I have the honor to submit to your Excellency's Consideration the Copy of a letter from L^t. A. K. Johnson of the Canadian Fencible Inf^y. soliciting to be permitted to resign all pretensions to promotion in the Glengary L^t. Inf^y. Levy to return to his Lieutenantcy in the Canadian Fencibles.

I beg leave to inform your Excellency that L^t. Johnson at an early period resign'd his recruiting Orders, which were transferr'd to L^t. Fitzgibbon of the 49th Reg but were afterwards recalled & restored to L^t. Johnson at the earnest solicitation of his Father to the great disappointment & prejudice of L^t. Fitzgibbon, who, in consequence of this prospect of promotion in the Levy, resign'd the Adjutantcy of the 49th Reg^t.

L^t. Johnson has proved himself during an unwilling residence of a few months with the Corps so entirely unequal to Commanding a Light Company in the field, & so totally devoid of all Zeal to acquire a competent knowledge of his profession that I earnestly beg that he may be permitted to retire from his present station, which he is incapable of filling with Credit to himself or without injury to the Service. I beg strongly to recommend to your Excellency's notice the pretensions of L^t. Fitzgibbons of the 49th from the circumstance stated above, but most particularly from his ability as an Officer of a L^t. Corps, in which line of service he has recently so eminently distinguish'd himself.

I have &^{ca},

(Sign'd) EDW^p. BAYNES,
Col.

Archives, C. 688c, p. 58.

Copy of General Order, sent to Sir John Johnson.

(Copy)

G.O.

Head Quarters—

Kingston 6th July 1813—

Detachments of Indian Warriors being about to return to their homes, His Excellency the Commander of the Forces cannot suffer these Brave Men to depart—without expressing the high sense He entertains of their good conduct, in the zeal and promptness with which they have obeyed His summons to repair to the Divisions of the Army in Active Service, the skill and Intrepidity displayed by them in the Battle, by which the Defeat and surrender of a very superior body of the Enemys Regular Troops was principally atchieved, and His Excellency has particularly to applaud the exemplary instance of Discipline and forbearance evinced upon that

occasion—by their Instantly refraining from all acts of hostility, the moment they were informed that the Enemy had surrendered—the Officers attached to the Indian Warriors have distinguished themselves by their Gallantry and good Conduct—

His Excellency directs that these Warriors may receive on their return a liberal donation of the usual presents and that the wounded, and the families of such as have fallen may Receive a double Proportion—the Sup^t. Gen^l. of Indians will cause this part of the order to be carried into effect without delay—

(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES
Adjutant General.

A true Copy

(Signed) C. D. SHEKLETON
Major of Brigade.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 332.

G.O.

Kingston 26th July 1813.

The Commander of the Forces has had under His consideration the report of a Board of Officers of which Brigadier Gen^l. Vincent was President, assembled by His Excellency's Order at the Head Quarters of the Center Division of the Army, S^t. Davids the 20th July 1813, for the purpose of considering the Claims of the Indian Warriors in regard to the Head Money for Prisoners of War brought in by them, and to the propriety of some provision being made for those who may be disabled on Service.—

With a view to soften and restrain the Indian Warriors in their conduct towards such Americans as may be made by them Prisoners of War, His Excellency is pleased to approve of the following arrangement submitted by that Board, and directs that the same may be acted upon.—Viz^t.

“The proceedings of a Council with the several Indian Warriors assembled at the 40 Mile Creek, on 27th ult^o.— having been presented to the Board, it is of opinion, that upon the subject of head Money upon Prisoners of War brought in by Indians, allowance should be made to them for each Prisoner brought in alive of Five Dollars.—

The Board is of opinion the following rates of Pensions are sufficient—

| | |
|---|--|
| To a Chief for loss of Eye, Limb or receiving a Wound equal to the loss of Limb | } 100 Dollars per Annum in Money or Presents. |
|---|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| To a Warrior for loss of Eye, Limb or receiving a Wound, equal to loss of limb | } 70 Dollars per Annum in Money or Presents. |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|---|
| To the Widow or Family of a Chief Killed in Action, or dying of his Wounds | } A Present of 200 Dollars in Money or goods |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| To the Widow or Family of a Warrior Killed in Action, or dying of his Wounds | } A Present of 140 Dollars in Money or Goods— |
|--|--|

The Board is of opinion the Indians ought to be entitled to Prize Money, for the Capture of Detroit in the following proportions.

Chiefs as Subalterns
Warriors as Privates.

The Head Money for Prisoners of War brought in by the Indian Warriors is to be immediately paid by the Commissariat upon the Certificates of the General Officer Commanding the Division, with which they are acting at the time.—

G.O.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is pleased to make the following appointments in the Indian Department, viz^t.

M^r. Charles Spenkard to be Interpreter to receive the Pay and Allowances as such from the 25th June last.

George Rousseau Gent, to be Lieut^t. and Interpreter, vice Chew, Killed in Action, Commission dated 25th June 1813.—

G.O.

A Board of Claims is to be assembled at the Head Quarters of the Center and Right Divisions of the Army at such periods as the General Officers Commanding may deem expedient, for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon such claims for remuneration for loss of Baggage &c^a. Captured by the Enemy,—the Second Senior Officer of the Division is always to be President, and the report is to be transmitted by the General Officer Commanding for the Approval of His Excellency The Commander of the Forces.—

(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES
Adjutant Gen^l. N.A.

Archives, C. 257, p. 109.

From de Rottenburg at St. David's to the Military Secretary at Kingston.

Head Quarters of the Army of the Center
S^t Davids 31st July 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th Ins^t.—signifying to me His Excellency the Commander of the Forces pleasure that the Indian Chief Norton may be allowed to be borne on the Paylists of the

Indian Department, with the rank and pay of a Captain—I beg leave to observe, that this is no favor granted to him, as he has been borne on the Paylists of that Department ever since the 2nd June 1812 and has regularly received his pay as Captain since that period—A discretionary control in the distribution of presents to the Indians serving with him will be granted, in conformity to His Excellency's directions—

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

FRANCIS DE ROTTENBURG

M. General

P.S. The Stationary you mention in your letter of the 25th will be very acceptable.

Archives, C. 257, p. 116.

From de Rottenburg at St. David's to Baynes at —.

Head Quarters of the Army of the Cent[er]

S^t Davids 15th August 1813

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the Proceedings of a Board of Claims for Loss of Baggage sustained by the Army of the Center—

You will be pleased to lay before His Excellency the Commander of the Forces the enclosed letter I received from Colonel Claus, all my endeavours to reconcile him and Norton are in vain, the latter is certainly a great intriguer, but is a fighting man—and may do a great deal of mischief if not supported

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obed^t. Serv^t.

FRANCIS DE ROTTENBURG,

M. General.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VI (*continued*)OPERATIONS ON THE FRONTIERS
SUMMER OF 1813

3. NIAGARA FRONTIER: FORT SCHLOSSER, JULY 5, 1813

Archives, C. 679, p. 187.

From Clark at Chippawa to Harvey at —.

Chippawa, July 5th 1813—

Sir

For the information of Major General DeRotenburgh, please say that I last evening received a note from Lieutenant Fitzgibbon, requesting me to assist Ensign Winder of the 49th reg^t. with what Militia I could muster, to make a descent about day break of this morning upon Fort Schlosser and bring off what public boats and stores we could find there—I accordingly in the course of the night assembled 34 including Officers, who together with Ensign Winder Volunteer Thompson & 6 privates of the 49th crossed over in three Boats and arrived at Schlosser a little after day break, and was so fortunate as to surprise the guard consisting of 2 Lieutenants 1 serjeant 8 privates, 3 civilians and 3 of our own subjects—in the public store house, at and upon the wharf we found one brass 6 pounder, 57 stand of Arms, two & one half Kegs of musket Ball Cartridges, 6 Bulwarks (or musket proof curtains for boats), One Gun Boat, 2 Batteaus, 2 anchors, 20 Barrels salt, 17 Casks tobacco, Eight Barrels pork, one Barrel whisky, with some Spades, Oars &

Axes all of which we brought to this place—we left at Schlosser 6 scows, 6 Boats some of them very large & about 16 tons weight of Canon Shot & Shells—these scows and boats from their being immersed in water, we could not bring off nor compleatly disable.—

We remained at Schlosser about One hour, during which time no person appeared to oppose us—however we had scarsely embarked in the last boat when from 12 to 15 men came to the beach, supposed to be Militia or workmen from Porters Mills—they fired about 20 shots of Musketry at us, which was returned by our two last boats, no damage was done to any person in the boats, and I believe little hurt was done to the people on shore

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t.

THOMAS CLARK L^t Col

2^d Lincoln Militia.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VI (*continued*)OPERATIONS ON THE FRONTIERS
SUMMER OF 1813

4. NIAGARA FRONTIER: BLACK ROCK, JULY 11, 1813

Archives, C. 679, p. 234.

From Clark at Chippawa to Harvey at —.

Chippawa, July 12th 1813.

To L^t. Col Harvey,
Dep. Adj. Gen^l.

Sir,

I have the honor to report to you for the information of Maj. Gen^l. DeRottenburg that the detachment under the Command of Lt. Col Bisshopp, consisting of a detach^t. of the Roy. Artillery under L^t. Armstrong, 40 of the Kings Reg^t. under L^t. Barstow, 100 of the 41st under Captⁿ. Saundey 40 of the 49th under L^t. Fitzgibbon, & about 40 of the 2nd and 3rd Lincoln Militia embarked at 2 OClock on the morn^g. of the 11th Ins. to attack the Enemy's Batteries at the Black Rock.

The detachm^t. landed half an hour before day light without being perceived and immediately proceeded to attack the Batteries which they carried with little opposition. The Enemy heard the firing at their advanced posts and immediately proceeded with great precipitation to Buffalo. The Block-houses, Barracks, & Navy Yard, with one large Schooner were burnt, & such of the public Stores as could be got off were

taken possession of & carried across the river by the Troops ; before the whole of the Stores were taken away, the Enemy advanced having been reinforced by a considerable body of Indians, whom they posted in the woods on their flanks & in their advance. They were gallantly opposed by the whole of the Troops, but finding the Indians could not be driven from the adjoining Woods without our sustaining a very great loss, it was deem'd prudent to retreat to the Boats & the Troops recross'd the river under a very heavy fire.

I am extremely sorry to add L^t. Col. Bisshopp fell, severely wounded on our retreat to the Boats, fortunately the Detachm^t. did not suffer by it, every thing having been arranged & completed previous to his receiving his Wounds.

Enclosed are the returns of the Kill'd, Wounded, & missing, with the exception of those of the 49th Reg^t. & Militia which have not yet been received. I have also enclosed the returns of the Ordnance & other Stores, captured.

I have &c

(Sign'd) THOS. CLARK L^t. Col.

2nd Lincl Mil.

RETURN OF ORDNANCE, DESTROYED & CAPTURED FROM THE
ENEMY AT BLACK ROCK, JULY 12th 1813.

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|-----|
| Taken from the Enemy | { | 12 Pound ^{rs} . Iron with Garr ⁿ . Carriages | I |
| | | 6 Pound ^{rs} . Iron with D ^o . D ^o | I |
| | | 6 Pound ^{rs} . Brass with travell ^g . D ^o | I |
| | | 6 Pound ^{rs} . Brass without D ^o . D ^o | I |
| | | Total | 4 |
| | | Musquets, English & French | 177 |
| | | 3 Pr ^s . Travelling Carriage | I |
| | | Ammunition Kegs | 6 |
| | | {A small quantity of round & case Shot, {(quantity not yet known)} | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|----------|
| Taken or de- stroyed. | { | Twelve Pound ^{rs} . Iron | 2 |
| | | Nine Pound ^{rs} . Iron | 2 |
| | | Total | <u>4</u> |

(Signed) R. S. ARMSTRONG
Lt. Comm^g. R.A.

To Lt. Col. Clark
&c &c &c

RETURN OF STORES &c &c CAPTURED AT, AND BROUGHT FROM
BLACK ROCK, ON THE 11th JULY 1813

123 Barrels of Salt
46 Barrels of Whisky
11 Barrels of Flour
1 Barrel of Molasses
1 Barrel of Tar
2 large Bales of Blankets, about 200
70 large Blankets loose
5 large Casks of Clothing
3 Cases containing 396 Soldier's Caps
16 Bars of Iron
1 Bar of Steel
to be return'd { 1 Side Sole Leather } some of them markd
to the 41st { 7 Sides of Upper } Serg^t. Fitzgerald &
Regt. { Leather } taken from Fort Erie
7 large Batteaux
1 large Scow

(Sign'd)

THOS. CLARK Lt. Col.

2nd Lincoln Militia

a true Copy
(sign'd)

NOAH FREER

Military Secretary

RETURN OF KILLED, WOUNDED AND MISSING IN ACTION WITH THE ENEMY AT BLACK
ROCK, ON THE MORNING OF THE 11TH INST.

13th July 1813.

| Corps | Killed. | | | | | | | Wounded. | | | | | | | Missing. | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Serjeants. | Corporals. | Drummers. | Privates. | Inspecting Field Officer. | Lt. Colonel. | Captains. | Ensigns. | Serjeants. | Corporals. | Drummers. | Privates. | Serjeants. | Corporals. | Drummers. | Privates. |
| Staff | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | I | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 8 th or King's Regt. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | I | .. | .. | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 41 st Regiment | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | .. | .. | I | I | .. | .. | .. | 10 | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| 49 th Regiment | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Militia | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | I | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | I | I | I | I | I | I | I | .. | 19 | .. | .. | .. | 6 |

Officers wounded are

Lt. Col. Bishopp, Insps. Field Officer, severely, not dangerously
Lt. Col. Clark 2nd Lincoln Militia, slightly
Captain Saunders 41st Reg^t., severely & a prisoner.
Ensign Monpesson, Do., slightly.

(Sign'd) J HARVEY

Lt. Col. D.A.G.

A true Copy

(Sign'd) EDW^d BAYNES

Adj. Genl. N.A.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 308

G.O.

Kingston 15th July 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received a Despatch from Major General De Rottenburg, reporting a successful attack upon the Enemy's Post and Dock Yard a[t] Black-Rock at day break on the morning of the 11th instant by detachments of the Kings and 41st Regiment's, together with Lieutenant Fitz Gibbon's party of the 49th Regiment, and about 40 Militia, the whole amounting to about to 240 Men, under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Bishopp.—The Enemy's position was carried by a spirited attack without the loss of a single Man.—Several large Boats loaded with Stores and Provisions, and three field pieces, a 12 and two 6 Pounders were brought away; a Vessel and all the Naval Storehouses and Barracks have been burnt—

Unfortunately before the evacuation of the Post was completed, a strong reinforcement of the Enemy, aided by Indians, pressed upon this small detachment, by which Captain Saunders of the 41st and 15 Men were killed; Lieutt. Colonel Bishopp, Lieut^t. Montpesson of the 41st and 15 Rank and File wounded; the wounded were brought over—

Lieu^t. Colonel Bishopp has received three Wounds severe, but not considered dangerous.

By His Excellency's Command

(Signed) EDW^p. BAYNES

Adj^t. Gen^l.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 310.

ADDITIONAL }
GEN^l. ORDER }

Kingston 15th July 1813

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received from Major General De Rottenburg, the official report of

Lieutenant Colonel Clarke of the 2^d Lincoln Militia, of the successful attack made on the Enemy's Post at Black Rock on the morning of the 11th Instant Lieu^t. Colonel Bishopp being unable to write in consequence of the severe wounds he has received.—Lieu^t. Colonel Clarke reports that the objects of the enterprize were atchieved with the utmost gallantry and that by the judicious arrangement of Lieu^t. Colonel Bishopp, the Enemy's Blockhouses, Stores, Barracks and Dock Yard together with a large Vessel were burnt, and all the Ordnance and Stores that could not be removed were destroyed, and the Detachment was on the point of reembarking without having lost a Single Man, when it was warmly attacked by a strong reinforcement of the Enemy aided by a numerous body of Indians who had been enabled to approach under cover of the surrounding Woods, and kept up a galling fire upon the Boats.—The Detachment had 13 rank and file killed.—Lieu^t. Colonel Bishopp, and Captain Saunders 41st Regiment, severely wounded, Lieuten^t. Colonel Clarke, 2^d Lincoln Militia, and Lieu^t. Mompesson, 41st Reg^t. slightly wounded, and 20 Rank and file Wounded.

The Ordnance captured and destroy'd consist of three 12 Pounders, one 9 Pounder, three Six Pounders and about 200 Stand of Arms; 8 large boats and Scows were brought away loaded with Stores—

His Excellency laments that the severe wounds of Lieu^t. Colonel Bishopp, will deprive this Army, for a time, of his gallant and able Services; and is happy to learn, that the wound of Lieu^t. Colonel Clarke is not likely long, to restrain the zeal and energy with which that Officer has so eminently distinguished himself

By His Excellency's Command

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES

Adj^t. Gen^l. NA.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VI (*continued*)

OPERATIONS ON THE FRONTIERS

SUMMER OF 1813

5. NIAGARA FRONTIER: FORT GEORGE, AUGUST 24, 1813

Archives, C. 679, p. 483.

GENERAL ORDERS

Confidential.

Head Quarters St. Davids

23^d August 1813

(*General Orders*)

It being of the greatest importance to effect an accurate reconnoissance of the Enemy's position and strength—the following disposition and movements of the Troops have been approved and will take place tomorrow morning.—

The Troops under Colonel Young (except a reserve of 60 Men with one Gun to be left for the protection of the Post) will be divided into two Columns of equal strength—the right Column with one Gun to march by the road leading from Servos's Mills to Ball's, and take post half an hour before day light in the wood immediately opposite to the Enemy's picquet at Ball's.—Colonel Young will be careful to post this Column so that it may be completely covered from observation on the break of day—the left Column which should consist principally of Light Troops to move by the Lake road & by the Lake side towards the Enemy's Picquets N^o. 1 & 2, which this Column is destined to surprize & cut off, but as this operation is only part of a combined attack

on the other Picquets of the Enemy, and is intended to be simultaneous with them, the attempt is not to be made till the day has dawned.—

The whole of Col. Stewart's Brigade except the Troops under L^t. Col. Battersby will move to the skirts of the wood where one Field piece is usually posted, and will there be formed on the right and left of the road under Cover of the Trees—The Guns upon the road but retired a little out of sight. *L^t. Col. Battersby's Demi Brigade will march by the Path which leads from the Right of the position at the cross roads through the woods towards Law's & M^cKenny's, and will take post in the woods in the neighbourhood of the Enemy's Picquet on the two Mile Creek, which it is intended to attack (M^r. Tho^s. Butler's N^o. 4)

The Troops at Queenstown and 25 Dragoons of Capt. Verner's Troop, will march by the road so as to arrive opposite M^cEachern's at the hour above directed, where they will remain until the attack is announced by the Commencement of a heavy fire—When their object will be to distract the Enemy's attention by a movement on M^cLellan's picquet, & then deliberately retire to their original position at Queenstown.—

50 Men & a Gun to be left for the protection of the Post at Queenstown—the Gun to be pushed to the Angle of the Wood in the rear of the Town of Queenstown to cover the Troops returning.—Four Companies of the Royals with half of the Mounted Men of Captain Verner's Troop of the 19th L^t. Dragoons, one six pounder and one Howitzer will march to the cross roads, where they will be posted in reserve on the road immediately in front of that position—the remaining Company (Royals) and all the dismounted Men of the 19th L^t. Dragoons will protect the post of S^t. Davids.

At the first dawn of day—the Columns destined to act against the Picquets above named will move forward to a simultaneous attack, and it is expected that these picquets

will be surprised and cut off:—Should the capture of the Picquets be effected without difficulty or material opposition, the different Columns will push on towards Fort George, as well with the view of accurately reconnoitering the positions of the Enemy, as also the ground in his front which it might be practicable for us to occupy with advantage in any future operations—an Engineer or Staff Officer will be sent with each column for the purpose of making the reconnoissances, but this circumstance is not to preclude any intelligent Regimental Officer from making such observations as he may have an opportunity of doing, and afterwards communicating his remarks (or sketch) through his Commanding Officer to the D^y. Adj^t. Gen^l. for His Excellency's information.

All Packs are to be left in Camp or Quarters, under a *sufficient* Guard—each Column to have at least one third of its strength in reserve which is not to take any share in the attack, but is destined for the sole purpose of support—particularly in retiring—this supporting party if the Column is moving upon a road should be equally divided on each side of it—

The Officer Commanding the Artillery will have a reserve of Musquet Ammunition in rear of the Center—i.e. in the position at the cross roads—every man to have his full Complement of Ammunition as far as his pouch can contain it, and a spare flint.—

The Commander of the Forces confides the superintendance of this reconnoissance to Major General De Rottenburg, and its execution in the Field to Major Gen^l. Vincent—from the formation of the Country at present the Scene of the operations of the Center division—His Excellency is aware that obstacles will prevent his eye from following the progress of each column, and that he will be deprived of witnessing the gallantry of many a brave soldier—He therefore expects the most extensive exertions of the Talents of every Officer to be employed for the furtherance of this Service—Special

reports of the distinguished conduct of Individuals, will be made by the Officers in charge of columns.

J HARVEY,
L^t. Col. D.A.G.

* [*Note in margin.*] The 3 p^{drs}. attached to L^t. Col. Batters[by's] [Division] remain in Position at the Cross roads.

[*Pencil note at end.*] To shew Capt. Freer.

Archives, Q. 122, p. 158.

(Transcript from the original in the Public Record Office, London.)

Prevost to Bathurst.

Head Quarters, St. Davids
Niagara Frontier
25th August 1813.

N^o. 88.—Extract.

My Lord—

On my arrival at this Frontier, I found 2,000 British Soldiers on an extended line, Cooping up in Fort George an American force exceeding 4,000 men;—Feeling desirous of ascertaining in person, the extent of the Enemy's Works and of viewing the means he possessed for defending the position he occupied, I ordered a general demonstration to be made on Fort George, to commence by the attack and surprize of all the American Picquets thrown out in its front;—This service was executed to my entire satisfaction, the Picquets were driven in, a great part of them being taken, with a very trifling loss, and I found myself close to the Fort, and the new intrenched Camp which is formed on the right of that Work, both of them crowded with men, bristled with Cannon, and supported by the Fire from Fort Niagara on the opposite side

of the River ; but no provocation could induce the American Army to leave their places of shelter, and Venture into the Field, where alone I could hope to contend with it successfully—having made a display of my force in vain a deliberate retreat ensued without a casualty ;—I am now satisfied that Fort George is not to be reduced strengthened and supported as it is, by Fort Niagara, without more troops, the Co-operation of the Fleet, and a battering Train—to accomplish this object a double operation becomes necessary, Fort Niagara must be invested and both places be attacked at the same moment, but my resources and means do not allow me to contemplate so glorious a termination to the Campaign in Upper Canada—

I have the honor to be
 My Lord
 Your Lordship's
 most obedient & most humble Servant
 GEORGE PREVOST

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VI (*continued*)

OPERATIONS ON THE FRONTIERS SUMMER OF 1813

6. NIAGARA FRONTIER : LAKE ONTARIO : YEO'S OPERATIONS, 1813

Archives, C. 1170, p. 317.

G.O.

Kingston 23^d July 1813.

With a view to place His Majesty's Naval Yard at this place upon a more regular and permanent Establishment—

The Commander of the Forces was pleased in the General Orders of the 2^d June last to appoint Captain OConner of the Royal Navy to act as Commissioner.—

His Excellency has now signified his approbation that the following appointments under the Commissioner may take place.—viz^t.—

| | |
|---|--|
| A Master Intendant | } With the Pay of 10/- Army Stg per day each and the usual allowances. |
| A Clerk of the Cheque | |
| A Store Keeper | |
| Two Clerks @ 7/6 ea. p ^r . day | } With the usual Allowances. |
| One Clerk @ 5/- „ | |

These Persons to be selected by the Commissioner from those properly qualified to perform the duties required of them, and their names to be submitted for the approbation of the Commander of the Forces.—

The following mode is to be adopted in making up the Accounts of the Dock Yard.

When the Commissioner has occasion for money to enable him to make the necessary disbursements of the Yard, he is to present a requisition to His Excellency through the Military Secretary, for a certain sum, for which, if approved, a Warrent of import will be granted in favor of the Commissioner, upon the Commissary General.

The Commissioner is required to make up his cash Accounts two monthly from the 25th to the 24th of every second Month—These Accounts to consist of an abstract of disbursements, supported by proper Authority, and Vouched by the different Accounts and receipts of Individuals—The several Pay Lists and every document necessary to prove the expenditure—These Accounts and Vouchers to be in Triplicate—

The Store Accounts to consist of an Abstract of receipts and expenditures properly authorised and vouched—these Accounts are only required in Duplicate, a regular entry of

them being made in a book for the purpose in the Commissioner's Office.

The Cash and Store Accounts being Complete for a period should be transmitted with an Account Current of the former to the Military Secretary's Office at Quebec, from whence they will be sent to the Commissary of Accounts for examination, as is customary with other Departments, who after certifying them in the usual way will transmit them to the proper Offices in England.

The Pay of the Seamen belonging to the Ships of War is to be distributed by the Commissioner two monthly and charged in his abstract of Disbursements, One Months wages out of every two being actually paid to the Men, until they are Six Months in arrear.

When the Commissioner has occasion for Materials of any description, he is to submit a requisition for the same, which after being approved by the Commander of the Forces, will be complied with by the Commissariat, either from the Depots at Quebec or Montreal, or by purchase, excepting for Ship Timber, for which the Commissioner may make his own contracts subject to the approval of the Senior Officer of the Navy present.

The Returns for Provisions for the Artificers and all others employed in the Dock Yard, should be Signed by the Commissioner and receipted by the Person to whom they are delivered.

The Annual demand for Stores from England, which has hitherto been made by the Head of the Quarter Master Gen^l. Depart^t. will now be made by the Commissioner, approved by the Senior Officer of the Navy and transmitted to the Military Secretary's Office, in the same manner as is done by other Departments.

The Pursers of His Majesty's Ships upon the Lakes are required to make up an account of the receipts and issues of Provisions according to the rules and regulations of the

Royal Navy, which Accounts are to be Certified by the Captains of the respective Ships and approved by the Commodore or Senior Officer of the Royal Navy, and then transmitted to the Military Secretary's Office at Quebec, to be forwarded to the Commissary of Accounts for examination &c^a. in like manner as the Accounts of the Commissioner—

The foregoing regulations as far as they apply are to take effect in the Naval Establishment on Lake Erie, which is to be governed by a similar System, and become Subordinate to the Superior Officers on Lake Ontario—

Captain OConner from the Period of his appointment to act as Commissioner the 2^d June and until further Orders, will receive the Pay of Thirty Shillings Army Sterling per day and the Garrison allowances of a Field Officer.

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES

Adj^t. Gen^l.

N.A.

Archives, C. 679, p. 309.

[Endorsement] 31st JULY 1813. M^r. JUSTICE POWELL.

From Powell at York to Prevost at —.

Near York, 1st August 1813.

Sir,

Yesterday about noon the American Squadron consisting of two Ships a Brig & 12 Sail of other Vessels entered the Harbour of York and landed Troops computed at 2000 Men—as they seized upon the flour in Mess^{rs}. Allan & St. Georges Store & shared it out to the Inhabitants it is to be presumed that they do not mean to remain long enough to consume it themselves—The Male Inhabitants very generally dispersed although most on parole allarmed at the Transfer of paroled Militia & some Combattants from Newark to the Interior of the U.S. Major Allan was considered so obnoxious

that He quitted the Town early.—It is said this morning that a reward is offered to apprehend him—The Commissary proceeded to Gen^l. D. Rottenberg. The Cattle which had been provided for Beef were driven off towards the Head of the Lake—The ammunition was removed to the safest place that could be devised ; the Baggage of the 19 Dragoons was also secured as well as the Circumstances admitted—Co^l. ONiel with three officers entered the Town as the Shipping was coming to & proposed risqing to gallop through—

A Message has been sent to the Carrier of your Dispatches not to take them through York & another to Major Herriot to use his discretion in advancing with the Voltigeurs—The squadron had landed a few men on the Beach supposed with Intent to attack the Depôt at Beaseleys but Maj^r. Maule had had the precaution to embarrass the outlet so that their Craft could not pass, upon which they reimbarcked & proceeded to York. The demi Brigade would join Maj^r. Maule last night, but being obliged to embark their Guns in Boats, it is possible they might not venture to proceed. As there was no person left to forward Intelligence to your Excellency unless D^r. Strachan should do it, the liberty of giving you this Intelligence is taken by a person lately Honoured with your Commands to report confidentially on certain Topics.

Archives, C. 679, p. 324.

*From Dr. Strachan and Mr. Grant Powell at York to
Col. Baynes at —.*

York 2 August 1813.

Sir

We beg leave to state for the information of his Excellency The Governor General, that about eleven o'clock on Saturday morning, the enemy's fleet consisting of twelve

Sail were seen standing for this harbour. Almost all the Gentlemen of the town having retired, we proceeded to the garrison about two o'clock, and waited till half past three when the Pyke, the Madison & Oneida, came to anchor in the Offing, and the Schooners continued to press up the harbour with their sweeps, as the wind had become light—three coming too abreast of the town, the remainder near the Garrison. About four P.M. several boats full of troops landed at the garrison, and we having a white flag desired the first Officer we met to conduct us to Commodore Chauncey—

We mentioned to the Commodore, that the Inhabitants of York consisting chiefly of women and children were alarmed at the approach of his fleet, and that we had come to know his intentions respecting the town—that, if it were to be pillaged or destroyed we might take such measures as were still in our power, for their removal, and protection. We added, that the town was totally defenceless, the Militia being still on parole, and that the Gentlemen had left it having heard that the principal inhabitants of Niagara had been carried away captive, a severity unusual in war. Commodore Chauncey replied, that it was far from his intention to molest the inhabitants of York in person or property, that he was sorry any of the Gentlemen had thought it necessary to retire, and that he did not know of any person taken from Niagara of the description mentioned. Col: Scott the Commander of the troops said, that a few persons had certainly been taken away, but it was for corresponding with the British Army. The Commodore told us, that his coming to York at present was a sort of retaliation for the visits our fleet had made on the other side of the Lake, and to possess himself of the public stores, and destroy the fortifications, but that he would burn no houses. He mentioned something of Sodus and the necessity of retaliation should such measures be taken in future.—He likewise expressed much regret at the destruction of our public library on the 27th of April—

informed us, that he had made a strict search through his fleet for the books, many of them had been found which he would send back by the first flag of truce—He then asked what public stores were here, a question which we could not answer. On parting both the Commodore & Col Scott pledged their honor, that our persons and property should be respected, and that even the town should not be entered by the troops much less any Gentlemans House

As we were quieting the minds of the Inhabitants, the troops took possession of the town, opened the jail, liberated the Prisoners, taking three Soldiers confined for felony with them. They visited the Hospitals & paroled the few men, that could not be removed they next entered the Stores of Major Allan & M^r. S^t. George, and seised the contents, consisting chiefly of flour—Observing this we went to Col Scott & informed him, that he was taking private property. He replied, that a great deal of Officers baggage had been found in Major Allan's store, and that altho' private property was to be respected, provisions of all sorts were lawful prise, because they were the subsistence of armies. That if we prevailed in the contest the British Gov^t. would make up the loss and if they were successful their Gov^t. would most willingly reimburse the Sufferers. He concluded by declaring, that he would seise upon all provisions he could find. The three Schooners, which had anchored abreast of the town towed out between eleven and twelve oclock on Saturday night, and we supposed, that the fleet would have sailed immediately; but having been informed by some Traitors, that valuable stores had been sent up the Don, two Schooners came up the harbour yesterday morning—the troops were again landed, and three armed boats went up the Don in search of the Stores. I have since learned that through the meritorious exertions of a few young men two of the name of Platter, every thing was conveyed away, and the boats sunk before the enemy reached the place. Two or three boats

containing trifling articles, which had been hid on the march were discovered & taken but in the main object the enemy was disappointed—as soon as the armed boats returned the troops went on board, and by Sun Set both Sailors and Soldiers had evacuated the town. The Barracks the wood yard, and the Store Houses on Gibraltar Point were then set on fire, and this morning at day light the enemy's fleet sailed.

The troops which were landed act as marines and appear to be all they had on board, not certainly more than 240 men—the fleet consists of 14 armed vessels One is left at Sackets harbour. It is but justice to Commodore Chauncey & Col Scott to state, that their men while on shore behaved well and no private house was entered or disturbed We have the Honor to be

With Respect

Your Most Ob^t.

Hub^{le} Servant

JOHN STRACHAN

GRANT POWELL.

Archives, C. 688c, p. 84.

From Allan at Darlington Township to Baynes at —.

Darlington Township 44
Miles below York 3^d August 1813.

Sir

Having received accounts from York, very diff^t. to what I expected; I am induced to return for a day or so—from Mr. Justice Powell; His Excellency the Commander in Chief would receive the information of the Enemy Fleet and troops to the Number of 340 (only) having reached there on Saturday about 12 oClock—upon their near approach everybody withdrew from Town; myself among the Number;

they soon after getting into the Harbour land their force; and the first thing that was done; by Colonel Scott—the Gentⁿ. I conducted down along with all the Other Officers and Men made Prisoners at Queenstown last Oct^r. was to offer a Reward of 500 dollars to any person who would deliver me up to them—diff^t. partys went into my House and broke open every door, Chest Trunk & Drawer looking & searching for me; at the moment they were coming into the Harbour I rec^d. an Express from the Head Quarters which I forwarded on I also rec^d. a letter from—Burlington Heights which mentioned that they were then attempting to land Men at the Beach from thirteen Vessells, but made very slow Progress having very few Boats, they also attempted to take an Arm'd Schooner through the outlet into the little Lake; our Force was at that time about 320 exclusive of a few Militia & Indians—& more Indians expected—However they embarked all their Men again on the same day without attempting any thing (that was on Friday)—The last thing I did before I left Town was to get a Boat load of Ball Catradges of about 5000 Secured and a Boat load of baggage &c. belonging to a Detachment of 19 Dragoons—all of which are safe by the Exertions of some of a M^r. Playter families to whose house I first retreated.—M^r. Justice Powell by a Note I have just rec^d. from him says he was informed those two boats were found and begs me to explain it—Before they found them the things were all removed. The baggage of the Light Brigade also got up safe notwithstanding his information to the Contrary—

It is not a New thing for me to tell you that not a Single transaction has been done by any individual but what was made known to them.—They broke open my Store because they were informed it contained Flour belonging to Gov^t. they took everything that was in it broke open several Trunks and gave away all their Contents to any person who would take them they burnt a large Quantity of Hemp and other

things took all my Flour away. This was owing to their being informed that I was in the Constant habit of using & sending information to our Army and Aiding the forwarding of troops &c altho I am returning for a day or two—I cannot remain w^h any Safety—the Number of Enemys & Spys are beyond all conception they are allowed to remain and have been all this season altho' well known—without a Military Establishment & Power & that severely exerted—there is no possibility of living in Safety at all—They have destroyed all the Barracks Provisions Store Wood Yard—& Blockhouses on Gibraltar Point—After they had embarked all their troops they land w^h their Boats loaded w^h Men to execute some further information they got.—There was several of the Inhabitants constantly w^h them who are notoriously known to be as great Enemys as are in the Country to w^t a M^r. John Young Merch^t. M^r. Stebbins a Tavernkeeper M^r. Gilbert Blacksmith M^r. *Peters a Lawyer who receives half Pay & a Pension besides*, a notorious man—and a great many in the country well known—In short Commodore Chancy own'd to the Rev^d. D^r. Strachan that he never heard of any place that contained half the Number of persons Publickly known & avowably to be Enemys to the Government & Country to be allowed to remain at rest in there [?] and for own part—I can positively assert if immediate Steps (more ready than by Civil process) is not taken to apprehend & send away those people from the Country the Consequences will be serious—

I take the Liberty of Enclosing D^r. Strachan two notes Inc^d.

This is a very confused letter & perhaps troubling you improperly ; but, had I proceeded on my journey at this time I could have given a great deal of more information. I most fervently pray as does several fond and faithfull Subjects—that some Establishment may be kept at York and that something may be done about taking up those Characters otherwise neither our life or Property is safe when so many

surround us as long as we are liable to be visited by the Enemys Vessels or Boats.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obed. Ser.

W. ALLAN, Major of Militia, U.C.

Major Herriot w^h his party is about 10 Miles above this. I will take them up w^h me.

Archives, C. 730, p. 78.

From Yeo in H.M.S. Wolfe off York to Prevost at —.

His Majesty's Ship Wolfe off York
the 9th of August 1813 $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 A.M.

My dear Sir,

I am sorry to say I have no good news to give Your Excellency as yet, & much fear M^r. Chauncey will not engage if he can help it, except in his own port or in a calm when his schooners would gain him the Victory without his having a shot fired at him. We arrived off Niagra Saturday morning, having had nothing but calm & light airs all the way from Kingston. The Enemy's squadron was at anchor but got under weigh immediately on seeing us—stood out, & shew'd every disposition to engage, but on coming within four miles of us, he fired his broadside (which did not reach half way) Wore round and stood close in with Niagra. On Sunday it was calm, when he sent all his schooners to sweep after us—but about two o'Clock a breeze springing up, we stood for them and it was with some difficulty he gained the anchorage off the river, where he remained all night.

The Pike is a very fine large Ship but appears to be very unwieldy, and unmanageable and from the manner she is worked, should judge is not complete with seamen, the Madison is about the size of the Wolfe sails well & is managed much better than the Pike, the Onida is small & sails bad,

and the schooners tho' formidable in a calm are very contemptible otherwise as they have not the least shelter for their Men.

My hope is they may remain out at night when we may be able to close with them before they see us, and from their numbers they will be much dispersed.

The Royal George sprung a leak last Friday by which great part of her powder was lost—however we have been able to supply her—and tho' we cannot find out the leak, it does not as yet get worse. Last night it blew fresh, And the Melville sprung a leak—but reports it of no consequence.

Procrastination is to us a great evil, as I never witnessed such enthusiasm as there is in every ship in the Squadron.

I communicated with General De Rottingborough Yesterday—but nothing new.

Your Excellency may rest assured that no opportunity shall be lost of bringing them to action, and giving You the first information of anything interesting

I beg Your Excellency to accept my best wishes
& Believe me

My Dear Sir

Your Excellency's

obliged humble Servant

JAMES LUCAS YEO.

Archives, C. 730, p. 81.

From Yeo in H.M.S. Wolfe off York to Prevost at —.

Wolfe off York 11th August 1813

½ past 1 P.M.

My Dear Sir,

Yesterday evening the Enemy's Squadron stood for us with a fine breeze from the East^d.—Our's was becalmed off the Post at 12 Miles Creek.—At sunset a breeze came off the land which gave us the wind of the Enemy, And I stood for

them. On which he immediately stood from us under as much sail as his schooners could keep up with him.

He was in a long line, the Pike, Maddison, Oneida, six schooners and two to-windward to rake our Masts as we came up.—At 11 we came within Gun shot of the schooners when they opened a brisk fire and from going so fast it was more than an hour before we could pass them. at this time all our squadron was two & three miles astern of the Wolfe. on coming up with the Maddison & Pike they put before the Wind made sail firing their stern chase Guns—and I found it impossible to get the Squadron up with them, as the Wolfe was the only Ship that could keep up. I therefore made sail between them and the two schooners to-windward which I captured the Julia & Growler each mounting one long 32 & one long 12 P^s. with a compliment of forty Men.

I am also happy to acquaint You that two of his largest schooners the Hamilton of nine guns & the Scourge of ten guns up-set the night before last in carrying sail to keep from us, and all on-board perished, in numbers about one hundred. This has reduced his Squadron to ten and increased ours to eight but they will take men from the Ships.

I feel confident that by watching every proper opportunity we shall get the better of him, but as long as he is determined to sacrifice everything to his own safety, I shall never in this narrow water be able to bring the two Ships to Action as I have no Vessel that sails sufficiently well to second me.

This conduct He cannot persevere in long for His own Honor as the loss of all his schooners (which I ever must have in my power) will be an indelible disgrace to him, and I am at a loss to know how he will account to His Government for it.

The Pike mounts 28 long 24 P^s. & four hundred and twenty men. The Maddison 22—32 P^s. carronades and three hundred & forty men (*Good Head Money*) Their squadron

took on board the day before Yesterday nine boats full of Troops I suppose to repel boarders.

I am happy to add that the Wolfe has not received any material damage and no one hurt on-board. I am now landing the prisoners and repairing the damages of the Growler who has lost her Bowsprit & otherwise much cut up.

It concerns me to find I have such a wary opponent as it harasses me beyond my strength. I am very unwell and I believe nothing but the nature of the service keeps me up.

I must close this which is more than I have my eyes for these forty eight hours.—and hope my next will be more acceptable.

I have the Honor to remain

Dear Sir

Your Excellency's

obedient humble Servant

JAMES LUCAS YEO

Archives, C. 688c, p. 87.

At a Council held at the House of the Hon^{ble} M^r. Chief Justice Scott in the Town of York on Saturday the 14th of August 1813—

Present

The Hon^{ble}. M^r. Chief Justice Thomas Scott, Chairman

The Hon^{ble}. John M^cGill

The Hon^{ble}. M^r. Justice W^m. Dummer Powell

To His Honor FRANCIS DE ROTTENBURG, President Administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, & Major General Commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &^{ca}. &^{ca}. &^{ca}—

May it please Your Honor,

The Committee of the Executive Council, to whom Your Honor was pleased to refer the consideration of a Letter

from M^r. William Allan, to the Adjutant General Baynes, of the 3rd Instant, transmitted to Your Honor by Command of Sir George Prevost Bar^t., Commander of the Forces, with His Excellency's request that it might be subjected to the consideration of His Majesty's Council for the Affairs of the Province, lost no time in sending for M^r. Allan, to enquire of him, how far his charge of treasonable Practices against the Persons named in his said Letter could be substantiated, in such manner as would justify the Civil Magistrate to secure their Persons, and be likely to produce Legal Convictions—The Committee desired the Attendance of the Acting Attorney General at the Examination of M^r. Allan, the result of which is comprehended in a several Report upon each Case, hereunto subjoined (A)

All which is humbly submitted—

THOS SCOTT Chairman.

Archives, C. 688c, p. 102.

From Strachan at York to de Rottenburg at —.

York 14 August 1813

May it Please Your Honor,

The commands, with which I am favoured by your Honor's letter of yesterday, shall immediately engage my consideration, and I hope, that with the assistance of the other Gentlemen applied to, we shall be able to report in a few days, concerning some of the more notorious characters. The present crisis demands measures to be taken with the disaffected much stronger than any, that can be warranted by the common operations of the law, and they will excite the gratitude of all the Loyal—

I have the Honor to be

With Great Respect

Your Honors

Most ob^t. Hu^{ble} Ser^t.

JOHN STRACHAN.

Archives, C. 730, p. 89.

From Bathurst at Downing Street to Prevost at Quebec.

Secret.

Downing Street 14th. Aug^t. 1813

N^o. 42

Sir

Instructions have been given to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that by the Fleet which is about to sail for Quebec, Three Hundred Seamen should proceed to Canada as a reinforcement to those who are under the command of Sir James Yeo on the Lakes.

Instructions have also been given to the Commander of His Majesty's Naval Forces in America to send forthwith to Halifax Three Hundred additional Seamen, on Your Excellency notifying to him that you consider such an addition to be necessary in order to maintain Our Naval superiority on the Lakes next year.

On their arrival at Halifax Your Excellency will give directions for them to proceed to Quebec as soon as the River St. Lawrence shall become practicable on the close of the ensuing Winter; unless you should think they could accompany the 98th Reg^t. across the Country to Canada in the Winter, without being exposed to any danger or material inconvenience.

As the Seamen who are sent on this Service are all prime Seamen selected from several Ships and as the Companies of those Ships must to a certain extent suffer by being deprived of this description of Seamen, who are scarce in proportion to the great demand for them in Our Navy, I need not state to you how desirable it is that no more should be sent on this Service than what is deemed essentially necessary. If the meditated attack on Sackett's Harbour at the time when the whole of the Enemy's Flotilla are in it,

shall prove successful, there is reason to hope that by the entire destruction of the Enemy's Naval Force on Lake Ontario this necessity may not arise. It is in contemplation of this event, or of some successful operation by the Force under Sir James Yeo in the course of this year, that I have left it with you to decide, whether this additional reinforcement shall be supplied by the Fleet under Sir J. B. Warren for the Service on the Lakes.

I have the Honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

BATHURST

Archives, C. 730, p. 96.

From Yeo at Kingston to Prevost at ———.

Kingston 22^d August 1813

My Dear Sir,

The flag returned from Sacketts Harbour yesterday evening and as I conjectured Chauncy, with all his Squadron are in & in my opinion will not come out until his new Brig is ready which I understand will be soon.

I feel much disappointed at not having been successful in bringing Chauncy to a general engagement & assure Your Excellency that Your good opinion & approval of my conduct affords me much satisfaction & comfort.

The Squadron are now Under Weigh & it was my intention to have sailed this morning—but as I expect the Dover's Men to-night or early to-morrow morning & I co[n]sider it of the first importance their speedy arrival at Amherstburg, I shall wait at Nine Mile Point for them. I shall also Convoy the Vessels with stores for the Army.

I agree most fully with Your Excellency that until the

Enemy's Naval force can be reduced, the ships cannot with prudence or safety cooperate with the Land forces to any extent. I have taken in provisions sufficient to enable me (if necessary) remaining at the Head of the Lake for six or seven Weeks, & I hope long ere that to bring the business to a close, unless as Your Excellency suggests they are waiting the result of their overtures for Peace.

The information received by Colonel Baynes this morning looks as if they meditated an attack on this place, thinking our Squadron & all the forces were up with the Centre Army.

The Commander of the Lady of the Lake told our Officer that it was policy their not engaging us.

I wish Your Excellency to leave me at York, your opinion as to the propriety of our appearing off this place soon, should the Enemy's Squadron continue to remain at this end of the Lake.

I have the Honor to remain with the highest respect

My Dear Sir

Your Excellency's

Most obedient

humble Servant

JAMES LUCAS YEO

Archives, C. 1170, p. 371.

G.O.

Kingston 22^d August 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is pleased to direct the following movement of Troops

Four Companies of the Canadian Fencible Infantry under Major Cockburn to march to prescott to relieve the 2^d Battⁿ. 41st Regiment, which Corps is to proceed to Kingston immediately on being relieved by the detachment Canadian Fencibles.—

A detachment equal to one half the Company of Royal Sappers and Miners, with two Lieutenants Royal Engineers

are to proceed in Five Batteaux with an assortment of Tools and Stores for York—the Boats are to be sent immediately to the Engineers Work Shop, and placed under the direction of Captain Marlow Royal Engineers who will send off the Detachment, as soon as prepared.—

(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES
Adjutant Gen^l. N.A.

Archives, C. 387, p. 100.

From Col. Bruyeres at York to Freer at Montreal.

York 26th August 1813.—

Dear Sir

I beg leave to report my arrival at this Post early this morning. I have made every enquiry to know if any Instructions had been left for my future proceedings, but as I cannot learn that any Orders have been given respecting me, and your Letter to the Adjutant General having stated that it was His Excellency's desire I should hasten to York, I shall remain here to receive any further commands ; in the meantime I shall occupy myself in examining the position, and establishing a Block House for the Troops with Store room sufficient to serve as a Dépôt for a supply of Provisions, and stores.—Under existing circumstances I beg leave to submit the expediency of establishing these Buildings rather retired from the Lake as owing to the difficulty of procuring Cannon, it will be very hazardous to venture any public Buildings or Stores within reach of the Enemy's Armed Vessels. There is an excellent position which I am now going to examine retired about two Miles that will be very desirable for this purpose, which will reduce the Enemy in the event of attack to have recourse to an extensive Land operation.—Any Dépôt that may be formed here can be defended at a much less expence, and with more certainty of success

than what can possibly be accomplished near the Lake, particularly as the want of every article of Materials, and the difficulty of procuring Workmen will make it most immoderately Expensive, and tedious, and nearly impossible to erect any efficient Work capable of resisting a combined attack against a Naval, and Land Force. I would therefore in the present instance confine myself to Buildings least expensive and retired from the risk of immediate destruction.

On leaving Kingston I made every arrangement for the Detachment of Royal Sappers, and Miners to proceed here as expeditiously as possible with a full proportion of Tools necessary for them, and I hope they may soon be sent. The difficulty of obtaining transport will I fear cause much delay. Colonel Baynes assured me that no time should be lost to forward them, and I trust they will not be retarded.

I am very much fatigued with my journey The roads were most abominably bad, and I was unfortunately delayed one day being unable to travel owing to severe indisposition which obliged me to stop at a small miserable Inn in the Woods.

Sir George Prevost's Horses are to proceed towards Kingston tomorrow; the Groom is rather uneasy about Pigeon, he has so severe a Cold that he fears he will be unable to perform the journey. I have recommended him to be led, and only to go by short Stages.—

It is so uncertain where I should meet His Excellency that I think it more adviseable not to run the risk of missing on the Road, particularly as it is possible you may cross the Lake to this place in the Wolfe, as Sir James Yeo sailed for Niagara this morning.

I remain with great truth

Yours very faithfully

R. H. BRUYERES.—

Archives, C. 730, p. 159.

From Yeo off False Ducks to Prevost at —.

His Maj^s Ship Wolfe off the
False Ducks 14th Sep^r. 1813

My Dear Sir

Owing either to mistake or stupidity of Mr. Row the officer of our Boat who left the Ship while I was writing Your Excellency, I have not had an opportunity till this moment of informing You what I am about.

On the 11th Inst: the Enemy's fleet having a partial air succeeded in getting within range of their long 24 pounders & from their having the Wind of us & the dull sailing of the Moira &c I found it impossible to bring them to close action. We remained in this mortifying situation five hours, having only *Six* Guns in all the Squadron that would reach the Enemy (Not a Carronade was fired) When a breeze sprung up I came under these Islands, as the Enemy could not keep the Weather gage but be obliged to give us a chance of closing with Him. This he most carefully avoids and nothing I have been able to do, as yet can induce him to come down. They are now to Windward of the Islands & I am watching any opportunity that may offer of bringing them to action.

I cannot but consider it as fortunate that the Squadron have not received any material damage—which must have been considerable, had the Enemy acted with the least spirit & taken advantage of the superiority of position they possessed.

As it is uncertain when I shall return to Kingston, I wish Your Excellency would order the Drummond or some small Vessel to come thro' the bay of Cante for the Wounded Men.

I have the Honor to be in haste

Your Excellency's

Most obedient humble Servant

JAMES. LUCAS. YEO.

Archives, C. 730, p. 162

From Yeo off False Ducks to Prevost at —.

Wolfe off the False Ducks
Tuesday M^g. nine o'Clock 14th. Sep^r.

My Dear Sir,

M^r. Row has this moment returned & as I cannot spare him I have sent this by the Coxswain of the Boat.

The Enemy's fleet are now in sight to the West^d. and as the Wind is to the East^d. I hope to be able to bring them to close action or lead them out of the way of the Convoy going up.

I have written Captain Drury what I judge best to be done & Your Excellency may rest assured that I will communicate with you by every opportunity.

I have the Honor to remain with respect

My Dear Sir

Your Excellency's

Most obedient humble Servant

JAMES. LUCAS. YEO.

Archives, C. 730, p. 168.

From Yeo, H.M.S. Wolfe, to Prevost at —.

Dear Sir,

Captain oConor is this moment come on board who informs me that Your Excellency has written to me pointing out the pressing necessity there is, of the supplies being forwarded to the Army's immediately.

I have only to assure Your Excellency that this Squadron is ready to perform whichever service You may judge of the most importance & therefore if You wish them to take up

what stores they can carry I request Your Excellency to write me immediately expressing such Your desire *as without a written communication on the subject* I do not think myself justified in giving up watching the Enemy's fleet. The Squadron could take between four & five hundred barrels of Pork.

I have the Honor to be with respect
Your Excellency's
Most obedient humble Servant
JAMES. LUCAS. YEO.

Wolfe 6 o'Clock Thursday 16th Sep^r. 1813.

Archives, Admiralty Papers, M. 389-6, p. 56.

(Transcript from the original in the Public Record Office, London.)

*From Yeo at the Head of Lake Ontario
to Warren at Halifax.*

Duplicate

(Copy)

His Majesty's Ship Wolfe
at the Head of Lake Ontario
29th September 1813.

Sir,

I have the Honor to acquaint you that the Squadron under my command having landed supplies for our Army, at the head of the Lake, proceeded in quest of the Enemy's Squadron, which was discovered (Eleven in number, that of His Majesty's five,) to windward off York, yesterday Morning, the wind blowing strong from the Eastward,—They immediately bore down, in a long extended line, our Squadron keeping their wind, under a press of sail, at 12 o'Clock, the

Pike, Commodore Chauncy's Ship, being nearly within Gun Shot, our Squadron Tack'd in succession, to close with the centre and rear of their line, the Enemy wore at the same time, and the Action became general, at one the Main and Mizen topmast of this Ship were shot away by which she became unmanageable on a wind, and the Pike immediately hauled off, and took her distance for her long Guns, I therefore put the Squadron before the Wind, for a small Bay at the head of the Lake, where he would have been under the necessity of engaging on more equal terms, this however he declined, contenting himself with keeping at the utmost range of his long Guns, and on approaching the Bay, he hauled off, leaving us in this state, perfectly unmolested to refit the Squadron.

I have deeply to lament the loss of our Masts, otherwise we should in a quarter of an hour, have brought them to close Action, but I can assure you, Sir, that the great advantage (of) the Enemy have over us, from their long 24 Pounders, almost precludes, the possibility of success, unless we can force them to close Action, which they have ever avoided with the most studied circumspection.

The Pike had her Main top Gallant Mast, shot away, and appeared cut up in her sails, and Rigging.

The very zealous and Active support I have received from the Captains, Officers, Seamen, and Soldiers on this, as on every other occasion, justly excited my warmest praise.

On the Wolf losing her top-masts, the Enemy directed their attention chiefly to disable the Royal George, but the steady and well directed fire from that Ship frustrated their designs, she was altogether conducted by Captain Mulcaster, with his accustomed energy and zeal.

Captain Spilsbury of the Melville, Lieutenant Charles Anthony, Acting in command of the Moira, during the illness of Captain Dobbs, also merits my mark'd approbation, which is likewise due to Lieutenants Cunliffe Owen, in

command of the Sir Sidney Smith, and Charles Radcliffe of the Beresford.

I return list of Killed and Wounded, and also a statement of the relative strength of the two Squadrons, and have the Honor to be, with great respect

Sir

Your most obedient
humble Servant

(Sig'd) JAMES LUCAS YEO.
Commodore.

The Right Honorable

Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren, Bt.

Commander in Chief

of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels
at Halifax.

Archives, C. 731, p. 5.

From Yeo at Kingston to Prevost at —.

Sir Sidney Kingston

7th Oct^r. 1813.

Sir,

The Courier being on the point of going off I have only time to announce to Your Excellency the arrival of the Squadron off Collinses Bay in the Bay of Cante, where I have left them for the purpose of protecting Kingston to the Westward, and ready to go down either Channel to the East^d. as circumstances may make necessary.

It is with much regret I find the Convoy Captured by the Enemy's Squadron—particularly as it proceeded from the obstinacy or stupidity of Lieut^t. Macklean who instead of keeping in with our shore as he was ordered & even recommended the evening he was captured—stood over to the

Real Duck Islands and the wind coming from the NNE he could not regain his own shore.

The Enterprise which was the worst sailing Vessel, came in safe—she was in tow of the Hamilton at the time they saw the Enemy & recommended Lieut^t. Macklean to go inside the False Ducks—or be cast off—which they did, & had they all followed his example, would have escaped also.

General de Rottenburg will have informed Your Excellency of his motive for himself & the Squadron coming down the Lake—I left him at the Head of the Lake on the 5th in the Evening.

Colonel Drummond with his party will be here this Evening.

I am doing everything in my power to get as many Gun Boats ready as possible & shall man them from the squadron until the Seamen arrive.

Your letter to me left this for York, four hours before my arrival.

I have the Honor to remain with respect

Sir

Your Excellency's

Most obedient humble Servant

JAMES . LUCAS YEO.

Archives, C. 731, p. 13.

From Yeo off Kingston to Prevost at —.

His Majesty's Ship Wolfe, at
Kingston 10th October 1813

Sir,

In consequence of the number of Seamen under my Command being encreased, and many in want of Slop Cloathing

I have to request your Excellency will be pleased to order the quantities of Slops supplied the Army from those intended for the Seamen to be replaced, the quantities were as follows Viz^t.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Blue Cloth Trowsers | 400 pair. |
| Stockings | 450 D°. |
| Shoes | 300 D°. |

I have the Honor to be

Sir/

your Excellencys

Most obedient

humble Servant

JAMES . LUCAS . YEO.

Commodore

Archives, C. 731, p. 21.

From Yeo at Kingston to Prevost at ———.

His Majesty Ship Wolfe, at
Kingston, the 14^h Oct^r. 1813

Sir,

I yesterday received a Letter from M^r. Freer, dated the 8th Instant, communicating your Excellency's desire that the Transports Men should return to Quebec, before the Navigation closes.

I immediately sent to Captain M^cCulloch, on board to enquire if any would Volunteer and to inform them as we were going to Sea tomorrow morning I wished to know if they had any objection going this trip, as it would most likely be short;—They *all* refused to Volunteer, but said they would go up once more with great pleasure, and as I have given all the Dovers, as well as a great number of my old Seamen, and fifty of the new, for the Gun Boat Estab-

lishment, I should be under the necessity of taking a large proportion of Seamen from that Service, were the Transport Seamen to leave me at this moment, and as I consider the Gun Boats, at this critical period, of great consequence, I trust the delay of a Week will not make any material difference.

I have to assure your Excellency that of the four hundred and odd Men that came from England in the Woolwich, I have only three hundred and ten of them left, therefore take away the Dovers, and Transports, the Squadron would be very Weak, that is if I keep up the Gun Boat Establishment.

The Men sent from Halifax, described by Admiral Griffiths, as picked Men, I have had survey'd, by three Captains whose Report I shall transmit, to the Admiralty, and Sir John Warren, there are Americans, who have been taken this War, a number old infirm Men, and Boys, and in short as improper a set of Men, for the Service they were selected for, as could have been pitched upon.

I have therefore been under the necessity of taking out of the Ships our good Men for the Gun Boats, and replacing them with this rabble.

As I hope two or three of the new Gun Boats will soon be Built, I request your Excellency will give orders that a few long 24 Pounders, are sent up, there not being one Gun at this place fit for them.

I have the Honor to be with great respect,

Sir/

Your Excellencys

most obedient

humble Servant

JAMES . LUCAS . YEO.

Commodore.

Archives, C. 680, p. 192.

From de Rottenburg at Kingston to Prevost at —.

Kingston 15th October 1813—

Sir

With reference to my letter of last night I beg to acquaint Your Excellency that the Squadron sailed at day light this morning with a favorable wind which changed before they could reach the Nine Mile Point and has ever since blown furiously from the S. West, consequently they were obliged to return In addition to this unfortunate circumstance intelligence has been received from Sackets Harbour by the return of the Flag of Truce sent there by the Commodore some days ago, that the Enemys preparations for the attempt wherever it is to be made appear to be completed the Harbour is stated to be full of Batteaux, and other Craft—and the rumour among their Seamen is that Kingston is the point to be attacked.—The Officer further says that the Enemy's Squadron is augmented by a New Brig which *he saw* with her Topmasts up and nearly ready for Sea—He likewise reports that the Lady of the Lake arrived on the evening of the 13th from Niagara in *fourteen hours* and that she brought accounts that our Army at Burlington had been attacked and rumour said that the result was unfavorable to us Under all these distressing circumstances Sir James will proceed to station the Squadron for the Defence of Kingston and the obstruction of the Enemys descent, towards Prescott and Montreal by sending all the Light Vessels to the Eastermost Point of Long Island under the direction of Cap^t. Mulcaster and retaining the Two Ships under his own command for the Defence of this Post.—The Flotilla of Gun Boats is also to be stationed at the E. Point of Long Island on their arrival from Prescott, & I beg to suggest the propriety of not ordering forward any further Convoys until the Enemys intentions are more clearly developed—

With regard to the Centre Division as the state of the wind renders it impossible for anything to move by the Lake to its aid at present I can only hope that the next accounts from M. Gen Vincent which I am hourly expecting may be of a more cheering nature than the rumours to which I have above alluded—

I have the Honor to be most respectfully

Your Excellency's

Most obedient and

most humble Servant

FRANCIS DE ROTTENBURG

M. General

Archives, C. 731, p. 47.

From Yeo at Kingston to Prevost at ———.

His Majesty's Ship Wolfe,

at Kingston 17th October 1813

Sir,

I have had the Honor to receive your Excellency's Letter of the 14th Ins^t. as also seen your communication to Major General De Rottenburgh, by which I perceive your anxiety that every effort should be made by the Squadron to stop and defeat the Enemy's Flotilla going down the S^t. Lawrence.

I have therefore (as the only alternative left to accomplish that object) ordered such part of the Squadron, as can act in the River, down to the East End of long or Wolfe Island, until all the Gun Boats, can be collected from Prescott, as that narrow Channel properly Blockaded, will in my opinion leave the Navigation as safe as if the Gun Boats were with the Convoys, that is for a few days until we can be assured of the Enemy's real intentions, for if they go down the River, it would be necessary to have all the Gun Boats, collected and ready to follow them up. I have consulted every Pilot as to the practicability of the two Ships being of

any use in the narrow waters, and they all agree that they can go down the River to Prescott, with a fair Wind, but that, there is not room to manoeuvre or Work them in the narrow Channel, I therefore do not like to risk them unless the Enemys Squadron go down, in which case they are all ready to follow, or to do their utmost in repeling the Enemy on an Attack on this place.

It is with the greatest reluctance I divide the Squadron, and nothing but your Excellency's pointed Instructions on that head could have induced me to do it, as I have a strong pressentiment that Kingston is the place they will Attack, particularly if they hear that we have divided our force—or they may take advantage of it and go up to York, these being my sentiments, I request your Excellency will explicitly, make known to me your opinion as to the disposition I have made that any other arrangement may be made without delay.

I am both surprised and disappointed at Captain Barclays not having written or dictated a line on the Subject of his Action.

Your Excellency having in your note of the 19th of September requested me to make known to you my unreserved Sentiments upon Subjects of Public concerns, was my reason for informing you of the Shipwrights leaving the Yard, as I am convinced that unless some effort is made to retain those we have, and obtain a number of others to join,—the present force of the Yard is very inadequate to the service they have to perform, as the Total Number of Shipwrights now Employed in the Yard only amounts to fifty four.

I have the Honor to be with respect

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient

humble servant

JAMES . LUCAS . YEO.

Commodore.

P.S. 10 P.M. A Man has this moment returned from Sackets Harbour by whom we have received such information, as to make it more necessary than ever keeping the Squadron together a chain of Signal Post[s] are Established between this and the East End of long Island [and] also one on the Island opposite Kingston, I therefore have no doubt but that I shall receive any information of the Enemys Movements in sufficient time to repair to any Point

J. L. Y.

Archives, C. 731, p. 60.

From Yeo at Kingston to Prevost at ——.

Kingston, U Canada,
the 22nd October 1813

Sir,

I have had the Honor to receive your Letters of the 18th and 19th Instant, I have communicated the contents of the latter to Captain M^cCulloch, and I will take care his Men shall quit the Squadron by the end of the Month.

On the subject of the former, I can assure your Excellency I have strong doubts as to the Enemys having launched another Brig, tho' the Officer appears positive.

I sincerely wish any effort or persuasion of mine could cause a proper exertion to be made in our Dock Yard, or that I could hold out any hope, of the new Ships, being ready early in the Spring, but on the contrary I feel confident that unless your Excellency causes some prompt, and active measures to be taken, not one of the Ships will be finished.

I beg leave to submit to your Excellency the propriety of having only one Builder, in the Yard, whom the Men will readily obey, at present M^r. Goudies Men will not attend to M^r. Record, and M^r. Records Men will not Work without the same Pay M^r. Goudies have, this is natural, because both are paid by Government, but if M^r. Goudie could be

prevailed on to Contract for Completing the large Ship, and him to Pay his Workmen, it would then be his Interest, to finish her in the Shortest possible time, he could have no object in interfering with M^r. Record, and M^r. Records Men would no longer have cause to be dissatisfied with their Wages, as whatever M^r. Goudies men might have, it would be a private agreement between Individuals.

If M^r. Goudie comes up under almost any other circumstances I foresee nothing but Cabals and difficulty, for in my opinion he is not to be relied on unless bound down by an agreement.

Two or three Midshipmen having come up without any Letters or Certificates from their Captains I could much wish the Officer in Command at Quebec, would have the goodness to refuse giving them conveyance without some testimonial of their good Conduct as otherwise any Captain wishing to get rid of a bad Character will be glad of the opportunity to send him to the Lakes, and I shall have the pain of sending the poor fellow back again.

The Seamen from Halifax having come up without Slops, and ill clothed, and having to send a supply to the seamen under Captain Pring, I find it necessary to transmit the enclosed which I will be obliged to Your Excellency to forward to Gen^l. Glasgow at Quebec, requesting that Officer to make it known to the Commander of any of His Majesty's Ships, that may Arrive in the River this Year.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your Excellencys

Most obedient Servant

JAMES . LUCAS . YEO.

Commodore

[*Pencil Note.*] Positive information that no new Brig has been launched at Sacket Harbour.

Archives, G. 399.

From de Rottenburg at Kingston to Bathurst at Downing Street.

Kingston Canada UC

25th October 1813

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, on the 18th instant, of your Lordship's circular letter of the 9th of August last.

The list containing the titles of all the Acts which have been passed by the Legislature of this Province, and also a complete collection of all the Laws, I have directed the proper Officer to furnish me with as soon as possible, when I shall lose no time in transmitting them to your Lordship. I cannot however, but express my apprehension that these documents will not be ready in time to be transmitted before the close of the navigation of the river Saint Lawrence, and that consequently their transmission must be deferred till the ensuing Spring. I am induced to express this apprehension from the present embarrassed state of affairs in the Province, especially of the civil departments of the Government; the Enemy being in possession of its Western and Southern Districts, in consequence of the unfortunate result of the engagement between our Squadron and his on Lake Erie, and this important Post now menaced by a very formidable force, which has actually sailed from Sackett's harbour some days ago, destined for it. To the weather, which has been unfavourable to the Expedition since it sailed, is to be ascribed, the Enemy's not having ere now made his appearance off this place; and I have learnt, that from that circumstance he has been obliged to stop at an Island about fifteen miles from hence, where the troops, stated to amount to seven or eight thousand men, are encamped, waiting a favorable change of weather to proceed to the place of destination.

The Government Printing Press having been destroyed by the Enemy when he visited York in April last, the laws of the last Session of the Provincial Legislature have not been printed or generally promulgated—and much inconvenience to the Public Service in other respects has resulted from its loss.

A press however, at this place, which is the only one now in the Province, is employed in Printing those Acts.

I have the honor to be &c^a.

FRANCIS DE ROTTENBURG

M Gen^l. President

Archives, C. 1221, p. 216.

From Prevost at Montreal to Torrens at the Horse Guards.

H.Q. Montreal 30th Oct^r. 1813

Sir

It is with great regret I have to Report to you for the information of H.R.H. The Com^r. in Chief the Capture of the Two Flank Comp^s. of de Wattevilles Reg^t. by the Enemy whilst on their passage from York to Kingston on board a Flotilla of small Transports which were intercepted and taken by the Squadron under Commodore Chauncy these Comp^s. had been ordered forward for the purpose of reinforcing the Centre Division of the Upper Canada Army but while on their route Major Gen^l. de Rottenburg sent directions for them to return to Kingston by means of Small Craft and it was expected that the necessary protection would have been afforded to them by Sir James Yeo's Fleet, The Major General was at the time making a Rapid Movement with a considerable proportion of the Centre Division, for the protection of the Post of Kingston which was threat'ned by the Enemy, the Americans having withdrawn the most of their regular Troops from Fort George and were collecting a large Force at Sacketts Harbour ; for the avowed intention of attacking our position on Lake Ontario in that Quarter.

In representing to the Com^r. in Chief this severe Loss which the Reg^t. de Watteville has sustained in so large a proportion of the Flower of the Corps which their present Quarters affords no opportunity of recruiting I must beg to submit for H.R.H. gracious consideration that in the allotment of Recruits from the Foreign Depot a select detachment may be chosen for this Corps to replace the loss of its Flank Companies, and which I am induced earnestly to recommend from the general steady good conduct of this Regiment since its arrival in the Canadas and which I am desirous should be again completed to its establishment.—

I have &c

(Signed) GEORGE PREVOST
Com: of the Forces

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VI (*continued*)

OPERATIONS ON THE FRONTIERS SUMMER OF 1813

7. MONTREAL FRONTIER: ISLE-AUX-NOIX, JUNE 3, 1813

Archives, Q. 121, p. 281.

(Transcript from the original in the Public Record Office, London.)

From Taylor at Isle-aux-Noix to Stovin at Chambly.

Isle-aux-Noix
3^d June 1813.

Sir,

In the absence of Lieut. Colonel Hamilton, I have the honor to acquaint you that one of the Enemy's Armed Vessels

was discerned from the Garrison at half past five o'Clock this Morning, when I judged it expedient to order the three Gun boats under Weigh, and before they Reached the point above the Garrison, another Vessel appeared in sight, when the Gun Boats commenced firing; observing the Vessels to be near enough the shore for Musquetry, I ordered the Crews of two Batteaux and row Boats (which I took with me from the Garrison to Act according to circumstances) to land on each side the River and take a position to rake the Vessels; the firing was briskly kept up on both sides, (the Enemy with Small Arms and Grape Shot occasionally) Near the close of the Action an Express came off to me in a Canoe, with intelligence that more Armed Vessels were approaching, and about three thousand men from the Enemy's Lines, by Land; on this information I returned, to put the Garrison in the best order for their reception, leaving directions with the Gun Boats and parties, not to suffer their Retreat to be cut off from it, and before I reached the Garrison the Enemy's Vessels struck their Colours, after a well contested Action of three hours & a half, they proved to be the United States Armed Vessels Growler and Eagle, burthen from 90 to 100 Tons and Carrying Eleven Guns each, between them, twelve 18—and Ten 6 Pounder Carronades: Completely equipped under the Orders of the Senior Officer of the Growler, Captain Sidney Smith, with a complement of Fifty Men each;—they had one man Killed, and Eight severely Wounded; We had only three Men Wounded, one of them severely, from the Enemy's Grape Shot on the parties on Shore.—the Alacrity of the Garrison on the occasion calls forth my warmest approbation, Ensigns Dawson, Gibbon and Humphrey's, and Acting Quarter Master Pilkington and Crews of the 100th (Prince Regents) Regiment; and Lieutenant Low of the Marine Department, with three Gunners of the Royal Artillery to each Boat, behaved with the greatest Gallantry, and am particularly indebted to Captain Gordon

of the Royal Artillery and Lieu^t. Williams, with the parties of the 100th Regiment on Shore, who materially contributed to the surrender of the Enemy.

The Growler is arrived at the Garrison, in good order and apparently a fine Vessel, and the Boats are employed in getting off the Eagle, which was run aground to prevent her sinking; I have hopes she will be saved, but in the mean time have had her dismantled, her Guns and Stores brought to the Garrison—Ensign Dawson of the 100th Regiment, a most intelligent Officer, will have the honor of delivering you this,

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obed^t. humble Servant

(Signed) ·GEO: TAYLOR

Major (100th Regiment)

Major General Stovin
Commanding at
Chambly

A true Copy
NOAH FREER
Military Secretary

Archives, C. 1170, p. 225.

By Command.

G.O.

H^d Q^s Kingston 7th June 1813.

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces has great satisfaction in ordering the following General Order, issued by Major General De Rottenburg, to be published, and to add his approbation of the judgment and gallantry displayed upon the occasion by Major Taylor of the 100th Reg^t. and

the Officers and Men employed in the attack on the Enemy's Armed Vessels.

By His Excellency's Command
(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES A.G.

Office of the Adj^t. Gen^l. Dep^t.

G.O.

Montreal 4th June 1813.

The Major General Commanding has received a report from Major Taylor of the 100th Regiment, giving an Account of a Gallant affair which took place Yesterday between the Gun Boats, and Detachments from the Garrison of Isle aux Noix, and the Enemy's Armed Vessels Growler and Eagle from Lake Champlain, having each eleven Guns, with four Officers, and Forty five men on board, and which ended in the Capture of both these Vessels after a well contested Action of three hours and a half.—Major Taylor speaks in high terms of the gallantry of all the Officers and Soldiers employed on this occasion, particularly of Lieut^t. Lowe of the Marine Department, Ensigns Dawson Gibbon and Humphries, and Acting Quarter Master Pilkington of the 100th Reg^t. with their Crews, and reports the material assistance which he received from Captain Gordon of the Royal Artillery, Lieut^t. Williams 100th Regiment with the parties on Shore, who contributed greatly to the Capture of the Enemy.

The Garrison had three Men wounded ; the Enemy one man killed, and 8 severely Wounded.

The Major General Commanding will have much satisfaction in reporting to His Excellency the Commander of the Forces this Action, which does high credit to the arrangements of Major Taylor, and to the conduct and bravery of all concerned—

(Signed) J^s. ROWAN
D.A.A.G.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 313.

G.O.

Kingston 17th July, 1813.

The United States Sloops Growler and Eagle which were captured by the Garrison of Isle aux Noix on the 3^d June, and the American Revenue Sloop President are to be Surveyed with the Ordnance and Stores belonging to them at the time they were taken, and valued for the benefit of the Captors, previous to their being employed in His Majesty's Service—

Major General Sir R. H. Sheaffe is directed to give the necessary instructions for this Order being carried into immediate effect—

These Vessels are to be called in future

The Shannon instead of Growler
The Broke D°. of Eagle
The Icicle D°. of President.

(Signed) EDW^p. BAYNES
Adj^t. Gen^l. N.A.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VI (*continued*)OPERATIONS ON THE FRONTIERS
SUMMER OF 1813

8. MONTREAL FRONTIER: LAKE CHAMPLAIN, JULY 29, 1813

Archives, C. 679, p. 23.

From Sheaffe at Montreal to Prevost at Kingston.

Montreal 5th June 1813.

Sir,

Major General Stovin has transmitted to me a letter which he has received from L. Colonel Murray stating that it is reported "there are 3,000 Men at Burlington, and 2,000 on their march from Greenbush (from Albany the Major General thinks, but why, he does not explain) that about 500 Men have arrived at Champlain with a field piece, and that a number of boats has been collected at the River Chazy: L^t. Colonel Murray says that he cannot procure any person at present to go beyond our line for information, he therefore proposes to M General Stovin sending a respectable reconnoissance to the Village of Champlain—one or both of the flank companies of the 103rd with a detachment of the line from Isle aux Noix—to move so as to arrive at the mouth of the La Collé about Midnight—nine Miles from the ground proposed to be reconnoitred, this movement would be the means of ascertaining whether the Enemy seriously intend an attack on this position or are only circulating reports to distract our attention from sending troops to the Upper

Province" Major General Stovin refers it to me, and states his opinion that the last paragraph of Colonel Baynes letter to him of the 22nd of June renders it necessary that Your Excellency's previous sanction should be obtained for any such operation :—for the purpose of getting information it may not, however, be required ; I have employed a person who has undertaken to procure intelligence—and some may be obtained by sending an Officer with the civilian who was brought down by L. Colonel Boucherville with permission for his being passed from hence into the United States.

The first division of the 13th Regiment arrived yesterday morning. I looked at it on the parade in the evening—its appearance was respectable :—the other division is expected today or tomorrow : I propose retaining the Regiment here until I receive further directions concerning it.

I have the honour to be,

With great respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient,

humble Servant

R H SHEAFFE

M Gen^l &c

Archives, C. 679, p. 295.

Extract of Letter received by Colonel Murray dated Odle Town, July —.

I intended when I was at Odle Town to have gone into Montreal if I could get permission—but I only passed Champ-lain Village since dark and must go to Platsburgh before day light if possible, therefore I must be as short as possible—Since I wrote you last I have been to Whitehall but find nothing there but 20 Batteaux lying on the bank very much racked to pieces and I believe will not be repaired—there

is ten double fortified 12 Pounders on the Wharf which are intended to be put on board of a Sloop.

At Burlington 50 Batteaux 2 Scows with one double fortified 12 Pounders on each of them two Gun Boats and the president 2 Sloops more are fitting for War—by [*sic*] the Wind was so severe Saturday before last that it dismasted both of them and to appearance will not be ready till September—

The Troops are very near four thousand strong fit for duty large Guns the same as I have mentioned before—I am informed the Officers sent to recruit are to stay till September and return, and it is generally believed they intend to pay you a Visit as soon as they can make themselves ready.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 314.

G.O.

Kingston 19th July 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to appoint Noah Freer Esq^{re}. Military Secretary to be Prize Agent to the Army in the Canadas, to whom all returns of Stores &c^a. captured from the Enemy are to be sent, and thro' whom the distribution of Prize Money to the Land Forces will be made—

G.O.

Captain Pryng of the Royal Navy is appointed to the Command & general Superintendance of all the Armed Vessels on Lake Champlain—all Ordnance and Marine Stores belonging to the same, are to be delivered over to that Officer.

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES
Adj^t. Gen^l. N.A.

Archives, C. 679, p. 297.

From Sheaffe at Montreal to Prevost at Kingston.

Montreal 29th July 1813.

Sir,

A Return of the Corps placed under the command of L^t. Colonel Murray, with a copy of the instructions given to him are transmitted herewith for Your Excellency's information: I have added to the instructions an extract from Colonel Baynes's letter of the 20th—as being explanatory of Your Excellency's views in making a movement to Lake Champlain.—

I am informed that the Flank Companies of the 2nd Battalion of the Embodied Militia have evinced a strong desire to be employed in the expedition, and that the first battalion has shewn a similar disposition; but I have not authorized any of the Militia to go on it except twenty of the first battalion selected for the purpose of steering some of the boats: Two three pounders are attached to the expedition, and Captains Eliot and Loring go with it; the latter is well acquainted with the Western Shore to Plattsburg.—

I returned last night from Isle aux Noix—everything was in readiness for the first fair breeze: chance has given the naval command to an Officer who appears to be worthy of being selected for it.—

I did not think it prudent to diminish the Garrison at Isle aux Noix, I have therefore ordered two Companies of the 103rd Regiment, and the two Flank Companies of the 2nd Battalion of Militia to that post, and I have given the command of it to L^t. Colonel Scott, during the absence of L^t. Colonel Taylor.

The Master Builder M^r. Simmons who was at Isle aux Noix, to assist in the valuation of the Vessels captured, assured Captain Everard that in six weeks he could build and

complete a brig to carry sixteen guns; sufficient timber is now deposited on the Island; Two Gun boats to carry long guns of large caliber appear to be a desirable addition to our naval force there: the chief obstacle to an increase of our Marine will be in the difficulty of obtaining Officers and crews.—

I have the honour of transmitting a report which ought to have accompanied that of the inspection of the 13th Regiment—the books are this morning reported to have arrived, I shall therefore proceed without delay to the inspection of them, that the confidential report may be completed and transmitted.

I have received a note (26th Inst.) from Major General Glasgow informing me that the Regiment de Meuron was landing.

I have the honour to be,
With great respect,
Your Excellency's
Most obedient
humble servant,
R. H. SHEAFFE
M. Gen^l.

Whilst writing Mr. Dunlop has called on me with a letter from a friend of his at St. Armand, of which the following is an extract.

26th July 1813.

“I have had an opportunity of conversing with a friend of mine who lately came from Burlington, he gives it as his opinion that an attack is intended soon on the Lower Province he draws his conclusion from certain preparations; there are about four thousand Men collected at Burlington and expect an addition of ten thousand more to come from various quarters, but principally from the Middle States.”

The number of troops stated to be now at Burlington, I believe to be correct—but I think it improbable that so great an addition to it “soon” will be made

R. H S:

Captain Rowan sends to Colonel Baynes other information lately received—and the Return of L. Col. Murray’s Corps.

Archives, C. 679, p. 296.

Unsigned, and undirected.

30th July.

Sir,

In addition to the private communication despatched to you yesterday in charge of L^t. Col Boucherville I have it in command to signify.

The Com^t. of the Forces concludes you have connected a forward movement of the Light Troops on the Cordon in the Montreal District with the Expedition against the American posts on the West shore of Lake Champlain for the purpose of occupying the banks of the Richelieu in sufficient force to ensure the Flotilla’s return without molestation

Archives, C. 679, p. 322.

From Sheaffe at Montreal to Lt. Col. Brenton at —.

Montreal 1st August 1813.

Dear Sir,

On a reference to the G:O: about the periods of departure of the Dragoons it will be found, I believe, that they have left Montreal on the days there directed—you appear to have expected their setting out from hence on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, but that would not agree with the days of

the Month pointed out—but I think it is preferable to have their departure fixed for those days in the week.—

You are becoming more interesting to us, as we, perhaps, to you :—the greatest anxiety is excited for the issue of the contest on Lake Ontario :—I have not heard from Lake Champlain—the flotilla struggled till out of sight of I—aux Noix on thursday—rumour says that an attempt at annoyance was made at Windmill point, from which a threat from L Col Murray caused them to desist.—

May your news be good, very good and ours for you not bad.—

I am,

Dear Sir,

Very truly,

Yours,

R H SHEAFFE

Archives, C. 679, p. 348.

From Sheaffe at Montreal to Prevost at Kingston.

Montreal 5th August 1813.

Sir,

I have the honor of transmitting to Your Excellency the reports of the Naval and Military Commanders of the force employed on the expedition to Lake Champlain ; * L^t. Colonel Murray with the troops and two of the Gun boats returned on the 3rd inst. to Isle aux Noix, and the Vessels arrived there yesterday, the service on which they were sent has been effected in a manner which reflects great credit on the Commanders, and on those who acted under them.

I have addressed to Captain Everard, and through him to those under his command, an acknowledgement of the highly commendable zeal and alacrity with which it was undertaken, and of the promptitude and spirit with which it was conducted and accomplished : he and his party are on their way to Quebec by Chambly and William Henry ;

I have taken measures for having every necessary aid afforded to them.

Captain Pring goes to Quebec to endeavour to procure Seamen. The two Naval Captains strongly recommend that a Brig to carry sixteen guns, and two Gun boats with two heavy guns each be built immediately, to enable us to contend for the superiority on the lake: a sufficient quantity of timber for the three is reported to be ready at Isle aux Noix.

The Troops employed on the expedition, as well as those which were thrown forward in support of it, have resumed their former positions, except the Flank Companies of the 13th Regiment, left for the present at S^t. Johns, and the Flank Companies of the 4th Battalion of Embodied Militia at Isle aux Noix.—

I have the honour to be,
With great respect,
Your Excellency's
Most obedient,
humble Servant,
R. H. SHEAFFE
M Gen^l. &c &c

Since my return this morning from Isle aux Noix, it has been reported to me that the three Canoes for Amherstburgh would set out today.

[*Pencil note in margin.*]* undertaken in obedience to your directions.

Archives, C. 679, p. 340.

From Everard at Lake Champlain to Prevost at —.

HM. Sloop Broke Aug^t. 3rd
Lake Champlain

Sir,

Major General Glasgow has apprized Your Excellency of my repairing with a party of Officers and Seamen to man

the Sloops and Gun boats at the Isle aux Noix, in consequence of your Letter of the 4th ult. addressed to the senior Officer of HM Ships at Quebec, stating it to be of great importance to the public service that an attempt should be made to alarm the Enemy on the Montreal frontier, &c—And agreeable to your wish that I should communicate anything interesting that might occur, I have the honour to acquaint you that the object for which the Corps under the command of L^t. C^t. Murray had been detached having been fully accomplished by the destruction of the Enemy's Block house, Arsenal, Barracks and public Store-houses at Plattsburgh, and the Troops having embarked on the 1st Inst to return, there being neither public buildings nor Store-houses remaining on the West side of the Lake beyond Plattsburgh, I stood over to Burlington with the Shannon and one Gun-Boat to observe the state of the Enemy's force there, and to afford him an opportunity of deciding the naval superiority on the Lake. We were close in on the fore-noon of the 2nd and found two Sloops of about 100 Tons burthen, one armed with eleven Guns, the other with thirteen, ready for Sea, a third Sloop (somewhat larger) fitting out, with guns on board and 2 gun-Schooners laying under the protection of ten Guns mounted on a bank of 100 feet high without a breast work. Two scows mounting one Gun each as floating Batteries, and several field pieces on the shore. Having captured and destroyed four Vessels, without any attempt on the part of the Enemy's armed Vessels to prevent it, and seeing no prospect of inducing him to quit his position, where it was impossible for us to attack him, I am now returning to execute my original orders—

There were several Barracks and store-houses (one not yet finished) erected on the high Bank, in the Rear of the Guns, a small wood immediately behind these buildings, and in the rear of it (the wood) an Encampment of some Extent, the whole would probably contain 5000 Men. I

could not ascertain the amount of their military force, but it appeared about the strength that we had been led to expect. No satisfactory account could be collected from the Prisoners. The statement of the sea-defence is I believe accurate, as the Sloops and Gun Boat were swept within shot in order to attract their fire. I beg leave to add that the best place for effecting a Landing appears to me to be on the North side of the Town nearly two Miles from the Camp and Battery. The alarm occasioned by the appearance of a military force on the shores of the Lake appears to have been very general, our Boats were 20 Miles above Burlington in the night & heard Musquetry and Drums on both sides of the Lake

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's most

obedient & very Humble Servant

THO^s. EVERARD

Commander, HMS. Wasp

[*Endorsed*]

Capt Everards

Report Aug 3rd 1813.

Archives, C. 679, p. 344.

From Lieutenant-Colonel Murray to Major-General Sheaffe.

Isle aux Noix 3^d August 1813

Sir,

The land forces of the expedition that left the Province the 29th July on an enterprise on Lake Champlain, returned this day, after having fully accomplished the objects proposed & having carried every order into execution.

The enemy's Arsenal block-house Commissary's Buildings & Stores at the position of Platsburg together with the extensive Barracks of Saranac capable of containing 4000 troops

were destroyed, some stores were brought off particularly a quantity of naval stores, shot, & equipment for a large number batteaux. The Barracks & Stores at the position at Swanton, on Missisquoi Bay together with several Batteaux at the landing place were destroyed.

A detachment has been sent to destroy the Public Buildings, Barracks, Block Houses &c at Champlain town.

Every assistance was rendered by the co-operation of Captains Everard and Pring RN, commanding his Majesty's Sloops of War Broke and Shannon.

I experienced very great benefit from the Military knowledge & zeal of L^t. Colonel Williams (second in command). I have to report in the highest terms of approbation the discipline, regularity & cheerful conduct of the whole of the troops & feel fully confident that, had an opportunity offered their courage would have been equally conspicuous.

General Hampton has concentrated the whole of the Regular forces in the vicinity of Lake Champlain at Burlington, from the best information said to be about 4500 regular troops & a large body of Militia. The Militia force assembled for the defence of Platsburg disbanded on the advance of the Armament.—The Naval part of the expedition is still cruising on the Lake. For any further information I beg leave to refer you to your AdC Cap^t. Loring the bearer of this despatch.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient very
humble Servant

J MURRAY

L Colonel

Archives, C. 1170, p. 357.

G.O.

Kingston 8th August 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received from Major General Sir Roger Sheaffe, a despatch conveying the Official Report of Lieut^t. Colonel Murray detailing the operations of a combined movement on Lake Champlain, which took place on the 29th July. The object of this Service have been fully accomplished by the total destruction of All the Enemys Arsenals, Block Houses, Barracks and Stores of every description at Platsburg, Swanton and Champlain-town, and the extensive Barracks at Saranaca, capable of containing 4000 Men, have been burnt—All Naval Ordnance and other Stores on the West Side of the Lake have been destroyed or carried away.

This important Service has been performed with a degree of promptness and regularity highly honorable to the Officers directing the Expedition, and without sustaining any loss ; the American Militia assembled at Platsburg having retreated without offering any resistance in defence of that Post.

Lieutenant Colonel Murray reports in strong terms the cordial and spirited cooperation he received from Captain Everard, Captain Prying, and the Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy.—He also states that he was most ably supported by Lieut^t. Colonel Williams of the 13th Regiment, and that the cheerful and spirited conduct of the Troops among whom was a Volunteer Detachment of the Embodied Militia of Lower Canada, combined with the regularity and discipline evinced on this occasion, afforded a sure pledge that had the opportunity offered their courage, and gallantry would not have been less conspicuous.—

The Block Houses and Stores at Champlain-town were burnt by a Detachm^t. of the 100th Regiment under the

direction of Captain Eliot 103^d Regiment, Deputy Ass^t. Quarter Master General.—

His Excellency has also received from Captain Everard of the Royal Navy, to whose prompt, zealous and able assistance, His Excellency feels highly indebted, a report informing him that after having co-operated in the compleat accomplishment of the Service above stated, he proceeded with His Majesty's Sloops Broke and Shannon and a Gun-boat to Burlington, where he found the Enemy's Flotilla, superior in force, moored under the protection of a high bank, on which were placed a numerous Artillery, supported by a strong body of regular and other Troops, under Major General Hampton, who was reported to have collected all the Troops in the vicinity of the Lake, amounting to about 5,000.—

Captain Everard proceeded Twenty Miles above Burlington, captured and destroyed four Vessels within sight of the Enemy's Armed Ships, when finding that they could not be induced to venture from a position in which it was impracticable to attack them, and every object of the Service being fully achieved, he returned with the Armed Vessels to the Isle aux Noix on the 4th Instant, the Land Forces under Lieut^t. Col^l. Murray having arrived the day preceding.—

By His Excellency's Command

(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES,
Adjutant Gen^l. N.A.

Archives, C. 680, p. 38.

Sinclair at Montreal to Sheaffe at —.

Montreal 9th Sep^r. 1813

Sir,

I was informed while at St. Armands & Mississqui Bay on Tuesday, last Saturday the 4th US. Regiment embarked and went down

as far as Colchester point (about 8 miles) returned, and disembarked in the evening at $\frac{7}{8}$ past 7; next day the 11th Reg^t. did the same—General Parker arrived from Boston on Monday as second in Command is said to be Federal, and a good officer, he passed last winter at Burlington 200 one years men had arrived there & 300 more were daily expected, previous to which the regular force was from 4 to 5,000 out of which 1,200 are reported to be Sick—M^r. Riter says that at any time he can obtain by means of confidential agents sent from the Bay any further information you may wish for if so directed

I have the Honor to be Sir
 respectfully y^r. ob^t. &c
 JOHN SUTH SINCLAIR
 Captⁿ.

Archives, C. 680, p. 43.

From Sheaffe at Chambly to Prevost at Kingston.

Chambly 9th September 1813.

My dear Sir George,

I returned from Isle aux Noix yesterday evening—Captain Pring had sailed with the two Sloops, and three Gun boats before I went there—his object was to cut off some part of the troops in the boats, in which intelligence had been received of their having embarked at Burlington to cross over to Plattsburgh :—it is said that the fourth regiment only embarked, and is destined for Sacketts Harbour—I expect to hear more respecting it in the course of the day :—I have seen De Meuron's Regiment this morning, and have been much pleased with its soldierly appearance—unfortunately it is weak in Officers—in other respects it seems to be in a very efficient state :—grey trowcers are providing for them—their present dress is White cloth Breeches and Black Leggins.—

I have not received the official report of the apprehension of the Deserters from that corps—but from what I have heard of the circumstances attending it the conduct of Ensign M^cQuarters of the Militia and of the party with him was highly commendable—it was composed of some of the 13th Regiment and of the Militia—Sergeant Hoburn of the 13th particularly distinguished himself by his spirit and activity—he killed one and wounded another with his pike—the Deserters fired several times at the party but without doing any Mischief:—three of them were killed, three wounded and taken, and three escaped supposed to have been more or less wounded—the encounter happened at night:—the two Men mentioned in a former letter as having tried to persuade some Men to desert have not been discovered.—

I have moved L. Colonel De Salabery's Corps to L'Acadie, and the Canadian Fencibles from La Prairie to St. Phillip,—I have attached some Dragoons and two three pounders to L. Col: de Salabery's Corps.—

All the 13th Regiment is now divided between St. Johns and Isle aux Noix and the three troops of the 19th Reg^t. are all on this side of the St. Lawrence. L. Colonel De Salabery has represented the necessity of having a hundred of the Sedentary Militia employed in renewing the obstructions on the communications towards the line—of which I shall apprise M General Glasgow by this night's post.—I beg leave to recommend to your consideration the expediency of calling out an additional body of Militia—the harvest is now generally in:—it is stated that the Enemy is bringing their Militia out for three months with a promise that if they will go where they are ordered during that period, they shall not be called out again.—I am just going to look at the other troops here.—

I am,

My dear Sir George

Your very devoted faithful Servant,

R. H. SHEAFFE.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VII

OPERATIONS IN THE LAKE ERIE REGION, 1813

1. THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE, September 10, 1813
2. THE BATTLE OF THE THAMES, October 5, 1813
3. NANTICOKE CREEK, November 13, 1813
4. McCRAE'S HOUSE, December 15, 1813
5. DELAWARE DISASTER, March 4, 1814



NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VII

OPERATIONS IN THE LAKE ERIE REGION, 1813

I. THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE, SEPTEMBER 10, 1813

Archives, C. 679, p. 103.

From Procter at Sandwich to McDouall at —.

Sandwich June 16th 1813

My dear Sir,

Your Letter of the 10th Ins^t. was the most agreeable one I have received for some Time past; and I most heartily congratulate you on the brilliant Result of the judicious and gallant Attack of the 6th Ins^t. The Enemy are indebted entirely to their Flotilla, for their late Successes. We are anxiously looking for a Reinforcement of Seamen, who I hope can be spared from the lower Lake, tho' I am fully aware that the Enemy are not idle at Sacket's Harbour: neither are they, I apprehend, at Presqu'ile. Captⁿ. Barclay is endeavouring to ascertain their real State. I am surprised they have not appeared on this Lake. We are well aware of the Necessity of giving the first Blow, indeed we owe every Thing to our having done so. Captain Barclay has, I believe, written urgently to Sir James Yeo, on the Necessity of our having Seamen without Delay. If I had a regular Force, on which alone I could place any Reliance, I could give an Impulse to my Indian Force that would enable them to feed

at the Enemy's Expence. At present, they are not half fed, and would leave us if they were not warm in the Cause. The Want of Meat does operate much against us. As does the Want of Indian Arms and Goods. In Short our Wants are so serious that the Enemy must derive great advantage from them alone. Surely M^r. Couche need not have kept us so entirely without Money, as well as Meat. I am, however, full of Hope that we shall stand our Ground; trusting that every aid, and Supply will be afforded us as soon as possible. From the Head of the Lake, I should suppose that the land Carriage to the grand River is practicable, and thence by Water to Long Point, is certainly so. Provisions Indian Arms, and Goods can undoubtedly be sent, and some Exertions may be expected as these Articles cannot be dispensed with.

Colonel Nichol is fully qualified to direct the Transport in Question. I have sent one of the Commissariat to meet the 41st on the Thames, and also some Boats for their Conveyance. The last Letter I received f^m Dickson was dated the 22^d of March, nor have they at Mackinac heard from him. He promised to be here in June early. I am very anxious to hear from him, tho' every Person speaks confidently of his soon coming. The Enemy's Emissaries are availing themselves with no little Effrontery of Circumstances unfavorable to us, and have effected the Defection of a Few Indians. They were sending Wampum to M^r. Harrison. I hope we shall be able to remedy the Evil, and punish Individuals. You will perceive a Necessity for Troops, to inspire Confidence, and restrain the Evildisposed. I fear this Circumstance may delay the Indians a Couple of Days longer, however annoying it cannot be helped. I shall council with the Indians and endeavour to persuade them to take a Few of M^r. Harrison's Cattle. They are however very wild from having been fired at often. I feel no small confidence of Supplies from your being where you are. M^{rs}. &

Miss Procter desire to be kindly remembered to you, as does Harry.

Believe me, My dear Sir
 ever truly Yours
 HENRY PROCTER

The Want of some Officer here of the Adjutant General's Department has caused me much Dissatisfaction.

H P

Archives, C. 679, p. 107.

From Vincent at Forty Mile Creek to Prevost at Kingston.

40—18th June 1813

Sir,

I have just received the enclosed letter from Captain Barclay and I think it so very necessary that the remainder of the 41st Regiment should be sent forward immediately for the purpose of destroying this Fleet at Presque Isle—that I shall not hesitate in giving every assistance to Captain Barclay—

Captⁿ. M^cDouall will explain to your Excellency my intention.

I have the Honor to be
 Sir your Obedient
 humble Servant
 JOHN VINCENT
 Brig Gen

Archives, C. 730, p. 10.

From Barclay at Long Point to Vincent at —.

HMS. Queen Charlotte Long p^t.

June 17th 1813

My dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter by Capt: Finnis, and most sincerely congratulate you on your late signal

successes, so well timed as to take ample satisfaction for the transient success of the enemy at Fort George.

I reconnoitered Presque'isle Yesterday and found two corvettes in a very forward state indeed—they being both launched—and their lower masts in Such a force, with the very backward state in which I am sorry to state the Detroit is in, must give the Enemy a very great superiority on this Lake—taking also into consideration the Men I have—the badly organization even of those—together with the great want of stores at Amherstburg renders the prospect rather gloomy—Nor can any thing clear the cloud except an immediate reinforcement of troops to enable Gen^l. Proctor to join with me in an attack on Presque'isle, and destroy the Enemy's Squadron before they can get quite ready.—

From the appearance of Presque'isle a considerable force will be necessary there is a camp there sufficiently large to contain from 6 to 700 men—the entrance is defended by two blockhouses—and a small redoubt—but I saw nothing to render the consequence of a vigorous attack ever doubtful. I proposed the measure to Gen^l. Proctor, but he cannot spare the men—he will grant a large body of Indians—which will be a noble auxilliary to any force that may be sent for the desirable purpose of utterly destroying the only naval force the enemy have on this Lake—

I have written to Sir James Yeo—and I hope that through him His Excellency the Governor will afford you the means of assisting me in this enterprize; that the event may be honorable to His Majesty's Arms, and beneficial to the Country—

I have thought fit to send L^t. Garden of the Newfoundland Reg^t. with this despatch fearing it might fall into improper hands which this country so much abounds with—

I have the pleasure also to state the safety of 300 barrels of Pork—which I have taken measures to get to Amherstburg immediately—

I beg you will cause the letter addressed to the Commodore to be immediately forwarded, as I deem it to be of the utmost consequence that he should know the enemy's preparations on this lake—that he may give me a proportionate force to act against them

I hope soon to address you at Fort George

In the mean time believe me

Yours most faithfully

R H BARCLAY

P.S. Captain Finnis gave me great hopes that there were four Companies of the 41st Reg^t. coming here. I sent a Militia Officer to apprise them of my being here with part of the Squadron, that I might save them a march of 200 Miles—by giving them a passage to Amherstburg—How much disappointed I [was] when I found there was only one Company I leave you to imagine—as I thought [this was] the long wished for force, to enable Gen^l. [Procter] to assist me with troops to destroy the nest at Presque isle—

I shall send part down in battoes from here with the pork—and take the remainder with me in the Queen Charlotte in a few days—The Officer met them at the Grand river—they will be here tonight.

R H B

Archives, C. 679, p. 113.

From Prevost at Kingston to Procter at —.

Head Quarters—Kingston

20th June 1813.

Sir

In addition to my letter of the 14th Inst^t. (whereof a duplicate is herewith transmitted) I have to inform you that Major General de Rottenburg (whom I have appointed to the command of the Forces serving in Upper Canada) has received my directions to push on the remainder of the

41st Reg^t. from the head of Lake Ontario to Amherstburg & also the other reinforcements & supplies intended for the right Division of the Army of Upper Canada which you command.

The supplies are to consist of a £1000 in specie—£2000 in Army Bills—as much Salt Pork as can be procured—some clothing & all the shoes which could be collected by Captⁿ. Chambers, together with a proportion of Intrenching tools, & some articles for the Naval Dep^t.

Encourage as much as possible the exertions of the Navy ; bring forward the united power of both services to crush the Enemy's endeavours to obtain the ascendancy on Lake Erie when a favorable opportunity presents itself, in short persevere in those judicious exertions which distinguish your command & are so honorable to yourself & acceptable to H's Majestys Gov.

[*Not signed.*]

Archives, C. 730, p. 27.

*From Barclay on board H.M.S. Queen Charlotte to Procter
at ———.*

HMS: Queen Charlotte

June 29th 1813

Sir,

In reply to your letter, requesting a statement of what is wanted to make His Majesty's Squadron effective on Lake Erie, that you might transmit it to His Excellency the Governor in chief—

I have to state that there is a general want of stores of every description at this Post—but more especially *Iron* for chain plates, and other uses—all of which have been demanded long ago, also an abstract of former requisitions has been sent by me to hasten the supply of those things which I judged indispensibly necessary.

The Detroit may be launched in ten days, but there is no chance of her being ready for any active service until a large proportion of stores, and Guns are sent here—And

even admitting that she could be equipped—there is not a seaman to put on board her. The absolute necessity of Seamen being immediately sent up is so obvious that I need hardly point it out to you—The Ships are manned with a crew, part of whom cannot even speak English—none of them *seamen* and very few even in numbers.—The Enemy have two corvettes in a forward state at Presque'isle—and from their resources being so contiguous, I have no doubt but that they will be ready to sail very soon in a more superior force than any exertion of mine can get ready to oppose them.

I have repeatedly pointed out to Commodore Sir James Yeo the manner in which the Squadron under my command is manned—and I have no doubt of his sending as many seamen as he can spare—but I have little hopes of his sending a sufficient number, until some method is adopted to get another supply of good Seamen from England or Quebec—

A party of 12 good shipwrights is also much wanted here—the builder represents that his present party are most ignorant of their profession—and the difficulties he labours under from that circumstance must be very great. If His Excellency would cause a party to be sent here; in the event of damages by action taking place they could soon be repaired and the squadron rendered effective again—At Present when any repair or *alteration*, is required (of which many are indispensibly requisite) from the small number of men employed, every thing must stand still until that is finished. Such is the case at present but under every disadvantageous circumstance The Detroit will be fully ready to receive her Guns—and men, as soon as they are sent up—

I am Sir

Your most obd^t. &

H^{ble}. Servant

R. H: BARCLAY Com^g.

HM Ships & Vessels on Lake
Erie &c.

Archives, C. 679, p. 197.

From Barclay at Long Point to Prevost at ———.

Extract from a letter from Capt: Barclay, dated
Long Point July 6th 1813.

“I enclose a Statement of the Force of the Rival Squadrons, & if prompt assistance is not sent up, altho’ my Officers & Crews will do every [thing] that zeal & intrepidity can do the great superiority of the Enemy may prove fatal.

“I write this to Your Exc^o. in the hope that you will take the Squadron on Lake Erie into consideration, & that you will see the immense advantage that will accrue to the Enemy, by being enabled to transport Troops, either to annoy the Right of the Army under Gen^l. De Rottenburg or to cut off Gen^l. Procter’s Communication with the Lower Province, except by land.

Indeed the whole line under Gen^l. Procter must lay open to the Enemy in the event of their being able to make His Majesty’s Squadron retire.

The Detroit will be ready to launch on the 20th Ins: but there is neither a sufficient quantity of Ordnance, Ammunition or any other Stores, & not a man to put in her.

If that vessel was on the Lake I would feel confident as to the result of any action they might choose to risk; but at present, altho’ for the good of His Majesty’s Province I must attack, cannot help saying that it is possible that they may have an advantage tho’ I trust not a decided one

I have communicated with Sir J. Yeo on the same Subject, & if he from the exigencies of the Service on Lake Ontario will not admit of his sending many Seamen, even 50 would be of the greatest Service at present, but it will require at least from 250 to 300 Seamen to render His Majesty’s Squadron perfectly effective.

I have &c

signd. R H. BARCLAY

S.O. on L.E.

A Statement of the Forces of the American Squadron, as last reconnoitred in the Harbour of Presque Isle, June 28th

| | |
|--|---|
| Two Brigs or Corvettes, in a forward state | } Number of Guns unknown, but armed & manned. |
| Seven Schooners | |
| Two Brigs | |

The Corvettes appear to be both as large as the Queen Charlotte, but they are still in the inner harbour, not rigged or armed, but from their resources being so near at hand, I cannot reasonably expect they will be long in that Situation

(sign'd) R H BARCLAY

S.O on L.E.

Archives, C. 679, p. 216.

From [Prevost] at Kingston to Procter at —.

H^d Q^s Kingston

11th July 1813.

D Sir,

Having sent Cap^t. M^cDoual to England with despatches your letter of the 29th in^t. addressed to him I opened I was much pleased to find it contained a report of M^r. Dickson's arrival at Mackinac on the 11th—Your wants have been supplied as far as I had the ability of doing so—In addition to the specie & paper money & articles of clothing forwarded for the right division from here in charge of Cap^t. Chambers & L^t. M^clean a considerable supply of Shoes, Trowsers as were embarked in a flotilla going to York a few days ago for Detroit & Michillimackinac—The Ordnance & Naval Stores you require must be taken from the Enemy whose resources on Lake Erie must become yours—I am much mistaken if you do not find Cap^t. Barclay well disposed to play that game—I conclude the whole of the 41st Reg^t. is placed under your command. The presents for the Indians are not arrived from England, but I shall direct 200 Guns

A STATEMENT OF THE FORCE OF HIS MAJESTY'S SQUADRON EMPLOYED LAKE ERIE.

| Name. | Guns. | Calibre. | Canads. | Newf'dld Regt. | 41st Regt. | Total. |
|---|-------|--|---------|----------------|------------|----------|
| Queen Charlotte . . . | 18 | 24 pd. Carronades | 40 | 25 | 45 | 110 |
| Lady Prevost . . . | 12 | 10 12 pd. Carrdes. & 2 long 9 ^s | 30 | 10 | 36 | 76 |
| Genl. Hunter . . . | 6 | 4 long 6 ^s & 2 18 pd. Carrdes. | 20 | 4 | 15 | 39 |
| Erie . . . | 2 | 1 traversg. long 12 p ^r & 1 12 pd. Carronade | 6 | 4 | 5 | 15 |
| Little Belt . . . | 2 | 1 traversg. long 12 p ^r . & 1 24 pd. Carronade | 6 | 4 | 5 | 15 |
| Chippawa* . . . | 2 | 8 Inch Howitzers | 6 | 7 | .. | 13 |
| Detroit pierced for not yet launched | 20 | | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 62 | | 108 | 54 | 106 | 268 Men. |

* left with Genl Procter.

(sign'd) R. H. BARCLAY.
S.O. on L.E.

for them to be purchased at Montreal & forwarded to you with a proportion of powder & ball by the Ottawa—I request you will communicate with me upon all occasions with the characteristic frankness which distinguishes a zealous & good soldier.

Yrs
[*Not signed.*]

Archives, C. 679, p. 220.

From Procter at Sandwich to Prevost at —.

Sandwich July 11th 1813

Sir,

I did myself the Honor of addressing your Excellency on the 4th of July, and feel it incumbent on me to send you the enclosed Copy of a Letter, which I have received from Major General de Rottenburg. If I should appear, to your Excellency, to err in so doing, I hope it will be attributed to Zeal alone. My surprise and Concern were equal on the Reading of the said Letter. I beg Leave to say that we are fully confident of every Aid from your Excellency; and of the fortunate Result of the Contest if we are allowed to benefit by your consideration for us, but, I am, unfortunately, so situated, that, your best Intentions towards me are of no avail. By my Brigade Major, I also was informed that the Major General “could not act in Conjunction with me, and Captain Barclay on the Upper Lake at present; that he must first secure the Command of the lower Lake; after which there will be no Difficulty in recovering the Command of the Upper One.” With all due Deference, I beg Leave to dissent from the above. If the Means had been afforded me, which were no more than what Your Excellency has repeatedly directed should be sent me, I could, in all probability, have effected the Destruction of the Enemy’s Vessels at Presqu’isle, and have secured the Superiority of this Lake,

and also, in so doing, have made a powerfull Diversion, in favor of the Centre Division. I am further of Opinion, that if we lose the Superiority of this Lake it will not be recovered without much Difficulty. M^r Dickson might also have been landed on the Enemy's Flanks, or in his Rear. Since I have been in this District a Retreat from it has never once occurred to me. It would be impossible to retreat from it. The very Attempt would make the Indians our Enemies. Nor should I conceive the Province lost, tho' certainly in Danger, in the Event of any Disaster on Lake Ontario, provided your Excellency's Consideration for us was allowed to benefit us. There has uniformly been so much Delay in sending me the Reinforcements directed to be sent me, that they have always arrived too late, for us to profit fully of them. I shall make some Attempt on Sandusky, as I cannot venture to attack Presqu'ile without the Remainder of the 41st Reg^t. Captain Barclay with all his Means goes to Long Point to bring Lt. Colonel Evans, and in the Hope of finding Naval Stores there and Sailors. If the Enemy's vessels should be out an Engagement cannot be avoided, and if they are not yet ready he will endeavour to keep them in the Harbour. Besides the Detachment of the RNF Land Reg^t. I have been obliged to send fifty Men on Board the Vessels from the 41st Reg^t., and some of the Detachment under L^t. Colonel Evans will also be detained from necessity.

I have the Honor to be

with Respect

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant

HENRY PROCTER

Brig. General Com^d.

Archives, C. 679, p. 240.

From Prevost at Kingston to Procter at ——. [Rough draught, unsigned.]

Kingston 12th July 1813.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your letter of the 4th inst.—the wants you have expressed in it having been made known to me by your letter to Cap^t. M^cDoual of the 27th ulto. I have endeavored to supply them as far as I had the means as you will find by my letter to you of yesterday's date in addition to the supply of Army Bills & Specie therein ment^d. as going to you by Maj^r. Chambers & L^t. M^cLean I shall direct a further supply to be sent to you from the Commissariat.

The whole of the 41st Reg^t. will either be on the way or with you before this reaches you and I trust enable you by the cooperation of M^r. Dickson & his Warriors of whose near approach I am happy to hear from you—to obtain from the Enemy their supplies of provisions as well as ordnance stores what under the present circumstances of the Country I cannot hold out to you any prospect of receiving from me—directions have been sent to Montreal to forward to you from thence by the way of the Ottawa a supply of Indian Arms & Ammunition—but by this circuitous & expensive route you must not expect the supply to be very great. Some petty officers & seamen will be sent forward for the service of Lake Erie—by Commodr Sir James Yeo by the first opportunity.

When the Indian presents arrive your wants on this head shall be attended to—

Fully relying upon the exertions of yourself & Cap^t. Barclay to prevent the Enemy from gaining any advantage upon your frontier—what may affect the operations of the

Army under Majr Gen^l. De Rottenburg & referring you to my letter of yesterday

Archives, C. 679, p. 224.

From Procter at Sandwich to Prevost at —.

Sandwich July 13th 1813

Sir,

I have already acquainted your Excellency that Captain Barclay was to sail with all his Vessels for Long Point, where he is to embark L: Col^l. Evans and one Hundred Men of the 41st Reg^t; and in the Event of the Enemy's Vessels being still in the Harbour of Presqu'isle, to endeavour to keep them there, untill I can send him Assistance, which can be soon done, if Sailors are sent immediately, as I can find Guns that will sufficiently Arm the New Vessel, the Detroit, until those intended for her shall arrive. The Detroit will be launched in two Days, which I am extremely anxious for as she will then, in every Respect, be in much greater Security than on the Stocks. I beg Leave to observe that even an Hundred Seamen pushed on here immediately would, in all probability, secure the Superiority on this Lake; at all Events enable us to appear on it, until further Efforts may be made. I am already weakened on Shore by my Efforts to enable Captain Barclay to appear on the Lake. If he should receive an hundred Seamen, I shall be necessitated to send more Soldiers on Board the Vessels to endeavour to supply the Dificiency he labors under, both in Respect to the Number and the Quality of his Sailors. I have the Mortification to find that my Indian Force, is not a disposable one, in some Measure from the great Disproportion of my regular Force. The Indians must be immediately employed, and I am necessitated to yield to their unanimous Desire of going to the Miami instead of Sandusky. I shall do my best tho'

I cannot take heavy Ordnance, or have the assistance of the Navy. The Reinforcements which have been reluctantly afforded me, notwithstanding your Excellency's Intentions, have been so sparingly and tardily sent me, as in a considerable Degree to defeat the Purpose of their being sent. I have no Hope of any Aid from the centre Division, where our Situation is little understood, or has ever been a very secondary Consideration. Three Hundred Sailors are requisite to man His Majesty's Vessels on this Lake.

I have the Honor to be

Sir,

Your Excellency's Obedient

Servant

HENRY PROCTER

Brig. General Com^d.

Archives, C. 730, p. 33.

*From Barclay, H.M.S. Queen Charlotte, at Long Point
to Prevost at —.*

H.M.S. Queen Charlotte

Long point—July 16th 1813

Sir,

The present state of His Majesty's Naval force on Lake Erie induces me to call your Excellency's serious attention to it—more particularly as the means that I possess, have been so entirely misrepresented.

On my taking the command here, I instantly reconnoitred the Enemy's naval stations, and on finding so great a force getting ready at Presqu'isle—I judged that an immediate attack by Land and the Lake would decidedly be the best mode of annihilating their naval equipments at once—Under that impression I wrote to Gen^l. Vincent for a sufficient body of regulars, to join what Gen^l. Procter could bring with him

from Amherstburg, and a body of Indians (which he could at all times command) to enable me to attack Presqu'isle at once—Gen^l. Vincent having promised the remainder of the 41st Reg^t. I sail'd from this bay, to Apprize Gen^l. Proctor of it—He perfectly coincided in the propriety of the measure and prepared to come down with his troops and Indians—but, just when all was ready Gen^l. de Rottenburg gave him to understand that no assistance could be given from that quarter, he was obliged, in consequence to desist from an enterprise for which he had not sufficient numbers to make the success even probable—

I left Amherstburg with all the vessels that I could employ as men of war—and manned with the former Canadian crew, strengthened by 50 of the 41st Reg^t.—but our actual force being so much inferior to that of the Enemy, when they get equipments for them renders the situation of this squadron in a most hazardous situation—I have further received from L^t. Colonel Evans 70 of the 41st Reg^t. and intend proceeding early tomorrow for Presqu'isle, and take advantage of their not being yet on the Lake, and endeavour to prevent it by a blockade until the Detroit is ready for sea—But that circumstance will never take place, if seamen, and ordnance, together with stores of every description are not immediately sent up—It is the more to be insisted on, as if the Enemy do gain the ascendancy on this Lake, all supplies must necessarily be cut off.

I enclose a statement of the force of the rival squadrons, and if prompt assistance is not sent up, although my officers and crews will do every thing that zeal and intrepidity can do; the great superiority of the enemy may prove fatal—

I write this to Your Excellency in the hope that you will take the squadron on Lake Erie into consideration—and that you will see the immense advantage that will accrue to the Enemy by being enabled to transport troops either to annoy the right of the army under Gen^l. de Rottenburg, or to cut

off Gen^l. Procters communications with the lower province except by Land—

Indeed the whole line under Gen^l. Procter must lay open to the Enemy, in the event of their being able to make His Majesty's Squadron retire—

The Detroit will be ready to launch on the 20th instant— but there is neither a sufficient quantity of Ordnance, Amunition or any other stores—and not a man to put on her— If that vessel was on the Lake I would feel confident as to the result of any action they might chuse to risk—but at present although for the good of H.M. Provinces I must attack them— I cannot help saying—that it is possible that they may have an advantage—though I trust not a decided one—

I have communicated with Sir James Yeo on the same subject—and if he, from the exigencies of the service on the Lake Ontario will not admit of his sending many seamen, even fifty would be of the greatest service for the present but it will require at least from 250, to 300 seamen, to render His Majesty's Squadron perfectly effective—

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's

Most obd^t. and Humble Servant

R. H. BARCLAY Sen^r. Off^r.

on Lake Erie

Archives, C. 730, p. 107.

From Barclay on board H.M.S. Queen Charlotte to Hall at —.

H.M.S. Queen Charlotte

August 14th 1813

Sir/

Your active service, being at this time indispensible from the probability of the early approach of the Enemy's Squadron—

I have to demand a decided answer whether you will

serve or not—that I may strike a person off the Establishment you [*sic*] refuses to do the duty required of him—

I am Sir

Your obed^t. Servant

R. H. BARCLAY, Sen^r. Off^r.

H.M.S. & Vessels

on the Lake Erie—

Archives, C. 730, p. 106.

From Hall at Amherstburg to Barclay at —.

Amherstburg Aug^t 14th 1813

Sir,

I have the Honor to Acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of this date and, inform you that I am and have been at all times ; ready to serve in the Station and Rank allotted me by His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, and confirmed to me by Sir James Lucas Yeo—

I am Sir,

Your most obed^t. Hb^{le}.

Serv^t.

GEO B HALL, P. C^r.

Archives, C. 679, p. 447.

From Procter at Sandwich to Prevost at Kingston.

Sandwich August 18th 1813

Sir

In my last Letter to your Excellency I mentioned the Return of Captain Barclay to Amherstburg. A small vessel was sent to the Islands to give the earliest Intimation of the Enemy's Approach. She arrived the Evening before last, having very narrowly escaped the Enemy's Fleet [of] twelve Sail. We have been in hourly Expectation of seeing them ever since. I now suppose they are establishing themselves

on the Bass Islands which form Putin Bay, an Excellent Harbour, and which I would have occupied if I had had the Means. The Detroit is ready, and if we had the Seamen a few Hours would place this District in Security, which, it is incumbent on me to say, is not the Case under present Circumstances. My Force must be still more divided, on the Advance of the Enemy, and as I man the Fleet my Loss must be great. I entreat your Excellency to send me the Means of continuing the Contest. I do not expect the least Assistance from the centre Division. The Fleet drop down to the Bar this Evening or early to Morrow Morning, as the best Situation to meet the Enemy's Vessels. Should a Landing be attempted it will not be possible to avoid the Risk of an Action, tho' without Seamen, and the Enemy's Vessels well manned. We are disposing of the Indians, or rather endeavouring so to do, to the best Advantage. Your Excellency will find that we will do our Duty, but I heartily hope for more Assistance from you. A Troop of the 19th would be of essential Aid.

I shall continue to write whilst we are in a Situation that may excite a particular Interest, such as the present.

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servant

HENRY PROCTER

Brig^r. General Com^{rs}.

Archives, C. 679, p. 456.

From Procter at Sandwich to Baynes at Kingston.

Sandwich

August 19th 1813

Sir/

I have been confidently, since the Receipt of your Letter of the 18th of June, in Expectation of the Arrival of a Captain

& Reinforcement of Artillery, of whom, I do assure you, I have felt the want. Being situated at the Extremity of a long Line, I do not feel the full Effects of His Excellency's Consideration for me; the Aid intended never reaches me undiminished, from some Circumstance or another. In a former Letter to you I endeavoured to shew the extra Fatigue, as well as Dissatisfaction I experienced from the Deficiency of Staff in the Division under my Command. An Officer in the Adjutant General's Department active and acquainted with the Duties thereof, would afford me much Relief. I am satisfied with my Brigade Major, but his Duties, at Present, are more than one Person can perform satisfactorily. My active Duties are too much interrupted from the Want of Aid in those of the Office. I shall endeavour to select an Officer, to relieve Captain Roberts of the 10th Royal Veteran Battalion, whose Conduct, I trust, will meet with His Excellency's Approbation. My Knowledge of Local Circumstances and of the Indian Character in this Portion of the Upper Province, or as Mr. Maddison calls it uppermost Canada has been of late much encreased. The Safety of this District requires an Increase to my regular Force, that our Dependance on the Indian Force may not appear to so great a Degree as it has hitherto done. The Tuscarora Indians would not have acted against Lt. Colonel Bishopp's Force had it not been so small. It is much to be regretted that they have commenced acting against us. The only effectual Measure to prevent the same Evil occuring here is to encrease my Force. I must further state it is requisite even to prevent Defection among the Indian Tribes, which ought strenuously to be guarded against, from the Propensity of Indians to follow each other, on the most unaccountable Impulse at Times. You are aware that there are in the States considerable Bodies of Indians, several of them of the same Nations of those with us, and on whom the Enemy are, by every Art and Means in their Power, endeavouring to operate

to our Disadvantage. Tho' I have purchased Indian Goods, the Issue of Presents to the Indians has been so inadequate, as to give some advantage to our Enemy whose Emissaries here are neither few, nor inactive. Major General De Rottenburg says that "He knows by Experience that no Reliance can be placed upon Indians, that they move off at the Moment they are most wanted." I have only to say, that I have manned the Fleet, and armed the Detroit, and that I look hourly for the Enemy in two Points, in considerable Numbers; and must therefore meet him, with a divided, with a reduced Force. I begin to think I shall never have an Opportunity of meeting the Enemy on Terms of Equality. He will have more Thousands than I can produce Hundreds of Regulars, my only real Reliance. A Supply of Seamen, of whom we have not any immediate Hope, would give us a fair Prospect. Our only Consolation must be in doing our Duty.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your faithfull

Servant

HENRY PROCTER,
Brig^r General
com^d.

PS 22^d Much Benefit will arise from His Excellency's Order of the 7th Instant, respecting the Distribution of Presents to the Indians; Influence will now rest where it ought, and His Majesty's Bounty flow in the proper Channels. I beg Leave to observe that the Boys, or very Young Men, in the 2^d Battalion of the 41st Reg^t: might be employed to the same Advantage here, in defensive Positions as Men fittest for Service.

H PROCTER

Archives, C. 679, p. 494.

From Procter at Sandwich to Prevost at St. David's.

Sandwich

August 26th 1813

Sir

I have had the Honor to receive your Excellency's Letter of the 22^d Ins^t. Captain Barclay was immediately acquainted that an Officer and fifty or sixty Seamen were on the Way here. I beg to say that a more essential Piece of Service could not be rendered to us here, by an active zealous Officer than to push them on by the quickest possible Means, for I assure your Excellency we are peculiarly in Need of them, both Officers and Seamen. If I had not even received your Commands to communicate with your Excellency, with the Frankness of a zealous Soldier, I should have felt it my Duty to expose to you whatever the Good of the Service made it requisite you should know. Your Excellency speaks of Seamen, valerous and well disciplined. Except, I believe, the 25 whom Captain Barclay brought with him, there are none of that Description on this Lake, at least on Board His Majesty's Vessels. These are scarcely enough, and of a miserable Description to work the Vessels, some of which cannot be used for Want of Hands, such even as we have. I have the highest Opinion of Captain Barclay and have afforded him every Aid I possibly could. We have set too strong an Example of Cordiality, not to have it prevail thro' both Services. We have but the one Object in View, the Good of His Majesty's Service, or Preservation of this District. Captain Barclay has, besides the Royal Newf^d Land, one Hundred and fifty of the 41st Reg^t., better Soldiers there cannot be, but they are only Landsmen. I beg to observe that Sir James Yeo was over manned with prime Seamen, British. I have Reason to believe that the Indians

will heartily oppose the Enemy ; and that we stand rather high in their Opinion, tho' they observe the Enemy's Fleet on the Lake, possessing the Command of it. Your Excellency is aware that the Indian Body is seldom disposable, never so, contrary to their Opinion, or Inclination. Mr. Harrison has informed them of his Intention to advance, and they expect him ; therefore no Influence will or can prevail on them, or any Part of them, to leave their Families ; especially whilst the Enemy can choose his Points of Attack. That is whilst he has the Command of the Lake. I will venture to offer my Opinion to your Excellency that as long as Captain Barclay, without Seamen, can avoid the Enemy he should do so. All my Ordnance is on Board except the Field, and in the Event of any Disaster to the Fleet, The Arrival of any Body of Seamen would be of no use whatever. Seamen should be pushed on even by Dozens. I shall send to have Conveyances ready for them, a few Hours gained is or may be of the greatest Consequence not only to us, but to the upper Province. The Fleet once manned, one Flank secured, I have no Doubt that a Body of Indians may be induced to move to the centre Division on a Prospect of being actively employed with the Troops. The Enemy's Fleet reconnoitred ours laying off Hartley's Point, three Miles below Amherstburg. They anchored off the Settlement twenty Miles below Amherstburg. Boats are collecting in Numbers at the Islands.

I have the Honor to be
with the highest
Respect,

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servant,

HENRY PROCTER,

Major General

comm^g.

Archives, C. 679, p. 504.

From Procter at Sandwich to Prevost at St. David's.

Sandwich August
29th 1813.

Sir

I did myself the Honor to write to your Excellency on the 26th Ins^t. and in Obedience to your Commands have to acquaint you, that the Enemy's Fleet quited the Station it seemed to have taken, for the purpose of covering a Landing. If I may venture to conjecture his Movements, it would be, that, he is gone to Long Point. I can assure your Excellency that every Effort is making to have the Fleet as effective as possible, especially, in rendering the Men expert at the Guns : and that on the Arrival of the Officers and Seamen offensive Operations will commence : tho' I must say, because I know it to be the Case, that the Supply of both Officers, and Seamen is very inadequate. Your Excellency is not aware that the State of the Provincial Marine here was, scarcely better than that on Lake Ontario, which, it has been found requisite, to lay aside. Interested Individuals have prevented this Truth from appearing, that the *Navy* might not be on this Lake. I informed Major General Sheaffe that the Change was equally requisite here. I look on Captain Barclay's Arrival here, tho' late, as a fortunate Circumstance. I should have been very averse to sending Soldiers on Board, but, with Officers of the Royal Navy. I feel it a Duty, incumbent on me, to state Circumstances as they really are. There are not, in the Fleet more than four and twenty *Seamen*. I perceived with extreme Regret that your Excellency had Doubts of a Spirit of Cordiality existing between the two Services in this District ; as well as, of my having conciliated the well disposed Inhabitants. Of the Cordiality between the Services, afloat

and on Shore, I trust you are convinced, and I do assure your Excellency that I know of no Dissatisfaction among the well disposed Inhabitants but, at their Safety being endangered by the Want of Sailors in the Fleet. Whoever has excited such Doubts must have been actuated by a Sinister Motive, for they are not Founded on any Facts. I hope your Excellency will always enable me to meet the Insidious. Every Thing shall be done to induce the Indians required to go to the centre Division, but I apprehend that the worst Consequences would arise from weakening my Indian Force, ere the Fleet can seek the Enemy; however, no Time shall be lost. If the Indian Goods, in very considerable Quantities, do not arrive here, within a Month, the Most serious Consequences may be apprehended. I have with much Reluctance been under the Necessity of purchasing Indian Goods occasionally, but extremely inadequate to the Demand. I may appear importunate, but I am not asking or urging more than a Sense of Duty dictates. I entreat your Excellency to direct more Sailors to be sent to this Lake. I have sent an Officer to expedite those on the Way, and as much as possible will be done on their Arrival.

I have the Honor to be,

With the highest Respect,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Servant

HENRY PROCTER,

Major General com^d.

Archives, C. 730, p. 126.

Private, from Barclay at ——— to Yeo at ———.

September 1st 1813—

My dear Sir/

We are now in most anxious expectation of being able to meet the Enemy who are still about the Islands, but have

never shewn since their first appearance, What they are about I cannot imagine, every day to them is a loss not to be regained. I have not sent any thing to reconnoitre them lately except a Canoe (which is now out) fearing that from the frequent Calms, and their vessels being so well qualified to sweep they might take her, and increase their force at our expence.—

By dint of exercising the Soldiers on board I hope they will make a good hand of it, when they are backed by a few Seamen. I hope you will add to this gang from the *Dover*, as they will be a small reinforcement of themselves however valuable even a small number is.—

As to our coming to Long point, it much depends on the motion of the Enemy's Squadron whether they chuse to fight us or not, for if they have made themselves Works in the harbour among the Islands and take shelter under them we must remain and watch their motions ; lest, that in our absence, they may take advantage of it and come *here*.—But I shall send a Transport the moment I can with safety, both for what Stores, and Guns there may be coming to me, and for provisions which are begining to be very much wanted here.—

The quantity of Beef, and flour consumed here is tremendous, there are such hordes of Indians with their *Wives*, and *children*.—

The *Detroit* is a very fine Ship, but I fear with her Stores (for she has one under every beam) she will sail heavily : but at all events fast enough to ensure a general action if they run, and wish to save their small craft.—

The Officers and Seamen whom you send would much better be forwarded to Amherstburg by land, that is a certain mode, by the Lake in boats it is most uncertain,—I am sure, Sir James if you saw my Canadians, you would condemn every one (with perhaps two or three exception) as a poor devil not worth his Salt.—Captⁿ. Finnis begs to be kindly

remembered to you and Mulcaster, and he is sincerely joined by

My dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully

R H BARCLAY

Archives, C. 680, p. 26.

From Procter at Sandwich to Freer at —.

Sandwich

September 6th 1813

Sir

The probable Consequences of any further Delay in sending an adequate Supply of Indian Stores to this District are of so serious a Nature, that I cannot refrain from urging the Necessity of their being pushed forward by every possible Means: and that if unfortunately they should not have arrived in the Country, they may be procured, if possible, immediately, from the North West Company for the present at least. His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is well aware that the scanty Supplies, and Purchases were barely adequate to the Necessities of the Moment. The long expected Supplies cannot any longer be delayed, without the most frightfull Consequences. The Indian and his Family, suffering from Cold, will no longer be amused with Promises, His Wants he will naturally attribute to our Neglect at least; and Defection is the least of Evils we may expect from him. There have not been among the Indians, with whom we are concerned, any Traders; consequently their Necessities can be supplied by us only, or the Enemy who are not inattentive to any Circumstances respecting the Indians, that may be turned to their Advantage. I do not hesitate to say that if we do not receive a timely, and adequate Supply of

Indian Goods and Ammunition, we shall be inevitably subjected, to Ills of the greatest Magnitude. M^r. Robert Dickson, to whose Zeal and Ability, which from Circumstances have not had full Scope, I must offer full Testimony, will have the Honor, more fully to speak to the Purport of this Letter, as well as another Subject on which we are fully agreed, the Indian Department.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your Most obedient

Humble Servant

HENRY PROCTER

Major General

com^g.

Archives, C. 680, p. 30.

From Prevost at Kingston to Procter at —.

Kingston 6th Sept^r. 1813.

Sir

I received yesterday your letter of the 29th Ult^o acquainting me with the departure of the American Fleet from the station it had taken off Amherstburg & at the same time stating it as your opinion that that movement was the result of a disposition to attack Long Point. On the 28th L^t. Col. Hamilton with the flank Companies of the 100th Reg^t. & one Six Pounder marched from Burlington heights upon that place, where I hope he will arrive in time to organize the Militia, which when united to his force will be sufficient to restrain the Enemy from committing any depredations I have much satisfaction in informing you that Captⁿ. Drury of His M. Troop Ship Dover is hourly expected at Kingston with 5 Officers, 40 Seamen & 8 Marines ; You may rely on my endeavours to obtain from Commodore Sir James Yeo a

large proportion of them for Lake Erie & to have them forwarded to you without delay—I have upon all occasions expressed myself as confident in the successful termination of your exertions for the preservation of the territory entrusted to you to defend & every occurrence in which you have been concerned has confirmed the justice of the sentiment, you may therefore easily conceive the satisfaction with which I received your assurances of the good understanding & perfect cordiality which existed between the two services, & individually between yourself & Capt. Barclay, as well as your having conciliated the well disposed Inhabitants about you.

If a doubt existed in my mind on those points, it was created by an anonymous correspondent in your neighbourhood & you have removed it entirely.

You & I have too much occupation just now to ferret out the Villain but hereafter the Papers shall be sent to you to enable you to detect him—at present it is wisdom not to swerve from the arduous course before us on any consideration but to make use of every honorable mean to retain the advantages we have gained.

The sudden appearance of Gen^l. Armstrong & of Gen^l. Wilkinson at Sacket Harbour, where the previous concentration of a large force had taken place, hurried me back here, where your future communications must be addressed.—The 2^d Bⁿ. of the 41st Reg^t. is expected in the course of this week at Kingston, from whence it will immediately proceed in two Divisions to York on its route upwards

[*Not signed.*]

Archives, C. 680, p. 71.

From Procter at Sandwich to de Rottenburg at St. David's.

Sandwich

September 12th 1813

Sir

With the Deepest Regret I acquaint you that the Squadron of His Majesty's Vessels * under the Command of Captain Barclay sailed at 3 O'clock PM on the 9th Instant to seek that of the Enemy ; * and that on the 10th Inst^t., the two Fleets were seen engaged between the Islands, about 25 Miles from the Settlement below Amherstburg. The Action lasted from twelve to nearly half past three, [] and I understand from L: Colonel Warburton who saw the Action from an elevated Situation fifteen Miles below Amherstburg, that the Firing was incessant, and the Vessels appeared to be very near each other. The Spectators were fully impressed with the Idea that our Fleet were the Victors ; but Circumstances have since placed it beyond a Doubt that the whole of our Fleet have been taken or destroyed. The Wind was fair for Amherstburg the whole of the 10th & the 11th Inst^t. no Accounts from or of Captⁿ. Barclay, and on the latter Day the *vessels, evidently under one Flag worked down the Lake. The Commissariat might have preserved this District ; or a due Attention to the naval Establishment on this Lake. I have no neglects to upbraid myself with ; that could have the slightest Effect on the Safety of this Country, tho' one is implied in your Letter, "not employing the Queen Charlotte and my Craft diligently in conveying Provisions from Long Point, at the opening of the Navigation." I beg Leave to observe, in Answer, that those from whom you received that Information, might have mentioned, that the unfortunate Ship Queen Charlotte could not be used at the Period alluded to, for want of Hands ; who were in the Craft employed on the Expedition to the Miami which has received the Approval

of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces. I take the Liberty of suggesting the Expediency of occupying immediately an eligible Piece of Ground at Turkey Point, by Block houses connected by Picketting; that may be defended by from three to five Hundred Men. I do not see the least Chance of occupying to advantage my present extensive Position, which can be so easily turned by means of the entire Command of the Waters here which the Enemy now has. A Circumstance that would render my Indian Force very inefficient. It is my opinion that I should retire on the Thames, without Delay, preparatory to any other Movement that may be found requisite, or determined on. I have written to Colonel Talbot to send to the Thames whatever Articles of Food there may be in his Reach, also to have the Road, as far as possible, repaired, thro' the Wilderness. I feel myself much at a loss with Respect to the Indians. The Loss of the Fleet is a most calamitous Circumstance. Michilimackinac will require immediate Attention. It is to be apprehended that the Enemy may make an immediate Attempt to pass up some of their Vessels to possess themselves of that Place, and some Vessels we must send to the upper Lake. Requesting to hear from you by Return of the Express

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your Obedient

Humble Servant

HENRY PROCTER

Major General

com^d.

[*Notes in margin.*]

* Detroit, Queen Charlotte, Lady Prevost, Hunter, Chippawa, Erie. two Ships, Schooner, Brig, small Schooner, Sloop, six Sail.

* Nine Sail, two Brigs carrying 20, 32 Pound Carronades each and two long 12 Pounders.

* Eleven.

VOL. II.

S

Archives, C. 731, p. 116.

From Barclay at Putin Bay to Yeo at —.

Copy/

His Majesty's late Ship Detroit
 Putin Bay Lake Erie Sept^r 12th 1813

Sir/

The last Letter I had the Honor of Writing to you dated the 6th Instant, I informed you that unless certain intimation was received of more Seamen being on their way to Amherstburgh, I should be obliged to sail with the Squadron deplorably Manned as it was, to fight the Enemy (who Blockaded the Port) to enable us to get supplies of Provisions and Stores of every Description, so perfectly destitute of Provisions was the Post, that there was not a days flour in Store, and the Crews of the Squadron under my Command were on half Allowance of many things, and when that was done there was no more; such were the motives which induced Major General Proctor, (whom, by your Instructions I was directed to consult, and whose wishes, I was enjoined to execute as far as related to the good of the Country) to concur in the necessity of a Battle being risked under the many disadvantages which I laboured, and it now remains for me, the most melancholy task to relate to you the unfortunate Issue of that Battle, as well as the many untoward circumstances that led to that Event.

No intelligence of Seamen having arrived, I sailed on the 9th Ins^t. fully expecting to meet the Enemy next morning, as they had been seen among the Islands, nor was I mistaken, soon after daylight they were seen in motion in Putin Bay, the Wind then at South West and light, giving us the Weather gage;—I bore up for them in hopes of bringing them to Action among the Islands but that intention was soon frustrated by the Wind suddenly shifting to the South East, which brought the Enemy directly to Windward.

The line was formed according to a given plan, so that each Ship might be supported against the superior force of the two Brigs opposed to them ;—About ten the Enemy had cleared the Islands, and immediately bore up under easy Sail, in a line abreast, each Brig being also supported by the small Vessels ;—At a quarter before twelve I commenced the Action by firing a few long Guns, about a quarter past, the American Commodore, also supported by two Schooners, one carrying four long twelve pounders, the other a long thirty two, and twenty four Pounder, came to close Action, with the Detroit, the other Brig of the Enemy, apparently destined to engage the Queen Charlotte, supported in like manner by two Schooners, kept so far to Windward as to render the Queen Charlottes 24 Pounder Carronades useless, while she was with the Lady Prevost, exposed to the heavy and destructive fire of the Caledonia, and four other Schooners, Armed with long and heavy Guns like those I have already described.

Too soon alas, was I deprived of the Services of the Noble and intrepid Captain Finnis, who soon after the commencement of the Action fell, and with him fell my greatest Support.

Soon after Lieutenant Stokoe, of the Queen Charlotte was struck senseless by a Splinter, which deprived the Country of his Services at this very critical period.

As I perceived the Detroit had enough to contend with, without the prospect of a fresh Brig ; Provincial Lieutenant Irvine, who then had Charge of the Queen Charlotte behaved with great courage, but his experience was much too limited to supply the place of such an Officer as Captain Finnis, hence she proved of far less assistance than I expected.

The Action Continued with great fury until half past two, when I perceived my opponent drop astern, and a Boat passing from him to the Niagara (which Vessel was at this time perfectly fresh) the American Commodore seeing that

as yet the day was against him (his Vessel having Struck soon after he left her) and also the very defenceless state of the Detroit, which ship was now a perfect Wreck, principally from the Racking fire of the Gun Boats, and also that the Queen Charlotte, was in such a situation that I could receive very little assistance from her, and the Lady Prevost, being at this time too far to leeward, from her Rudder being injured, made a noble, and alas, too successful an effort to regain it, for he bore up and supported by his small Vessels, passed within Pistol Shot, and took a Raking position on our Bow, nor could I prevent it, as the unfortunate situation of the Queen Charlotte, prevented us from Wearing, in attempting it we fell on board her; my Gallant first Lieutenant Garland, was now mortally Wounded, and myself so severely that I was obliged to quit the Deck.—Manned as the Squadron was, with not more than fifty British Seamen, the rest a mixt Crew of Canadians, and Soldiers, and who were totally unacquainted with such Service rendered the loss of Officers more sensibly felt, and never in any Action was the loss more severe, every Officer Commanding Vessels, and their Seconds, was either Killed or Wounded, so severely as to be unable to keep the Deck.

Lieutenant Buchan in the Lady Prevost, behaved most nobly, and did everything that a brave and experienced Officer could do, in a Vessel Armed with 12 Pounder Caronades, against Vessels carrying long Guns, I regret to state that he was very Severely Wounded.

Lieutenant Bignal, of the Dover Commanding the Hunter displayed the greatest intrepidity, but his Guns being small, 2, 4, and 6, Pounds, he could be of much less service than he Wished.

Every Officer in the Detroit behaved in the most exemplary manner—Lieutenant Inglis, shewed such calm Intrepidity, that I was fully convinced, that on leaving the Deck I left the ship in excellent hands, and for an Account

of the Battle after that, I refer you to his letter which he wrote me for your information.

M^r. Hoffmeister, Purser of the Detroit, nobly Volunteered his Services on Deck, and behaved in a manner that reflects the highest Honor on him, I regret to add that he is very severely Wounded in the Knee.

Provincial Lieutenant Purvis, and the Military Officers, Lieutenants Garden of the Royal Newfoundland Rangers, and O'Keefe of the 41st Regiment, behaved in a manner which excited my warmest admiration,—The few British Seamen I had, behaved with their usual intrepidity, and as long as I was on Deck the Troops behaved with a calmness and courage worthy of a more fortunate Issue to their exertions.

The Weather gage gave the Enemy a prodigious advantage, as it enabled them, not, only to choose their position, but their distance also, which they did in such a manner as to prevent the Carronades of the Queen Charlotte, and Lady Prevost, from having much effect, while their long Guns, did great execution, particularly against the Queen Charlotte.

Captain Perry, has behaved in a most humane and attentive manner, not only to myself and Officers, but to all the Wounded.

I trust that although unsuccessful, you will approve of the motives that induced me to sail, under so many disadvantages and that it may be hereafter proved, that under such circumstances the Honor of His Majesty's Flag has not been tarnished.

I enclose the List of Killed and Wounded,
and have the Honor to be,

Sir/

Your most obedient

humble Servant

(Sign'd) R H BARCLAY, Commander
and late Sen^r. Officer

Archives, C. 730, p. 145.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Inglis to Captain Barclay.

Copy

His Majestys late Ship Detroit,
10th September 1813

Sir/

I have the Honor to transmit to you an Account of the termination of the late unfortunate Action, with the Enemys Squadron.

On coming on the Quarter Deck, after your being Wounded, the Enemys second Brig, at that time on our weather Beam, shortly afterwards took a position on our weather Bow, to Rake us, to prevent which in attempting to Wear, to get our Starboard broadside to bear upon her, a number of the Guns of the Larboard broadside being at this time disabled, fell on board the Queen Charlotte, at this time running up to Leeward of us, in this situation the two Ships remained for some time, as soon as we got clear of her, I ordered the Queen Charlotte to shoot a head of us if possible, and attempted to back our fore Topsail to get astern, but the Ship laying completely unmanageable, every Brace cut away, the Mizzen Topmast, and Gaff down, all the other Masts badly Wounded, not a stay left forward, Hull shattered very much, a number of the Guns disabled, and the Enemys Squadron Raking both Ships, a head and astern, none of our own in a situation to support us, I was under the painful necessity of answering the Enemy to say we had struck, the Queen Charlotte having previously done so.

I have the Honor to remain

Sir

your obedient

humble Servant

(Sign'd) GEORGE INGLIS

Archives, C. 730, p. 147.

A LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED IN HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS &
VESSELS UNDERMENTIONED IN ACTION WITH AN AMERICAN
SQUADRON ON LAKE ERIE, UPPER CANADA 10th SEPTEMBER
1813

| Names | Qualities | To what Ship or Vessel belonging | Killed | Wounded | Remarks |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------|---------|-------------------------------|
| John Garland . . . | 1 Lieut | Detroit | Killed | .. | .. |
| Thomas Clarke . . . | Quarter Mas ^r . | do | do | .. | .. |
| John Barnes . . . | Landsman | do | do | .. | .. |
| Jn ^o Bolam . . . | Ordinary | do | do | .. | .. |
| Chris ^r . Brassam . . . | do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Dan ^l . Mead . . . | Able Seaman | do | do | .. | .. |
| Thomas Fahey . . . | { Private, R.N. Reg ^t . } | do | do | .. | .. |
| William Gardner . . . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| John Smith . . . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Thomas Ancliff . . . | do 41 Reg | do | do | .. | .. |
| James Bowe . . . | do | do | do | .. | .. |
| R. H. Barclay . . . | Captain | do | .. | Wounded | Dangerously |
| J. M. Hoffmenster . . . | Purser | do | .. | do | do |
| Thomas Anderson . . . | Boats ⁿ Mate | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| James Olleron . . . | Able Seaman | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Geo. Mulgrove . . . | do | do | .. | do | do |
| Benj Heppenstall . . . | do | do | .. | do | do |
| Louis Langlois . . . | do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Dennis M ^o May . . . | Ord ^y do | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Bearnard Bouchie . . . | Landsman | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Arun Crossby . . . | do | do | .. | do | do |
| James Graham . . . | Quar ^r Garr. | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Louis Vandumacre . . . | Ord ^y | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Geo. Dogger . . . | do | do | .. | do | { Dangerously (Since dead) |
| Henry Shurman . . . | do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Thomas James . . . | Carp Mate | do | .. | do | do |
| Elisha Mitchell . . . | Landsman | do | .. | do | do |
| Rich ^d Joull . . . | Able Seaman | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Alex. Arrow . . . | Ord ^y do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Joseph Lewis . . . | Boy | do | .. | do | Severely |
| John Galpion . . . | { Serj ^t , R.N. } | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Jerm ⁿ . Thomas . . . | Reg | do | .. | do | Dangerously |
| Mathew Ordell . . . | do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Will ^m Alley . . . | Corpl do | do | .. | do | Dangerously |
| Alex M ^o Leod . . . | Private, do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| John Mitchell . . . | do | do | .. | do | Severely |
| William Bryan . . . | do | do | .. | do | { Dangerously (Since dead) |
| Samuel Lux . . . | do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Patrick Power . . . | do | do | .. | do | do |
| David Power . . . | do | do | .. | do | do |
| Patrick Riley . . . | do | do | .. | do | Severely |
| John Thomas . . . | do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| David Green . . . | do 41 Reg | do | .. | do | do |
| James Belman . . . | do | do | .. | do | Severely |

| Names | Qualities | To what Ship or Vessel belonging | Killed | Wounded | Remarks |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---------|-------------|
| William Liversly . | { Private, 41 Reg. } | Detroit | .. | Wounded | Slightly |
| William Essary . | do | do | .. | do | Severely |
| William Young . | do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| William Hart . | do | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Miles Wermesley . | do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Patrick Boyle . | do | do | .. | do | do |
| Rob. Dunamore . | do | do | .. | do | do |
| Rob ^t . Finnis . | Captain | Queen Charlotte | Killed | .. | .. |
| John Willsbrook . | Ord ^y Seam | do | do | .. | .. |
| Thomas Jones . | Able Seaman | do | do | .. | .. |
| Martin Tadley . | do | do | do | .. | .. |
| William Samuel . | Landsman | do | do | .. | .. |
| William Pearce . | do | do | do | .. | .. |
| James Addison . | Capt ⁿ . Mast | do | do | .. | .. |
| James Gordan . | { Lieut R. N. Reg ^t } | do | do | .. | .. |
| Rich ^d . Hawkins . | Private do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Mich ^l . Brinman . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Thomas Tenham . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| John Lenard . | do 41 Regt | do | do | .. | .. |
| Sam ^l . Freath . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Cornelius Coachley . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| James Barter . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Thomas Watkins . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| John Ratcliff . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| William Bodman . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Thomas Stokoe . | Lieutenant | do | .. | Wounded | Severely |
| James Fortie . | Midshipman | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Charles Usher . | Boats Mate | do | .. | do | Severely |
| William Cooper . | Gun ^s Mate | do | .. | do | Dangerously |
| Arch ^d . Williams . | Carp. Crew | do | .. | do | do |
| John Purvoe . | N.F.L. Reg | do | .. | do | do |
| Geo Hustchinson . | Able Seaman | do | .. | do | do |
| Jn ^o R. Zellarte . | Ord ^y . do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Peter Logue . | Capt. Af ^t Gd | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Mich ^l . Chamberlain | Quarter Gar. | do | .. | do | do |
| Rob ^t . Collins . | .. | do | .. | do | do |
| John Donald . | Able Seaman | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Dan ^l . Mc Donald . | { Serj. N.F. Reg ^t } | do | .. | do | do |
| John Two . | Private do | do | .. | do | Dangerously |
| Geo. Preston . | do do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| John Gowens . | do do | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Jno. Breach . | do 41 Reg | do | .. | do | Dangerously |
| William Smith . | do do | do | .. | do | do |
| Geo. Wearham . | do do | do | .. | do | do |
| John Bucket . | do do | do | .. | do | Severely |
| John Lockett . | do do | do | .. | do | do |
| Edward White . | do do | do | .. | do | Dangerously |
| Rob ^t . Selway . | do do | do | .. | do | do |
| George Staff . | do do | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Chris Powers . | Landsman | Lady Prevost | Killed | .. | .. |
| Allason Shaw . | do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Peter Taylor . | do | do | do | .. | .. |
| William Woodland . | { Serj. R. N. Reg ^t } | do | do | .. | .. |
| Rob. Mansfield . | Private do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Nath ^l . Carpenter . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Geo Goulding . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |
| William Jones . | do do | do | do | .. | .. |

| Names | Qualities | To what Ship or Vessel belonging | Killed | Wounded | Remarks |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---------|-------------|
| E. W. Buchan | Lieut & Com ^r | Lady Provost | .. | Wounded | Dangerously |
| Fred. Rollette | { Lieut Provincial Navy } | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Lewis Johnson | Volunteer | do | .. | do | do |
| Charles Wilson | Ordv. Seam | do | .. | do | do |
| John Lott | do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| John Hall | do | do | .. | do | do |
| David Lungley | Boats Mate | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Ant ^v . Miller | Carp Crew | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| H ^v . Beauchamp | Ordv Seam | do | .. | do | do |
| John Kerwick | { Private, R N. Regt } | do | .. | do | Dangerously |
| Lawrence Costigan | do do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| John Pardy | do do | do | .. | do | Severely |
| Edward Cavenagh | do do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Thomas Steel | do do | do | .. | do | do |
| James Le Vie | do do | do | .. | do | Severely |
| James Taylor | do 41 Regt. | do | .. | do | do |
| William Jackson | do do | do | .. | do | do |
| — Webber | do do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| John Norris (?) | do do | do | .. | do | do |
| Davis | do do | do | .. | do | do |
| Joseph Le Plat | Landsman | Hunter | Killed | .. | .. |
| Fra ^s Vallamont | do | do | do | .. | .. |
| Geo Bignell | Lieut & Com ^r | do | .. | Wounded | Severely |
| H ^v Gateshill | Master Mate | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| William Macoby | Boy | do | .. | do | Severely |
| John Blacker | { Private 41 Regt } | do | .. | do | do |
| Lewis Donald | do R.N. | do | Killed | .. | .. |
| Rob Kyley | do do | do | .. | Wounded | Dangerously |
| Geo O'Neil | Corporal do | Chippewa | Killed | .. | .. |
| John Campbell | { Master Mate Command- ing } | do | .. | Wounded | Slightly |
| Ralph Gerow | Landsman | do | .. | do | Severely |
| John Fry | do | do | .. | do | Slightly |
| Thomas Blunch | { Private R.N. Regt } | do | .. | do | Severely |

| | Killed. | Wounded. |
|----------------|---------|----------|
| Officers . . . | 3 | 9 |
| Men . . . | 38 | 85 |
| Total . . . | 41 | 94 |

(Signed) R. H. BARCLAY,
Commander and late Senior Officer.

Archives, C. 680, p. 75.

From Harvey at Four Mile Creek to Procter at —.

Head Quarters Centre

Division—17th Septemb. 1813

Sir/

Major G. De Rottenberg received your letter of the 12th Ins^t yesterday evening—He directs me to ask in the first place whether the sailing of Captain Barclays Squadron to meet the Enemy at a time when it was so incompetently manned, was the consequence of a *positive* order to that purport from Commodore Sir Ja^s Yeo, or the commander of the Forces, or whether that measure was adopted by you, and in that case that you will be pleased to state the circumstances or motives by which you was led to the adoption of so hazardous a measure, with the knowledge which you possessed of the intention to urge forward seamen, with all possible expedition, and the assurance which you had received, that they were actually on their way—Secondly I have Major General De Rottenbergs direction to say, that he does not clearly see the necessity or expediency, of your immediately retiring from your present position—There certainly may be reasons which you have not stated, or with which the Major General is consequently unacquainted, which may point more urgently to the necessity of such a movement than he is at present aware of—But the View M. Gene^l De Rottenberg is inclined to take of your situation as connected with the loss of the Squadron, is that, that event cannot affect you so immediately, as to make any precipitate retrograde movement necessary—After an action of three hours and a half the Enemys Vessels must have received so much damage, as not to be in a situation to undertake any thing further for some time—This interval you will employ in looking well at your situation, in communication

with Tecumseth, and the Indians, in ascertaining the impression which this disaster has produced on them, and in concerting with them the measures best calculated, to lessen the consequences of that disaster—concentrating or making such a disposition of your remaining Force, as may prove to them the sincerity of the British Government, in its intention not to abandon them, so long as they are true to their own interests—An officer of Engineers proceeds immediately to Long Point to construct the Block Houses you recommend, and such other defensive works as may appear to him to be required—Colonel Murray who has lately joined this Division of the Army, will also proceed to assume the command at Long Point—He will be instructed to call out the Militia—With reference to the concluding Paragraph of your letter, I am directed to enquire what means we possess in vessels &c., by which to send assistance to Michilimackinac—Does the Enemy possess any vessels at present on Lake Huron, and would it be practicable to prevent their passing the Narrows of the Sinclair, and thus to preserve the ascendancy on that Lake (Huron) the Enemy possessing that of Lake Erie? Would the Seamen now hourly expected be of any service, or may their progress be stopped? Do you wish the 10. 24 p^{rs}. carronades intended for the Detroit to be sent on and to what Place? Your answers to these Queries and a full communication of everything relating to your situation, intentions and wants, it is requested may be transmitted by the most expeditious means at your disposal—

(Copy)

(Signed) J HARVEY
D.A.G.

Archives, C. 680, p. 112.

From [Prevost] at Kingston to Procter at —.

(Copy)

23^d Sept^r
Kingston

M. Gen^l. Procter.

I received last night your letter of the 13th Inst^t. which conveys to me your strong apprehensions that the whole of His Majesty's Vessels on Lake Erie were taken or destroyed in a general action with the Enemy's Squadron among the Islands on the 10th—by which misfortune you have been deprived of the whole of your heavy Ordnance & of one third of your effective force, our Fleet having had on board a very large portion of soldiers, in consequence of the inadequacy of the number of Seamen afforded to it by Com^r. Sir James Yeo.

Altho' you do not in the Despatch before me express it still I conclude from your previous communications, that you were induced to encourage the departure of our Squadron from Amherstburg in consequence of the extreme distress you laboured under for Provisions for your Troops & the Indian Warriors, the resources of the country about you being exhausted; otherwise it would have been much more prudent to have waited the arrival of the remainder of the Dover's Seamen before an attempt was made to force your intercourse with the Depots established for the Right Division of the Army at Long Point.

The precautionary measures you are taking appear to me proper. The concentration of your forces has become indispensable & your nearer connection with the Centre Division may be requisite.

You will find in a letter which I directed the Adj-Gen^l to address to you, my sentiments at large upon the movements of the Right Division in the event of your being obliged

to relinquish the territory you have long ably defended & upon being compelled resort to a retrograde movement.— I must therefore refer you to it & to such instructions as you may receive from M. Gen^l. de R.—with whom I this day leave the command of the Troops in Upper Canada whilst I hasten to the Lower Province which has been attacked by the Enemy but not in a manner to create serious apprehensions for the result. Your wishes respecting Turkey Point have been anticipated.

You will meet the distress created by the loss of our Fleet with fortitude & I have a perfect reliance on y^r fortitude & conducting such ulterior operations resulting from it with promptitude & regularity—

[*Not signed.*]

Archives, C. 680, p. 149.

From Prevost at Montreal to Procter at —.

Montreal 6th October 1813

Sir/

Your Letter of the 21st September reached me on the 2nd Instant from the information contained in it I inferred, tho' You do not say as much that the whole of Our Fleet was in the Possession of the Enemy—Since then Our Loss has been confirmed by Commodore Perry's Official Account of the Action which I now transmit to You.—

It would have been satisfactory to me to have received from You, a more detailed Account of the reasons which induced You to Urge Captain Barclay to a Meeting with the Enemy before the Arrival of the Seamen, then on their Way to him, and which could have enabled him to engage on less unequal terms, more Particularly as you appear to have been fully aware of their Approach from Your having sent Major Chambers to meet and Conduct them to Amherstburg.—

Until however I receive Your Report upon this Subject

I shall do You the justice to believe, that in adopting this Measure You have Acted with the best motives and upon grounds that will justify it.—

I entirely Approve of your determination Consequent upon this disastrous event, of your making a stand upon the Thames, and have the fullest reliance upon the Zeal and Ability You have hitherto manifested, to conduct Your Retreat so as to Afford the Enemy no decided Advantage over You :—I recommend to You to Persevere in the conduct You are observing, of Conciliating the Indians by every Means in Your Power, and You may hold out to them the Assurance of receiving a liberal Allowance of Presents, as soon as you shall reach a Position where they may be forwarded with safety,—a large supply of them have Arrived from England, of the very first Quality, and will be sent on towards the Head of the Lake.

I am happy to find in the midst of all Your difficulties that You preserve the unbroken Spirit of a British Officer which rises superior to them, and which will I trust aided by the Valor and Discipline of the Troops under Your Command finally extricate you from them.—

As any Reinforcements would only serve to increase Your embarrassments with regard to Provisions, You need not expect any to be sent to You, unless you urge the Measure :— Genl'. De Rottenburg has, in Consequence of a demonstration on the Part of the Enemy towards his left, sent back to Kingston the two Flank Companies of De Wattevilles Regiment, which had been ordered to join him from thence.—

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant.—

A True Copy

Military Secretary

(Signed) GEORGE PREVOST

Commander of the Forces

Archives, C. 731, p. 124.

From Yeo at Kingston to Warren at Halifax.

Copy

His Majestys Ship Wolfe
at Kingston on Lake Ontario

10th October 1813

Sir/

It is my painful duty to inform you that the whole of His Majesty's Naval Force on Lake Erie, has been totally defeated and fallen into the hands of the Enemy on the 10th Ultimo.

I have no official advice from Captain Barcklay the Senior Officer on the Lake, and from the severity of his wounds I am apprehensive that I shall not receive any account of this disastrous event for some time.

The orders I had given Captain Barcklay were to cooperate with Major General Proctor, against the Enemy according to his Judgement, the wishes of the General and His means, which I know were very inadequate to meet the far superior and well appointed Squadron of the Enemy.

I am perfectly uninformed as to Captain Barcklay's reasons for risking an Action before his reinforcement of Seamen arrived; which were well on their way at the time of the Action, report says he was ordered out (contrary to his own Judgment) by Major General Proctor, who represented to Captⁿ. Barcklay that it was absolutely necessary an attempt should be made to keep up the communication between Long Point and Amherstburgh in order if possible to releive the Army from its perilous situation. I am not competent to judge whether that very great scarcity did or did not exist, to authorize the measure but from every information I have been able to collect from individuals I have reason to beleive a short delay would not have been attended with any serious consequences to the Garrison.

Notwithstanding the immense disparity of force, which scarcely left a hope of success Captain Barclay did not hesitate a moment, but heroically devoted himself and the Squadron entrusted to his charge to the safety of the Army, the preservation of the Province, and what was equally dear to him the Honor of the British Flag.

By the Enemy's own confession it appears, that the Detroit, of 17 Guns of different Calibre had completely defeated and compelled to surrender (after Killing and Wounding all but seven Men) the Lawrence of 20-32 Pounder Carronades, unfortunately the Gallant Barclay had lost his remaining Arm (his right having been devoted to the service some years before), his First Lieutenant Killed and thus became incapable of directing the operations of the Squadron a severer fate had unhappily befallen Captain Finis and his First Lieutenant (the Queen Charlotte, of 16 Guns 14 of which were twenty four pounder Carronades) who were Killed and the remaining Commanding Officers and those that were capable of taking charge, were all Killed or Wounded. His Majesty's Squadron became unmanageable from the want of Officers, and the Enemy wrested our hard earned Victory, out of our hands, not from superior management tho' aided by Treble the number of Seamen by double the Weight of Metal,—but by our losing every Officer fit to take charge.

The Enemy can boast nothing in this affair in which we had not more than 150 Seamen, the rest of the Crew being composed of Soldiers and I trust it will be found that *all* his Majesty's Officers and Men employed on this occasion have done all that Men in such a Situation could possibly do.

I have the Honor to be,

With great respect,

Sir

Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant

(Signed) J. L. YEO

Archives, Adm. Sec. In Letters, vol. 5445.
 [Transcripts from the originals in the Public Record Office, London.]

LAKE ERIE COURT-MARTIAL PAPERS.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—*A certain amount of repetition cannot be avoided if a full account of the written as well as the verbal evidence before the Court is to be given here. The battles of Lake Erie and Plattsburg were of such supreme importance that every item of evidence should be given, even when what appears in the reports and correspondence at the time of the battles is repeated at the subsequent courts-martial. Exact corroboration, detail by detail, is as well worth study in such cases as variations or contradictions.*]

Extract of a letter from Lieut^t. General Sir George Prevost
 B^t. to Earl Bathurst dated Head Quarters S^t. David's,
 Niagara Frontier 25th Aug. 1813. No. 88.

The great danger to which the Detroit Frontier was exposed in consequence of the Naval Superiority acquired by the Enemy on Lake Erie, from my Inability to obtain officers and seamen to man the Vessels I had prepared on it, induced me to move forward to the Center Division under M. General de Rottenburg to enable me from thence to second M. General Procters undiminished ardor in maintaining an unequal contest. That Officer is contending not only against a great Superiority in Numbers, but also with extraordinary difficulties in providing Provisions and Supplies for his Regular Force and Indian Warriors, notwithstanding the incessant exertions which are daily made by every department of this Army to diminish them ;—but a distance of more than 800 Miles from Quebec, in a new Country, presents great Obstacles to the Transport Service, some of them almost unsurmountable, until the Superiority on the Lakes is obtained by us.

Major General Procter, having given way to the Clamor of our Indian Allies to act offensively, moved forward on the

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A true Copy
 ADAM GORDON
 Sec^y. of State's Office

20th Ultimo, with about 350 of the 41st Reg^t. and between three and four thousand Indians ; and on the 2^d Instant, attempted to carry by assault the Block houses and works at Sandusky, where the Enemy had concentrated a considerable Force. The Indians however, previous to the assault, withdrew themselves from out of reach of the Enemys fire.—

The handful of His Majestys Troops employed on this occasion, displayed the greatest bravery, nearly the whole of them having reached the Fort, and made every effort to enter it, but a galling & destructive fire being kept up by the Enemy, within the Blockhouses, and from behind the picketting which completely protected them, and which we had not the means to force, the Major General thought it most prudent not to continue longer so unavailing a contest. He accordingly drew off the Assailants and returned to Sandwich with the loss of 25 killed, as many missing, and about 40 wounded. Amongst the former are Brev^t. Lieut^t. Col^l. Short, and L^t. J. G. Gordon of the 41st Regt.

By subsequent accounts from the Major General dated 22^d Instant, I find the Enemy had not attempted to advance at that period, and that Captain Barclay, who commands on Lake Erie, was only waiting the arrival of the Officers and Seamen (about 50) which I obtained for that Service from His Majestys Ship Dover, and which I trust are now with him—tho' a very insufficient proportion, still their arrival may enable his Squadron to appear again on the lake. This reinforcement, together with that of the Troops I have ordered forward to the Right Division, will I hope enable M. Gen^l. Procter effectually to resist the Enemy should they attempt to advance ag^t. Detroit or Amherstburg in consequence of their late success.

Endorsed :—N^o. 8 Ext^t. of a letter from L^t. Gen^l. Sir G. Prevost B^t., to Earl Bathurst dated 25 Aug 1813.
No. 88.

Extracts from Letters from His Excellency Sir George Prevost to Major General Procter relating to the State of the Naval Force on Lake Erie under the Command of Captⁿ. Barclay.

Head Quarters, S^t. Davids,
22nd August 1813—

Sir, "The experience obtained by Sir James Yeo's conduct towards a Fleet infinitely Superior to the one under his Command will satisfy Captain Barclay that he has only to dare and the Enemy is discomfited."—

(Signed) GEORGE PREVOST,
Commander of the Forces.

Amherstburg 5th Sept^r. 1813.

Sir, I have only a few Minutes left to write to you by Captain Chambers who is on the eve of Departure for Head Quarters :—

Our Situation here in respect to Provisions is truly alarming, the only Flour which I can now obtain is hunted up from the Merchants and Farmers in small Quantities ;— this measure can be only expected to afford us a temporary relief for a few days.—I hope that you have sent on another Drove of Cattle, as I have reason to expect from your last Letter, and that you will continue to send me from time to time a further Supply, until we can get a Supply of Irish Pork at this place.—

Our Issues, are now about 14 Head of Cattle per day, and had we no Corn would be 7000^{lbs.} of Flour—only 300 Bushels of Corn now remain in Store and 40 Barrels of Flour ; And I cannot say where more of either Species is to be had.— I have not now any Money except what I make or borrow—I hope you will send some by Captain Chambers on his return ; —Specie is of great use in purchasing Provisions, and I beg

A true Copy
ADAM GORDON
Sec^y. of State's Office

that a proportion of 1 and 4 dollar Army Bills, may be sent to enable me to make small payments.—I am completely worn out with fatigue and anxiety and I hope you will be soon able to send me Assistance as before mentioned. I intend with the sanction of Major General Procter to send two Batteaux from hence to Port Talbot for Flour on Tuesday next :—Captain Barclay thinks that the risk will not be great, and our Case is desperate.

Captain Chambers will be able to give you full information of our present situation and Resources.—I have &c.

(Signed) ROB^t. GILLMOR
Dep^y. & Com^y. Gen^l.

To

Edw^d Couche Esq^{re}.
Dep^y Comm^y Gen^l.

H.M.S. Detroit Amherstburg
Sept^r. 6th 1813.

Sir/

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters by Lieut^t. Bignal—& I am happy to announce to you the arrival of the party of seamen under his orders.

I have appointed him to the Hunter—and Lieut^t. Inglis to the Detroit—as he has nothing official to shew for his confirmation. I have directed him to do the duty of *Second* Lieut^t. conforming to the first arrangement with respect to his Seniority with Lieut^t. Garland.

M^r. Jack informs me that on your appointing him to the Detroit You told him that he was to join Capt. Finnis in that ship (and as he came from Bermuda for that purpose) I gave him permission to join the Queen Charlotte should it meet your approbation.

The Seamen I have divided between the two Ships ; except a Boatswain's and Gunner's Mate, who have joined the Lady Prevost.

That the Number is tottally inadequate the [*sic*] render the

Squadron under my command effective is well known to you, by representations I have already so frequently made. But it is the opinion of the Major Gen^l. Commanding the forces here; that some thing must be attempted by me to enable us to get Supplies, by the Lake—particularly as the Season is rapidly closing.

That such a thing is necessary, there cannot be a doubt and in consequence if I find that no farther re-enforcements are likely to arrive immediately, and I know something of the few that have arrived—I shall sail and risk every thing to gain so great a point—as that of opening the communication by water.

That the Risk is very great I feel very much, but that in the present state of this place, without provisions, without stores—& without Indian Goods (which last is a matter of the highest importance,) it is necessary, I fully agree with the Gen^l.

Less can be expected, (if any thing can at all) than if I had received re-enforcements, which I judge absolutely nec^y. *more* I have never asked from you—

I am certain of being well supported by the Officers, which gives me almost all the confidence I have in the approaching battle.

The Enemy has not appeared for some days, but I believe they are at the Islands.

Major Gen^l. Proctor has sent Capt. Chambers, to expedite any party that may be coming on, or to start with them from your squadron—

I have the Honor to be Sir

Your most obed. Humble Serv^t.

R H BARCLAY

Sen^r. Off^r. on Lake Erie A.L.S.

To Commodore Sir Ja^s. Lucas Yeo

K^t. E^c. E^c. E^c.

Endorsed:—To Sir James Yeo

Head Quarters Montreal
Adjutant Gen^s. Office 24th November 1813.

GENERAL ORDERS,

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received an Official report from Major General Procter of the Affair which took place on the 5th October, near the Moravian Village, and He has in vain sought in it, for grounds to palliate the report made to His Excellency by Staff Adjutant Reiffenstein upon which the General Order of the 18th October, was founded—on the contrary, that statement remains confirmed in all the principal events which marked that disgraceful day ; the precipitancy with which the Staff-Adjutant retreated from the Field of Action, prevented his ascertaining the loss sustained by the Division on that occasion ; it also led him most grossly to exaggerate the Enemy's Force, and to misrepresent the conduct of the Indian Warriors, who instead of retreating towards Machedash, as he had stated, gallantly maintained the conflict under their Brave Chief Tecumseth, and in their turn, harrassed the American Army on its retreat to Detroit.

The subjoined Return states the loss the Right Division has sustained in the Action of the Fleet on Lake Erie on the 10th September, and in the affair of the 5th October near the Moravian Village ; in the latter but very few appear to have been rescued by an honourable death from the ignominy of passing under the American Yoke, nor are there many whose wounds pleat [*sic*] in mitigation of this reproach.—

The Right Division appears to have been incumbered with an unmanageable load of unnecessary and forbidden Private Baggage—while the requisite arrangements for the expeditious, and certain conveyance of the Ammunition and Provisions (the sole objects worthy of consideration,) appear to have been totally neglected, as well as all those ordinary

measures, resorted to, by Officers of intelligence, to retard, and impede the advance of a pursuing Enemy.—The result affords but too fatal a proof of this unjustifiable neglect.—The Right Division had quitted Sandwich on its retreat, on the 26th September, having had ample time for every previous arrangement, to facilitate and secure that movement ; on the 2^d October following the Enemy pursued by the same route, and on the 4th succeeded in Capturing all the Stores of the Division, and on the following day attacked and defeated it, almost without a struggle.

With heartfelt pride and satisfaction The Commander of the Forces had lavished on the Right Division of this Army, that tribute of praise which was so justly due to its former gallantry, and steady discipline.—It is with poignant grief and mortification that He now beholds its well earned Laurels tarnished, and its conduct calling loudly for reproach and censure.—

The Commander of the Forces appeals to the genuine feelings of the British Soldier from whom He neither conceals the extent of the loss the Army has suffered, nor the far more to be lamented injury it has sustained, in its wounded Honor, confident that but one sentiment will animate every breast and that zealous to wash out the stain ; which by a most extraordinary and unaccountable infatuation, has fallen on a formerly deserving portion of the Army ; all will vie to emulate the glorious achievements recently performed by a small but highly spirited, and well disciplined Division, led by Officers possessed of enterprize, intelligence, and gallantry, nobly evincing, what British Soldiers can perform, when susceptible of no fear, but that of failing in the discharge of their duty.

His Excellency considers it an act of justice, to exonerate most honorably from this censure the brave Soldiers of the Right Division who were serving as Marines on board the Squadron on Lake Erie.

The Commander of the Forces having received the Official report of Captain Barclay of the Action which took place on Lake Erie on the 10th September when that Gallant Officer, from circumstances of imperious necessity, was compelled to seek the superior Force of the Enemy, and to maintain an arduous and long contested Action, under circumstances of accumulating ill fortune.

Captain Barclay represents that the Wind, which was favourable early in the day, suddenly changed, giving the Enemy the Weather-gage, and that this important advantage was shortly after the commencement of the Engagement, heightened by the fall of Captain Finnis, the Commander of the Queen Charlotte, in the Death of that intrepid and zealous Officer, Captain Barclay laments the loss of his main support.—The fall of Captain Finnis was soon followed by that of Lieutenant Stokoe, whose Country was deprived of his Services at this very critical period, leaving the Command of the Queen Charlotte to Provincial Lieutenant Irvine, who conducted himself with great courage, but was too limited in experience, to supply the place of such an Officer as Captain Finnis; and in consequence this Vessel proved of far less assistance than might be expected.

The Action commenced about a quarter before twelve O'Clock, and continued with great fury until half past two, when the American Commodore quitted his Ship, which struck shortly after, to that Commanded by Captain Barclay (the Detroit.—hitherto the determined Valor displayed by the British Squadron, had surmounted every disadvantage, and the day was in her favor; but the contest had arrived at that period when Valor alone was unavailing—the Detroit and Queen Charlotte were perfect Wrecks, and required the utmost skill of Seamanship, while the Commanders and Second Officers of every Vessel, were either Killed or Wounded, and not more than Fifty British Seamen were dispersed in the Crews of the Squadron, and of these a great proportion had fallen in the conflict.

The American Commodore made a gallant and but too successful effort to regain the day.—His second largest Vessel the Niagara, had suffered little, and his numerous Gun-boats, which had proved the greatest source of annoyance during the Action, were all uninjured.—

Lieutenant Garland, First Lieutenant of the Detroit, being mortally wounded, previous to the wounds of Captain Barclay, obliging him to quit the Deck, it fell to the lot of Lieutenant Inglis, to whose intrepidity and conduct the highest praise is given to surrender His Majestys Ship, when all further resistance had become unavailing.

The Enemy by having the Weather-gage were enabled to choose their distance, and thereby avail themselves of the great advantage they derived in a superiority of heavy long Guns; but Captain Barclay attributes the fatal result of the day, to the unprecedented fall of every Commander and Second in Command, and the very small number of Able Seamen left in the Squadron, at a moment when the judgement of the Officer, and Skilful exertions of the Sailor, were most immediately called for.

To the British Seamen, Captain Barclay bestows the highest praise—that they behaved like British Seamen.—From the Officers and Soldiers of the Regular Forces serving as Marines, Captain Barclay, experienced every support within their power, and states that their conduct has excited his warmest thanks and admiration.

Deprived of the palm of Victory, when almost within his grasp, by an overwhelming Force which the Enemy possessed in reserve, aided by an accumulation of unfortunate circumstances: Captain Barclay and his brave Crew have, by their gallant daring, and self devotion to their Country's cause, preserved its honor and their own, even in defeat.

Certified to be a true Extract from the General orders of the Army of Canada.

EDWARD BAYNES

Adj^t. Gen^l. NA

[In print in C.O.42. Vol. 152 = Q. 123. p. 67.]

NARRATIVE OF THE PROCEEDINGS DURING THE COMMAND OF
CAPTAIN BARCLAY OF HIS MAJESTY'S SQUADRON ON LAKE
ERIE.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COURT—

On my arrival at Bermuda in Feb^y. 1813 Sir John Borlaise Warren received an Application from Sir George Prevost to send some Captains, Lieutenants and Seamen to man three Corvettes on Lake Ontario

I was sent with Captains Finnis & Pring, Six Lieutenants, and Gunners to Halifax, for the purpose of proceeding with as much expedition as possible to Quebec and from thence to the Lake Ontario.

On my arrival at Kingston on the Lake I took command of the Corvette N^o. 1 then called the Wolfe by appointment from Sir John B. Warren, about three weeks after my taking the Command I was superseded by the arrival of Sir James Lucas Yeo, with a large detachment of Officers and Seamen from England, and appointed by that Officer to the superintendance of the Gun Boats for the time being—Soon after my appointment to the Gun Boats it was judged necessary to send a Naval Establishment to Lake Erie to render the Squadron on that Lake effective, which it was not considered to be under the Provincial Marine

This Command was offered to Captain Mulcaster the next in Command to Sir James Yeo, who to my personal knowledge declined it in consequence of its ineffectual State and Sir James Yeo refusing to send Seamen—

On Captain Mulcaster's declining I was ordered to proceed to that Lake with three Lieutenants, one Surgeon, and Purser, a Master's Mate, and 19 Men, 12 of these were Canadians who had been discharged from his own Squadron on Lake Ontario the others were the most worthless Characters that came from England with him, which can be proved by the Evidence present, and were sent on board a small coasting

Sloop armed, only with a few Muskets to proceed to York on our way to Lake Erie—On our arrival at that place from the bad State of Health of the Master's Mate (which had been reported by me to Sir James Yeo) I was obliged on a representation of the Surgeon to send him back in the Sloop. From York I proceeded with about 200 Soldiers in Batteaux's to join General Vincent at Fort George which was the nearest Road to Amherstberg, where I was to take the Command of the Naval Force on the Lake Erie—while proceeding to join General Vincent I heard he was driven from Fort George and I met him on his retreat—From the General I learned he had sent the Queen Charlotte to Amherstberg to prevent her falling into the Enemies hands at Fort Erie. No alternative was now left but to proceed to Amherstberg by Land from which we were then 300 Miles.

On my way to that place I learned that two Vessels were at Long point, I immediately proceeded there with the Naval Detachment I had brought with me from Lake Ontario, having left the 200 Soldiers with General Vincent. On arriving at *Long point* I found the *Lady Prevost* and *Chippawa* Schooners. In the former I embarked the Men to proceed to *Amherstberg* leaving the other to Convoy a Transport with Flour to that Place, for even then the Garrison of *Amherstberg* was obliged to be supplied with Provisions from that Depot. At Long Point I addressed a Letter to Sir James Yeo, detailing my proceedings since I left him and stating to him what I found to be the State of the two Schooners at Longpoint and what I understood to be the State of the remaining Force.

Refer to Letter
No. 1 of the
Letter Book.

I proceeded in the *Lady Prevost* intending to reconnoitre the Enemies Force in *Presque Isle* which I could not accomplish from variable Winds; and being anxious to join the Naval Force at *Amherstberg* I lost no time in going to that place. I found on my arrival there that the Information I had received relative to the State of the Naval Establishment

placed under my orders was but too true and I wrote immediately to Sir James Yeo requesting a re-enforcement of Seamen without loss of time and Stated to him in that Letter the Qualities and Condition of the Squadron.

Refer to Letter
Book N^o. 4.

As soon as I could prepare for Sea I sailed in the Queen Charlotte to reconnoitre Presque Isle with the Additional reason, of information having been just received that re-enforcements for the Enemies Army under General Harrison were coming from that port by the Lake. This information proved to be unfounded and I proceeded according to my first intention of looking into that Port and found the Enemies Force far advanced, for the particulars I refer the Court to Letter N^o. 7—In which they will find I not only proposed a combined attack on that place but still urged the necessity of being immediately reenforced by Seamen to prevent the Enemy having the Superiority on the Lake. The Court will find also by that Letter that Sir James Yeo sent me a Captain with his servant no one else. And I beg leave to state to the Court that this Letter called forth a reprimand from the Commodore which he stated as being much too peremptory from a Junior to an Officer so much higher in Rank. To give time for the arrival of Seamen and Troops for the above desirable purpose, I cruized between Black Rock and Presque Isle to intercept the Brig and Schooners which were coming from that place to join the Enemies force at Presque Isle; but I was unfortunate and missed them in a Fog being obliged to return to Long point for Provisions and to receive such answers to the communications as I had made to Sir James Yeo and General Vincent. After I had waited in vain for Seamen or even any letter subsequent to the arrival of Captain Finnis except one from Lieu^t. Col: Harvey, I thought it more prudent to fill His Majestys Vessels with provisions as well as a Transport Schooner that I had brought for that purpose and return to Amherstberg to prepare the Boats of various kinds for our intended expedition and to relieve the

Letter N^o. 7
Letter Book.

An^r. to this,
see N^o. 8,
Letter Book.

wants of the Army in Flour ; which I did, and found the Detroit still in a very backward state, not near ready for Launching, the Materials for Building nearly exhausted and without one Gleam of hope that the prospect could brighten, except by an assurance from General Vincent that a force would be sent to Co-operate with me on our intended attack on Presque Isle, and even then we had to wait the arrival of the small Vessels from Lake Huron to transport the necessary Artillery and Troops, When these Vessels did arrive still under the impression *that aid* would be afforded to enable Major General Proctor and myself to make the joint attack, every thing was prepared even the Artillery embarked when I was shewn a letter from the Deputy Adjutant General, which stated that no assistance could be sent from the Army under Major General De Rottenburg (who had superceded General Vincent) which entirely put and [*sic*] end to our hopes in that way. I therefore represented the case to Commodore Sir James Yeo ; equipped my Squadron as well as I could and sailed not only to prevent the Enemies Squadron from coming over the Bar but to be nearer Lake Ontario from whence I still fondly looked for re-enforcements. On my arrival at Long point and the failure of getting Men from both parties I thought my situation as well as that of the Country so critical that I wrote to His Excellency Sir George Prevost (lest Sir James Yeo should be on the Lake) to point out the great necessity of taking the Lake into his serious consideration as on it depended the very existence of the Army under the Command of General Proctor, to which Letter I beg leave to refer the Court. Disappointed as I was not only by the non-arrival of the Seamen but by the Generals declining to send Troops to destroy Presque Isle, I sailed again to reconnoitre that place, determined to Attack any part of the Enemies Force that might be over the Bar, the particulars of which I again refer the Court, (to the letter Book No. 10) which was sent by an Officer, when it will appear that

Refer to No. 9
Letter Book,
and No. 8 of
Letters of Sir
Geo. Prevost to
Earl Bathurst.

No. 10
Letter Book.

I again urged the absolute necessity of being re-enforced as I feared the event would prove fatal. To this important Letter I only received a verbal answer from Sir James Yeo that he could not send me any Seamen. This I state in refutation of the charge against me in which he says that I only allowed him three Days to send Men three hundred Miles. I cruized there still hoping that I should at Length be re-enforced blockadeing the Port of Presque Isle as closely as I could untill I one morning saw the *whole of the* Enemies force over the Bar and in a most formidable state of preperation. I wrote immediately to Sir James Yeo N^o. 15 and made an appearance to the Enemy of returning to Long point, but soon after losing sight of them I bore up for Amherstberg. I was happy to find on my arrival that General Proctor had returned from the Expedition against Sanddusky and my whole Attention was now turned on the equipment of the Detroit being fully aware of the Speedy approach of the Enemy's Squadron and the necessity of at least making a Shew to prevent their taking advantage of their superiority and assailing us by land and lake together. It will appear by Letter N^o. 21 to Sir James Yeo that my fears were realized as the Enemies force had chaced my look-out Vessel and by letter 25 that they had made their appearance off Amherstberg—

On my arrival at Amherstberg I sent a small Schooner to cruize to the Eastward of the Islands to apprise me of the approach of the Enemies Squadron and was soon satisfied that my apprehensions of their following me up were but too well founded as the Court will see by refering to my Letter to the Commodore on the subject. They did not appear off this port untill the 24th and I apprized him of it again by my letter N^o. 25 bearing date the 25th August. By this time our necessities were becoming very urgent and our supplies by the Lake entirely cut off, No possibility of obtaining an adequate supply by Land for the numerous

Letter Book
N^o. 15.

Refer to Letter
from Sir G. Prevost dated
25 Aug^t, N^o. 8.

Refer to
Letter Book
N^o. 21 & 25.

Letter Book
N^o. 21 & 25.

people we had to feed. Every Attention was turned to the Naval Force which the Country now looked up to, as the only defence. I now understood that about 50 Seamen with two Lieut^{ts}. and one Midshipman were on their way from Kingston, *Not from Commodore* Sir James Yeo, but from Sir George Prevost through General Proctor, to whom I had previously applied, finding all applications to Sir James Yeo useless—Anxiously indeed did *all look* forward for their arrival, few as they were—at length on the 5th of September they did arrive but instead of 50 far short of three hundred the number I hoped to receive they counted only 36 with two Lieut^{ts}. one Masters Mate and two Gunners being the first division that left H.M. Troopship Dover at Quebec.

When that division left Quebec there was no idea of any more coming and the letter I received by Lieut Bignal (first of the above Troopship) told me that when Sir James Yeo understood that the remainder had come to Kingston he would forward the like number from the Squadron. Sir James in this communication seems to have entirely disbelieved the many representations of our approaching necessities, when he writes so coolly about sending men by the mode he proposes. The remainder of the Dovers Seamen did not arrive at Kingston a distance inland from Amherstberg of 600 Miles until after the Action. The Enemy were in superior Force between him and Kingston so as to preclude the possibility of a water communication and it must have taken at least 6 days to communicate with him by Land, 12 more must have elapsed before Men could reach Amherstberg and at most it was but a faint hope that they would come at all.

The court will now allow me to revert to our actual state at this time. There were above 14,000 Indians to Victual who had come from different Countries, accustomed to every indulgence, and prone to quarrel and turn their Arms against

their friends as well as foes if their wants were not Supplied and liberally too—to this number was to be added the whole population of that part of the Country and the regular force attached to General Proctor. To the want of Provisions must be added the other privation, of every kind of Military and Naval Stores therefore it was to be considered that each succeeding day added to our difficulties, and I must beg the Courts attention to the circumstance, They were not difficulties that could be surmounted, as will appear by a reference to a letter from Deputy Com^y. General Gilmour dated 5th Sep^t. 1813 to Dep^y. Com^y. Gen^l. Couche and also by his letter to me dated Montreal 7 June 1814 (N^o. 21) I felt the necessity of this document and therefore applied to him for it having lost all my Official communications on the Subject. One more trial was made to remain untill Seamen might arrive, at least until we might have a certainty of their being on their way, that failing only two alternatives remained, either to join in the retreat of the Army after ingloriously burning my Vessels, or risk and [*sic*] action notwithstanding the deplorable manner in which the Squadron was manned and if the Country was to fall it should not be without an effort on my part to prevent it—Under such circumstances what Officer could hesitate a moment which measure he should adopt. I therefore instantly decided on that which appeared the most honorable and determined to risk everything rather than abandon my Post without a struggle, and I was confirmed in this resolution by General Proctor's concurrence as expressed in his Letter of the 8th Sept. here produced, and the Court will perceive by extracts from letters from Sir George Prevost that in risking an Action at this critical period I only anticipated the express Orders of His Excellency who in a letter to General Proctor dated the 18 Sept says “ that the Squadron on Lake Erie being inevitably involved in the Common Fate of the Military portion on “ Lake Erie is to be devoted to their preservation and if

N^o. 12.N^o. 27.N^o. 13.N^o. 9.in N^o 9.

“ necessary sacrificed to the last Atom sooner than a vestige
“ be left to swell the pride of an arrogant Foe.”

Having in my statement endeavoured to point out the numerous and accumulating difficulties that I laboured under in conjunction with the Army under Major General Proctor I trust I have demonstrated the necessity of the Squadrons departure from Amherstberg. It is unnecessary for me to make any observations on the result of the Action as my Official Letter to Sir James Yeo on the Subject is now before the Court, but I trust I may be permitted to make a few remarks on Sir James Yeo’s letter and first on that paragraph wherein he seems to doubt the existance of any scarcity that could justify my risking an action. In answer to which I submit that if the Deputy Com^y. General of an Army with such ample means as he had at his disposal was unable to procure any thing like an adequate supply for the Troops, can any one doubt the actual scarcity—That it did exist in an insurmountable degree is evident from the Commissarys Letters before refered to. I must next beg leave to point out the striking difference between Sir James Yeo’s first Letter to Sir J. Warren and his second, written after receiving my Official account of the Action a Copy of Which letter I beg to produce N^o. [] which if I may judge from that circumstance he must have felt conscious that he had neglected to send me re-enforcements untill it was too late—My repeated requests to him for this assistance may have irritated him and to save himself from censure he has endeavoured to through [*sic*] obloquy on me. His observation “ that I appeared to have sailed under the conviction that I had every thing to gain and but little to lose” Altho most true, in the first part in one sense is, evidently meant from the general Tenor of the Letter to bear another construction, I certainly had much to gain, no less than rescuing the Squadron under my orders from impending distructions, saving General Proctor’s Division of the Army and preventing

the fall of a Country of immense extent and consequence to His Majesty's Dominions in North America, and these were the only considerations that influenced my conduct. That I had little to lose I never can admit as I had not only my own Character as an Officer to support but also to uphold the honor of the British Navy which on this occasion I felt was committed to my charge and had I not risked and [*sic*] action the whole disgrace of the retreat of the Army would have attached to me, and I should have been justly involved in the shocking imputation of Cowardice. And what did Sir James Yeo give me to enable me to gain so great an object ? In the first place 19 of the Worst Men of his Squadron which I took with me on assuming the Command, subsequently *allowing* 36 Men with two Lieut^s. 1 Masters Mate and 2 Gunners whom I had procured by urgent solicitation to Sir Geo Prevost, to pass him to join me at so late a period that even this trivial re-enforcement only reached me three days previous to the Action.

The letters before the Court wherein I so repeatedly urged the necessity of a body [*sic*] Seamen even from the Moment of my assuming the Command will I trust sufficiently refute the insinuation of Sir James Yeo that I only allowed three days for their arrival—I now beg leave to refer the Court to a letter from General Proctor N^o. 20 wherein he states the absolute necessity of my sailing and likewise to the Gen^l. Orders of the Commander of the Forces in America dated the 24 Nov^r. 1813 wherein His Excellency is pleased to say that Captain Barclay and his Brave Crew have by their Gallant daring and self devotion to their Country's cause preserved its honor and their own even in Defeat. Situated as I now am and however unwilling I should be under less imperious circumstances to obtrude my former services on this Court I feel it a duty incumbent on me on this occasion to state that I have been Sixteen years actually employed in His Majestys Service have been very frequently engaged with

the Enemy and have been wounded eight times. I have thus endeavoured to state to the Court the whole of the leading circumstances connected with this case and in the unavoidable absence of Living witnesses, I have been compelled to have recourse to authenticated Documents of Official Correspondence which I trust will be sufficient to shew that necessity alone forced me to seek so unequal a combat. And although unsuccessful, I indulge the hope that the decision of this court will rescue my character from the imputation of Rashness, and will be honorable to myself, and to the brave Officers and crew under my Command.

R: H: BARCLAY.

9th Sep^r. 1814.

CAPTAIN R^r. H^r. BARCLAY, HIS OFFICERS AND CREW FOR
THE CAPTURE OF THE SQUADRON ON LAKE ERIE.

At a Court Martial assembled on board His Majesty's Ship
Gladiator in Portsmouth Harbour on the ninth Day of
September 1814.

PRESENT

Edward James Foote Esquire Rear Admiral of the White
And second Officer in the Command of His Majestys
Ships and Vessels at Spithead and in Portsmouth Har-
bour.

PRESIDENT.

Captain Benjamin Will^m.

Captain Sir James Athol

Page

Wood Knt.

George Fowke

David Lloyd

Adam Drummond

Edward Brace

Zachariah Mudge

Richard Byron

Arthur Farquhar

John Quilliam

James Richard Dacres

George Francis Seymour.

Pursuant to an Order from The Right Honorable Lords
Commiss[rs.] of the Admiralty dated the eighth Day of

September 1814 and directed to the President setting forth That Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo, had transmitted to their Lordships the Copy of a Letter which he had received from Robert Heriot Barclay Esquire Commander of His Majesty's late Ship Detroit and Senior Officer commanding a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in Lake Erie dated the 12th of September 1813 detailing the particular Circumstances of the Capture of the said Squadron on Lake Erie by a Squadron of Ships and Vessels of the United States of America on the 10th of the same Month The Court proceeded to enquire into the cause and circumstances of the Capture of His Majesty's late Squadron and to try the said Captain Robert Heriot Barclay his surviving Officers and Seamen late belonging thereto for their Conduct on that Occasion and having heard the Evidence produced and completed the Enquiry and having maturely and deliberately weighed and considered the whole The Court is of Opinion That the Capture of His Majesty's late Squadron was caused by the very defective means Captain Barclay possessed to equip them on Lake Erie, the Want of a sufficient Number of able Seamen whom he had repeatedly and earnestly requested to be sent to him, the very great Superiority of the force of the Enemy to the British Squadron and the unfortunate early fall of the superior Officers in the Action. That it appears that the greatest Exertions had been made by Captain Barclay in equipping and getting into Order, the Vessels under his Command That he was fully justified under the existing circumstances in bringing the Enemy to Action. That the Judgement and Gallantry of Captain Barclay in taking his Squadron into Action and during the Contest were highly conspicuous and entitled him to the highest Praise and that the whole of the Officers and Men of His Majesty's late Squadron conducted themselves in the most gallant Manner and doth adjudge the said Captain Robert Heriot Barclay his surviving Officers and Men to be

most fully and most honourably acquitted and they are hereby
most fully and most honourably acquitted accordingly

EDW^d. JA^s. FOOTE

| | |
|---|----------------|
| B. W. Page | J. A. Wood |
| George Fowke | David Lloyd |
| Adam Drummond | E Brace |
| Zachary Mudge | A Byron |
| Arthr. Farquhar | J Quilliam |
| Ja ^s . R ^d . Dacres | G. F. Seymour. |

M^s. Greetham,
D^y. Judge Advocate of the Fleet

signed

Minute :—29 Nov. 1814

Vide Minute for paying the Officers & Men on letter from
Lieu^t. Geo. Inglis dated 23 Nov 1814

W: M: C.

Sept^r. 16th 1814 H. P.

Minutes taken at a Court Martial assembled on board His
Majesty's Ship Gladiator in Portsmouth Harbour on the
ninth Day of September 1814.

Present

Edward James Foote Esquire, Rear Admiral of the White,
And second Officer in the Command of His Majesty's
Ships and Vessels at Spithead and Portsmouth Harbour

. . . . President

Captains Benjⁿ. W^m. Page, Captains Sir Ja^s. Athol Wood
Kn^t.

| | |
|---|--|
| George Fowke, | David Lloyd, |
| Adam Drummond, | Edward Brace, |
| Zachariah Mudge, | Rich ^d . Byron, |
| Arthur Farquhar, | John Quilliam, |
| Ja ^s . Rich ^d . Dacres, | Geo ^e Fra ^s . Seymour. |

Captain Robert Heriot Barclay, Commander of His Majesty's late Ship, Detroit, his surviving Officers and Seamen, were brought in and Audience admitted.

The Order from the Right Honorable Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty dated the eighth Day of September 1814 and directed to the President, setting forth That Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo had transmitted to their Lordships the Copy of a Letter which he had received from Robert Heriot Barclay, Esquire, Commander of His Majesty's late Ship, "Detroit," and Senior Officer commanding a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships and Vessel on Lake Erie dated the 12th of September 1813, detailing the particular circumstances of the Capture of the said Squadron on Lake Erie by a Squadron of Ships and Vessels of the United States of America on the 10th of the same Month, and to enquire into the cause and circumstances of the Capture of His Majesty's late Squadron, and to try the said Captain Robert Heriot Barclay his surviving Officers and Seamen late belonging thereto, for their Conduct on that occasion, was read.

The President reported to the Court, That Captains Peter Heywood and James Black were absent on Admiralty leave.

The Members of the Court, and the Judge Advocate then in open Court, and before they proceeded to Trial respectively took the several Oaths enjoined and directed in and by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the Twenty second Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the second, intituled, "An Act for amending explaining and reducing "into one Act of Parliament the Laws relating to the "Government of His Majesty's Ships Vessels and Forces by Sea."

Then the said Letter from the said Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo, and the Copy of the Letter from the said Captain Robert Heriot Barclay were read, and are hereto annexed,

TO CAPTAIN BARCLAY—

Q. Have you any further Narrative to produce of the Transactions respecting the loss of His Majesty's Squadron on Lake Erie ?

Captain Barclay produced a Narrative, which was read and is hereto annexed.

Captain Barclay being sworn declared that the Contents of the Narrative that had been read to the Court were correct and true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Q. Have you any complaint to make against any of the Officers or Crews of the Squadron lately under your command on Lake Erie

A. None

TO THE OFFICERS

Q. Have either of you any Complaint to make against Captain Barclay respecting his conduct on the occasion ?

A. None whatever.

Lieutenant Thomas Stokoe sworn.

Q. Are the Contents of the Narrative of Captain Barclay more particularly as to the Scarcity of Provision at Lake Erie and the want of Seamen on board the Squadron correct and true as far as come within your knowledge and to the best of your belief ?

A. They are, we were particularly short of Seamen.

Q. How many Men had you on board the Queen Charlotte that you could call experienced Seamen ?

A. Not more than ten with the petty Officers we had on board between One hundred and twenty and One hundred and thirty Men Officers and all together.

Q. How many Men had you on board that had been accustomed to work the great Guns with a Ship in Motion ?

A. Only the Men that came up from the Dover three Days before we sailed, we had sixteen of them, boys included,

from the Dover, the rest we had learnt ourselves since our arrival on the Lake.

Q. Do you know whether the other Vessels that composed the Squadron of Captain Barclay were equally deficient in Seamen ?

A. All the other Vessels were equally deficient in point of Seamen, except the Detroit, might have had a few more on Account of being a larger Vessel.

Q. Were you a Prisoner on board the American Vessels ?

A. No, I remained on board our own Vessel six Weeks after we were captured, I never was on board any of the Enemys Vessels.

Q. How many of those Seamen of the British Squadron were killed and wounded ?

A. One killed and four wounded of the able Seamen on board the Queen Charlotte

Q. At half an Allowance how many Days provision had you on board the Queen Charlotte when you went out ?

A. We might have had a Weeks at half Allowance of Provisions but not of Spirits they were preserved for the Action, and all consumed on that day, we had none served out for several days before

Q. Can you recollect the State of the Queen Charlotte just before you were wounded ?

A. Several shots had struck the Vessel many of the ropes were cut away but the Vessel was then manageable, this was about an hour and a quarter after the commencement of the Action. Captain Finnis and Lieutenant Garden of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment were killed immediately on the commencement of the Action, before a Man was hurt. There were then one provincial Lieutenant, one Masters Mate that had been in the Navy, and two provincial Midshipmen quite youngsters, and two Warrant Officers, a Boatswain and Gunner left, this was after I was wounded.

Q. At what distance did the Niagara engage the Queen Charlotte in the beginning of the Action ?

A. She engaged us on the Quarter out of Carronade distance, with what long Guns she had.

Q. Was your principal Injury received from her ?

A. No, from the Caledonia, who laid on our Beam with two long twenty four Pounders on Pivets, also out of Carronade Shot distance.

CAPTAIN BARCLAY ASKED.

Q. Had provincial Lieutenant Irvine experience sufficient to such Service, as to conduct the Queen Charlotte in Action after the Death of Captain Finnis, and your own Wound.

A. He was a very brave young man, a perfect Seaman, but not experienced as an Officer.

Provincial Lieutenant Francis Purvis,
late of His Majesty's Ship Detroit,
called in and Sworn

Q. Are the Contents of the Narrative of Captain Barclay more particularly as to the Scarcity of Provisions at Lake Erie and the want of Seamen on board the Squadron correct and true as far as came within your knowledge and to the best of your belief ?

A. Yes, they are.

Q. How many experienced Seamen had you on board the Detroit when the Action commenced ?

A. To the best of my knowledge not more than ten, petty Officers included.

Q. How long had the Detroit been in Action when Captain Barclay unfortunately received his Wound ?

A. About two hours and a half to the best of my Recollection.

Q. Was every Exertion made to defend the Ship after Captain Barclay was wounded ?

A. Yes.

Q. Was she at that time in a very disabled and un-managable State ?

A. Very much so indeed.

Q. Can you recollect how many of those ten Seamen were killed and wounded ?

A. To the best of my recollection seven or eight were killed or wounded.

Q. How near were the Enemy to you during the early part of the Engagement ?

A. I should suppose in the early part of the engagement the Detroit in engaging the Lawrence was within Musquet Shot and within Pistol Shot, of the Niagara, the latter came down after the Lawrence had struck.

Q. Did you observe any of the Shots of the Enemy's Ship to reach the British Squadron when the latter's Guns did not reach them ?

A. I cannot say exactly that I did being employed at my Gun.

Q. Why did you not take possession of the Lawrence when she struck ?

A. We had only one Boat and that was cut to pieces and the Niagara another large Brig, being to windward, came down too quickly upon us.

Q. What do you attribute the loss of the Action principally to ?

A. To the loss of Captain Furnis [*sic*] and the Queen's running up under our Lee and the Detroits falling on board of them which permitted the Enemy's Squadron to lay and rake us and the Men consequently got into confusion.

Q. Did the Enemy's Gun Boats do you much damage ?

A. More than any of their Vessels they had long two and thirties

Q. Did you understand that the Enemy's Vessels were well manned ?

A. Yes, they were remarkable well manned, I believe from the Information I received from the American Officers that the Lawrence had more able Seamen on board than we had in our whole Squadron, I was on board the Lawrence

about a quarter of an hour and on board the Niagara two or three days, she appeared to be very well manned they chiefly manned the prizes from her.

Q. Was the Queen Charlotte in a manageable State immediately before she got on board the Detroit ?

A. She did not appear so, they did not back any of their Sails to avoid her.

Q. What was the force of the American Brig ?

A. The Lawrence and Niagara had each eighteen thirty two pound Carronades, and two long twelves. The Caledonia two long twenty four and one thirty two or twenty four pound Carronades, the Tigress one long thirty two—I was not on board the Ariel-Summers, Porcupine, Scorpion or Trip, but I understood they had all long thirty two pound and one or two had Carronades I believe.

Q. Did they appear to be manned equal to the larger Brigs.

A. Yes they did in equal Proportions

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|-----|-------------|
| | | lb. | |
| The Detroit had | 2 | 24 | } long Guns |
| | 1 | 18 | |
| | 6 | 12 | |
| | 8 | 9 | |
| | 1 | 24 | Carronade |
| | 1 | 18 | Do. |
| The Queen Charlotte | 3 | 12 | long Guns |
| | 14 | 24 | Carronade |
| The Lady Prevost | 3 | 9 | long Guns |
| | 10 | 12 | Carronade |
| The Hunter | 2 | 6 | } long Guns |
| | 4 | 4 | |
| | 2 | 2 | |
| | 2 | 12 | Carronade |
| The little Belt | 1 | 9 | } long Guns |
| | 1 | 6 | |
| The Chippeway | 1 | 9 | long Guns |

CAPTAIN BARCLAY ASKED.

Q. Did I cause the Men to be exercised at their Guns not only in my own Ship but in the rest of the Squadron to train them as much as possible to the Use of the Guns ?

A. Twice a day from the time he arrived when weather permitted from an hour and a half to two hours each time and Captain Barclay came forward and saw that they were properly exercised.

Q. Were they exercised with Powder ?

A. Yes they were occasionally.

Q. Were they exercised with Powder as often as the reduced State of the Ammunition at Amherstburg the only place from whence I could get a Supply would allow ?

A. Yes, they were, but not to occasion a Waste of Powder.

Q. Did I exert every means in my power not only to render the Detroit an effective Ship in every way as well as that of the other Vessels ?

A. He did every thing that a brave and experienced Officer possibly could do not only in fitting out the Ships, but in speaking to and encouraging the Men when we came into Action, which appeared to me to give the Men the greatest confidence.

Q. Was I obliged to take from the Equipments of the Queen Charlotte Sails and other articles to render the Detroit at all fit to take the Lake—

A. Yes.

Q. When I first saw the Enemy clear of the Islands did I bear up and make as much Sail as enabled the rest of the Squadron to keep up with me that I might speedily bring them into Action ?

A. Yes.

Q. Did I in the disabled State of the Detroit when assailed by a fresh force display an undiminished Courage and give every Encouragement to the Crew ?

A. You did everything that an Officer possibly could do.

Q. Were the Matches and Tubes so bad that were supplied to me from Amherstburg that I was obliged to prime without the latter and fire pistols at the Guns to set them off ?

A. Yes we fired pistols at the Guns to set them off during the whole of the Action.

Lieutenant Stokoe called in again.

CAPTAIN BARCLAY ASKED—

Q. Did I cause the Men to be exercised at their Guns not only in my own Ship but in the rest of the Squadron to train them as much as possible to the Use of the Guns ?

A. Yes—he did, he gave a general Order out that they should be exercised twice a day, an hour each time, to the best of my Recollection—sometimes they were exercised with Powder, but it was not often they could be exercised with Powder, as there was not sufficient to do it—

Q. Was I obliged to take from the Queen Charlotte Stores of various Descriptions, even to Sails, Cables and Anchors, as well as a proportion of pistols to fire the Guns off with, before I could make the Detroit at all fit for the Lake ?

A. Yes, you were.

M^r. George Peter Martin Young, Surgeon of His Majesty's late Ship, Detroit, called in and sworn

THE COURT ASKED—

Q. Are the Contents of the Narrative of Captain Barclay more particularly as to the Scarcity of Provisions at Lake Erie and the Want of Seamen on board the Squadron correct and true as far as came within your knowledge and to the best of your belief ?

A. They are.

Q. Were the killed and wounded composed in a great measure of the better Seamen ?

A. There were a great proportion of the Seamen in the List in comparison with the other Men—

Q. Were many of the Men you had from the Dover among them ?

A. I cannot recollect.

Q. Do you think the Ships were defended to the last ?

A. As far as I am able to judge they were—

CAPTAIN BARCLAY ASKED—

Q. Did I on my being brought below from my first Wound remain longer than until I could crawl up again ?

A. Certainly not—the first wound was in the Thigh.

Q. How long was it between my returning to the Deck and my being brought below the second time totally disabled ?

A. About an hour, or an hour and a half.

The Court was cleared and agreed, that the Capture of His Majesty's late Squadron was caused by the very defective Means Captain Barclay possessed to equip them on Lake Erie, the Want of a sufficient Number of able Seamen, whom he had repeatedly and earnestly requested to be sent to him, the very great superiority of the Force of the Enemy to the British Squadron, and the unfortunate early fall of the superior Officers in the Action—That it appeared that the greatest Exertions had been made by Captain Barclay in equipping and getting into Order the Vessels under his Command, That he was fully justified under the existing Circumstances in bringing the Enemy to Action That the Judgment and Gallantry of Captain Barclay, in taking his Squadron into Action and during the Contest were highly conspicuous and entitled him to the highest praise, and that the whole of the other Officers and Men of His Majesty's late Squadron conducted themselves in the most gallant Manner—And did adjudge the said Captain Robert Heriot Barclay his Surviving Officers and Men to be most fully and most honourably acquitted—

The Court was again opened, Captain Barclay and his Surviving Officers brought in, Audience admitted, and Sentence passed accordingly—

M^s. GREETHAM
Dep^y. Judge Advocate of the Fleet.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VII (*continued*)

OPERATIONS IN THE LAKE ERIE REGION, 1813

2. THE BATTLE OF THE THAMES, OCTOBER 5, 1813

Archives, C. 680, p. 208.

From Procter on the Field to de Rottenburg at St. David's.

On The Field 5th Oct^r. 1813

Sir/

I am on the Field and in momentary hopes of being Attacked, at such a moment I cannot enter into circumstances. The Bearer, M^r. Wood, is charged with a Confidential Communication, to which I beg your prompt & most serious attention, to the utmost Verge of possibility—pray use every effort to supply what is so essentially necessary—

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Very Obed^t. Serv^t.

HENRY PROCTER

Major General

Com^d.

Indian Goods &c &c to be sent to M^r. Brigham at Delaware—450 men with Gen^l. P——r. From 12 to 1500 Indians—

Archives, C. 680, p. 210.

From Procter at Grand River to de Rottenburg at Kingston.

Copy

Grand River
9th October 1813

My dear General,

I have just received your letter by M^r. Wood, I wrote to you this morning, hoping that my disaster would not cause any immediate retrograde movement, and that I had induced Lieut. Colo^l. Hamilton to return to Turkey Point, as I had not any expectation now, of the Enemys advancing, soon at least, thro the Wilderness. Colonel Young has sent an Officer to order Colo^l. Hamilton to retreat to Ancastar, which I shall take on me to prevent, until the Indians and the Soldiers who escaped arrive here at least.

The consequence of the Enemy's advance and again cutting off the Indian families would be very serious—Four hundred Indians are on the Road in one body, and I think I know of near two hundred Soldiers who have arrived & are on the Road, besides the probability of others—

I have just heard of more Indians being on the Road.

I am &c.

HENRY PROCTER
M. General

Archives, C. 680, p. 186.

From Vincent at Twelve Mile Creek to de Rottenburg at York.

7 O'clock Evening
12 Mile Creek 9th Oct^r.

Sir/

I have so far got on my retreat and was determined to leave Colonel Murray with the Light Brigade to cover the

remainder of the Army which I proposed should rest for the night at the 40— but I have this instant received the enclosed which from every circumstance has obliged me to order a forced March and get without delay to Burlington this rapid movement I fear much that I shall be under the necessity of leaving my sick—Stores and Baggage behind me without I find Batteaux sufficient at the 40 as Waggons I have not half sufficient and the Horses of those are perfectly knocked up—

When I arrive at Burlington I shall put the[m] in a situation to act but I have to request your presence or orders—

I have the honor to be Sir

Your Obedient

JOHN VINCENT

M.-General

Archives, C. 680, p. 184.

From Colonel Young at Burlington to Vincent at Four Mile Creek.

Burlington Oct^r. 9. 1813.

Sir,

It is with infinite regret I inform you that Gen^l. Proctor's Army is completely Anihilated.—L^t. Col: Evans & Cap^t. Muir killed—L^t. Col: Warburton wounded and Major Chambers also supposed to be killed—The Enemy was advancing and Col Hamilton compelled to retreat upon the Grand River ; but he expresses himself doubtful whether he will be able to anticipate the Enemy. I cannot yet learn where Gen^l. Proctor is at this present moment—last Night he was expected at Ancaster the only Persons with the General are Cap^t. Hall and his A.D.C. a few dragoons accompanied him.

L^t. Col: H. informs me he was endeavouring to remove the Provisions in Waggons which were coming in but the

Enemy's Cavalry were advancing so rapidly that he was not certain of effecting his own retreat.

Let me hear what you wish or intend I shall do—It is impossible to repel the Force coming on, but before matters come to the worst, every thing possible shall be done—

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedient

humble servant

ROB^r. YOUNG Col.

I have not a single Batteau that will swim—Waggons most difficult to be procur'd the People are not our friends. I have Parties Horse & foot scouring the Country for Waggons.

[*Endorsement*]

With all possible dispatch sent off at half past eight o'clock AM October (9) nine 1813.

Archives, C. 680, p. 259.

From Procter at Burlington to de Rottenburg.

Copy

Burlington 16th October 1813

Sir,

I have been anxiously waiting the arrival of Officers and others who were of the Right division that I may be enabled to make a full and correct Report of my retreat to the Thames, and of the disastrous affair of the 5th inst. near the Moravian Village.

I sent Lieu^t. Le Breton, Royal Newf^d. Regiment, with a flag of Truce to ascertain the fate of individuals &c^a and request to be further indulged until his return ere I transmit my Report. It is with extreme regret I mention that the conduct of the troops was not upon this unfortunate occasion

such as I have on every other witnessed with pride & satisfaction. The inclination to retreat was too strong, nor did I receive that cordial aid I sought and was entitled to. I have to notice and to complain of Staff Adjutant Reiffeinstein, who not only without leave, but in direct disobedience of orders, has gone to the Lower Province, and with circumstances of marked disrespect. I am confident that, tho' unfortunate, I shall not be prejudged, and that opinion will not be formed on vague or malicious Report. In my communications with Major General Vincent, I have mentioned the number I had reason to expect had escaped—more Indians may be expected than I mentioned—They cannot be all in for several days—I shall take the earliest opportunity of writing.

I have the honor to be &c—

(Signed) HENRY PROCTER

Major General

Archives, C. 680, p. 273.

From Procter at Ancaster to de Rottenburg at Kingston.

October 23^d 1813
Ancaster

Sir,

Having decided on the necessity of retiring on the Thames, It became immediately an Object of the utmost Importance to convince the Indian Body of it's Expediency also; and likewise to dispel all Apprehensions of their being deserted by us. Both of which to a considerable Degree were effected by commencing with the Chief Tecumthee, and then by Means of him. The Indian Cause and ours experienced a serious Loss in the Death of Roundhead. On the 24th Ult^o. I concentrated my Force at Sandwich; having previously sent off to the Thames my remaining Ordnance and Stores

of every Description for which Transport could be found, and destroyed the small Portion that remained, as well as the public Buildings, &c &c at Amherstburg.

On the 26th the Enemy appeared in the Offing, sounding in every direction, and on the 27th landed nine Miles below Amherstburg in considerable Force. On the same Evening I commenced my Retreat, and by easy Marches arrived on the 29th at the River Thames.^o I had immediately after the Loss of our Fleet, observed an Impatience to retire, by which however I was not influenced ere it became at least prudent. A Considerable Number of Indians remained ; but not from the Want of Attachment to us, nor do I apprehend any Diminution of it whilst our Conduct is such as to retain the Confidence of those who have accompanied us. I was not disheartened, tho' I could not but observe that the Idea of making a Stand on the Thames, below the Wilderness* or maintaining any Position on it was generally treated as visionary ; and that every Direction given for that Purpose was received with Apathy, and I soon perceived that it would not be in my Power to occupy the Narrows of the River Sinclair as I had intended, and prevent the Enemy's Vessels passing into Lake Huron. I had assured the Indians that we would not desert them, and it was my full Determination to have made a Stand at the Forks (Chatham) by which our Vessels and Stores would be protected, but after my Arrival at Dover, three Miles lower down the River I was induced to take Post, there first where Ovens had been constructed, and where there was some Shelter for the Troops ; and had accordingly directed that it should be put into the best possible State of Defence, that Time and Circumstances would admit of. Indeed it had been my Intention to have opposed the Enemy nearer the Mouth of the River : had not the Troops, contrary to my Intention, been moved during my Absence of a Few Hours for the Purpose of acquiring some Knowledge of the Country in my rear : On the 3^d Inst^t.

during another unfortunate Attempt for the said Purpose, with the Officer of Engineers, whom Indisposition had prevented waiting on Me, from the 24th Ult^o. to the Evening of the 2^d Ins^t. the Troops on the Advance of the Enemy, retired until stoped at the Forks: and altho' the Measure was at the Time strongly opposed by the Indian Body It had the Effect of determining them, the next Morning to immediately retreat to the Moravian Town and which I found on my Arrival was carrying into Effect; a hasty Measure that made it requisite to immediately sink and destroy the Vessels and Naval Stores brought from Amherstburg as well as all others that could not from the Want of Time, or Means be removed, and which was accordingly done. Immediately on my Determination to fall Back Directions were given and Measures immediately taken for the Construction of Ovens, and a Sufficiency of Perogues or large Canoes on the Communication. Had my Intentions been carried into Effect promptly we should have been well accommodated with Provisions; and not encumbered with them on the Move, as I had explicitly directed that every Article of Food should be in our Rear, and that Portions of it, as well as Individuals of the Commissariat be at stated Distances for the Accommodation of the Sick, and of the Women & children who were to be sent off as Conveyances could be found. In short every Measure was adopted that my Experience or Enquiries could prompt for the disencumbering my Force and facilitating it's Supplies. In the Attempt to save Provisions and Ammunition we became encumbered with Boats not suited to the State of the Navigation. The Indians and the Troops retreated on different Sides of the River, and the Boats to which sufficient Attention had not been given became particularly exposed to the Fire of the Enemy who were advancing on the Side the Indians were retiring, and most unfortunately fell into the Possession of the Enemy, and with them several of the Men, Provisions, all the

Ammunition that had not been issued to the Troops and Indians. This disastrous Circumstance afforded the Enemy the Means of Crossing and advancing on both Sides of the River : Finding the Enemy were advancing too near I resolved to meet him, being strong in Cavalry, in a Wood below the Moravian Town, which last was not cleared of Indian Women and Children or of those of the Troops ; nor of the Sick. The Troops were formed with their Left to the River, with a Reserve, and a Six pounder on the Road, near the River. The Indians on the Right. The want of Ammunition was unknown to the Men, and but to Few of the Officers. My only Anxiety was on that Head, which I made an immediate Attempt to procure a Supply of, as well as of Flour and Corn, and awaited the Result of the Attack with full Confidence. The Gun which certainly should have produced the best Effect if properly managed, was in Possession of the Enemy, immediately as the Attack commenced, without having fired a Shot. This Circumstance operated so very unfavorably that the Line commencing near the Left gave way and notwithstanding the Exertions of the Officers in General could not be reformed or the Men rallied. Having in vain endeavoured to call the Men to a Sense of Duty and having no Chance, by remaining, but of being captured, I reluctantly quitted the Ground, and narrowly escaped being taken by the Enemy's Cavalry. I cannot but observe, that the Troops do not seem to have had that Confidence in themselves, that they have shewn, on every former Occasion, and which has produced a Conduct that I witnessed with Pride and Satisfaction. and which, had they felt, in the late unfortunate Instance, would I am confident, have produced quite another Result, and have placed me in a very different State from what I feel myself in, at Present. Having already waited too long for the Return of Lieut^t Le Breton, whom I sent with a Flag of Truce to ascertain the Fate of Individuals &c, I shall no longer delay ; but take the earliest Opportunity

of giving any further Information I may obtain respecting the late unfortunate Affair of the 5th Ins^t. With deep Concern I mention the Death of the Chief Tecumthée, who was shot on the 5th Instant. I must mention that the Indians repulsed the Left of the Enemy. The Conduct of the Enemy's Cavalry was marked by peculiar Cruelty to the Families of the Indians who had not Time to escape, or conceal Themselves.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your Obedient Servant

HENRY PROCTER

Major General.

[*Notes in margin.*]

° The Public Buildings at Detroit being destroyed.

* A Wood between the Moravian Town and Deleware, the Road thro' which is thirty four Miles, and very bad.

Archives, Q. 122, p. 262.

(Transcript from the original in the Public Record Office, London.)

From Prevost to Bathurst.

Duplicate.

N^o. 100.

Head Quarters, Montreal,

30th October 1813.

My Lord/

Since I had the honor of addressing Your Lordship in my Dispatch N^o 90 of the 22^d Sept^r. last, the enclosed is the only communication I have received from Major Gen^l. Procter :—

I have however been informed from other quarters that, he commenced his Retreat from Sandwich on the 24th of that Month having previously dismantled the Posts of Amherstburg and Detroit, and totally destroyed the public buildings and Stores of every description, that on the 5th of October following when within a few Miles of a strong position which

it was his intention to take up at the Moravian Village on the River Thames, he was attacked by so overwhelming a force under Major Gen^l. Harrison, that, the small numbers he had with him consisting of not more than Four Hundred and Fifty Regular Troops were unable to withstand it and consequently compelled to disperse, that, he had afterwards rallied the remains of his Division and retired upon Ancaster on the Grand River without being pursued by the Enemy, and where he had collected the scattered remains of his Force amounting to about Two hundred men, and had with it subsequently reached Burlington Heights the Head Quarters of Major General Vincent ;—

Tecumseth at the Head of Twelve hundred Indian Warriors accompanied our little Army in its retreat from Sandwich, and the Prophet as well as his Brother Tecumseth, were of the most essential service in preserving it from Annihilation and in arresting the further advance of the Americans, but as to the extent of our loss on this occasion or the particulars of this disastrous affair, I am as yet ignorant,—Major General Procter having signified to Major Gen^l. De Rottenburg Commanding in the Upper Province, that he had sent a Flag of Truce to General Harrison to ascertain the fate of the Officers & Soldiers who were missing, and requesting his indulgence for a few days until it's return, in order to make his Official Report :

I also understand that the Enemy so far from attempting to improve the advantage they had gained, by pursuing our Troops on their Retreat to the Grand River had retired to Sandwich followed by Tecumseth and his Warriors, who had much harrassed them on their March.

Five or Six hundred Indians belonging to the Right Division are reported to have joined the Centre.

I regret to say that I am still without any Official Account of Captain Barclay's Action on Lake Erie, the result of which has led to our relinquishment of the Michigan Territory,

excepting Michilimackinac and our abandonment of the Posts in Upper Canada beyond the Grand River :—

I have reason to think that Captain Barclay has died of his Wounds & that none of his surviving Officers have escaped unhurt.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordship's

most obedient and

most humble Servant

GEORGE: PREVOST.

The Right Hon^{ble}. }
Earl Bathurst }

Archives, C. 681, p. 5.

From de Rottenburg at Kingston to Vincent at —.

Copy

Kingston Nov^r 1st 1813

Sir

I lose not a moment in acquainting you which I do with the highest satisfaction that the Commander of the Forces has assented to the measure which I have recommended to His Excellency of retaining possession not only of York, but of Burlington so long as may be found practicable with reference to supplies of provisions &c You will therefore immediately make arrangements for covering the Number of regular Troops at Burlington proposed in your Letter to L^t. Col Harvey of the 25th viz 800

This Force should consist of Royals 41st and 100th Reg^{ts}— the whole of the Indians will of course remain at Burlington and such a proportion of Field Guns and Artillery as you may think proper on consultation with Major Holcroft—Long Point should continue to be occupied by a Strong detachment assisted by the Loyal Militia of that Neighbourhood

The Enemy should not be suffered to establish himself

at any point betwixt Burlington and Fort George nor should his predatory excursions be permitted to extend so far as the 40 Mile Creek—

And in the event of a successful issue of the Campaign in this Quarter of which sanguine hopes may be entertained or in the event of any favorable opening present itself I should highly approve of your pushing on detachments of Troops towards the Niagara Frontier as a preparatory step to the re-occupation of that Territory and the Expulsion of the Enemy therefrom to which I look forward with confident hopes

Under the discretional authority which has been vested in me and with full reliance on your Zeal and judgement, I have no hesitation in authorizing you to act according to the best of your judgement with a view to the good of His Majesty's Service * in all cases where any doubt may exist as to the intentions or wishes of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces or myself, bearing in mind that so long as it can be done with safety that is without an actual sacrifice of the British Troops under your command every inch of the Country now occupied must be held—

I fully agree with you in opinion that the Enemy will not venture without great caution and a far greater force than he is understood to possess to advance far into the Country in face of a description of Force, of which he feels so great a dread and from which he has of late received so great a check

Every exertion shall be used to send you Pork—in the mean time, that is until the roads become passable it is a great consolation to recollect that you possess so large a Depot of Flour at Burlington and that you still occupy a Country so abundant as that Neighbourhood including the Long Point District—It would be as before observed highly desirable that constant expeditions should be undertaken in concert with the Indians towards the Niagara Frontier if only for the purpose of sharing with the Enemy the Supplies of that abundant District.

The Situation of the Indians has been referred to the serious consideration and decision of the Commander of the Forces—In the mean time repeat to them the assurance that they shall never be abandoned by us and that the powerful reinforcements of every description daily arriving from England will soon enable us to drive all our Enemies back to their own Country and to replace our Indian Brethren and their families in theirs—The Indian Goods which must have reached you ere this will be immediately followed by more—We have abundance of them here and only want the means of conveyance

I send an Officer express with this. He is directed to proceed night and day in the hope of reaching you before any Movement of consequence has been made.

(Signed) F. DE ROTTENBURG

M. General.

[*Note in margin.*]

* This extends to authorizing such disbursements of Money on Acc^t of the Public Service as are actually necessary

Archives, C. 680, p. 290.

*From Procter at Barnham's near Burlington to
de Rottenburg at Kingston.*

Barnhams near Burlington

Novem^r 3 1813

Sir

Having seen the General Order of the 18th October respecting my retreat and the unfortunate affair of the 5th of the same Month ; and also received an intimation of His Excellency's consequent intentions towards me, I cannot but observe with deep sensations that the most unfavorable impressions of me as an Officer have been received and from an Individual who not long since was conceived unworthy of retaining that situation in its lowest Rank—a situation

I have maintained unsullied for more than Two & Thirty Years, and in that portion of it especially in which I have been entrusted with Command, have received until the present Instance, only Commendation. Besides the Order I had conceived it expedient to have issued on my approach to the Centre Division, that no individual of the right should proceed beyond Ancaster, I had on understanding that Staff Adjutant Reiffeinstein had declared his intention of not sleeping until he reached Head Q^{rs} ordered that he should remain at the Grand River, until my arrival there, the enclosed Copy of his Answer will prove intentional Disobedience of Orders, and marked disrespect towards me. Obedience to this Order would have prevented several occurrences to be regretted as well as unfounded alarms which the Flippancy of the Individual in question had excited by way of giving consequence to his Reports, he had passed himself as a relation to a General Officer at Kingston to whom he was carrying Intelligence, I feel myself much hurt by the remarks which were communicated in your Letter to Maj^r Gen^l Vincent; and however keenly I may feel and regret being so situated having always conceived the necessity of a serious Investigation into his Conduct to be the greatest misfortune to w^{ch} an Officer of pure intentions was liable—I conceive it a Duty I owe to myself rather to seek an Investigation than otherwise.

I have &c

(Signed) HENRY PROCTER

Maj^r Gen^l

Archives, C. 681, p. 87.

From Vincent at Beasleys to de Rottenburg at ———.

Head Quarters Beasley's

15th Nov^r 1813.

Sir

Called upon for a more detailed statement of the causes which led to the late retrograde movement of this Division

from the Position on the four Mile Creek, and being desired to state for His Excellency's information the particular sacrifices of Stores and military equipments of every description that were made in consequence, I shall commence from the first moment that you did me the honor of announcing your intention of leaving me in Command of this Army—

By referring to the Returns of the Army, sent in on the 1st October, & four days only previous to your departure, it appears there were upwards of Eight hundred men sick in hospitals and quarters with this * Division, and all in the vicinity of Head Quarters. For some time prior to this date every practicable arrangement had been made for removing the worst cases of the Sick to the rear, but owing to the very limited means of transport by land and water little progress was effected.

It will easily occur to your own recollection that the necessity which suggested itself at this moment for the sudden removal of three Corps from the Centre Division to reinforce Kingston, deprived me of all further means of sending away any of the Sick by water, as every serviceable Batteau was employed on that very important Service. Thus circumstanced my only alternative was a recourse to a Land conveyance, which was very inadequate to the existing wants of the Army—as the roads in the vicinity of the four mile creek are at all seasons exceedingly bad, and the difficulty in procuring Waggons cou'd not be exceeded. The few Batteaux that cou'd be collected from the different creeks, and which had been reported unserviceable, were instantly collected, and put into a temporary state of repair, but on being employed during the Retreat of the Army, they proved unfit for Service and were generally abandoned—

From the moment you communicated to me your intention of going to Kingston (I believe it was on the evening of the 3rd October) I devoted every thought to the very important and anxious object of removing the Sick to the Rear of the

Army—Incessantly employed on this duty from the 4th to the 8th, at which period there still remained upward of 400 Sick, on the latter day a new state of things suddenly rushed upon me, and obliged me to hasten arrangements which a few days more wou'd have perfectly matured—I allude to the official intelligence which reached me at this instant (the 8th October) from M General Procter, giving an Account of the total capture or dispersion of the whole of his Division, by General Harrison on the 5th Ultm^o—Having ascertained that the principal part of the Enemy's force consisted of Cavalry, or at least mounted Infantry, and being well aware that the distance from the Scene of Action was little more from Burlington, than my own Position on the 4 mile Creek was, it appeared to me highly probable that the Enemy, flushed with his late success, might push forward to this Depot. Influenced by these considerations every arrangement was immediately made for moving this Division, and all the Waggons attached to the different Corps of the Army were instantly employed in removing the Sick to the Rear, and confidential Orders were quickly circulated apprizing officers in Command, and detached Posts—with my intentions. The promptitude, and alacrity with which my orders on this head were executed, remain fresh in my recollection, & will be justly appreciated—

The few batteaux that had been transported by land, some weeks before you left the 4 Mile Creek, by your order from Chippawee to Queenston Heights, with a View of distracting the attention of the Enemy, were ordered to be removed to the 12 mile Creek—Every effort was made by L^t Col. Battersby to effect that object, but without ultimate success, tho' some were brought as far as S^t Davids and there abandoned—A sudden impression appeared to have been created by the wide spreading rumours from the Westward, relative to the Right Division, and the Militia and their trains cou'd not be retained in our Service—The influence of that unfavourable intelligence operated most seriously to our

disadvantage, & tho' Dragoons were employed, for twenty four hours previous to the March of the Army, a sufficient number of Waggon's cou'd not be procured for the Exigencies of the Army—To obviate any inconvenience to the Army from this sudden emergency, as well as to defeat any enterprize that the Enemy might possibly be tempted to undertake from ascertaining my intentions, thro' the medium of his Emissaries, the following order of March was prescribed and acted on—The Baggage which had been loaded as far as means of conveyance wou'd permit, on the morning of the 9th moved off precisely at Eleven o'Clock—the troops (with the exception of the Outlying Picquets, which had been previously reinforced) marching in the following order—Colonel Stewart with the Car Brigade, the Royal Scots, & King's Regiment moved along the Swamp Road at one-P.M. L^t Colonel Battersby with the Demi Brigade having received directions to regulate his March from Queens-ton so as to join the Main body at the 12—Colonel Murray having the best road to move on was directed to delay his departure (with a view of covering the Picquets should the Enemy offer any interruption) until Sun Set at which time Major De Haren was directed to retire with the Picquets to the 12 Mile Creek, where they were to join their respective Corps, as from that point Colonel Murray with the Light Company of the King's the 100th Reg^t and a Detachment of the 19th Light Dragoons with One Field Piece was ordered to form the Rear Guard of the Army. Having arrived at the 12 mile Creek with the Advance of the Army, I received a letter from Colonel Young dated Burlington the preceeding day, in which he stated the rumours of Harrison's rapid Advance—I considered it an imperious duty to push forward the Field Pieces, Royals, & King's Regiments, and the Demi Brigade with a view of anticipating any enterprize that might be contemplated by the Enemy against this Depot of Provisions

Stores, and a large Number of Sick, the Garrison of which consisting only of about^o 200 effective men & which I need not observe was a force very inadequate to their protection. Tho' I have already had the honor of detailing for his Excellency's information the chief part of my Arrangements during this movement, for the protection of this Depot as well as to form a rallying point for any remaining part of General Proctor's Army, I again considered myself called upon to repeat the Instructions left with Colonel Murray previous to my departure from the 12, which were in substance as follows—All possible exertion was to be made to bring away the Sick and stores of every description, but that in the event of failure to provide the requisite means of Transport, everything was to be destroyed rather than leave a Sick or wounded Soldier behind—To assist Col. Murray in carrying my Instructions into execution, I directed Major Glegg and Captain Eliot, D^{ty} Ass^t Q^r M^r General, to remain with him until all the Arrangements were completed—The former of these officers joined me during the night, and reported that notwithstanding every exertion, a sufficient number of Waggons cou'd not be procured and Col—Murray had found himself obliged to destroy some Stores, Arms and Camp Equipage—I then learned for the first time that some Indian Goods had been found in the Commissariat Store, and likewise that two cases, containing a hundred and three Stands of Arms and accoutrements belonging to the Royal Scots had been discovered in one of the houses at the 12—These discoveries not having been made until a late hour, and no possible mode of Transport offering, there was no alternative & they were destroyed. I was informed by Major Glegg that the principal part of the Indian Goods were distributed among a party of the Six Nation Indians, who had joined the Army the day preceeding and had accompanied the Rear Guard. Of the Camp Equipage destroyed the principal part consisted of the old pattern Tents, and such as had been captured from the

Enemy and were nearly worn out. All those of the new pattern and most serviceable had been previously selected by Captain Eliot, and are still with this Army. Of Commissariat Stores I believe nothing was left except flour, and this being in the Barns of certain loyal Subjects in that Neighbourhood, I gave directions that as Transport cou'd not be found it shou'd be distributed amongst the poor inhabitants of that part of the Country, rather than fall into the hands of the Enemy.— I have since had the satisfaction of learning that my intentions on this head were fully complied with, and with the sanction of the Enemy, a party of whom were detached in that neighbourhood very shortly after my departure.—I was informed by Colonel Murray that he had ordered a number of old worn out blankets which were in possession of the 100th Reg^t. to be destroyed to disembarass the men of an useless weight where extraordinary exertions were called for. Having a second time endeavoured to afford all the information in my power relative to the Transactions of that interesting and very anxious period, I should consider myself wanting in gratitude as well as in duty, were I to omit expressing my sincere obligations to the active, zealous and persevering exertions of Colonel Murray in particular, and to all the officers and men of the Centre Division during their short but very severe March from the position on the four mile Creek to this place—

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your very obedient

humble Servant

JOHN VINCENT

M. Gen.

[Notes in margin.] * On 25 September all sick were ordered to the rear, 40 Mile Creek, Burlington and Ancaster. 26th Sept^r this was carried into effect by removal to the 12,

and thence by Batteaux to proceed to York.—On the 27th Dr. Thomas at the 12 reports a total of 215 on the 28th 286—being an increase of 71—on the 30th 298.—On the 1st of October the number remaining *present* with the Division was 143, the slightest cases—the remainder of the sick being on their way to the rear in Batteaux.—On the 1st of October sick in Hospital at Burlington 269—on the 6th sick in Hospital at York 176 on the 24th Oct^r. 389 being increased 213 by the sick sent there by Batteaux in consequence of the orders of the 25 Sep^t. . . .

The total N^o. of Sick absent in the daily Sick report of the Centre Divⁿ. Oct^r. 1st was—1112.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| °By the weekly State of Burton oct ^r . 1 st fit for duty, deducting Militia | 171 R & F |
| 2 nd Batt ⁿ . 41 st under M. Frend arrived that day | 160 |
| | — |
| | 331 R & F |
| Add Det ^h 104 at the 40 Mile Creek | 28 |
| | — |
| | 359 |

In the same weekly state of the 5th Lincol. & 2 York Militia there are reported 260 R & F fit for duty—

Archives, C. 681, p. 118.

From Procter at Burlington to de Rottenburg at Kingston.

Burlington

November 16th 1813

Sir

I have the Honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the eighth Inst^t, and shall endeavour to comply with what is required. I regret that I should not have been able to make myself understood, or that in endeavouring to be clear I should have been diffuse. I did not fail to give to the

Post of Michilimackinac a due Portion of my Attention. Had it been otherwise in my Power I could not have sent Troops there, least I might thereby have encreased the Want of Provisions. Repeated Communications were made to the Officer in Command there of the Loss of the Fleet, and of the intended Retreat to the Thames, which had in Consequence become requisite; with Assurances also that the sending of Pork especially by the Way of Machidash should be strongly urged. For a Detail of the precautionary Measures to rid my Force of every Incumbrance on the Retreat from Sandwich to Dover on the Thames, I beg Leave to refer to my former Letter, being unable to give a clearer Account than what has already been furnished. I have mentioned my Determination to have made a Stand, in the first Instance at Dover. A Measure which was necessary for the Protection of the Craft, naval and ordnance Stores &c brought from Amherstburg, and placed as high up the River as the Navigation would then admit of. During a second Attempt to reconnoitre the Country in my Rear, the Troops were on the Approach of the Enemy moved from Dover to the Forks, a Measure that early the next morning caused a Determination in the Indian Body to commence an immediate Retreat to the Moravian Town; and which I found on my Arrival was carried into Effect, and the requisite Disposition made by L^t. Colonel Warburton. These unfortunate Circumstances left no Option but the immediate Sinking and Destruction of the Vessels and Stores that could not be brought off from the Want of Time and Transport. I trust it is unnecessary to repeat the Capture of the Boats with the Stores & Men therein. I most firmly believe that no Article whatever of private Baggage of any Individual attached to the Army was saved, at the Expence of, or whilst the Provisions and Ammunition fell into the Hands of the Enemy. As already stated, Finding that the Enemy approached too near I determined to meet, and give him Battle in a Wood below

the Moravian Town, as he was in considerable Force, and particularly strong in mounted Infantry and Cavalry. The Position I had taken I also conceived to be favorable, as it reduced the Enemy to a small Front and secured my Flanks my Right being on an impenetrable Swamp, and my Left on the River. The 41st Regiment occupied the Space between the River and the Indians who were on their Right, with their Right thrown up. The Troops had a Reserve and Marksmen near the six pounder on the Road, for its further Security. It was under the Direction of Lieu^t. Gardner of the 41st Reg^t. who on a former Occasion had been found very useful when attached to the Artillery. The Gun when taken was loaded with Canister and a spherical Case Shot, laid, and the Port fire light. A Plan of Co'operation was cordially established with the Indians, who were to turn the Left of the Enemy; whilst the Troops should resist the Right. The Indians did turn the Left of the Enemy and execute their Part faithfully and courageously. If the Troops had acted as I had ever seen them, and as I confidently expected, I am still of Opinion notwithstanding their numerical Superiority the Enemy would have been beaten. All Ranks of Officers exerted themselves to rally the Men, tho' ineffectually. Tho' Retreating was the furthest from my Thoughts I had caused as far as Time & Circumstances would admit, every Impediment to a Retreat to be removed, and had also placed the Field Ordnance under the Orders of Lieu^t. Thornton of the R^l. Artillery, so as to defend an important Point, the Ford above the Town by which the Indians had retreated to us, and also to cover the Retreat of the Troops, whilst Order was retained by them. The Indians, after the Troops were broken, retired thro' the Woods; and brought with them those who escaped in that Direction. On the Evening of the 5th of October Provision was made for the Feeding of the Indians and Troops who should arrive at Deleware; the Commissariat were also stationed on the Route to Ancaster for the same

Purpose, as well as Parties of Dragoons to aid and assist those, who had effected their Retreat, on their Way to Ancaster. I proceeded to the grand River, and endeavoured to prevent Individuals proceeding who might create false Ala[r]ms: and immediately communicated with the Officers in Command at Long Point, Burlington and with Major General Vincent, Comm^g. the centre Division.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

HENRY PROCTER

Major General

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VII (*continued*)

OPERATIONS IN THE LAKE ERIE REGION, 1813

3. NANTICOKE CREEK, NOVEMBER 13, 1813

Archives, C. 681, p. 142.

Lt.-Col. Bostwick at Woodhouse to Baynes at —.

Woodhouse 14th November 1813

Sir/

I have the greatest Satisfaction in communicating to you for the information of the Commander of the Forces at Burlington, the Complete Success of the Expedition determined upon at the late Meeting of the Inhabitants of this place—a Copy of the Proceedings of that Meeting are herewith sent.—

On the night of the 12th Instant we received information that the Party of Brigands mentioned in my last Letter, was in this neighbourhood—The few Militia that were here immediately proceeded in search of them, they however suspecting our intentions hastily returned down the Lake.—

Yesterday as early in the morning as possible, the number of Volunteers proposed commenced their March down the Lake in pursuit of them, after a tedious and circuitous route through the Woods, we surprized them at the House of John Dunham's, which had for some time been one of their principal places of rendezvous ; After having ascertained that they were there, a small Party under the Command of Captⁿ. Dan^l. M^cCall, was detached across a point of Wood below Dunhams in order to intercept them, should they attempt to escape that way.—Captⁿ. Jn^o. Bostwick with another small Party, proceeded towards the House near the Lake Shore, while the remainder, being the greatest number with myself took a circuitous direction through the Woods in order to come in rear of the House and surround it ; Captⁿ. Bostwick on coming near the place not observing any person about there, immediately entered the House with Lieut^t. Austin and was not a little surprized to find it Crowded with the Band we were in pursuit of, they instantly flew to their Arms—but he desired them to surrender themselves, telling them that they were surrounded ; most of them consented and gave up their Arms—Captⁿ. Bostwick not however being supported as soon as could be wished, they resumed the possession of their Arms, discharged two Muskets at him and he in turn became a Prisoner—On hearing the report of the Guns, the whole of the Party with me hastened with as much expedition as possible towards the place, and on their discovering us, they commenced a fire from the House upon us, which was immediately returned, we not knowing that Captⁿ. Bostwick was there,—After a warm fire on both sides for a few minutes, some of them escaped from the House and

fell in with Captⁿ. M^cCall's Party, who attacked them with Spirit, when a few took to the Woods, the remainder being either Killed or Wounded—and those in and near the House surrendered.

Too much praise cannot be given to the Militia who composed our Party, for their Steady Perseverance, Coolness and Courage—Most of them had been out the whole of the night before, and notwithstanding the very fatiguing March through Woods & Swamps not a Word of Complaint was heard—Not being able to get any information that could be relied on that induced us to think there were any more embodied between this and y^e Grand River, and having fully attained the Object of the Expedition, we returned to this place last night about 11 o'Clock.—

The Prisoners together with two others of the Party who fell into our hands the day before (one Mabee and one Harris) I shall send from this tomorrow for Burlington, under a Strong Escort—Should it be thought adviseable, I would be extremely glad if the Escort could be met by a sufficient number of Indians, and relieve them at the Grand River or Burford Gore—One of the Men (Mabee) fired upon a poor fellow (Bonnet *) a few days since when on his way down the Lake to see his family, broke his Thigh and the Party took him to Buffaloe, This Bonnet received a wound at Fort Erie last fall which had crippled him—

I send with this the examination of Mabee & Harris, that You may see what Villains they are ; from the others you will be able to get some information respecting the Views of their Party &c, now I hope for some time frustrated.—

The good Conduct of the Militia upon this occasion, will I trust meet with that Consideration from the Commander of the Forces which they so highly deserve.—

The Horses Saddles &c. &c. taken, I propose having sold to the best advantage, and divide the avails among the Men who have so well earned it.—

Enclosed is a List of the Names &c of the whole Party of Volunteers—

I have to regret the loss of one young^o Man, who fell by a Shot through the Neck during the Contest, his Name is Chandler, and was the only support of an aged Mother and a blind Father—he was a Spirited and brave young Man & his Death is much regretted.—

The loss of the Enemy in Killed is Three, and Wounded two or perhaps more, they were fired at in the Woods upon running away.—

Captⁿ. Bostwick received a slight wound in the face, from the discharge of a Musket at him in the House; The Man however who fired at him was immediately shot through the body by one of their own Party who fired another Shot at Captⁿ. Bostwick, which missed him.—

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Ob^t. Serv^t.

(Signed) H. BOSTWICK L^t. Col.

[Notes in margin.] * If no family entitled to £12 1s if a family to £20 on certificate from the Com^g. Officer to be sent to the Presidents Office.

^o A certificate to be sent by Com^g. Officer to the President's Office, stating the time & place & may apply to the Patriot's friend the Chief Justice

William James : *Military Occurrences of the Late War between Great Britain and the United States of America*, Vol. II (London, 1818), p. 395.

DISTRICT GENERAL ORDER.

District head-quarters,
Kingston, 25th November, 1813.

THE major-general commanding, and president, having received from major-general Vincent a report of the very gallant

and patriotic conduct of lieutenant-colonel Bostwick, and an association of 45 officers and men of the militia of the county of Norfolk, in capturing and destroying a band of traitors, who, in violation of their allegiance, and of every principle of honor and honesty, had leagued themselves with the enemies of their country, to plunder and make prisoners the peaceable and well disposed inhabitants of the province, major-general De Rottenburg requests that colonel Bostwick, and every individual of the association, will accept his best thanks for their zeal and loyalty in planning, and gallantry in carrying into execution, this most useful and public spirited enterprise.

The major-general and president hopes, that so striking an instance of the beneficial effects of unanimity and exertion in the cause of their country, will not fail of producing a due effect on the militia of this province. He calls upon them to observe how quickly the energetic conduct of 45 individuals has succeeded in freeing the inhabitants of an extensive district from a numerous and well armed banditti, who would soon have left them neither liberty nor property. He reminds them that, if so much can be effected by so small a number, what may not be expected from the unanimous exertions of the whole population, guided and assisted by a spirit of subordination, and aided by his majesty's troops, against an enemy who comes for no other purpose than to enslave, plunder, and destroy.

By order,

H. N. MOORSOM,
lieutenant A.D.A.G.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VII (*continued*)

OPERATIONS IN THE LAKE ERIE REGION, 1813

4. McCRAE'S HOUSE, DECEMBER 15, 1813

Archives, C. 681, p. 288.

From Stewart at Dover Mills to Vincent at —.

Dover Mills 21st Dec^r 1813

Sir

I beg leave to acquaint you that a party under the command of Lieut^t Metcalf of the Militia who were detached from this post some time since towards the River Thames for the purpose of collecting Cattle surprised a party of the Enemy on the Morning of the 15th instant and have taken the whole of them prisoners consisting of 3 officers and 35 non-Commissioned Officers and Privates belonging to the 26th Regiment of the Line.—Great praise is due to Lieut^t Metcalf and his small party consisting of not more than 25 Men for the gallant manner in which this Service was performed after a fatiguing March of Twenty Miles they gained the Enemys position at day break immediately attacked and in a few Minutes compelled them to surrender.—

I am happy to add that this Service was performed without the loss of a Man on our part, the Enemy had four Men wounded three of them severely.—The Party have not been able to collect any of the Cattle they deemed it proper to

retire as the Enemy had sent for reinforcements they will arrive here tomorrow with the Prisoners

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient

humble Servant

ALEX^r STEWART

Captⁿ. Royal Scots

Comm^{ng} London District

N:B: This affair took place at a M^r M^cCrea's on the River Thames about a Mile below Dalsons.—

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VII (*continued*)

OPERATIONS IN THE LAKE ERIE REGION, 1813

5. THE DELAWARE DISASTER, OR "BATTLE OF LONG WOOD," MARCH 4, 1814

Archives, C. 682, p. 184.

Captain Stewart to Major-General Riall.

Fourteen Mile Creek, March 5th 1814

Copy/

Sir,

Having received a report from Captain Caldwell, late on the night of the 3rd Instant, stating that he had fallen in with a party of the Americans that day on his advance through the Long Wood—The Flank Companies of the Royals and 89th Reg^{ts} moved early yesterday morning to his support and at

5 oClock in the afternoon came up with them, who were posted on a commanding Eminence, strongly entrenched by a Log Breastwork; they were instantly most gallantly attacked in front by the two Companies of the Royals and 89th Reg^{ts}. At the same time the Kent Militia and Captain Caldwell's company of Rangers made a Flank Movement to the right and a small party of Indians to the left to gain the rear of the Enemy's Position, and after repeated Efforts to dislodge them without effect, the Troops were most reluctantly withdrawn.

I regret that our Loss is very considerable, I enclose a letter from Ensign Miles of the 89th Reg^t who remained in command of the troops in this affair, every other officer being killed or wounded—I was detained at Delaware several Hours after the movement of the two Companies, making arrangements with Colonel Elliott of the Indian Department for a particular service, in which the Indians were to be employed, which I regret prevented my joining the Troops till the close of the action—Information is just received that the Americans have retreated from their position—

I herewith enclose a Return of killed, wounded and missing—

I have the honor to be

&c—

(Signed) A. STEWART

Cap^t R. Scots.

L^t.-Colonel

London District

Archives, C. 682, p. 182.

Ensign Miles to Captain Stewart.

(Copy)

Long Wood. March 4th 1814.—

Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint you, that this afternoon, about 5 O'Clock, the Party, commanded by Captain Basden, of the

89th Reg^t came up with the Enemy, in force of nearly 500 men; and, after an action of an hour and a half, in which I am concerned to state our loss is very considerable, the Troops were withdrawn, in consequence of the great superiority of the Enemy's number. I have the satisfaction to assure you, every man did his duty, and that we retired in perfect good order.—

I have the honor to be

Sir, &c.

(Signed) F. MILES Ensign

89th Light Company

Archives, C. 1171, p. 213.

G.O.

Adjutant General's Office

Quebec 18th March 1814—

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces has received from Lieut^t General Drummond the Report of Captain Stewart of the Royal Scots, of an affair which took place between the Detachment under his Command and a Body of the Enemy on the 4th Inst at Longwood in advance of Delaware Town.—

Captain Stewart Reports that Receiving a Report late on the Night of the 3rd Inst from Captain Caldwell that a party of the Enemy had been seen in Longwood directed the Flank Companies of the Royal Scots and the Light Company of the 89th Regim^t under the immediate Command of Captain Basden 89th Regiment, to march at day break to the support of Captain Caldwell, and that at 5 O'clock in the evening the enemy was discovered in very Superior Force, posted on a Commanding eminence Strongly entrenched with Log breast work—this post was instantly attacked in the most gallant manner by the Flank Comp^s in front, while Captain Caldwell's Company of Rangers, and a Detachment of the Loyal

Kent Militia made a Flank Movement to the Right, and a Small Band of Indians to the Left with a View of gaining the Rear of the position, and after repeated efforts to dislodge the Enemy in an arduous and Spirited contest of an Hour and a half duration, which terminated with the day Light, the Troops were reluctantly withdrawn having suffered severely, principally in Officers—

The Enemy has since abandoned his position in Longwood.—

List of those Killed, Wounded & Missing.

R^t. Scots Light Company.

One Captain Nine Rank & File Killed
 One Lieutenant, Three Serj^{ts} Thirty one Privates
 wounded
 One Bugler Missing

89th Light Company—

One Lieut^t Three Rank & File Killed—
 One Captain One Serjeant & Seven Rank & File Wounded.—
 Volunteer Pigott Wounded & taken Prisoner.—

Loyal Kent Volunteers—

One Lieutenant one Serj^t & Five Rank & File Wounded.—

Names of Officers Killed & Wounded.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Captain D: Johnstone Royal Scots | } Killed |
| Lieutenant P. Græme 89 th Regiment | |
| Captain Basden 89 th Regiment | } Wounded |
| Lieut ^t M ^c Donald Royal Scots | |

(Signed) EDW^p BAYNES

Adj^t General—

Archives, C. 682, p. 242.

From Drummond at Kingston to Prevost at Quebec.

Kingston. March 24th 1814.

Sir,

In reference to my former communications to Your Excellency, relative to the affair with the Enemy on the River Thames, below Delaware Town, on the 4th Instant, I have the honor to enclose a letter from Captain Stewart, of the Royal Scot's Light Company, to Major Deane, now in command of the Advance at Oxford, covering the Report of Captain Basden, of the 89th Light Company, on the subject.—The Papers I have just now received from Major General Riall.—

I avail myself of this opportunity to enclose also a Private communication, (with a rough Sketch of the ground,) from Lieutenant Le Breton, Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, to my Military Secretary, Captain Foster.—

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient,

humble Servant,

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t General

Archives, C. 682, p. 240.

From Captain Stewart at Oxford to Major Deane at ———.

Oxford 14th March 1814

Sir/

Herewith I enclose a report from Captain Basden of the 89th Regiment detailing the particulars of the Action which took place with the Enemy on the 4th instant.—I beg leave to

state for the information of Major General Riall and that it may be distinctly understood that Captain Basden did not receive orders from me to push on to Wards as stated in his Report such an Order was totally unnecessary as the Enemy were not expected to be fallen in with on the March, and that this unfortunate Affair which took place in my short but necessary absence was without my advice knowledge or consent and when it must have been understood by the Detachment that I was on my way and momentarily expected.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedient

humble Servant

ALEX^r STEWART

Captⁿ. Royal Scots

Archives, C. 682, p. 236.

From Basden at Oxford to Stewart.

Oxford March 13th 1814

Sir,

I take the earliest opportunity being a little recovered, to inform you of the circumstances which took place on the 4th Ins^t. for the early information of Major General Riall Com^d the Right Division of the Army.

Having on the Evening of the 3rd rec^d. your orders to march the next Morning, I paraded in consequence and received further directions Viz—To move forward, support Captain Caldwell's Detachment, and push on as far as Wards, with the whole—I moved on, found Captain Caldwell with the whole of his Party at the 14 mile Creek, he had seen the Enemy that morning in numbers, supposed from 150 to 200, drawn up in an irregular Column, about 5 or 6 miles from his present position (then 14^m creek)—I here refreshed the Men, and

waited a very long time in expectation of some Indians, (conceiving that a party was following me) 5 only arrived, and it growing late in the Day I proceeded, leaving M^r Fraser of the Indian Dep^t with orders to hurry on such Indians as might come up—

On approaching the place where the Enemy had been before seen, it was observed by the smoke, and some noise, that they were occupying the same Ground. I therefore made my dispositions for an immediate Attack, it growing late, they were posted on the opposite side of a Ravine, on a High Bank close to the Road, & I thought I could perceive a slight Brush Wood Fence, thrown up as I presumed to obstruct the Road—The Kent Volunteers with the Rangers, I directed to file through the Woods to my Left, and by making an extensive circle, they were to post themselves in Rear of the Enemy, get as near as possible, not to fire a shot, but to sound a Bugle, whenever the position was properly secured, and they were prepared to Advance. M^r. Fraser now arrived with about 23 Indians, these I stationed to Flank my Right, and advance with the Main Body—At the sound of the Bugle the Flank Comp^s moved on in open Column of Sections, (the 89th L^t Comp^y being weak, in Subdivisions) led by the Royals, with an Advance from them—The Enemy commenced their Fire immediately on our appearance, and when the head of the Column had proceeded a short distance down the Hill, the firing from them (the Enemy) was so severe as to occasion a check, they however instantly cheered & rush'd on, making for the Road on the opposite side, with the intention of carrying this Fence—however this was found impossible the ascent being so steep and slippery. I now desired the Men to follow me and I moved in the Ravine to the Right, for some distance under an uncommon severe Fire, on ascending and gaining the Top of the Bank, I was very much surprized to observe another face of a Work—I placed the Men in extended order under cover of the Trees, and the action was kept up

with great vigour till dusk, when that of the Enemy became very feeble—I now determined to send to the point on the Top of the Hill, (from where the action commenced,) for more Men to strengthen the Party I had then with me, and on their arrival, to storm the Enemys position agreeably to my first intention—

At this instant I received a severe wound in my Thigh, and was under the necessity of going to the Rear, before I had proceeded far the Enemys Fire had ceased—at this period I only received your orders to retire, which order I have forwarded to the Officer Com^d. on the Field. A few minutes after I met yourself—

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your very obed^t.

humble Serv^t.

JAS. L. BASDEN

Capt. 89th Reg^t.

Archives, C. 682, p. 233.

From Le Breton at Delaware to Foster at York.

Delaware 8th March 1814.

Dear Sir/

As the Report of our unfortunate and truely lamentable expedition has reached the General, you are no doubt acquainted with the circumstances, and shall therefore forbear making any comments and only send you a sketch of the ground as nearly as I could take it on the Spot, the American enclosure was only a brush wood fence, with an abattis on the outside to prevent a charge, no defence in front but almost inaccessible except by the Road—

I regret very much not being authorized to raise a Company since I am here I might have got several Men

M^cGregor's Company are dissatisfied with him and are about leaving him. Three of them have engaged in Colemans Dragoons and the remainder wish to join Caldwell's Rangers I have seen several persons from the River Thames and Amherstburg who all say that the Inhabitants are anxiously expecting us and a great Many ready to join us.

The Wyndott or Huron Indians are also at the back of the Lake Settlement anxiously expecting us, however, I fear our expedition to the westward is now completely frustrated. In consequence of Colonel Elliott being sick and the want of Indian Chiefs, the Indians who came up laterly are all returned back to the Head of Lake Ontario.

I beg you will be pleased to Mention to His Honor L^t General Drummond that I have endeavoured to Obtain all the Information in my power respecting a Company of Artificers and am well convinced that a Corps on same terms with the Sappers and Miners could be raised in a very short time. A Man arrived from the River Thames today says that 500 Americans had cross'd from Detroit to come to the assistance of those engaged on the 4th Ins^t. I have learnt that the first Party came out with the Intention of going to Port Talbot they had brought with them 3 Field Pieces which they were obliged to leave at the Round O.

Oxford 10th March 1814

Not having had an opportunity of sending the foregoing I have now to acquaint you with our Retreat, yesterday morning Intelligence was received that the Enemy was advancing and that their Van Guard had reached the last Settlements on the River Thames. In compliance with General Riall's Orders we have retreated to this place. In case the Enemy should advance I think we may make a good defence here as We have an excellent Position in our Front—We have lost 5 or 6 of our wounded Men some

more are badly wounded it is thought that M^cGregor will lose his Arm, Several of His Company are gone off they are now reduced to about 30 Men.

I Remain very Respectfully

D^r Sir

Your very Obed^t Servant

J^N° LE BRETON.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VIII

OPERATIONS ON THE MONTREAL FRONTIER, 1813.—MISCELLANEOUS

1. CHÂTEAUGUAY, October 26, 1813
2. CHRYSTLER'S FARM, November 11, 1813
3. RAID ON DERBY IN VERMONT, December 17, 1813
4. MISCELLANEOUS

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VIII

OPERATIONS ON THE MONTREAL FRONTIER, 1813

I. CHÂTEAUGUAY, OCTOBER 26, 1813

Archives, C. 1170, p. 165.

G.O.

Quebec 12th April 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is pleased to Order, that in each Battalion of Embodied Militia, two Companies shall be selected, to be composed of Young Men, the most Active and Efficient in the Corps to be styled the Right and Left Flank Companies—and are always to be kept effective to the Establishment of Eighty Rank and File.—

These Companies are to be Incorporated with the Light Infantry of the Line and to form two Light Battalions each to be Commanded by a Field Officer—to be trained and practiced in the exercise and duties of Light Troops—and it is to be strictly observed as a fundamental principle in these Battalions, that altho the Companies remain distinct and separate in themselves—that one uniform system of interior Economy and Discipline be established for the whole—and that in the arrangement of all Out Post and detached duties—the Picquets and Detachments are to be furnished conjointly from the Companies of the Line and Militia. And His Excellency cherishes a well founded Confidence that the Flank Companies of Militia constantly acting with the Light Infantry

of the Line, will soon acquire that preeminence in Discipline, which never fails to inspire that Confidence and Esprit de Corps, which has ever rendered the British Flankers Invincible.—

(Signed) EDW^o. BAYNES
Adjut^t Gen^l N.A.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 212.

G.O.

Kingston 19th May 1813.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to approve of the following distribution of the Troops in the Montreal District for the ensuing campaign—

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 st Brigade Line— | { | 1 Complete Car Brigade of Guns. Captain Colemans Troop of Light Drag ^s . 1 st or Royal Scots. 2 ^d Batt ⁿ . 41 st Regiment. 98 th Regiment— |
|----------------------------------|---|--|

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 2 nd Brigade Line. | { | 1 Complete Car Brigade of Guns Captain Platts Troop of Light Drag ^s . 13 th Regiment of Infantry 103 ^d Regiment Canadian Reg ^t . of Infantry. |
|----------------------------------|---|---|

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 3 ^d Brigade Line. | { | Regiment De Meuron Regiment de Watteville. |
|---------------------------------|---|---|

Light Troops.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 st Demi Brigade. | { | 1 st Batt ⁿ . of Light Infantry. Glengary Light Infantry. |
|----------------------------------|---|--|

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 2 nd Demi Brigade | { | 2 Light three Pounders Company of Guides Captain Watsons Troop Light Drag ^s . 2 ^d Batt ⁿ . of Light Infantry Canadian Voltigeurs Captain Ritters Corps |
|---------------------------------|---|--|

1st Militia { 2nd Battⁿ. of Embodied Militia
 Brigade. { 3rd Battⁿ. of Embodied Militia

2nd Militia { 1st Battⁿ. of Embodied Militia
 Brigade { 4th Battⁿ. of Embodied Militia

(Signed) EDW^p. BAYNES
 Adj^t Gen^l.

Archives, C. 1170, p. 293.

G.O.

H.Q. Kingston 30th June 1813.

A supply of Militia Clothing being arrived, a compleat suit is to be issued for the Six Battalions of Embodied Militia of Lower Canada—Returns are to be sent by the Commanding Officers of Battalions, specifying the number of Serjeant, Drummers, and Rank and File actually present and serving with the Corps, which is to be certified by the General Officer Commanding the District in which the Battalion is serving, and the Commissary General will direct an issue to be made to each Corps, in strict conformity to the Certified return—all the Uniform Jackets of *each* Battalion are to correspond in pattern in colour of the facings, which are to be as nearly as practicable the same as now worn—Clothing for the Militia Flank Companies composing the 1st Light Battalion, Viz^t 2 flank Companies of the 2^d and 5th and one of the 3^d Battalion are to be sent to Kingston—those for the Flank Companies composing the 2^d Battalion are to be sent to the Head Quarters of the Corps.

Six hundred suits of Clothing for Rank and File, with the proportion of Thirty Serjeants, and twelve Drummers Suits are to be sent to Kingston for the Militia of Upper Canada.

Lieutenant Arch^d. Johnson of the Canadian Fencible Infantry, having solicited permission to resign his appointment as Acting Captain to the Glengary Light Infantry

Fencibles, and to be permitted to join his Regiment—The Commander of the Forces is pleased to cancel the General Order appointing Lieutenant Johnson to Act as Captain in the Glengary Light Infantry, and to direct that he proceed to join his Regiment at Chambly with the least possible delay.

(Signed) EDW^p. BAYNES

Adj^t Gen^l N.A.

Archives, Militia Muster Rolls, Lower Canada.

CANADIAN VOLTIGEURS REGIMENT OF
LIGHT INFANTRY.

ADJUTANT'S ROLL TO 24TH JULY, 1812.

Place of muster, Chambly.

ADJUTANT'S MONTHLY ROLL, OF THE CANADIAN VOLTIGEURS REGIMENT,
from the 25th June, to the 24th July, 1812, both days inclusive

| No of each Description | RANK | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|--|--|------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| | | | Periods | | |
| | | | From | To | |
| Supernumerary Officers or, Officer in Second— | Major Adjutant | Charles De Sallaberry | 25 th June | 24 th July | L ^t R Nfld. Reg ^t |
| | | John Le Breton . | " | " | |
| | Qua ^r Master Surgeon Pay-Master Lieutenant | Augustine Germain | " | " | |
| | | P: DeSalles Laterriere | " | " | |
| | | James Green . . | " | " | |
| | | James Green . . | " | " | |

DOCUMENTS

363

CAPTAIN J. F. PERRAULT'S COMPANY

| No of each Description | RANK | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| | | | Periods | | |
| | | | From | To | |
| I | Captain | J. F. Perrault . . . | 25 th June | 24 th July | |
| I | Lieutenant | J. C. Herse . . . | " | " | |
| I | Sergeant | } Louis Cremer . . . | " | " | |
| I | Major | | " | " | |
| I | Qua ^r Master | } James Gaiters . . . | " | " | |
| I | Sergeant | | " | " | |
| I | Pay-Master | } Daniel Dayley . . . | " | " | |
| I | Sergeant, or pay Master's Clerk | | " | " | |
| I | Armourer as Sergeant | } Felix Gosselin . . . | " | " | |
| Sergeants | | | | | |
| I | Jean Plamondon . . . | . . . | " | 17 th July | Reduced on the 17 th July |
| 2 | William Brown . . . | . . . | 25 th ,, | 24 th ,, | |
| Corporals | | | | | |
| I | Samuel McDougall . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| 2 | Berthelemy Gagnon . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| 3 | John Craig Morris . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| Private Men | | | | | |
| I | André Bisson . . . | . . . | " | " | In prison under Sentence of a Court Martial— |
| 2 | George Bisbrown . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| 3 | Thomas Cookson . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| 4 | Francois Carron . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| 5 | Francois Dupille . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| 6 | Michel Deguise . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| 7 | Charles Dégneau . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| 8 | Francois Dion . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| 9 | Francois Durocher . . . | . . . | " | " | |
| 10 | Louis Desrivierre . . . | . . . | 2 ^d July | " | Joined 2 ^d July Deserted 29 th June — Apprehended 2 ^d July Dis- charged the 9 th July |
| 11 | Siriac Ernest . . . | . . . | 25 th June | 9 th July | |
| 12 | Benjamin Flamand . . . | . . . | " | 24 th July | |

| No of each Description | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|---------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| | | Periods | | |
| | | From | To | |
| | Private Men | | | |
| 13 | Joseph Gauthier . . . | 25 th June | 24 th July | Deserted 29 th June — Appre- hended 4 th July In prison under Sentence of a Court Martial |
| 14 | Jacques Guerard . . . | " | " | |
| 15 | J. B ^{te} Gadoua . . . | " | " | From Capt. M: L: Duchesnay's Company |
| 16 | Pierre Galant . . . | " | " | |
| 17 | John Grant . . . | " | " | |
| 18 | Joseph Hardie . . . | " | " | |
| 19 | André Harkness . . . | " | " | |
| 20 | Louis Levasseur . . . | " | " | Deserted 29 th June — Apprehended 2 ^d July |
| 21 | Samuel Lefour . . . | " | " | |
| 22 | Pierre Le Duc . . . | " | " | |
| 23 | Joseph Lalime . . . | " | " | |
| 24 | Ambroise Letartre . . . | " | " | |
| 25 | Pierre Lajoie . . . | " | " | |
| 26 | Edouard Lafriquain . . . | " | " | |
| 27 | Francois Martinette . . . | " | " | |
| 28 | John M ^e Dougall . . . | " | " | |
| 29 | Duncan M ^e Dougall . . . | " | " | |
| 30 | Alexander M ^e Dougall . . . | " | " | |
| 31 | Joseph Polliquain . . . | " | " | |
| 32 | Robert Pollock . . . | " | " | |
| 33 | Francois Petitjean . . . | " | " | |
| 34 | Jean Plamondon . . . | 18 th July | 24 th " | Reduced from a Sergeant 17 th July |
| 35 | Amable Robert . . . | 25 th June | " | |
| 36 | William Sharp . . . | " | " | |
| 37 | John Spatts . . . | " | " | |
| 38 | Robert Sutherland . . . | " | " | |
| 39 | George Tullock . . . | " | " | |
| 40 | Francois Terrien . . . | " | " | |
| 41 | Amable Turcotte . . . | 26 th June | " | Joined 26 th of June |
| 42 | John Wagner . . . | 25 th June | " | |
| 43 | Frédéric Wagner . . . | " | " | |

| No of each Description | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| | | Periods | | |
| | | From | To | |
| | Private Men | | | |
| 27 | Pierre Minguy | 25 th June | 24 th July | Deserted 13 th July From, a Sergeant 8 th July |
| 28 | George Miller | " | " | |
| 29 | James Mullens | " | " | |
| 30 | Denis Mason | " | 13 th July | |
| 31 | Louis Noël | " | 24 th " | |
| 32 | Pierre Olivier | " | " | |
| 33 | Charles Remi Parent | 9 July | " | |
| 34 | John Palmer | 25 th June | 24 th " | |
| 35 | André Portuguais | " | " | |
| 36 | Antoine Portuguais | " | " | |
| 37 | Amable Panneton | " | " | |
| 38 | Pierre Rouleau | " | " | |
| 39 | Joseph Rousseau | " | " | |
| 40 | Louis Verreau | " | " | |
| 41 | Isaac Villeneuve | " | " | |
| 42 | Etienne Vachon | " | " | |

CAPTAIN M. L. DUCHESNAY'S COMPANY

| No of each Description | RANK | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---|---|-----------------------|---|
| | | | Periods | | |
| | | | From | To | |
| I | Captain | M. L. Duchesnay | 25 th June | 24 th July | |
| I | Lieu ^t . | Jacques Adhémar | " | " | |
| | | Sergeants | | | Reduced 3 ^d July, by Sentence of a Court Martial |
| I | | J. B ^{te} . Portuguais | " | " | |
| 2 | | Frederick Lindsey | " | " | |
| 3 | | James Mitchell | " | 3 ^d July | |
| | | Corporals | | | |
| | | Pierre Boisseau | 25 th June | 24 th July | |
| | | John Killerstien | " | " | |
| | | Louis Langevin | " | " | |
| | | Private Men | | | Discharged the 9 th July |
| I | | Abraham Ayotte | " | " | |
| 2 | | Antoine Archambeault | " | 9 th July | |

| No of each Description | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| | | Periods | | | |
| | | From | To | | |
| | Private Men | | | | |
| 3 | John Asseness | 25 th June | 7 th July | Discharged 7 th July | |
| 4 | Pierre Alick | " | 24 th " | | |
| 5 | Francois Brooks | " | " | Discharged 7 th July | |
| 6 | J. B ^{te} . Bussiere | " | " | | |
| 7 | Antoine Belinge | " | " | | |
| 8 | Michel Bilodeau | " | 7 th July | | |
| 9 | Joseph Bourgignon | " | 24 th " | Discharged 7 th July | |
| 10 | Francois Chamberland | " | " | | |
| 11 | Toussaint Carriere | " | " | Discharged the 9 th July | |
| 12 | Pierre Clément | " | 9 th " | | |
| 13 | Antoine Cérats Couillard | " | 24 th " | | |
| 14 | Augustin Clément | " | " | | |
| 15 | Louis Dusau | " | " | Discharged the 9 th July | |
| 16 | Jacques Dutour | " | " | | |
| 17 | Joseph Dollar | " | " | | |
| 18 | Berthelemy Dauphin | " | " | | |
| 19 | Joseph Deganne | " | " | | |
| 20 | Martin Fortin | " | " | | |
| 21 | Alexandre Fortier | " | " | | |
| 22 | Benjamin Fortin | " | " | | |
| 23 | Francois Flamand | " | 9 th July | | |
| 24 | Louis Gauthier | " | 24 th July | | |
| 25 | George Glass | " | " | Discharged the 9 th July | |
| 26 | Francois Gosselin | " | " | | |
| 27 | John Hall | " | 9 th July | | |
| 28 | Joseph Launier | " | 24 th " | Deserted 22 ^d July | |
| 29 | Michel Laporte | " | " | | |
| 30 | Antoine Legrain | " | " | | |
| 31 | Jacques Lemoine | " | " | | |
| 32 | Joseph Leclair | " | 22 ^d July | | |
| 33 | Joseph Larrivée | " | 24 th " | | |
| 34 | Michel Mercier | " | " | | |
| 35 | James Mitchell | 4 th July | 24 th July | | |
| 36 | Joseph Peltier | 25 th June | 24 th " | | From Sergeant 3 ^d July, in prison under Sentence of a Court Martial |
| 37 | Francois Pilon | " | " | | |
| 38 | Joseph Plouf | " | " | | |
| 39 | Joseph Rousse | " | " | | |
| 40 | Ignace Raté | " | 7 th July | | |
| 41 | James Thoms | " | 24 th " | | |
| 42 | Francois Vervais | " | 24 th " | | |
| 43 | John Williams | " | " | | |
| 44 | Jacques Williamson | " | " | | |
| 45 | Jean Jacques Achard | " | " | | |

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN ECUYER'S COMPANY

| No of each Description | RANK | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| | | | PERIODS | | |
| | | | From | To | |
| 1 1 | Captain Lieut. | Benjamin Ecuyer J. T. McKay | 25 th June | 24 th July | |
| | | Sergeants | | | |
| 1 | | John R. Pearcy . . . | 25 th June | 24 th July | |
| 2 | | Louis Peltier . . . | " | " | |
| | | Corporals | | | |
| | | Charles Ritchie . . . | " | " | |
| | | Christophe Effland . . . | " | " | |
| | | John Champier . . . | " | " | |
| | | Private Men | | | |
| 1 | | Michel Augé . . . | " | " | |
| 2 | | Charles Anderson . . . | " | " | |
| 3 | | Francois Audry . . . | " | 9 th July | Discharged 9 th July |
| 4 | | Michel Ainslie . . . | " | 24 th June | Discharged 26 th June |
| 5 | | J. B ^{te} . Bélau . . . | Deserted | 28 th June | Returned 17 th July |
| 6 | | André Beaudoin . . . | 25 th June | 24 th July | |
| 7 | | Alexis Bedard . . . | " | " | |
| 8 | | Charles Baillarjeon . . . | " | " | |
| 9 | | J. B ^{te} . Carron . . . | " | " | |
| 10 | | Michel Content 1 st . . . | " | " | |
| 11 | | Charles Couillard . . . | " | " | |
| 12 | | Francois Deblois . . . | " | " | |
| 13 | | Pierre Dorion . . . | " | " | |
| 14 | | Louis Gosselin . . . | " | 9 th July | Discharged 9 th July |
| 15 | | Louis Giroux . . . | " | 24 th July | |
| 16 | | Raimond Guimond . . . | " | " | |
| 17 | | J. B ^{te} . Gagné . . . | " | 9 th July | Discharged 9 th July |
| 18 | | Joseph Julien . . . | 8 th June | 24 th July | Engaged the 8 th June |
| 19 | | Francois Haubert . . . | 25 th June | 24 th July | |
| 20 | | James Knibbs . . . | " | " | |
| 21 | | Joseph Labbée . . . | " | 9 th July | Discharged the 9 th July |
| 22 | | Benjamin Langlois . . . | " | 24 th " | |
| 23 | | Louis Labbée . . . | " | " | |
| 24 | | Pierre Lefèvre . . . | 9 th June | " | Engaged the 9 th June |
| 25 | | Francois Lauzon . . . | 25 th " | " | |
| 26 | | Joseph Mann . . . | " | " | |
| 27 | | Marcel Morency . . . | " | " | |
| 28 | | John McLeod . . . | " | " | |

| No of each Description | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| | | PERIODS | | |
| | | From | To | |
| Private Men | | | | |
| 29 | Francois Moisson | 15 th June | 24 th July | Engaged 15 th June |
| 30 | Louis Morrin | 25 th " | " " | |
| 31 | Amable Marchand | 14 th June | 24 th July | Engaged 14 th June |
| 32 | Pierre Marégué | 25 th " | 28 th June | |
| 33 | J. B ^{te} . Nadeau | " " | 24 th July | Deserted 28 th June |
| 34 | Antoine Oclairé | " " | " " | |
| 35 | Prisque Plante | " " | " " | Discharged 9 th July |
| 36 | Louis Pleau | " " | 9 th " | |
| 37 | Louis Peltier | " " | 24 th " | |
| 38 | William Patterson | " " | " " | |
| 39 | Joseph Racette | " " | " " | |
| 40 | Francois Roi | " " | 13 th " | |
| 41 | Francois St. Pierre | " " | 24 th " | Discharged 13 th July |
| 42 | Francois Sauviatè | " " | " " | |
| 43 | Louis Trudelle | " " | " " | Deserted 28 th June, taken at Quebec |
| 44 | Augustin Thomas | " " | " " | |
| 45 | Joseph Voisin | " " | " " | |
| 46 | Joseph Valière | 20 th June | 24 th July | |
| | | | | Engaged 20 th June |

CAPTAIN J. B^{TE}. HERTEL DE ROUVILLE'S COMPANY

| No of each Description | RANK | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|---------------------------|------------|--|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | PERIODS | | |
| | | | From | To | |
| 1 | Captain | J. B ^{te} . H. De Rouville | 25 th June | 24 th July | |
| 1 | Lieutenant | Edw ^d . L. Prendre- gass | | | |
| Sergeants | | | | | |
| 1 | | Louis Charles Provendé | " " | 2 ^d July | Reduced 2 ^d July |
| 2 | | John Skilton | " " | 24 th " | |
| 3 | | Edward Shiller | " " | " " | |
| Corporals | | | | | |
| 1 | | Joseph Charrais | " " | " " | |
| 2 | | William Lieme | " " | " " | |
| 3 | | Etienne Beaulieu | " " | " " | |

| No of each Description | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|---------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|---|
| | | PERIODS | | |
| | | From | To | |
| | Private Men | | | |
| 1 | Joseph Beaucaje | 25 th June | 9 th July | { Deserted 15 th June, Apprehended the 17 th June. Dis- charged 9 th July |
| 2 | Nicholas Boissy | " | 24 th " | |
| 3 | Charles Beaulieu | " | " | |
| 4 | Antoine Barette | " | " | |
| 5 | J. B ^{te} . Charette | " | " | |
| 6 | André Charon | " | " | |
| 7 | George Croser | " | " | |
| 8 | Louïs Champagne | " | " | { Deserted 2 ^d July— Apprehended the 3 ^d July |
| 9 | Louïs Pierre Crochtiere | " | " | |
| 10 | Louis Dépré | " | " | |
| 11 | Antoine Dumond | " | " | |
| 12 | Antoine Drostie | " | 27 th June | Discharged 27 th June |
| 13 | Alexis Devertissant | " | 24 th July | |
| 14 | Noël Frichette | " | 28 th June | Deserted 28 th of June |
| 15 | Alexis Fauteux | " | 24 th July | |
| 16 | André Falstro | " | " | |
| 17 | Antoine Grenier | " | " | { Deserted 26 th June — Apprehended the 28 th June |
| 18 | Charles Lefève | " | " | |
| 19 | Charles Latulippe | " | " | |
| 20 | Charles Langevin | " | " | Deserted 26 th June — Apprehended the 28 th June |
| 21 | J. B ^{te} . Laframboise | " | " | |
| 22 | René Lavoie | " | " | |
| 23 | Joseph Lamoureux | " | " | |
| 24 | Francois Lassard | " | 13 th July | Discharged 13 th July |
| 25 | Louis Millet | " | 24 th " | |
| 26 | Francois Marotte | " | 9 th " | Discharged 9 th July |
| 27 | Joseph Moses | " | 24 th " | |
| 28 | Antoine Martelle | " | " | |
| 29 | Francois Ouscamp | " | " | |
| 30 | Louïs Poirier | " | " | |
| 31 | Joseph Pottier | " | " | |
| 32 | Joseph Perrault | " | " | |
| 33 | J. B ^{te} . Plante | " | " | In prison under Sentence of a Court Martial |

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| No of each description | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | | PERIODS | | |
| | | From | To | |
| 34 | Private Men Louis Charles Provendié . . . | 3 ^d July | 24 th July | From a Sergeant 2 ^d July |
| 35 | Antoine Quintal | 25 th June | " | |
| 36 | J. B ^{te} . Rousse | " | " | Deserted 26 th June Apprehended 6 th July |
| 37 | André Sanfaçon | " | " | |
| 38 | Joseph Surprenant | " | " | |
| 39 | J. B ^{te} . Soucier | " | " | Discharged 9 th July |
| 40 | Jean St. Etienne | " | " | |
| 41 | Francois Truchon | " | 9 th July | |
| 42 | Francois Tessier | " | 24 th " | |
| 43 | Charles Weisenborn | " | " | |
| | | | | |

CAPTAIN JACQUES VIGER'S COMPANY

| No of each Description | RANK | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | PERIODS | | |
| | | | From | To | |
| I I | Captain Lieut. | Jacques Viger . Henry Thomas | | | |
| I 2 | | Sergeants Frederick Chambers . . . Andrew Dixon | 25 th June " | 24 th July " | From Capt. Ecuyer's Company From J. B ^{te} . Duchesnay's Company |
| | | Corporals John Nice Joseph Chrétien | " " | " " | From Capt. Perrault's Company D ^o D ^o |
| I 2 3 | | Private Men Michel Baillie René Blache Noël Bertrand | " " 14 th July | " " 24 th " | From Capt. J. B ^{te} . Duches- nay's Company D ^o D ^o D ^o D ^o |

| No. | NAMES | Effective and belonging to the Corps | | REMARKS |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| | | PERIODS | | |
| | | From | To | |
| 4 | Private Men Amable Caywoet . . . | 25 th June | 24 th July | From Capt. Perrault's Comp ^y . |
| 5 | Antoine Darpentigny . . . | " | " | From Capt. J. B ^{te} . Duches- nay's Comp ^y |
| 6 | Joseph Délorier . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o |
| 7 | Augustin Dumesne . . . | " | " | From M: L: Duchesnay's Comp ^y . |
| 8 | Francois Déjardins . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o |
| 9 | J. B ^{te} . Dufau . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o |
| 10 | Raphaël Demerse . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o |
| 11 | Francois Florent . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o |
| 12 | Joseph Jibault . . . | " | " | From Capt. Écuyer's Comp ^y |
| 13 | Charles Gouge . . . | " | " | From Capt. Perrault's Company |
| 14 | William Hind . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o |
| 15 | William Kitson . . . | " | " | From Capt. Ecuyer's Company |
| 16 | Pierre Lemai . . . | " | " | From Capt. Perrault's Company |
| 17 | J. B ^{te} . Lafleur . . . | " | " | From Cap ^t . De Rouville's Company |
| 18 | Gabriel Lapointe . . . | " | " | From Cap ^t . Perrault's Company |
| 19 | Francois Laurencelle . . . | " | " | From Cap ^t . De Rouville's Comp ^y . |
| 20 | François Lapierre . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o In prison by Sentence of a Court Martial |
| 21 | Antoine Labranche . . . | " | " | Deserted 29 th June—Ap- prehended 4 th July From Cap ^t . Perrault's Comp ^y . in prison by Sentence of a Court Martial |
| 22 | Thomas Maid . . . | " | " | From Cap ^t . Perrault's Company |
| 23 | Stephen M ^c Kay . . . | " | " | From Cap ^t . De Rouville's Company |
| 24 | Pierre Marignier . . . | " | " | From Cap ^t . Perrault's Comp ^y . |
| 25 | Pierre Pichée . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o |
| 26 | Laurent Rose . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o |
| 27 | Jean Senai . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o |
| 28 | J. B ^{te} . Senai . . . | " | " | From Cap ^t . De Rouville's Comp ^y . |
| 29 | Joseph Sévigny . . . | " | " | From Cap ^t . Perrault's Company |
| 30 | Mathis Vert . . . | " | " | D ^o D ^o |

DOCUMENTS

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The Muster for the Period of this Roll was taken at Chambly on the 24th day of July 1812

By

The Foregoing Roll after due Examination is Certified

By CH: DE SALABERRY Major
Comd^r. C^o. Voltigeurs

JN^o. LE BRETON, Adjutant

MUSTER ROLL AND PAY LIST OF CAP. JEAN B^{te}. BRUGUIÈRE COMP^y
From 25th October to 25th Nov^{ber} 1813. both days inclusive

| Number | No. of Company | RANK AND NAMES | PERIOD | | No. of days | Nett Pay per day | Amount of Nett Pay Army sterling Dollars at 4/8— | REMARKS |
|--------|----------------|--|-------------------------|--|-------------|------------------|--|---------|
| | | | From | To | | | | |
| 1 | .. | Captain J B ^{te} . Bruguière . | 25 th Oct | 25 th Nov ^{ber} | 32 | 10'3½ | 16 9 4 | |
| 1 | .. | Lieutenant William Dolton . | " | " | 32 | 6'3½ | 10 1 4 | |
| 1 | .. | Ensign Amable Foucher . | " | " | 32 | 5'0½ | 8 1 4 | |
| 1 | .. | Sergeants John Smith . | " | " | 32 | 1'4d | 2 2 8 | |
| 2 | .. | George Beach . | " | " | 32 | 1'4 | 2 2 8 | |
| 3 | .. | Etienne Belinge . | " | " | 32 | 1'4 | 2 2 8 | |
| 1 | .. | Corporals Antoine Couillard . | " | " | 32 | 10 ^d | 1 6 8 | |
| 2 | .. | Léon Foucher . | " | " | 21 | 10 ^d | 17 6 | |
| 3 | .. | L ^s Hebert . | " | " | 22 | 10 ^d | 18 4 | |
| 1 | .. | Privates Etienne Marleau . | " | " | 32 | 6 ^d | 16 | |
| 2 | .. | Louis Monière . | " | " | 32 | 6 ^d | 16 | |
| 3 | .. | Joseph Ried . | " | " | 32 | 6 ^d | 16 | |
| 4 | .. | Pierre Ried . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 5 | .. | Michel Mire . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 6 | .. | Joseph Laberge . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 7 | .. | J B ^{te} Laberge . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 8 | .. | Antoine Couillard . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 9 | .. | Joseph Huot . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |

| Number | No. of Company | RANK AND NAMES | PERIOD | | No. of days | Nett Pay per day | Amount of Nett Pay Army sterling Dollars at 4/8— | REMARKS |
|--------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|--|---------|
| | | | From | To | | | | |
| 10 | .. | Privates François Laberge . | 25 th Oct | 25 Nober | 32 | 6d | 16 | |
| 11 | .. | Louis Faubert . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 12 | .. | J. B ^{te} Préjans . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 13 | .. | Louis Duquet . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 14 | .. | Joseph Tibert . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 15 | .. | Jean Loizelle . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 16 | .. | J B ^{te} Chevrefils . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 17 | .. | J B Tisseur . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 18 | .. | Etienne Parrent . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 19 | .. | Jean Mary Couillard . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 20 | .. | François Gusiaume . | " | " | 32 | 6 | 16 | |
| 21 | .. | Louis Laberge . | " | " | 32 | 6 | 16 | |
| 22 | .. | Joseph Jendron . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 23 | .. | Michel Jendron . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 24 | .. | J. B. Tibert . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 25 | .. | François Primeau . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 26 | .. | Joseph Farineau . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 27 | .. | Denys Lefeivre . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 28 | .. | Thomas Lefeivre . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 29 | .. | Joseph Dumouchel . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 30 | .. | Paul Mallioux . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 31 | .. | Etienne Bourcier . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 32 | .. | Bazile Bourcier . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| 33 | .. | Louis Dorceis . | " | " | 32 | " | 16 | |
| | | | | | | | 70 10 6 | |
| | | | | | | | Add $\frac{1}{4}m$.. | 5.0-9 |
| | | | | | | | £75. 11 - 3 Currency | |

J. B^{te} BRUGUIER Cap^t

I hereby certify that the Sum of seventy five Pounds eleven shillings and three pence, Current money of this Province, has been actually and *Bonâ fide* Received for and paid to the commissioned and non commissioned Officers and Privates as above stated.

J. B^{te} BRUGUIER Cap^t

Archives, C. 1171, p. 33.

G.O.

Montreal 27th September 1813

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces having Resumed the immediate Command of the Troops, in the Lower Province, is pleased to direct that the following dis-

tribution of Troops assembled on the Montreal Frontier be immediately carried into effect.—The reserve is placed under the Comm^d. of Major General Sir Roger Sheaffe comprising of the following Posts—The Right to occupy Laprairie on the St. Lawrence, extending through St. Pierre, St. Phillips, La Cadie to St. Johns on the Richelieu, and to consist of a Car Brigade, a Squadron of the 19th Light Dragoons—the Company of Guides, the Flank Battalion of the Line—Detachment of 103rd Reg^t. four Companies—3rd Battⁿ. E. Militia, Sedentary Militia of Longuiel, Boucherville and Verchers.—the distribution of this force will be detailed in the Instructions of the Major General.—

The Post of St. John and Isle aux Noix is to be Garrisoned by the Battalion Companies of the 13th Reg^t. One Company 10th Royal Veteran Battalion and the 4th Battalion E. Militia.—

The advance is placed under the Command of Major General Stovin—the Right to occupy Chateaugay extending through the Settlements of Sherrington and Hammingford to the mouth of the La Colle on the Right to consist of the following Corps.—

Two three pounders of Artillery
 One Troop of 19th Light Dragoons
 Captain Watsons Troop
 Canadian Light Infantry
 Canadian Voltigeurs
 Frontier Light Infantry
 Canadian Battalion of Light Inf^y.
 1st Battalion E. Militia
 2nd Battalion E. Militia

The Chasseurs & Sedentary Militia of Beauharnois, Chateaugay, and the 1st & 4th Battalions of the Townships—the distribution of these Corps will be detailed to Major General Stovin.—

His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of

the Forces having found it expedient to embody the three Battalions of Town Militia is pleased to order that they form a Brigade, under the Command of the Honorable Colonel James M^cGill to perform the duties of the Garrison of Montreal—the Montreal Volunteer Companies are to do duty with the Brigade, but to be held in readiness to march at the shortest Notice.—

Lieut^t. Co^l. Dechambault is appointed to receive, organize, and distribute arms and Accoutrements to the drafts from the Sedentary Militia that arrive at Montreal.—

Two hundred Stand of arms and Accoutrements to be issued Complete to the 2nd Bⁿ. Militia of Montreal.

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES
Adj^t-Gen^l.

Archives, C. 1171, p. 85.

Adjutant General's Office

Montreal 8th Oct^r. 1813

G.O.

His Excellency the Governor General and Commander of the Forces having received information of the Enemy's approach and threatening the Island of Montreal, directs that every Individual of every discription instantly repairs to his Post.—

All the Troops of the Montreal District to Cook two days Salt Provisions to be carried with Biscuit in their Haversacks.—

The Commander of the Forces directs that the following movement of troops takes place immediately—The 2 Traveling 24 P^{drs}. and a Detachment of 80 of the 19th Light Dragoons to cross from La Prairie to Montreal. Captⁿ. Sinclair will immediately organize 3—6 P^{drs}. and a Howitzer.—

Major General Stovin to march with all the residue of the

Troops from La Prairie to Cochnawaga leaving a Guard for the protection of Stores and Baggage.—

Lieut^t. Co^l. Williams to march with the Flank Companies, Two Field pieces and Four Companies of the 1st Bⁿ. E. Militia to Cochnawaga—leaving the Major with the Battalion Companies of the 13th Regiment at L'Acadie.—

Lieut^t Co^l. Robertson Canadian Regiment to March with the Detachment of his Corps and 4 Companies 3rd Battalion E. Militia to Cochnawaga.—

The Cochnawaga Indians with all their Officers to reinforce immediately Colonel Dechambault on the South Side of the Boharnois Channel.—

Lieut^t. C^l. Bouchervilles Battalion to march from Cochnawaga Church to reinforce Colonel Dechambault.—

Colonel Scott & Co^l. Dechambault are directed to oppose every possible resistance to the Enemy's passing their respective posts—and Should he notwithstanding succeed in passing they are directed to fall back rapidly with the Regulars and a proportion of Militia on Montreal in the event of the Enemy forcing their Passage past the Coteau du Lac and Cedars.—

The Detachment 1st Battalion of Marines now on its march from Three Rivers to be brought on with all possible dispatch in Light Marching Order, their baggage to remain at whatever place they may receive this Order.—

Corps to be complete in ammunition with two spare Flints—the Militia to receive forty Rounds of Ball Cartridge and one flint and two days Provisions ready Cooked.—

The Tocsin and other Signals of Alarm to be sounded in every Parish within fifty Miles of Montreal all Militia without exception are to assemble with Arms and those who are not possessed of Arms, with Axes, Spades and pick-axes and repair with the least possible delay to Montreal.—

The Militia inhabiting the South bank of the S^t. Laurence to repair to Cochnawaga—those on the Banks of the

Rechilieu and Yamaska to repair to L'Acadie and S^t. Johns—the Militia of Montreal and the North bank of S^t. Lawrence to Berthier are to repair to Montreal where they will receive further Orders

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES
Adj^t Gen^l N.A.

Archives, C. 1171, p. 58.

G.O.

H.Q. Laprairie 9th October 1813.—

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces is pleased to Order the following movements of Troops.—

The S^t. Dennis Battalion of Militia to march to La Cadie with the least possible delay the Battalion of Colonel S^t. Ours and L^t. C^l. Gervates Corps to be held in readiness to follow as soon as they have Cooked two days provisions, but not to march without Orders.—the Battalion of L^t. C^l. De Rouville to occupy Chambly—the troops at Laprairie to Cook two days Provisions.—the Battalion of C^l. De Lery to march to S^t. Pierre immediately.—two Companies 13th Regiment and 2 of the 4th Battⁿ. E. Militia from the Isle aux Noix to reinforce L^t. C^l. Williams who is to incline towards S^t. Philippes and S^t. Pierre with his Corps, should the enemy advance in that direction.—Major General Stovin will order the Voltigeurs to S^t. Pierre and will follow himself to S^t. Regis concentrating the advance according to the movements of the Enemy.—the 1st Bⁿ. E. Militia to occupy La Cadie whenever L^t. C^l. Williams marches the Flank Battalion from that place—the Sedentary militia are to be advanced and thrown into the Woods supported by the Flank Battⁿ.—the Canadian Fencibles to be held in readiness to join the reserve at La Prairie—Captain Platts Troop and the Montreal Volunteers to be held in readiness

to cross to Longueil.—L^t. C^l. De Chambaults Battⁿ. to
cross to Longueil and march to Laprairie

(Sig^d) E. BAYNES

A. G.—

Archives, C. 680, p. 176.

From Sheaffe at La Prairie to Freer at ———.

La Prairie 13th October 1813.

Sir,

I have just received the accompanying letter, which I transmit by M^r. Meares (a Partner with M^r. Holt in the Beef Contract, and a member of the Provincial parliament of the Upper Province) who has arrived this morning from Missisquoi Bay and can give information of the force and operations of the Enemy in that quarter.—

In answer to L^t. Colonel Wellers I have authorized the seizing any advantage which the presumption or ignorance of the Enemy may place in our power, but that offensive measures are not to be resorted to except under circumstances that shall afford the most decided prospect of success, and threaten but little risk.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

R H SHEAFFE

[*Note in pencil at close.*]

No detachment to be made from Isle aux Noix of Troops but upon very certain information of the Enemy's movements & that the cooperation of them with the fleet has become necessary for a temporary purpose to secure any advantage arising from circumstances or otherwise. That Garrison is not sufficiently provided with men to afford any number

being taken from it beyond what is absolutely required by the Flotilla.

Archives, C. 680, p. 190.

From de Rottenburg at Kingston to Prevost at —.

Kingston 14th Oct^r. 1813—10 P.M.

Sir/

Every exertion shall be used in sending down the Corps designated by Your Excellency (49th & 89th) in the event of the invasion of Lower Canada—In taking upon myself to deviate from the instructions respecting the disposal of the Squadron contained in Your Excellencys Letter to me and to supercede Your Orders to Sir James Yeo I can only assure Your Excellency that I have in conjunction with Sir James acted as I felt persuaded Your Excellency would have acted with the knowledge of the alarming Situation of the Centre Army which by the delay of a reference to Montreal for Your Excellencys Orders might have been altogether lost Sir James will sail at day light to-morrow morning Lt. Col. Harvey Dep Adj^t Gen^l goes with the Fleet to assist in the necessary arrangements to bring off our Forces—I cannot obtain any positive Information relative to the road which leads from Sackets Harbour to Chateaugay Town it cannot at this time of the Year be very good—I have been told the Cavalry have been moving down that road from Sackets Harbour—

I have the Honor to be most respectfully

Your Excellency's

Most obedient and most

humble Servant

FRANCIS DE ROTTENBURG

M. General

Archives, C. 1203½ S., p. 82.

(Transcript from Order Book, 5th Battalion Canadian Incorporated Militia.)

District Headquarters Laprairie 25 Oct. 1813

LT COL DE LERY,

The Division of Boucherville under the Command of L^t. Col de Lery, will march without delay from their present Cantonment to join the Advanced Corps at Chateauguay, when it will occupy such Quarters as may be directed by Major Genl Stovin

By order
(Signed) J. T. TACHEREAU. D.A.G.M.

Le Lieut Col de Lery donnera les ordres nécessaires pour assembler sans délai la moitié des Miliciens qui sont maintenant sous congé et les faire joindre immédiatement les quartiers du Bataillon, et nommera a cet effet les officiers qu'il croira nécessaires.

Par ordre—
(Signé) J. T. TACHÉREAU.
D.A.G.M.—

Quatre Heures du Matin—
Chateauguay 26 Oct 1813.

A.O. 4. P.M.

En consequence de l'ordre verbal du General Stovin—Le Bataillon se mettra en marche immédiatement pour la Fourche. La Compagnie du Cap^t. Dupré battera la Marche jusqu'a nuit close, ou les Compagnies cantonneront pour la nuit mais repartiront a la pointe du jour. Chaque Milicien portera son bagage.

La Quartier Maitre se pourra de 5 voitures pour transporter les couvertes et les provisions.

Dimanche 24 Oct 1813—La Fourche des Anglais—

Le Bataillon sera cantonné au dessus de la fourche, et demain paraiteront à la pointe du jour au Quartier du Commandant.

ADVANCE BRIGADE ORDERS.

English river 25 Oct 1813

Col de Lery will please to furnish a fatigue party from his Batallion, to consist of one Sergeant & ten men to be employed as Major Henry may direct.

(Signed) J. BURKE
Major of Brigade—

En consequence de l'ordre ci-dessus, le Capitaine Daigneau fournira dix hommes lesquels ramasseront tous les canots de la rivière depuis la Fourche jusqu'au Moulin et les remonteront au quartier du Major Gen^l. De Wattville.

Le Bataillon sera cantonné comme suit, les compagnies du Capt Daigneau sera cabanee au Quartier du General, et fournira la Garde de 30 hommes, plus les fatigues qui sont exigées par le Major Henry.

La Compagnie du Capt Préfontaine sera Cabanée a la pointe de Baker et celle du Capt Dupré dans la grange et la maison voisine.

Les deux Compagnies se rendront tous les matins à la position marquée par le Commandant de l'Artillerie sur la dite pointe et s'étant placées sur le flanc droit du second Bataillon de Milice incorporé—

Le Major Raymond marquera leur position et s'y transportera lui même tous les matins avec elles. Les 2 dites Compagnies fourniront une garde commandée par un sergent au Dépôt des vivres—Les 3 Compagnies de Boucherville seront cantonnées dans la grange de Backster et tous les matins se rendront une heure avant le jour au poste d'alarme ou ils

occuperont sur le flanc droit du second Bataillon telle position que leur assignera.

Le LIEUT COL DE LERY.

Lundi 25 Oct 1813.

Le Bataillon se rendra au different postes qu'il lui sont assignés, une heure avant le jour.

Les Capitaines donneront immédiatement un retour de la quantité de cartouches qui manqueront a leur Compagnie pour que le Quartier Maitre leur en délivre.

Lafourche 26 Oct 1813.

Sir

Major General de Wattville directs me to desire that you appoint 50 men with officers & non commissioned officers in proportion, to be attached to the Engineer Department & employed under the direction of Lieut-Col Hughes Engineer. The men selected for this purpose should consist principally of men accustomed to the use of the felling ax

I have the honor to be &c—

L^t Col de Lery
Commanding
Militia

Your very Ob^t Servant
(Signed) GEO BURKE.
Major of Brigade—

Chateaugay Oct 26th 1813.

Sir

You will please to form at daylight to-morrow morning a party of a Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 2 Corporals & 40 men of your Batallion, under the orders of the Deputy As^t Quarter Master General for the purpose of [impressing] canoes & bateaux for this purpose from the Deputy As^t Q^r Master General.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most hum^le Servt.
(Signed) COL BAYNES

A.G.

Chateaugay 26 Oct 1813.

The Captain Commanding the party appointed to press can[o]es, will without delay take possession of twenty of the largest canoes he can find in the River of Chateaugay, & cause his party to bring them forthwith to Lafourche to be placed under the orders of Major General de Wattville.

By order of his Excellency & } (Signed) L. L. LORIE
Commander of the Forces } M.G.Q.

Mardi 26— Fourche Aix Anglais

Le Bataillon se rendra à l'ordinaire demain une heure avant le jour a ses différents postes—

Quartier General du District

Laprairie 26 Octobre 1813.

Monsieur

Le Major General Sir R. H. Sheaffe ordonne que vous m'envoyiez immédiatement dans une lettre que vous m'écrirez a ce sujet, une liste certifiée de vous, des articles dont votre Bataillon [*sic*] a un service indispensable, tel que souliers de bœuf &c—ayant soin de mentionner la quantité requise de chacun de ses articles—

J'ai l'honneur &c

(Signé) CHARLES DE LERY

L^t. Col. D-A General—

Mercredi 27 Octobre 1813.

Le Bataillon se rendra comme a l'ordinaire a ses différentes postes—au grand jour—Les drilleurs l'exerceront.

Jeudi 28 Octobre 1813.

Les Capitaines donneront un retour des casualités qui auront eu lieu depuis le 22 Octobre 1813.

Vendredi 29 Octobre 1813.

Le Bataillon se rendra comme a l'ordinaire a ses postes d'alarme, et y restera jusqu'a ce que le General les en fasse retourner—

Samedi 30 Oct 1813.

Le Bataillon se rendra a l'ordinaire a ses postes d'alarme—

Archives, C. 680, p. 326.

From de Watteville at Morrison's to Prevost at —.

Morrison's—Oct^{er} 27th 1813

Sir/

I beg leave to enclose to Your Excellency a report received last night from L^t. Colonel de Saluberry Commanding the most advanced Posts and Picquets on the Chateaugay River, relating the particulars of an attack made by the Enemy yesterday afternoon on the Posts under his Command. Your Excellency will allow me to observe that L^t. Colonel de Saluberry deserves much Credit and my warmest Commendations for the judgment and activity displayed by him in taking up and fortifying in a very short time our advanced positions, which together with the general good Conduct of the Troops engaged caused the Enemy to fail in this his first attempt upon our advanced Posts on the Chateaugay River.—

Nothing Extraordinary has occurred during the night—this Morning at day break I have sent B.M. Burke to the advance; as soon as he returns I hope I shall be able to report to Your Excellency if the Enemy has actually fallen back to his former position (as stated in L^t Col.

de Saluberry's letter) or if he is still on the Ground close to our posts—

I have the honor to be
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient
humble Serv^t

L: DE WATTEVILLE

M. Gen^l.

P:S: B.M. Burke has just returned and reports that L^t Col. de Saluberry is still of Opinion that the Enemy has fallen back to his former position—which he occupied previous to the Attack of yesterday—

In consequence of this Report I have ordered back to their former Quarters the two Companies of 2^d Battⁿ. of embodied Militia—

Archives, C. 680, p. 331.

From de Salaberry at Châteauguay to de Watteville at Morrison's.

On the Chateaugay River

26th Oct. 1813

8 P.M.—

Sir,

In the action of this day which began by the Enemy attacking our advanced piquets in great strength on both sides the River, The Enemy has been obliged to abandon his plan. Our Piquets supported in time by the Canadian Light Company two Companies of Voltigeurs and The Light Company of the 3^d Emb^d Militia behaved in the bravest manner. After The action we remained in quiet possession of the abbatis and Posts we occupied previously.

The Enemys force appeared to me to have been at least 1,500 men with 250 Dragoons, and one piece of Cannon.

Three of our men who [saw] the American army passing, at least part, make it amount to more.—There were about thirty axemen with them—

I cannot conclude without expressing the obligation I owe to Captⁿ. Ferguson for his cool and determined conduct and his extreme readiness in executing my orders

Cap^t. Daily of the 3^d Battⁿ., in gallantry cannot be surpassed; he contended with 50 men against a force ten times in number. Captain Daily is wounded in two places. Cap^t. Bruyere behaved with gallantry and was wounded. Cap^{ns}. Jⁿ. Bap^{pe}. and Juchereau Duchesnay have evinced great Gallantry, and so indeed has every officer employed, particularly Aide Major Sullivan whose bravery has been most conspicuous.—Cap^t. Lamothe and many of the Indian Warriors behaved well; in the Evening Cap^t. Lamothe with a few Indians exposed himself very much and so did Adj^t. Hebden of the Voltigeurs.—

By correct information there appears no doubt the Enemy have returned to the Outade.

This report is made by Wood fire light—

I have the honor to be,

Sir, Your most obed^t Servant,

CH^s DE SALABERRY

L^t Col Com^g.

Two officers Wounded—

Light Company Canⁿ. Reg^t. 3 killed, 4 privates wounded—
Voltigeurs 4 wounded

3^d Battⁿ. Light Company 2 killed, 6 wounded, 4 missing.

CH: DE SALABERRY

L^t Col Com^g.

Archives C. 1203½ S., p. 86.

Advance Brigade Orders.

Wrights house—Chateaugay
27 Oct 1813.

Major General de Wattville has much satisfaction in conveying to the Troops composing the advance by desire of his Excellency the Commander of the Forces [the high] sence his Excellency entertains of the conduct of the several Corps engaged with the enemy in the affair of yesterday under the immediate command of Lieut-Col de Salaberry.

His Excellency was pleased to express his entire approbation of the discipline, coolness & bravery displayed by all ranks on this occasion, which reflects the highest honor upon all concerned.

GEO—BURKE
Major of Brigade—

From "The Quebec Gazette," 4 November 1813.

General Orders.

Head Quarters, La Fourche
on the Chateaugay River,
27 Oct. 1813.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of the Forces has received from Major General de Wattville, the Report of the affair which took place in front of the advanced positions of his post, at 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning, between the American army, under the command of Major General Hampton, and the advanced picquets of the British, thrown out for the purpose of covering working parties, under the direction of Lieut.-Colonel De Salaberry ;

the judicious position chosen by that Officer, and the excellent disposition of his little Band, composed of the Light Company Canadian Fencibles, and two companies Canadian Voltigeurs, repulsed with loss, the advance of the enemy's principal column, commanded by General Hampton in person, and the American Light Brigade, under Colonel McCarty, was in like manner checked in its progress on the south-side of the river, by the gallant and spirited advance of the flank company 3d Embodied Militia, under Capt. Daly, supported by Capt. Bruguier's company of Sedentary Militia. Captains Daly and Bruguier, being both wounded, and their companies having sustained some loss, their position was immediately taken up by a flank company of the 1st battalion Embodied Militia. The enemy rallied and repeatedly returned to the attack, which terminated only with the day in his complete disgrace and defeat, being foiled by a handful of men not amounting to a twentieth part of the force opposed to them, but which nevertheless by their determined bravery maintained their position, and screened from insult the working parties, who continued their labors unmolested. Lieut. Colonel Salaberry reports his having experienced the most able support from Captain Ferguson in command of the light company Canadian Fencibles, and also from Captain Jean Bapt. Duchesnay; and Captain Juchereau Duchesnay of the two companies of Voltigeurs; from Captain Lamothe and Adjutants Hebden and O'Sullivan, and from every officer and soldier engaged, whose gallantry and steadiness were conspicuous and praise-worthy in the highest degree.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of the Forces having had the satisfaction of himself witnessing the conduct of the troops on this brilliant occasion, feels it a gratifying duty to render them that praise which is so justly their due; to Major General De Watteville for the admirable arrangement established by him, for the defence

of his post ; to Lieut.-Colonel De Salaberry for his judicious and officerlike conduct displayed in the choice of position and arrangement of his force ; to the officers and men engaged with the enemy, the warmest acknowledgments of His Excellency are due, for their gallantry and steadiness, and to all the troops at the station the highest praise belongs for the zeal, steadiness and discipline, and for the patient endurance of hardship and privation which they have evinced. A determined perseverance in this honorable conduct cannot fail of crowning the brave and loyal Canadians with victory, and hurling disgrace and confusion on the head of the enemy that would pollute their happy soil.

By the report of prisoners, the enemy's force is stated at 7,500 infantry, 400 cavalry, and 10 field pieces. The British advanced force actually engaged, did not exceed 300. The enemy suffered severely from our fire, as well as from their own ; some detached corps having fired upon each other by mistake in the woods.

Canadian Light Company had 3 rank and file killed—1 serjeant, 3 rank and file wounded.

Voltigeurs, 4 rank and file wounded.

3d batt. Flank Company, 1 captain wounded, 2 rank and file killed, 6 wounded and 4 missing.

Chateaugay Chasseurs, 1 captain wounded.

Total—5 rank and file killed—2 captains, 1 serjeant, 13 rank and file wounded, and 4 missing.

Officers wounded—Captain Daly, 3d Embodied Militia, twice wounded severely, but not dangerously ; Capt. Bruquier Chateaugay Chasseurs, slightly.

EDWARD BAYNES, Adjt. General

Archives, De Salaberry Letters, vol. ii, p. 361.

From de Salaberry to his father.

Dans le bois en haut de La Rivière

Chateaugay Oct^r. 29—1813

MY D^r FATHER.

The 26th has been a glorious day for me and those of my troops engaged,—The American Army Com^d. by Gen^l. Hampton & another General has been repulsed by a little band, all Canadians—& yesterday that army commenced its retreat, or will endeavour to get into this Country through some other road. The Enemy's force consisted of all his troops about 7,000 men and 5 pieces of Cannon, 300 Cavalry. The ~~Battle~~ action lasted four hours, and it ended in the Enemy being obliged to return to his former position five miles back, leaving many of his dead & Wounded behind and a great number of his scattered men in the woods, also many drums 150 Firelock &c &c Baggage &c—The number of my men engaged did not exceed three hundred—The rest were in reserve in the lines I had constructed. our killed & wounded are only 24 including officers.—There were none but Canadians amongst us. I was in the first line during the whole of the action, and afterward, with a small reserve, beat off a large body of Americans and saved Cap^t. daily and his Company.—I chose my own ground & after the action pushed on my piquets two miles in advance of where they were before. Without arrogating to myself too much credit, I am proud to think that this defence on our part has at least prevented the American Army from penetrating to La Prairie—we are here situated about ~~40~~ 35 miles from Montreal.—This is certainly a most extraordinary affair. Chevalier, Juchereau & all officers in this action conducted themselves with great Bravery. The Prisoners have been about 25—We are all very much harrassed, & I am not well.—

I remain in haste, my D^r. Father, Yours faithfully

CH: DE SALABERRY.

Archives, Q. 122, p. 255.

(Transcript from the original in the Public Record Office, London.)

From Prevost to Bathurst.

No. 99.

Head Quarters

Montreal 30th October 1813.

My Lord/

On the 8th Instant in my Dispatch N^o. 91, I had the honor to report to Your Lordship, that, Major General Hampton had occupied with a considerable force of Regulars & Militia a position on the Chateauguay River near the settlement of the Four Corners.—

Early on the 21st the American Army crossed the line of separation between Lower Canada and the United States; surprised a small party of Indian Warriors, and drove in a Picquet of Sedentary Militia posted at the junction of the Outard and Chateauguay Rivers, where it encamped and proceeded in establishing a Road of communication with it's last position for the purpose of bringing forward it's Artillery.

Major Gen^l. Hampton having completed his arrangements on the 24th commenced on the following day his Operations against my advanced Posts;—

At about eleven O'Clock in the forenoon of the 26th his Cavalry and Light Troops were discovered advancing on both banks of the Chateauguay, by a Detachment covering a Working Party of *Habitans* employed in felling Timber for the purpose of constructing abbatis :—

Lieuten^t. Colonel Desalaberry who had the command of the advanced Picquets composed of the Light Infantry Company of the Canadian Fencibles, and two Companies of Voltigeurs, on the North side of the River made so excellent a disposition of his little Band that he checked the advance of the Enemy's principal Column, led by Major General Hampton in person and accompanied by Brigadier General Izard;—whilst the American Light Brigade under Colonel

M^cCarty was in like manner repulsed in it's progress on the South side of the River by the spirited advance of the Right Flank Company of the 3rd Battalion of the Embodied Militia under Captain Daly, supported by Captain Brugieur's Company of Chateauguay Chasseurs ;—

Captains Daly and Bruguier being both wounded and their Companies having sustained some loss, their Position was immediately taken up by a Flank Company of the 1st Battalion of embodied Militia ; the Enemy rallied and repeatedly returned to the attack, which terminated only with the day in his complete disgrace and defeat ; being foiled at all points, by a handful of men, who by their determined bravery maintained their position, and screened from insult the Working Parties who continued their labours unconcerned—

Having fortunately arrived at the scene of Action shortly after it's commencement, I witnessed the conduct of the Troops on this glorious occasion ; and it was a great gratification to me to render on the spot that praise which had become so justly their due :—

I thanked Major General De Watteville for the wise measures taken by him for the defence of his position, the advance ;—and Lieu^t. Colonel de Salaberry for the judgment displayed by him in the choice of his ground, and the Bravery and skill with which he maintained it ;—

I acknowledged the highest praise to belong to the Officers and men engaged that morning for their gallantry and steadiness ; and I called upon all the Troops in advance for a continuation of that zeal, steadiness and discipline, and for that patient endurance of hardships and privations which they have hitherto evinced,—And I particularly noticed the able support Lieut. Col^l. De Salaberry received from Captain Ferguson in command of the Light Company of the Canadian Fencibles, and from Captain J. B. Duchesnay and Captain J. Duchesnay and Adjutant Hebden of the Voltigeurs, and

also from Adjutant O'Sullivan of the Sedentary Militia and Captain La Motte belonging to the Indian Warriors.—

Almost the whole of the British Troops being pushed forward for the defence of Upper Canada, that of the Lower Province must depend in a great degree, on the Valor and continued exertions of it's incorporated Battalions and its sedentary Militia, until the 70th Regiment and the two Battalions of Marines daily expected, arrive. It is therefore highly satisfactory to me to have to state to Your Lordship that, there appears a determination among all classes of His Majesty's Canadian Subjects to persevere in a Loyal and honorable line of conduct.

By the report of the Prisoners taken from the Enemy in the affair on the Chateauguay, the American Force is stated at seven thousand Infantry and Two hundred Cavalry with ten Field pieces. The British advanced Force actually engaged did not exceed three hundred :—

The Enemy suffered severely from our fire, and from their own—some detached Corps in the Woods having fired upon each other.—

I have the honor to transmit Your Lordship a Return of the Killed and wounded on the 26th :—

I avail myself of this opportunity humbly to solicit from His Royal Highness The Prince Regent, as a mark of His Gracious approbation of the conduct of the embodied Battalions of the Canadian Militia, five pairs of Colours for the 1st—2nd—3rd—4th and 5th Battalions.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

Your Lordships

Most Obedient and

Most humble Servant

GEORGE: PREVOST.

The Right Honorable
Earl Bathurst
&c &c &c.

Return of Killed, Wounded and Missing of His Majesty's
Forces in Action with the Enemy in advance of
Chateaugai on the 26th October 1813.

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Canadian Fenc ^{ble} . | } | 3 Rank and File killed 1 Serjeant |
| Infantry Light Compy. | | 3 Rank and File wounded. |
| 3 ^d . Batt ⁿ . Embodied | } | 2 Rank and File killed 1 Captain |
| Militia, Flank | | 6 Rank and File wounded. |
| Company— | | 4 Rank and File missing. |
| Chateaugai Chasseurs | } | 1 Captain wounded. |

Total. 5 Rank and File killed. 2 Captains, 1 Serjeant,
13 Rank and File wounded—4 Rank and File missing.

Names of Officers wounded.

Captain Daley, 3rd Battⁿ. Embodied Militia twice
wounded severely.

Captain Bruyers Chateaugay Chasseurs slightly.

EDWARD BAYNES

Adj^t. Gen^l. N.A.

Archives, C. 1171, p. 78.

G.O.

Montreal 1st November 1813.

The 1st & 2nd Companies of the Royal Marine Artill^y
are to march tomorrow morning at 7 O'clock.—the 1st Com-
pany is to cross at Longueil and to proceed to S^t Johns,
and on the following day to Isle aux Noix to relieve the De-
tachment of R^l Artillery at that place—which will march to
Laprairie and relieve the Montreal Volunteers. The Com-
manding Officer at Isle aux Noix will make the necessary
arrang[e]ment of boats for carrying this Relief into effect—
Captⁿ. Gordon will remain 'till further Orders for the purpose
of delivering over his Command, and he will retain as long as

will be necessary, Such Non Com^d. Officers or others in charge of Stores &c—

The 2nd Company Marine Artillery to March by La Chine to S^t. Armes and by Coteau du Lac to Prescott to relieve the Detachment of Royal Art^y at that place—Captain Jackson will proceed to Coteau du Lac and Cedars, and relieve the Montreal Volunteers at that place.—

The Quarter Master General will furnish the necessary Route and Orders for Batteaux for Crossing the Ferries.—

On the arrival of the 1st Bⁿ R¹ Marines that Corps will proceed to Isle aux Noix and relief the Detachment of the 13th Regiment which will occupy S^t Johns.—

The Companies of R¹ Marine Artillery will report to the Senior Officer of the Artillery of the respective Divisions in which they are Stationed.—

The Battalions of Marines when Serving on Shore, are to make the Same Reports and be guided in every respect, by the Same Regulations as are prescribed for the Regiments of the Line.—

Captain Romilly Royal Engineers is directed to proceed to Isle aux Noix and Chambly—and to relief Captain Vigorix who is directed by the Inspector General of Fortifications to Repair to England.—

(Signed) EDW^d BAYNES
Adj^t Gen^l N.A.

L'Honorable Juge Baby : *Chateauguay—Qui est "Témoin Oculaire" ?*
(Montreal, 1900), p. 12.

*From de Salaberry at the Advanced Posts to Baynes
at —.*

Advanced Posts, 1st November, 1813.

Sir,

Referring to the General Order of the 27th ult., issued in consequence of the action in which I repulsed General Hampton's army, I observe with regret that the choice of

the several positions which I defended is not attributed to me, neither is the disposition of the force which was immediately under my command understood to have been altogether mine, from which the greater part of the merit (if there was any contending against a whole army for the space of four hours,) is taken away from me. To elucidate this matter, it is necessary that I should state that when it was reported on the 21st ult., at Chateauguay church, at night, the enemy had surprised the picket at Peper's Road, I was desired to move with my corps to English River, and finding when there that the enemy's intention appeared to move down the River Chateauguay on his way to Montreal, I lost no time in pushing on the troops, and took up the three advanced positions, and began to fortify them as well as I could (having then only a few axes) and distributed the troops for their defence. I ordered also the famous abattis, situated two miles in front of the above stated positions, to which I marched on the 26th, from whence I reconnoitered the American Army in the act of advance, from which I completed my dispositions for the defence of both sides of the Chateauguay; from whence after an obstinate engagement of four hours, I succeeded in defeating their project of penetrating into the country, and finally obliged him to retire to his former position, five miles back, with the loss of about 70 killed and 16 prisoners, besides a great number of wounded, about 150 stand of arms, and six drums, etc., etc., which fell into our hands. Moreover, he has since retired into his own country.

It is true General de Watteville inspected my positions, and approved of them, and of the orders I had given for their defence. The dispositions to receive the enemy on the 26th, were made by myself; no one interfered with them, and no officer of superior rank came up until the action was over. It is true I was ably seconded by Lieut.-Colonel McDonell, of the Glengarry Fencibles, who had taken up

a ford position two days before the action, and by all the officers under my command.

I regret also to observe in perusing the order of the 27th, that it is supposed that I had been thrown forward to cover working parties. This idea is erroneous in so much that there were no works carrying on there, but such abattis and defence as appeared to me necessary to prevent my positions from being outflanked or forced; these I ordered myself, no engineer directed them. I placed myself in front of the abattis with the view to begin the defence of the country. I judged it a good position from whence I could have a good view of the enemy's columns which I was apprised were in full march. This I did of my own accord. It was a desperate undertaking. It succeeded, and the enemy instead of going to Montreal, is gone to Four-Corners. The enemy's intention is ascertained by concurring circumstances and by the report of prisoners. He was not then in full march with all his baggage and artillery for the purpose of attacking a few workmen.

These are the true circumstances attending the action of the 26th, and it grieves me to the heart to see that I must share the merit of the action, and that it must be reduced to my having covered a few workmen. Methinks that if any merit is to be obtained I am entitled to the whole.

I cannot conclude without soliciting that this representation may be laid before His Excellency the Governor-General, to whose justice I confidently appeal.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) CHS. DE SALABERRY,
Lt.-Col. Voltg.

From "The Quebec Gazette," Thursday, 4 November, 1813.

The affair near the lines, at the River Chateauguay, is the first in which any considerable number of the natives of

this Province have been engaged with the Americans since the war. In this case, the whole of our force, with a very few exceptions, from the commander downwards, were Canadians. The General Order issued on the subject, shews that the result has been such as was expected from the former character of the people, and the zeal which they have repeatedly shewn for the defence of their country. We are informed, upon authority which we deem unexceptionable, that the enemy lost about 100 men killed in that affair, while we lost only 5. This, together with the repulse of the enemy, is incontestable proof of good officers and good soldiers. A few experiments of this kind, will probably convince the Americans that their project of conquering this Province is premature.

Archives, C. 1694, p. 47.

G.O.

Montreal 4th November 1813.

.....
 His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of the Forces, has the highest pride and satisfaction in declaring his acknowledgments to the Loyal and Brave Militia of Lower Canada for the Zeal and alacrity with which they flew to their Posts and for the patience and firmness with which they have endured in this inclement Season the severe hardships and privations to which they have been exposed ;— the steadiness & discipline of the whole have been conspicuous, and the undaunted gallantry displayed by six Companies, almost to a man composed of Canadian Fencibles and Militia under the immediate Command of Lieutenant Colonel de Salaberry, in repelling with disgrace an Invading American Army twenty times their number reflects unfading honor on the Canadian Name.

(Signed) EDW^d. BAYNES,—
 Adj^t Gen^l

L'Honorable Juge Baby : *Chateauguay—Qui est "Témoin Oculaire" ?*
(Montreal, 1900), p. 5.

*From O'Sullivan at Montreal to de Salaberry at the
frontier.*

Montréal 6 nov. 1813.

Monsieur,

J'ai enfin trouvé une occasion pour vous envoyer la description de *votre* bataille. Je ne me suis rendu à Montréal que fort tard lundi au soir. Je suis tombé malade pres qu'aussitôt d'un violent mal de gorge, fruit, sans doute, des misères du soldat. Je ne me suis trouvé en état de mettre la main à la plume que le mercredi, ce que j'ai fait de grand cœur, pour vous rendre la justice qui vous appartient. Est-ce bien réussi ? Vous me permettrez d'en douter. J'ai fait mon possible. Je vous prie de vérifier l'anglais, car le français est horrible, et je suis trop fatigué pour pouvoir traduire moi-même. Je me suis trouvé obligé d'employer le traducteur de la "Gazette." Le sens est cependant assez bien rendu en français, mais les phrases manquent du feu et de l'expression nécessaires. Lors de mon arrivée, l'on croyait assez généralement que le M. G. de W.¹ avait eu sa part à l'affaire, mais à présent je vous assure qu'il n'est personne qui soit de cette opinion. Le public est même indigné de l'injustice qui vous a été faite. Je n'ai pu me résoudre, quoique vous m'en ayez dit, de faire insérer mon propre nom ; j'ai ressenti assez de plaisir de rendre justice à qui elle était due, et je me contente de votre approbation. J'ai fait imprimer quelques feuilles sur du beau papier ; je vous envoie la plus grande partie pour que vous ayez le plaisir d'en distribuer à vos amis.

Je vous prie de me croire, avec estime, Monsieur,

Votre très-humble, et très-obéissant serviteur

M. O'SULLIVAN

¹ Major Général de Watteville.

P.S.—Some errors of the press have crept in from the circumstance of my not having been able to superintend the impression. I shall cause these errors to be corrected in the next "Gazette," and will send several numbers of it to be republished in England.

Account of the Battle of the Châteauguay by Michael O'Sullivan, the "Témoins Oculaire" or "Eye-Witness."

AN EYE-WITNESS'S ACCOUNT.

[The following is taken from the Quebec *Mercury* of Tuesday, Nov. 9, 1813.]

We do ourselves the pleasure of communicating to the public in a separate sheet the detail of the late repulse of the enemy at Chateaugay; this description of so brilliant an achievement effected by Canadians, (with the exception of a few individuals) in the first attack on their country, will be read, we doubt not, with as much satisfaction, as we have in communicating it, and returning our thanks to the gentleman who has so obligingly favored us with the means of doing it.

MR. BROWN,

As a circumstantial account of the late action on Chateaugay River, may prove acceptable to your readers; I beg you will have the goodness to insert in your gazette, the following hasty sketch:—However prolix and deficient in a descriptive point of view, it has at least the merit of being correct as to matter of fact, for it comes from the pen of

AN EYE-WITNESS

Novr. 3, 1813.

The American army, at Four Corners, under Gen. Hampton, after having so long fixed the attention of our troops, began at length to move towards our lines on the 21 ult.

About 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, their advance guard, drove in our piquets at Piper's Road, about 10 leagues above the Chateaugay Church. Upon the receipt of this intelligence, Major Henry of the Beauharnois Militia, commanding at English river, used every diligence in apprising major-gen. De Watteville of the approach of the enemy, and ordered immediately in advance, Captains Levesque and Debartzch with their flank companies of the 5th Batt. Incorporated Militia, together with about 200 of the Beauharnois division. This force advanced about two leagues that night, and halted at the entrance of a wood through which it would have been imprudent to pass. They were joined early next morning by Lieut.-Colonel De Salaberry with his Voltigeurs and Capt. Ferguson's light company of the Canadian Regt. Lieut.-Col. De Salaberry moved about a league up the left bank of the river, to the other extremity of the wood, and a patrol of the enemy having shewn itself at some distance, he there halted his little force. The Lt.-Col. who had the advantage of reconnoitring the whole country above Chateaugay, in his expedition to the American lines a few weeks before, knew well that the whole bank of the river could not afford a better position.

The wood abounded with deep ditches or *ravines*; and upon four of these, he established four lines of defence, the one after the other. The three first lines were upon an average, at the distance of about two hundred yards from each other; the fourth line was about half a mile in the rear, and commanded a ford to the right bank of the river, which it became most important to defend in order to protect his left flank. Upon each of these lines, he caused a breast work to be thrown up, extending some distance into the woods, so as to guard his right. The breast work on the first line broke into an obtuse angle on the right of the road and ran along the windings of the ditch. The whole of the first day was taken up

IN FORTIFYING THE POSITION,

than which none could be more eligible in point of strength. It had also the advantage of compelling the enemy, if disposed to attack, to travel over a large extent of an uninhabited country, and to remove at a large distance from his supplies, while our troops on the contrary had every thing at hand, and were well supported in the rear.

The right bank of the river was covered with a thick wood, and care also was taken to guard against an attack from that quarter. A strong guard was placed at the ford, and a piquet of sixty of the Beauharnois Militia was thrown in advance on the other side.

The attention of the Lieut.-Col. was not confined to the works above mentioned. In order to strengthen his position still more, he ordered the next day a party of thirty axemen of the Beauharnois division to proceed in advance of the first line for the purpose of destroying the bridges and the *abattis*. All the bridges for the distance of a league and a half in advance were consequently destroyed, and a formidable *abattis* was made about a mile in front of the first line, extending from the bank of the river to about three or four arpents into the wood, where it was met on the right by a swamp, or *épinettière*, through which it was next to impossible to pass. Thus were the four lines completely protected. It was well-known that the enemy had about ten pieces of cannon, and it became impossible for them to cut a road for their artillery.

To the strength of the position so chosen and so fortified at all points as much as to the heroism of our little army are we indebted for the splendid victory that has been obtained. The skill and talents of a commanding officer are no doubt as conspicuous in the choice of his ground before the battle, as at the management of his troops in the heat of action; and it is but common justice to Col. De Salaberry to state

that to him *alone* praise is due for the "*admirable arrangement established by him for the defence of his post.*"

After Col. De Salaberry had made these judicious arrangements, Major-Gen. De Watteville visited his camp, and did him the honor to approve of everything he had done.

Notwithstanding that the *abattis* had been completed on the second day, working parties were continually kept there, in order to render it still more formidable; troops were sent in front to protect them, independently of which there was always a strong piquet in the rear.

On the 26th ult. about ten o'clock in the morning, an advanced corps of the enemy came within fire of the *abattis*—Lt. Guy of the Voltigeurs, who was in front with about 20 of his men, was forced in after exchanging a few shots, and found himself supported by Lt. Johnson of the same corps, who commanded the piquet in the rear. The working party retreated of course and did not resume its labors during the whole of that day.

The firing brought up Lieut.-Col. De Salaberry immediately from the front of the first line. He took with him three companies: Capt. Ferguson's of the Canadian regiment, which he placed in extended order on the right, and in front of the *abattis*; Capt. Jean Bapt. Duchesnay's, which he ordered to occupy the left, extending at the same time to the river side, and Capt. Juchereau Duchesnay's, which, with about 50 or 60 of the Beauharnois militia was thrown back *en potence* on the left side of the *abattis*, so as to flank the advance of the enemy against the Beauharnois militia on the right banks of the river. I omitted to mention that about 20 Indians were mixed with Capt. Ferguson's company on the right. The Lieut.-Col. placed himself in the centre of the front line. He now saw in his front an enemy with whom he had twice endeavoured to come in contact since the beginning of this campaign. The long wished for opportunity was at hand, and the event has shewn that he

knew how [to] improve it. Between the *abattis* and the lines were placed Captain Ecuyer's company of Voltigeurs and Capt. Debartzch's light company of the 5th Battalion of Incorporated Militia, having their flank piquets thrown out to the right. A large body of Indians under Captain Lamothe were extended in the road on the right of Capt. Debartzch. Lieut.-Col. M'Donell of the Glengarry Light Infantry, moved up with part of his light brigade from the 3d and 4th, to the 1st and 2nd lines. All these movements

WERE MADE WITH UNCOMMON RAPIDITY.

In the meantime, the enemy began to form in a large plain that ended almost at a point in front of the *abattis*. General Hampton commanded in person on the left bank of the river; he had with him the 10th, 31st and other regiments, amounting to about three thousand, or three thousand five hundred men, with three squadrons of cavalry and four pieces of artillery. The artillery, however, was not brought into action. A large force of the enemy amounting to about fifteen hundred men, moved down through the woods on the right bank of the river. It was composed of the 4th, 33d, 34th, and the volunteer and light battalions. The remainder of the American army formed in the rear of the force on the left bank.

Soon after the disposition made by Col. De Salaberry as mentioned above, a strong column of infantry advanced thro' the plain in front of the *abattis*; and the Col. perceiving that this column had laid itself open to a front and flank fire, an opportunity for which he had waited some time, he himself fired the first shot which was seen to bring down a mounted officer. This was ominous of success. He then ordered the bugle to sound for commence firing. A spirited and well-directed fire from the companies in front checked for a few minutes the advance of the enemy, they remained motionless for some time and then wheeled to the left into

line, in which position they fired several volleys. By this movement, however, the fire from the left of the line was entirely thrown away upon that part of the woods unoccupied by our troops ; but, the fire from their right was so powerful as to force our skirmishers to shelter themselves in the front edge of the *abattis*. The enemy mistook this for the beginning of a retreat ; and much mistaken they were, for they did not occupy one inch of the *abattis*.—Huzzas re-sounded from all parts of their army ; nor were we inferior in this shouting warfare.—Our companies in front cheered in their turn—their huzzas were re-echoed by those in their rear and reiterated by the troops in the front line. Nothing could be more animated. Lieut.-Col. M'Donell from the first line caused the bugles to be sounded in all directions, so as to induce the enemy to believe that we were in far greater numbers ; this *ruse de guerre* had the desired effect, for we afterwards learned from the prisoners that they rated our force at five to six thousand. After these mutual cheerings, volleys were for some time exchanged on both sides. The enemy did not once attempt to penetrate into the *abattis*. They, however, still kept up their fire which was well returned, particularly from the left. After a short time it began to slacken, as if their attention were directed to the other side of the river. Here the bugles in front, in consequence of some manœuvre, sounded the advance, and Lieut.-Col. M'Donell, desirous of adding new laurels to those already won at Ogdensburgh, came up from the first and second line, with I believe, Capt. Levesque's company and another.

Towards the close of the engagement on the left bank, the enemy on the right, who had overpowered the Beauharnois militia, opened a heavy fire on our left, which was well returned by the left of Capt. J. Bapt. and the right of Capt. Juchereau Duchesnay's companies. Lieut.-Col. De Salaberry then ordered Lieut.-Col. M'Donell, who had resumed his situation, to send a company to the other side of

the river, for the purpose of checking the advance of the enemy. Capt. Daly who was selected for this service, crossed at the ford, took with him the remains of the Sedentary militia on the other side, and moved with rapidity up the river.

The fire of the enemy having nearly ceased at the *abattis*, and Col. De Salaberry seeing the action about to assume a serious aspect on the right bank, left his situation in the centre of the front and placed himself with the troops thrown back *en potence* on the left. Here he ascended a large stump of a tree, and although much exposed to the fire of the enemy, surveyed them coolly with his glass. He then gave his orders in French to Capt. Daly on the other side, and cautioned him to answer in the same language, that they might not be understood by the enemy. Cap. Daly for some time

DROVE THE ENEMY GALLANTLY BEFORE HIM ;

but rallying upon their supports nearly in a line with the force on the left bank, they waited his approach and received him with a heavy fire. He was wounded in the onset ; but though wounded he still continued to push on with his company, and while in the act of encouraging them by exhortation and example, he received a second wound and fell. Capt. Bruyere, of the Beauharnois Militia, was also wounded at the same time, but slightly. Their men now no longer able to withstand such an overwhelming force, were compelled to fall back, which they did in good order, under the command of Lieut. Schiller, of Capt. Daly's Company. Shouts of applause were again heard from the enemy, but their exultation was that of a moment, for no sooner did they come opposite the *potence*, than, by the orders of Col. De Salaberry, the troops in that position opened upon them across the river, a heavy and well-directed fire, which suddenly checked their career, and threw them into the greatest confusion. In vain did they attempt to stand. They

dispersed and retreated with precipitation. It was then about half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, and Gen. Hampton finding that his troops on the right bank of the river were not more successful than those on the left, ordered the latter to retreat, after they had remained in action for nearly an hour, though occasionally galled by long shots from our skirmishers, who were perfectly secure in the *abattis*. Our troops continued in their position, and though weary with the toils of victory, they slept that night on the ground they had occupied during the day. At daybreak next morning they were reinforced by Captain Rouville's Company, of the Voltigeurs, Captain Leveque's Grenadier Company of the 5th Batt. Incorporated Militia, and sixty of the Beauharnois division, the whole under the command of Lt.-Col. McDonell. To this distinguished officer Col. De Salaberry entrusted the defence of the *abattis*. Piquets were thrown in advance about two miles farther than they hitherto had been. The day was passed in expectation of a second attack; but no enemy appeared. The piquets were so posted that about twenty prisoners fell into our hands on the right bank of the river. On the same side were also found a large quantity of muskets, drums, knapsacks, provisions, etc., etc. Everything indicated the confusion into which the enemy had been thrown and with which they had retreated. Upwards of forty of their dead were buried by our troops, independently of those who were buried by the enemy. Among the latter were two or three officers of distinction. Two horses were found dead on the left bank, and the enemy carried off in waggons several of their wounded on that side of the river. Our loss in the action amounted to two killed, sixteen wounded and four missing. Three rank and file of Capt. Ferguson's Company have been reported as killed; but it has since been ascertained, that hurried on by their impetuosity, they fell into the hands of the enemy.

It would no doubt, have been the height of rashness and

indiscretion for this handful of men, wearied and fatigued with the labors of the day, to have ventured one inch beyond the *abattis*, in pursuit of such immense numbers, protected by such a large body of cavalry; but if it be not indelicate to put the question: Why were not the troops in reserve below the camp brought up to annoy the enemy in their retreat, and cut off their straggling force?

On the 20th, in the morning, Capt. Lamothe with about 150 Indians went to reconnoitre the enemy, who from the report of Col. Hughes, of the Engineers, had abandoned their camp on the preceding day. A party of the Beauharnois Militia, protected by Capt. Debartzch, burned and

DESTROYED THE NEWLY ERECTED BRIDGES

almost within a mile of the enemy, who had moved their camp to about a mile and a half beyond Piper's road, that is to say, about two leagues above their former position. Capt. Lamothe proceeded through the woods with his Indians and notwithstanding the inferiority of his force, that zealous and active officer brought the enemy to a partial engagement wherein they had one killed and seven wounded.

On the 30th, an Indian scouting party under Capt. Ducharme brought intelligence, that the enemy had on the 22nd, abandoned their camp at Piper's road, in the greatest confusion, and were on the high road to Four-Corners.

Here ended Gen. Hampton's expedition to Lower Canada.

I have been thus minute in describing the scene of action and the position and management of the troops engaged, without fear of trespassing on the patience of the reader. Upon such a subject, the eager expectation of a Canadian public will naturally look with anxiety for every species of information and in such an arduous and honorable contest, there can be no circumstance, however trivial, without its interest.

From every information that could be collected from the prisoners, it appears that the intention of the enemy was to push on by Chateauguay river to the banks of the St. Lawrence, there to wait co-operation of Gen. Wilkinson, who was to have taken Kingston on his way down.

Rusticus expectat dum defluat amnis. . . .

It has also been ascertained from the prisoners, that the force of the enemy amounted to 7000 infantry, 400 cavalry and ten or twelve pieces of cannon.

To the distant or prejudiced reader, it may perhaps appear incredible that the whole force engaged on our side, did not exceed 300 men ; but such is the fact, and it is stated without fear of contradiction. The remainder of our troops were in the reserve of the army, and the few in the 1st and 2d line.

It is highly gratifying to add that the 300 men engaged, together with their brave commander, were all Canadians, with the exception of the gallant Capt. Ferguson, three of his company and three officers belonging to other corps. Let this be told wherever mention is made of the battle of Chateauguay, and prejudice must hide its head, and the murmurs of malevolence will be hushed into confusion.

To the officers and troops engaged on this memorable day, the highest credit is certainly due. Captain Ferguson, of the Canadian Light Infantry, and the two Captains Duchesnays, of the Voltigeurs, highly distinguished themselves in the command of their respective companies, and by their skill and coolness in executing several different movements with as much precision as at a field day. Nothing could exceed the gallantry of Capt. Daly, of the Militia Flank Brigade, who literally led his company into the midst of the enemy. Equally conspicuous for the spirit and bravery throughout this arduous contest, were Capts. Lamothe, of the Indian Department, Lieut. Pinguet, of the Canadian

Light Infantry, Lieut. and Adj. Hebden, of the Voltigeurs, and Lieut. Schiller, of Capt. Daly's Company, Lieut. Guy and Lieut. Wm. Johnson, of the Voltigeurs, formed their retiring piquets in the line of defence, and behaved with great spirit during the engagement. Capt. Ecuyer, of the Voltigeurs, and Lieut. Powell, of Captain Levesque's Company, deserve great credit for their exertions in securing the prisoners into the wood at an imminent risk. Captains Langtin and Hunan, of the Beauharnois Militia, behaved remarkably well. The former knelt down with his men at the beginning of the action, said a short prayer in his own good way, and told them that *now they had done their duty to their God*, he expected *they would also do their duty to their King*.

Louis Langlade, Noel Annace and Bartlet Lyons, of the Indian Department, were in the action of the 26th and in the affair of the 28th. Their conduct throughout was highly meritorious. Nor shall I omit the names of privates Vincent, Pelletier, Vervais, Dubois and Carron, of the Voltigeurs, some of whom actually swam across the river and made prisoners those who refused to surrender.

With respect to Lieut.-Col. De Salaberry, the most selfish must admit that his important services entitle him to the thanks and gratitude of his country.

It is difficult which to admire the more, his personal courage as an individual, or his skill and talents as a commander.—We find him long before the battle displaying the greatest judgment in the choice of his position, and strengthening it when chosen, with every means within the reach of his ingenuity.—We see him in the heat of action embracing every object with a comprehensive view, defending every point, and providing for every contingency; but his merit, and that of his little army become more conspicuous when we reflect upon the critical nature of the times at the eve of this splendid victory. Affairs in our sister province had

assumed a gloomy aspect, despondency had already begun to spread its baneful effects. We had been even told from high authority, that "The period was in all probability fast approaching when it was to be *finally* determined whether the arrogant expectations of the enemy were to be realized, by his successful invasion of this province, or whether he was to meet with defeat and disgrace in the attempt." That period is now past; the friends of their country will look back to it with grateful recollection, the face of things is changed. The enemy, to use a favorite phrase, did indeed "pollute our soil," but he was repulsed by Canadians not the one twentieth part of his force, led on by a Canadian commander.

L'Honorable Juge Baby : *Châteauguay—Qui est "Témoin Oculaire"?*
(Montreal, 1900), p. 6.

From de Salaberry at Chambly to O'Sullivan at Montreal.

Chambly, Nov. 12, 1813.

Sir,

It was only yesterday that I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 6th inst., together with your printed account of our action of the 26th ultimo. Receive, my dear sir, my very grateful acknowledgments for your kind attention to me and for the extreme trouble you have taken to show to our countrymen the merit of our extraordinary success in its true colours. You have rendered me that justice which is still denied me at headquarters, and which I no longer expect, notwithstanding the spirited representation I thought it a duty I owed to myself to transmit to the Governor, through the channel of the Adjutant-General. To this representation no answer has been given me; indeed I believe it is difficult to afford one.

You ask me whether I think you have succeeded in your exposé. My answer is, in the highest degree, nothing could

have been better written and it is a production of the highest merit, which cannot fail to do the highest honor to your heart and head. If in any particular, I can permit myself to blame you, it is in the first instance for having given to my humble merit, too much praise, and in the second, for having detracted from your own by the omission of the excellent services you have yourself rendered your country by the bravery which you displayed in the action, and previously, by the pains you have taken to impress the sedentary militia with the true sense of their duty to their king and themselves.

Your exposé is replete with the most complete skill and finesse in exposing in many parts the erroneous ideas thrown out in the general order of the 27th, and no doubt your success is complete in fixing the merit where it appears to be due; but your concluding paragraph is a perfect chef-d'œuvre; I never read anything written with so much life and spirit: to what advantage you have seized upon and brought in [in] some extraordinary way parts of former proclamations. I assure you I am not the only person inclined to think your work a masterpiece. Every well thinking person is of the same opinion, and you will be amply repaid for your exertions by the happy reflection of having done exemplary justice to an individual and in the consolation of putting a full stop for the future to men in power doing an indignity to anyone for the purpose of benefitting a friend or a favorite. Every honest man will join us in the firm hope that your exposé may thus far prove beneficial.

I trust ere this your health is fully reestablished and that you are now assisting in repelling the invasion which it is said threatens us from Sackett Harbour. May it meet with worse success than Hampton's army, is the most sincere wish of my heart. By the bye, at this juncture, Hampton's retreat is a most fortunate circumstance for this province. I think t'would have been difficult to have managed both armies.

I am ill of a dissentary and rhumatism, but hope in a very few days again to join the advance. Getting wet or staying out at this moment would most certainly kill me. I have however received several messages, requesting I might join as soon as possible. That precaution was unnecessary. I require no order to repair to my duty when I am able to do it. I will by first opportunity do myself the pleasure to send you copy of my letter to the Governor. Meanwhile, I have the honor to remain, with sentiments of esteem and consideration, very gratefully, my dear sir,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

CHS. DE SALABERRY,

Lt.-Col. Voltigeurs.

PROVINCE OF LOWER CANADA

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25th January 1814.

Mr. *Lee* moved, seconded by Mr. *Huot*, that the thanks of this House be given to Lieutenant Colonel *De Salaberry*, of the Canadian Voltigeurs, and the several other Officers under his command, for their distinguished exertions, on Tuesday the 26th day of October last, in the glorious action on the Chateauguay River; and that the Speaker of this House have it in charge to signify the same to the said Lieutenant Colonel *De Salaberry*, and the several other Officers; that this House doth highly feel and acknowledge the distinguished valour and discipline so conspicuously displayed by the non-Commissioned Officers, Private Soldiers and Militia Men of the little band, under the immediate command of Lieutenant Colonel *De Salaberry*, in the signal defeat of the American Army, under the command of General *Hampton* at *Chateauguay* aforesaid; and that the same be signified to them by the Commanding Officers of those Corps, who

are desired to thank them for their gallant and exemplary conduct.

[*Extract from a letter written by the Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria, to de Salaberry's father. The Duke had served in the garrison of Quebec from 1791 to 1794. This letter was published, from the original in the possession of the de Salaberry family, by Dr. W. J. Anderson in "The Life of F.M. H.R.H. Edward, Duke of Kent" (Ottawa and Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Company, 1870), p. 214.*]

From F.M. H.R.H. the Duke of Kent at Kensington Palace to Lieut.-Colonel de Salaberry, Senr., Beauport, Quebec.

Kensington Palace,
15th March, 1814.

MY DEAR DE SALABERRY,—On 31st December, I received your interesting letter of 10th November, in which you give me an account of the advance of the Canadian army on 27th October, and of the brilliant affair which your son gained by his arrangements. I received at the same time his letters, in which he gave me the details; and I hesitate not to declare my opinion, that you have reason to be proud of the victory gained by my *protégé* over forces so superior in numbers to those which he commanded, also that he displayed talents and judgment rarely to be found, unless in veterans, both in making his dispositions and during the battle.

I have seen, with pain, that the report of the Adjutant-General does not do him justice, as he does not give him exclusive credit for the dispositions made, and the success which resulted from them. But you may comfort yourself with the idea, that there is not any one here who does not regard him *as the hero who saved Lower Canada*, by the decisive steps which he took and the bravery with which he opposed his little band of heroes to the troops of the enemy, so superior in numbers. I have talked the matter over with the Duke of York, and he appears completely convinced that to your son belongs the whole merit; and I have no

doubt he will find occasion to reward him in a manner appropriate to his desire and merit. You may rest assured that this is the effect produced by the reports of the English officers who were present and witnesses of the affair.

.....

I always am,
 Dear de Salaberry,
 Yours most affectionately,
 EDWARD.

Archives, C. 1224, p. 56.

From Freer at Montreal to de Salaberry at —.

H.Q. Montreal 19 April 1814

Sir,

I am directed by the Comm^r of the Forces to transmit for your Information and for the Information of the Detachments concerned the Copy of a letter His Excellency has just received from the Commander in Chief expressive of His Royal Highness' Satisfaction at the Good Conduct displayed in the Affair at Chateaugay.

I have &c
 (Signed) NOAH FREER
 M:S:

Archives, C. 681, p. 296.

(The original letter signed by the Duke of York.)

From the Duke of York to Sir George Prevost.

Horse Guards.—
 24th Dec^r. 1813.

Sir,

I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your Dispatch of the 30th October last, reporting the very gallant and successful

Resistance made by the Detachments under the Command of Lieut^t. Colonel de Salaberry, against an Attack of a very superior Body of the Enemy's Army, led by Major General Hampton in person, upon the Advanced Posts near the Chateaugay River; and I have derived much Satisfaction from receiving so flattering an Account of the eminent Skill and determined Bravery, displayed by the Officers and Men of the very small Portion of the regular Troops and Militia, employed on this Occasion, and I shall not fail to bring their Conduct under the Gracious Consideration of The Prince Regent.—

I am, Sir,

Yours,

FREDERICK
Commander in Chief

Lieut^t. General
Sir George Prevost Bart.
&c &c &c
Canada—

Archives, Q. 131, p. 110.

(Transcript from the original in the Public Record Office, London.)

To His Royal Highness, The Prince Regent, of the united Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland &c &c &c.

May it please your Royal Highness,

We His Majesty's faithful Commons of Lower Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, most humbly beseech your Royal Highness to take into your Royal Highness's consideration the services of Lieutenant Colonel De Salaberry, on the twenty Sixth day of October, One Thousand and eight hundred and thirteen, in the glorious action on the Chateaugay River, when by his skill and courage, aided only by three hundred of His Majesty's Canadians Subjects, he

succeeded in repulsing a division of the American Army under the command of General Hampton, whereby the plans of the Enemy were disconcerted—their confidence lowered and the safety of that part of this Province secured. And His Majesty's most faithful Commons, most humbly beseech your Royal Highness in consideration of these distinguished Services, and as an Incentive to great Actions hereafter, in the defence of this Province against His Majesty's Enemies, That your Royal Highness will be graciously pleased to order that a grant of waste Lands of the Crown be made to Lieut. Col. Charles de Salaberry, or that your Royal Highness will be graciously pleased to make such other order as your Royal Highness in your wisdom shall think meet.

Attest

WM. LINDSAY

Clk. Asst.

Endorsed N^o. 5/

Letters from Lt.-Col. George Macdonell to de Salaberry and Sir Henry Torrens, as communicated by Mr. René de Salaberry to the "Montreal Star" on the 24th of March, 1895.

32 Tayfield, Edinburgh,

February 2, 1817.

MY DEAR DE SALABERRY—I did not fail to take the first opportunity of speaking to Sir Henry Torens upon the injustice done you in omitting your name in the list of Companions of the Bath. To this he replied that (in consequence of a memorial I had given him to claim back rank from the date of the affair at Ogdensburgh), the Duke had put my name down in the list now preparing for publication, but that he could not act in regard to your claim without some official recommendation I assured him upon honor of the circumstances as an eye-witness and plainly told him that Sir George Prevost and the people about him had chosen

to take some pique at you about that time and they therefore had not thought proper to give you the credit you were entitled to.

After a little hesitation he asked me if I would write an official letter to him on the subject, which I agreed to do, and I next day sent him a communication of which the annexed is a copy, and I have not a doubt but it will succeed, as he told me to lose no time in doing it, as the list will immediately appear in the *Gazette*. I believe they have now included every one they intend to give the order to. Battersy, Macdonald and Taylor are, I am told, all in it.

We inspectors are all struck off, which I am not sorry for, as I would rather be on half pay than in so poor an establishment, for the emoluments were not equal to the command of a battalion by one hundred and fifty pounds a year. From some discussion I have had with the official people, I should not be surprised if the colonial defences were put upon a better footing as to internal defence, but I believe they will reduce the strength of the army in Canada. The universal cry in England is retrenchment of expenses. Remember me, etc.,

Yours sincerely,

G. McDONELL.

Copy.

Mr. Donaldson's Office, Whitehall,
January 14, 1817.

SIR,—At the request of Lt.-Col. de Salaberry, of the Canadian Voltigeurs, still in Canada, I do myself the honor of stating to you for the information of H.R. Highness, the Commander-in-Chief, that having been second in command in the important action of Chateauguay, in Lower Canada, I can pledge my honor that the merit of occupying that position and fighting that action is exclusively due to

Lieut.-Col. de Salaberry, who acted in both respects entirely from his own judgment. Major-General de Watterville having only come up from his station some miles in the rear at the close of the affair, after the enemy had been defeated, in consequence of a notification sent to him by myself that we even then were warmly engaged with the enemy.

Lieut.-Colonel de Salaberry having in this affair the good fortune to defeat a division of 7000 regular troops, the largest regular army that the American nation has ever yet brought in action, I hope that H.R.H., the commander-in-chief, will do him the honor to take the subject into his gracious consideration.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

G. McDONELL.

To Sir Henry Torens.

Some time before Colonel McDonell had written to Colonel de Salaberry another letter from which I give an extract :

Among all the heroes of renown who have got rank and medals and crosses of companionship of the Bath, I do not find they have yet given you anything for Chateauguay. Can I do or say anything at the Horse Guards for you on that head? I would feel much pleasure in pushing the point for you then, even if not at all interested myself, but as I had the honour of being your lieutenant-general upon that occasion (only in command of the reserve), I intend to tell them so at the Horse Guards as my worthy and amiable friend General Baynes did not choose to do so in his general order or despatch. I intend to tell them (and I think I can easily demonstrate it) that the action of Chateauguay and not that of Chrystler's Farm saved Montreal, which would have been in the most imminent danger if the enemy's generals, fortunately enough, had [not] been "actually even worse than our own."

The Gazette, Montreal, Saturday, May 11, 1895.

[*The following reminiscence of the Battle of the Châteauguay is given here because Morrison was probably the last surviving eye-witness whose testimony has been recorded. Since he told as an old man what he had seen as a young boy not much reliance can be placed on his account, especially as it was taken down by a partizan who was even more strongly opposed to de Salaberry's claims than O'Sullivan was to anyone else's.*]

THE CHÂTEAUGUAY FIGHT.

(*The "Gleaner's" Reply to Mr. Sulte's Letter.*)

*What an Eye-Witness said of the Engagement, and
What Followed It.*

The *Huntingdon Gleaner* has a lengthy article in reply to Mr. Benjamin Sulte's letter published in the *Gazette* of Saturday last. In the course of its argument the *Gleaner* says :—

"Mr. Sulte abandons several of the figments that surrounded the de Salaberry myth. Thus, he has to admit, General de Watteville was in command, and that the Americans were confronted by a great many more than the 300 before credited with all the honors of the day in driving back 7,000 invaders. Light is gradually dawning upon Mr. Sulte's mind as to the actual nature of the day's movements, and we are going to adduce more evidence which will show him how far he is still in error. He tries to take from Macdonell his just due by putting statements in his mouth which are simply absurd in their falsity."

The *Gleaner* contends that "there were no actions on the upper Chateauguay, and to allege otherwise is to state what is not true. The American camp at Chateauguay Four Corners was watched by bands of Indians, who occasionally skirmished with the enemy's outposts, and that was all.

"Prevost did not arrive until the 26th and never took

part in any reconnoissance on the Chateauguay. The slash at Allan's Corners was made on authority of De Watteville as the result of his examination of the ground on the 24th.

"The Indians and the men ordered by Macdonell did the only real fighting there was on the 26th. They never were at Ste. Martine, but occupied on both sides of the river, the space between Morrison's rapids and Allan's Corners.

"Macdonell was posted where he was by direction of De Watteville.

"De Salaberry did not go ahead (on the 26th to take the direction of the front line of defence). He was absent from his post when the American advance took place.

"There was no steady firing at the front until the afternoon. The only firing before that was in the skirmish, when the Americans chased, helter skelter before them, a body of what de Salaberry calls 'the habitant chasseurs.'

"De Salaberry says himself he remained at the abattis at Allan's Corners after the firing, expecting every minute a renewal of the American attack. There was no routing of the enemy on either bank.

"De Salaberry did not pursue the enemy. The third day after the encounter he reported at De Watteville's headquarters at Baker's. Hampton fell back unmolested, save by the Indians, who cut off several of his men near Dewittville. The Okas and the Caughnawagas were really the heroes of the campaign, and their services ought to be commemorated. Macdonell was not in command of any reserve. Each officer was given his post by De Watteville, with orders to hold it as long as possible, should the line in front be forced by the enemy. The implication that Macdonell occupied an inferior grade to de Salaberry is misleading. Both were alike subordinates of De Watteville.

"The general order and the report upon which it was based, as given in the *Gleaner* of the 28th March, must

control the Government in whatever inscription they see fit to cut upon the proposed monument, and guided by it De Watteville and Macdonell will get their due."

AN EYE WITNESS'S STORY.

In preparing the history of Huntingdon the *Gleaner* writer accumulated, during several years' research, a mass of material relating to the military operations on the frontier, and as the fight between the forces of Hampton and De Watteville possesses peculiar interest just now, he selects, as throwing vivid light upon it, the statement made by Robert Morrison, farmer, whose father settled upon the Chateaugay where the ford is which Colonel Purdy attempted to capture. Mr. Morrison said :—

"I remember as distinctly as yesterday all the circumstances connected with the battle of Chateaugay, the published accounts of which bear no resemblance to the facts. De Watteville was in command, having his headquarters at Baker's (the old place at mouth of the English river), and de Salaberry was with him with five companies of Voltigeurs. The camp had a breastwork of logs and earth so as to command the English river, for they thought it possible the Americans might come that way, and there was a detachment of the Devil's regiment, as the 5th battalion were called, from their thieving and disorderly propensities. They wore a green uniform and were encamped at Gardner's creek.

"I think it was the day before the battle that Colonel Macdonell and his regiment came marching up. I am sure they followed the road along the St. Lawrence from Hungry Bay and across by the Beauce. I remember their appearance distinctly—in red coats with white cross-belts. They encamped where my barns are—*i.e.*, they put up shanties made of logs and boughs and loose boards. De Salaberry had thrown up an embankment at Banbury's (Allan's Corners),

and had a rude blockhouse (at Robert Bryson's stables) and slash on Robert Bryson's farm, where they awaited the enemy, who came up about 2 in the afternoon, and who fired so high that the bullets lodged in the tree-tops. Afterwards I and my brother cut down many trees to get the bullets, and got enough to fill a basket. Their fire killed nobody, and I am just as sure de Salaberry's fire did no execution worth speaking of, for the Americans halted to await Purdy's movements. He was moving down the south bank, with difficulty. Being advised of his coming, Macdonell ordered his men across the ford, and some sharp firing ensued, ending in the retirement of the Americans, when they saw the ford was guarded in force. Macdonell had formed an embankment east of my house, from behind which men could fire if the Americans attempted to cross the ford. It is Macdonell who should get the entire credit of the victory, for had he not checkmated Purdy, de Salaberry would have been taken in rear. Several were wounded of Purdy and Macdonell's forces, and they were brought over to our house, where two doctors were in waiting. Others of the wounded were taken in canoes to Baker's. I remember well of Pritchard, an Irishman, who was badly wounded by buckshot in the face, and had his leg broken.

“While Purdy's men were retracing their way up the river a body of them became exposed by crossing a small clearance about Robert Greig's, when they were forced to surrender to save their lives, and were taken across the river, to where de Salaberry's men were, by clinging to a log which was pushed over.

“Hampton's camp was on Neil Campbell's land, where a few apple trees are still to be seen, and Purdy encamped on the opposite side. At midnight all in our house were aroused by the sound of volleys, with which we had been so familiar that day. After a while they ceased. Next day we learned that the cause was, that the sentinels in Purdy's

camp supposed they saw the British gathering for a night attack, when the men were aroused and put under arms, and it was not until several volleys were fired and returned that the mistake was discovered, that they were firing at a detachment of the main army sent to cover them. This entailed a far greater loss of life than the so-called battle, and the dead were buried in two trenches on Wm. Bryson's lot near two elm trees. Whether or not a retreat had been decided upon before I do not know, but this misadventure caused that resolution to be taken and they fell back to the States. Had they persevered, they could have gone on to the basin.

“The reports about de Salaberry, posting buglers at different places in the bush, and showing his men at different points, are pure invention. Where they were posted was a dense forest, and he could not show his men anywhere north of the slash, and the Americans knew no regiment could be posted off the road.

“The night before the fight the Indian guard were surprised. They had been scouting and encamped wearied in the hollow on John Cottingham's place, to keep warm and escape observation. The spot is on the side of the river, where maple trees are now planted. It used to be quite a gully. Here, while sleeping, they were surprised by the American advance guard, and two or three were killed. I am positive the Americans did not massacre all, nor kill any after they surrendered.

“The American advance came by the Outarde to Rapid Croche, making their own road, and crossed there. They must have been good woodsmen to clear a road as they did, but the Americans were mostly all first rate axemen. They met no opposition from the guard near the mouth of the Outarde, and had no occasion to fire a shot until they came to Cottingham's hollow.

“Two or three days after the battle, de Salaberry gave

my father \$16 [*sic*] to follow the Americans and see if they had gone back to the States. He followed up their trail, and came out near Chateaugay Corners, when seeing some women he came out and told them he had lost his way and asked where he was. They told him he was near Chateaugay Corners, when he made his way to McClatchie's and learned what he wanted to know.

"Mixing with the officers and hearing them talk, I am pretty sure de Salaberry did not attack Hampton's camp at Chateaugay corners either before or after. His only previous encounter was near Lacolle, and I believe he came from there by St. Phillipe and up from Chateaugay Basin. De Salaberry was rather short and heavy made. Colonel Macdonell was not notable in appearance, but one of his captains, Ferguson, was a great tall man, who carried a double-barrelled gun. There was a good deal of drinking among the officers. My father sold liquor then. The Americans loaded their muskets with a bullet and three buckshot. Our wounded were mostly struck by the shot, some in the face.

"De Watteville did not come until after the firing had begun at Allan's Corners, and was followed by Prevost, whom I did not get near, and who only remained a day or less.

"After the fight a sergeant and 12 of the Voltigeurs were left as guard in the block house, and they came breathless to our house one night, having been scared by the unearthly cry of a catamount."

In answer to questions Mr. Morrison replied:—

"I do not know how word came of the Americans coming down on south bank. My impression is that some of the pickets saw them from the posts on the north bank, but it may have been Indian scouts. Word came in that morning, when two companies of Macdonell's Fencibles, Daly and Bruyere's, crossed the ford and went to meet them. Cannot

say whether Macdonell went with them, but think not. We were all standing here (Mr. Morrison had taken his visitor from the house to the river bank to point out the localities) when I heard Macdonell give the order to the two companies to cross. It would be about 11 o'clock when we, standing in front of the house, heard the first shots, and immediately saw the French sedentary militia and some Indians running away—the blue tuques of the former flying in the wind. My father was so angry to see them running, that he said he could fire on them. There was quite a hot fire for a while, and several on both sides fell. I understood the Americans fell back because they did not anticipate resistance, and finding it, supposed the woods to be full of Indians. The skirmish, I understood, to have been with two companies of Purdy's advance. They had made no road, but came through the woods in file. The woods below the block-house were pine; above, hemlock. Except for fallen trees there was no difficulty for woodsmen in getting through. Never heard of their having lost their way. Had they got to the ford unobserved, they might have carried the day, and, undoubtedly, it was checkmating them on the river bank that gave the victory to the British. Two of the men wounded died in my father's house, and were buried between it and the river. There was quite an entrenchment thrown up between our house and the river to cover the ford; there was no fortification on the other side or at Grant's.

“It would be 1 or 2 o'clock when the firing began between Hampton and de Salaberry. I am sure of that, because we had dinner after the firing on the south side and before that on the north began. It was a dry day, but I do not remember whether it was bright or not. The river was not above average height, and the Fencibles had no trouble fording it. I cannot tell why Hampton ceased his attack on de Salaberry's position, but he did, and encamped on Cunningham's farm that night. De Salaberry expected them every moment to

advance, and sent word to all the houses along the river to be ready to fall back, and to burn their buildings. Good fires were kept on in every house so as to have brands to set fire to all the buildings. It was the second day after the fight that my father was given \$10 to go to the lines to find out where Hampton had gone. He got a good deal of information from a woman, brought from across the lines, I think by McClatchie.

“The Fencibles were not French. There were a few, but the men were mostly from the Eastern Townships, Glengarry and New Brunswick. A good many were Irish. Macdonell was not a striking-looking man; he was of medium height. Ferguson and Capt. Christie were fine looking officers.

“The Voltigeurs wore grey blouses; the Devil’s Own, green coats with red facings, and the Fencibles (Macdonell’s regiment), red coats with white belts. It was they who threw up the entrenchments at the ford. There was no fortification on the south side. The sedentary militia were of no account, being cowardly. Wright was captain of the Old Country company, and my father lieutenant, but were excused from duty, being of more use in boarding the men and hauling supplies. The firing with Purdy’s men in the morning did not last half an hour; Hampton’s about an hour. Boylike, I was so much pleased with the rolling volleys of Hampton’s men and the sputtering fire of the Canadians in reply that I regretted its cessation. During the engagement de Salaberry stood on a hemlock tree that had been torn out by the roots, and was screened from view by two trees in front of him. His exact position was about a rod east of the present church and near Allan’s creek. He was dressed in a grey coat, trimmed with some rough stuff like fur. I do not think there was a man killed on either side where de Salaberry was. I saw Sir George Prevost and his staff ride past after the fight. We looked upon him as being

either a fool or a coward. It was near where the apple trees are on Finlayson's (lot 36) that Daly came upon Purdy's advance."

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VIII (*continued*)

OPERATIONS ON THE MONTREAL FRONTIER, 1813

2. CHRYSTLER'S FARM, NOVEMBER 11, 1813

—
Archives, C. 730, p. 52.

From Yeo at Kingston to Prevost at —.

His Majesty's Ship Wolfe
at Kingston 21st July 1813

Sir/

I have the honor to submit to your Excellency a scheme for a Flotilla of Gun-Boats, on the River Saint Lawrence, to protect the Supplies that are constantly coming up from Quebec, and Montreal, to this place, the number of Gun Boats are nine, I would therefore divide them into three Divisions, one to be at Kingston, one at Prestcott, and the third to be constantly stationed at Gonoquea, to cruize about the Islands, no Bateaux should ever be allowed to leave Prestcott, without an escort, nor should a division of Gun Boats ever be allowed to remain long here, but immediately on arrival sent back to Prestcott, for another Convoy.

I propose for the better regulation of this Service to appoint Captain O'Connor, to Command this Flotilla, with two

Lieutenants—and in my absence to Act as Senior Officer, at this Port, which never ought to be left without an Officer, of that Rank, having authority to take Command of any inferior Officers, or Men, that may arrive here, from time to time.

I have the Honor to be

Sir/

Your Excellency's

Most obedient

humble Servant

JAMES. LUCAS. YEO.

Commodore.

Archives, C. 679, p. 366.

From Pearson at Prescott to Prevost at Kingston.

Prescott August 9th 1813

Sir/

M^r. Parish's arrival from Washington induced me to send over M^r. Gilkisson to Ogdensburg with a view of procuring such Political Information as M^r. P might think proper to communicate, and knowing the former intimacy which subsisted between these two Gentlemen, I was in hopes of gleaning something which might probably be not uninteresting to Your Excellency. The late European intelligence led these two Gentlemen into the following conversation relative to General Moreau. "In 1806 Count Pahlen then Russian Minister to the United States, proposed that the General should embark for Europe and assume an high command in the Armies of His Imperial Master Alexander, circumstances at that period prevented his acceptance of this overture, and Peace with France was concluded before the objections could be removed. When War was again deemed inevitable between Russia and France, last Summer, M^r. Dashtiof the Ambassador was instructed to invite the General to accept

of the Rank of Field Marshal in the Russian Service, and to pledge The Imperial Honor that everything regarding the Generals private Fortune should be adjusted in a manner most satisfactory to himself. This negotiation was carried on under M^r. I T L P M O own Roof, and concluded in a manner most gratifying to the General. Whilst these transactions were under agitation, care was taken to convey letters to Madam Moreau, then in France, and not a Prisoner, requiring her to proceed either to America or England, as might be most convenient. She has arrived in England. M^r. Dashtoff at the same time sent his Secretary to Sir John Warren for a Pass for a Ship to proceed with a Cargo to the North of Europe, and to convey the General & Suite on Board of her ; the permission was granted, and the Ship & General Moreau were ready to proceed before the business became public that he intended to Embark, at which period such ideas were ascribed to the Generals Voyage as arose from conjecture only, without any one knowing the real cause. M^r. I T L P M O does not hesitate to state that he is gone to organise the French Prisoners in Russia (whose numbers are 160,000) and that in conjunction with Bernadotte, who has corresponded with General Moreau for these two years, great things may be expected from the exertions and popularity which these two celebrated Commanders still retain in the French Army, as also in France." Such is the substance of what I have collected from M^r. Gilkisson, and it is not improbable but by his means, I may be enabled to learn something still more interesting as M^r. I T L P M O has had access and confidential Interviews with those at the head of the United States Government—With respect to their own Force he adds, that there are not more than 3000 Men at Sackets Harbour, and these are very Sickly, and further says that from Information direct from General Lewis, it is understood that their Armys are incapable of any *further offensive operations*. The Army at Fort George is very Sickly, their Effective Strength

under 3000, and in great dread of a general attack—The War daily becomes more unpopular, and the Recruiting does not keep pace with their hopes. When General Dearborn went to Yorke last Spring, it was in direct disobedience of his orders, which were to attack Kingston. The Privateers now in the River, are partly manned with 60 Volunteers who have been permitted to engage from the Troops at S: H: a proportion of them are Seamen; General Lewis reports that Sir James Yeo's Squadron carry 14 Guns more than Chaunceys.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellencys

Most obedient Servant

T: PEARSON

L^t. Colonel

Archives, C. 679, p. 442.

From Pearson at Prescott to Baynes at Kingston.

Prescott August 16th 1813

Sir/

I have this moment been honored with your communication of yesterdays date, and in reply I beg to inform you that no communication whatever has been made to me of the Enemy having again appeared at their former station, or in any other part of the River. I have however dispatched Staff Adjutant Ridge and an Officer of the Militia to reconoitre and gain every intelligence of their movements and situation, and as soon as the Detachment of the 100th arrive with the Seamen, I shall avail myself of the opportunity and instantly proceed to dislodge them, which I hope my means will enable me to effect with advantage to the Service. I yesterday dispatched a Brigade of Batteaux under the Escort of 4 Gun Boats, conceiving them a sufficient pro-

tection, not having heard of the Enemys Force in the River ; It is unfortunate at this juncture, but I trust they will not meet with any serious interruption, before, Staff Adjutant Ridge overtakes them which he will do before Evening. In the Event of their reaching Kingston, I should wish the Gun Boats might be instantly sent back to the assistance of the Party destined for this Service, as their cooperation will be of the most essential use. I shall not delay one moment after the arrival of these Detachments, putting your directions into execution, and shall do myself the honor of communicating with you, on our leaving Prescott—

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most obed. Serv^t.

T: PEARSON

L^t. Col:

Archives, C. 679, p. 473.

From Pearson at Gananoque to Baynes at —.

Gannanoque August 22nd 1813

Sir/

In obedience to your directions I left Prescott on Thursday last with the Detachments of the 100th and from the Troops in Garrison at Prescott, and proceeded up the River as far as Elliotts where I was joined by the Gun Boats from Kingston. The Wind being too strong to cross the River at that time we proceeded to Leroux where we halted for the night having sent a Reconoitering Party to Gibway Creek but without discovering any thing, at Day break on Saturday we entered Goose Creek, and minutely examined every part but no vestige of an Enemy ; we discovered a large hole where they had buried their Dead in the former business, and from appearances they must have been numerous. Our next object was to scour the Islands, which we have

completely traversed but with no better success, and from every information I can collect I do not think the Privateers supposed to be in the River have left Sacketts Harbour, as they certainly have not been seen by *any Person I can find out*. I shall therefore proceed a short distance with the 100th, and then return with the Gun Boats down the South Shore, and then send them back with Convoy. I am sorry to say *two* of the 100th deserted at Goose Creek. The remainder of the Detachments will of course return to their Post with me. At any time I shall be most happy to be employed in any way, you may think proper to make use of me, and am only sorry, I have in this instance been so unsuccessful. Fearing the 100th might be wanted I shall this morning dispatch them with two three Pounders for Kingston. I hope to reach Prescott early tomorrow—

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient

Servant

T PEARSON

L^t Col

Archives, C. 680, p. 171.

From Pearson at Prescott to Baynes at —.

Prescott October 12th 1813—

Sir/

The following is the information received this evening from a well informed Man, who at my instigation sets off tomorrow for Sacketts Harbour and will return on Saturday Evening or sooner, should he be able to reach this before the expedition—

“Gen^l. Boyds rear Guard arrived at S:H: on Sunday Morning, the Army with his Brigade of 3000, were to embark yesterday Morning, but from some unknown cause the

embarkation did not take place. The whole Regular Force is 6000, Commanded by Gen^l. Wilkinson with seven other General Officers under him. 300 Boats of all descriptions, exclusive of those from Niagara, are to transport the Troops Artillery & Baggage. They are to be lightly loaded for the purpose of receiving Hamptons Army from a road which he is now cutting from his present Position down to the Lake. That Army is scarce of Bread. No Person believes Kingston to be the Point of attack, but all agree that either Prescott or Montreal or both, are the destined objects. They have two 24 P^{rs}. at least, embarked in Scows, which are fitted so they can be fired in any situation—All the River St: Lawrence Pilots from every Quarter are at the Harbour. There are 400 Dragoons very carelessly posted at Malone, and might easily be cut off. The Dragoons from the Harbour are marching by Land, and are this day from 20 to 30 Miles on their route to the Eastward—

Hampton's Army are reduced by Desertion to 5000, he has sent two pieces of heavy Artillery, and 30 large Baggage Waggons back to Plattsburg; this Army had not moved yesterday."—

Such is the substance of the Information this moment received, and I believe to be for the most part correct; In consequence of which, it is my intention to be prepared with all my disposable Force to act according to the Movements of the Enemy; if they proceed downwards without noticing me at Prescott, I shall instantly follow with my light Artillery & part of my Regulars & Militia, and by means of Waggons occupy such positions as may considerably annoy him on his descent down the River—Whenever the Enemy does appear, I hope to God, we shall be able to give some account of him—

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

T. PEARSON

Lt Col

Archives, C. 1171, p. 81.

G.O.

Montreal 3rd November 1813.

The 2nd Battalion of Royal Marines is directed to Parade at 3 O'Clock tomorrow afternoon on the Champ de Mars in marching Order for the Inspection of The Commander of the Forces and to march in two divisions on Friday and Saturday morning to Prescott in conformity to a Route which will be furnished by the Quarter Master General who will direct the necessary Carriages and Boats to be provided.—

On the Arrival of the 1st Division of 2nd Battalion of Marines at Prescott the Detachment of the Regiment De Watteville will march to Kingston, and on the arrival of the 2nd Division of the Battalion, The Detach^t. of the Canadian Fencibles will march to Coteau du Lac.—

(Signed) EDW^p. BAYNES
Adjutant General
North America

Archives, C. 1171, p. 83.

G.O.

Montreal 4th November 1813—

Colonel Scott will leave a sufficient Garrison of the Marine Battalion, at Coteau du Lac, and will proceed with the Detachment of the 103rd Regiment to Cornwall, and their [*sic*] wait the further Orders of M^r. G^l. De Rottenburg—

Batteaux are to be furnished at La Chine for the conveyance of the Baggage of the Marine Battalion Six to each Division.—

.....
(Sig^d) EDW^p. BAYNES
Adj^t. Gen^l. N.A.

Archives, C. 1171, p. 89.

G.O. Montreal 7th Nov^r. 1813.

The Right Division of the Army of Upper Canada being consolidated into the Center—The Troops to the Westward of Kingston are in future to constitute the Right Division—Kingston and the Troops to the Eastward in the Upper Province are to compose the Center Division—all Troops from Coteau du Lac West of Quebec to form the Left Division—The Garrison of Quebec to form a distinct Command in itself—

(Signed) EDW.^D BAYNES
Adj^t. General
North America

Archives, C. 1171, p. 88.

Adjutant General's Office

G.O. Montreal 8th November 1813.

All Soldiers capable of bearing Arms belonging to Detachments in Montreal are to be embodied in one Detachment and to be attached as an Escort to the party of Artillery.—Arms, Accoutrements and Ammunition in conformity to the General Order of this day are to be issued to all men who have not their own.—

.....

(Sig^d) E. BAYNES
Adj^t. Gen^l. N.A.

Archives, C. 1171, p. 93.

G.O. H.Q. La Chine 10th November 1813.

Brigade Major Shekleton is to remain at Montreal for the purpose of Conducting the General Details of the Service at that Post.—

The Detachment of the Royal Marine Artillery Rocket Company is to Land, and proceed to La Chine—the Commanding Officer will apply to the Ordnance Storekeeper for

conveyance for a Moderate proportion of Rockets, the remainder are to be taken in to Store at Montreal.—

The Detachment of the 1st Battalion Royal Marines is to halt one day in the Montreal Barracks, and to March the following Morning to join their Corps at La Chine.—

The Sedentary Militia assembled at Montreal are to parade on the Champ de Mars on thursday the 11th Inst at one OClock for the Inspection of His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of the forces.

Captain S^t. Clair of the Royal Artillery is directed to organize an establishment of three Six pounders.—

(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES
Adjutant General N.A.

Archives, C. 1171, p. 91.

Head Quarters

G.O.

La Chine 11th Nov^r. 1813

All Officers belonging to Corps in Upper Canada, are immediately to repair to Head Quarters at La Chine where they will receive Instructions from the Adjutant General of the Forces.—

Two Six pounders with 150 rounds for each Gun, 1 Subaltern 20 Rank and File of the Rocket Company of Marine Artillery—1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants and 260 Seamen Royal Navy are to proceed immediately to Coteau du Lac—The Ship Wrights at that Post are to be attached to the Royal Navy.—

The Commander of the Forces is pleased to approve of the following arrangements of the General Staff Quarters of the Army until further Orders.—

Head Quarters La Chine.—

Lieut^t. General Drummond will assume the Command of the Troops on the South Side of the S^t. Lawrence—the

Richelieu and Chateaugai Rivers—and will for the present take up his Head Quarters at Chateaugai.—

Major General Rial will take upon himself the Command of the Troops on the North Side of the S^t. Laurence, in advance from Cornwall to the Cedars.—

Major M^cDonell of the Glengary Light Inf^y. Fencibles is appointed to Act with the Militia of Glengary 'till further Orders.—

Lieut^t. Co^l. M^cDouall of the Glengary L. I. Fen^s. is appointed to command the Flank Battⁿ. of Embodied Militia during the absence of Major M^cDonell.—

Lieut^t. and Adjutant Steel Royal Marine Artillery to be an Acting Engineer at Isle aux Noix until further Orders.—

Surgeon Mabey Canadian Regiment is appointed to Act as Staff Surgeon to the Forces until further Orders.—

(Signed) EDW^p. BAYNES

Adj^t. Gen^l. N.A.

Archives, C. 681, p. 78.

*From Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison to Major-General
de Rottenburg.*

Williamsburg 11th Nov^r. 1813

Sir

I have the honor to inclose a copy of the agreement entered into by Captⁿ. Mulcaster of the R Navy and myself with two of the principal Inhabitants of Hamilton in the State of New York—having understood when passing that place that Public property was deposited there & being informed by L^t. Col. Pearson that His Excellency the Commander of the Forces had directed a small Force to act against that Village we considered it our duty as we possessed the means to fulfill the intentions of His Excellency but not having sufficient conveyance or time to bring the property away and as it appeared that it principally belonged to Merchants at Kingston we deemed the enclosed terms the best

to propose. I also inclose herewith a copy of M. Genl. Wilkinsons Proclamation.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Ob^t Humble Serv^t

J W MORRISON

L^t Col 89th Reg^t.

Archives, C. 68I, p. 76.

American agreement to deliver up captured property.

We do hereby promise on our respective Words of honor to deliver on the opposite side of the River at the House of Jacob Wager, if a Flag shall be permitted to land all the Public Property belonging to the United States if any should be found here. Also all property belonging to His Britanic Majesty's Government and to the Individuals thereof now deposited in the Store of Charles Richards. It being expressly understood that the Property and Persons of the Inhabitants of the Village has been spared in consideration of the preceeding arrangement. and We do hereby further pledge our Honors that two Boats shall also be delivered which belong either to the Government of the United States, or to His Britannic Majesty's Government. And We do further admit that on the non-compliance with these conditions, the Village shall be subject to be destroyed.

Dated Hamilton
November 10th 1813 }

(Signed) DAVID A OGDEN

ALEX. RICHARDS

J. W. MORRISON

L^t. Col. 89th Reg^t.

Comg Corps of observation

W. HOWE MULCASTER

Cap^t RN Commanding Flotilla

Archives, C. 681, p. 72.

James Wilkinson Major General and Commander in Chief of
an expedition against the Canadas
To the Inhabitants therof—

The Army of the United States which I have the honor
to command, invades this Province to conquer, and not to
destroy; to subdue the forces of His Britanic Majesty, and
not to war against its unoffending Subjects—Those therefore
among you, who remain quiet at home, should Victory incline
to the American Standard, shall be protected in their persons
and property—

But those who are found in Arms must necessarily be
treated as avowed enemies—

To menace is unmanly—To seduce dishonorable—Yet it is
just and humane to place these alternatives before [you].

Done at the Head Quarters of the Army of the United
States, this 6th day of November 1813

Near Ogdensburg on the River St. Lawrence.

(Signed) JAMES WILKINSON.

By the Generals command
(Signed) W. Pinkney
Major and Aid de Camp.

Archives, C. 681, p. 62.

*From Morrison at Chrystler's, Williamsburg,
to de Rottenburg.*

Christlers Williamsburg

12th Nov^r 1813

Sir

I have the heartfelt gratification to report the brilliant
and gallant conduct of the Detachment from the Center

Division of the Army as yesterday display[e]d, in repulsing and defeating a division of the Enemys Force, consisting of two Brigades of Inf^y. and a Reg^t. of Cavalry, amounting to between 3 and 4000 Men, who moved forward about two oClock in the Afternoon from Christlers point and attacked our advance which gradually fell back to the position selected for the Detachment to occupy, the right resting on the river, & the left on a Pine wood exhibiting a front of about 700 y^{ds}. the ground being open the Troops were thus disposed—

The Flank Companies 49th Reg^t. the Detachment Canadian Reg^t. with one Field Piece under L^t. Co^l. Pearson on the right, a little advanced on the road : Three companies 89th Reg^t. under Captⁿ. Barnes with a gun formed in Echellon with the Advance on its left supporting it—The 49th & 89th thrown more to the rear with a gun, formed the Main body and reserve, extending to the Woods on the Left which were occupied by the Voltigeurs under Major Heriott and the Indians under L^t. Anderson—About $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 the Action became general, when the Enemy endeavoured by moving forward a Brigade from his right to turn our Left but was repulsed by the 89th forming en potence with the 49th and both Corps moving forward occasionally firing by platoons—His efforts were next directed against our right and to repulse this movement the 49th took ground in that direction in Echellon followed by the 89th when within half musket shot the line was formed, under a heavy but irregular fire from the Enemy.

The 49th was then directed to charge their Guns posted opposite to ours, but it became necessary when within a short distance of them to check the forward movement, in consequence of a charge from their Cavalry on the right lest they should wheel about and fall upon their rear, but they were received in so gallant a manner by the Companies of the 89th under Captⁿ. Barnes and the well directed fire of the Artillery that they quickly retreated and by an im-

mediate charge from those Companies one Gun was gain[e]d The Enemy immediately concentrated their Force to check our advance but such was the steady countenance and well directed fire of the Troops and Artillery that about $\frac{1}{2}$ past four they gave way at all points from an exceeding strong position, endeavouring by their Light Inf^y. to cover their retreat, who were soon driven away by a judicious movement made by L^t. Col^l. Pearson.—The Detachment for the night occupied the ground from which the Enemy had been driven, and are now moving forward in pursuit—

I regret to find our loss in killed and wounded has been so considerable, but trust a most essential service has been rendered to the Country, as the whole of the Enemys Inf^y. after the action precepitately retired to their own shores It is now my grateful duty to point out to your Honor the benefit the service has received from the Ability judgement and active Exertions of L^t. Col^l. Hervey D^y. Adj^t. Gen^l. for sparing whom to accompany the Detachment I must again publicly express my acknowledgements—To the cordial cooperation and exertions of L^t. Col^l. Pearson Com^d. the Detachment from Prescott, L^t. Col^l. Plenderleath 49th Reg^t. Major Clifford the 89th Major Heriott the Voltigeurs and Captⁿ. Jackson the Royal Artillery combined with the Gallantry of the Troops our great success may be attributed, every Man did his duty and I believe I cannot more strongly speak their merits than in mentioning that our small force did not exceed 800 R & F To Captains Davis and Skinner of the Q^r. Master Gen^{ls}. Department I am under the greatest obligation for the assistance I have received from them, their zeal and Activity has been unremitting—L^t. Hagerman of the Militia has also for his Services deserved my public acknowledgements also L^t. Anderson of the Indian Department—As the Prisoners are hourly being brought in I am unable to furnish your Honor with a correct return of them but upwards of 100 are now in our possession neither of

the Ordnance stores taken as the whole have not yet been collected.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Ob^t. Humble Serv^t.

J W MORRISON

L^t.-Col^l. 89th Reg^t. Com^d.

Archives, C. 681, p. 70.

From Col. Bouchette at River au Raisin to Freer at —.

River aux Raisin, 12th Nov^r. 1813
at 6 oClock. AM.—

Sir/

Captain Cockrane having by this time informed His Exc^y. of the State & movements of the Enemy, as well as that which respects our Force in its front & Rear, I feel satisfied on that head—I will therefore Confine myself at this moment, in simply reporting to you for His Excellency's information, that I sat out at 2 oClock yesterday Morning from M^cMartin's Mills, where our small army had retreated in the Night & where I left Captⁿ. Cockrane, with L^t. Col^{ls}. Denis, M^cLean & M^cMillan—that place is 13 Miles of Cornwall—in the 6th Concesⁿ.—went to S^t. Andrews church. 7 miles from Cornwall, & met with—a detachment of militia—commanded by Captⁿ. Sheeks, & also a few Indians, with L^t. Le Clair—there I was informed—that it was not possible for me to reach Cornwall or Cahone House 3 miles below that place without running every possible danger of being taken prisoner by the Enemy—upon what Cap^{tn}. Sheeks told me, I decided to return to M^cMartins—in the morning I had still a desire to reach the front. I in consequence went down through the Woods

towards Cahone's House, where I expected to obtain much information—instead of which at 1 oClock PM—having reach'd within a mile of his House still in the Woods—I was prevented from going further—by the Noise of firing of the advanced Picquet of the Enemy or scouting parties which were quite near us—& I believe at Cahones House—met with Indians who were quickly running to the Interior—& who told me that the Enemy were at Cahones which place they had just left—thus I was obliged to retrace my steps with great reluctance—& sometimes on horseback & other times a foot, I reached the Mouth of this River, in the hopes of meeting L^t. Le Clair & some Indians—that were to have met me at that place—but I find they could not get to Cahone's—I find the information I obtained by the Indians was Correct—by what M^r. M^cKay told me—a man who lives 4 Miles lower than Cahone's—he is like all the others making the best of his Way to Coteau du Lac—being disappointed in meeting the Indians to carry me Across to the South Side & finding no[t] a Soul here but a few Women Lamenting the absence of their husbands, I resolved on walking down to P^t. aux Baudet—& there endeavor to get over the Lake : I apprehend it will not be in my power to go to S^t. Regis owing to Existing Circumstances, the Enemy having reached Cornwall—have most likely—opened a Communication to that place—as there is nothing to intervent them—I shall proceed down by Beauharnois & will acquire all possible information respecting the Enemy—&c—but I am truly sorry that from these Circumstances I cannot render my Mission either so useful or satisfactory to His Excellency as I could have wished—at 2 oClock yesterday L^t. Col^l. Denis, & his small Army were at M^r. M^cDonnells church—in the Rear Road—retreating to Coteau du Lac—No appearance of the Enemy here as yet—

I am rather in haste—& have written this Letter with a very bad pen which I got in a small Cottage here therefore

do me the favour to apologise—both for the Writing & Style of this Letter—

I have the honor to be

Sir Your most Obed^t

Humble Serv

Jos. BOUCHETTE

L^t Col^l

Archives, C. 1171, p. 94.

G.O.

La Chine 14th Nov^r. 1813.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of the Forces is pleased to appoint The Honorable L^t. C^l. W^m. M^cGillivray of the Canadian Voyageurs to be an extra Provincial Aid de Camp to His Excellency.—

General Returns of the effective strength of Corps of every discription in the Montreal District are to be sent to the Adjutant General at Head Quarters with the least possible delay—General Officers and Inspecting Field Officers of Militia will cause this Order to be carried into immediate effect.—

Ensign Gagy Canadian Fencibles & Adjutant Stean 49th Regiment are appointed to act as Staff Adjutants of Militia till further Orders.—

Great inconvenience having been experienced in the Transport branch of the Service, in consequence of Officers having taken upon themselves to detain or delay Boats or Carriages employed in conveying Stores or Provisions to Posts or Corps—in the employment of the Commissariat—it is His Excellencys Orders that all Boats or Carriages be instantly unloaded and the Drivers and Conductors directed to return with the utmost diligence, for the Strict performance of which, the Officers to whom the Stores are addressed are held responsible.—

Captain Viger of the Canadian Voltigeurs having absented himself from his Corps without leave—His Excellency the Governor General and Commander of the Forces is pleased to dispence with the further Services of that Officer and to desire that Lieut^t. Colonel De Salaberry will Recommend an Officer to succeed to his Company.—

Lieutenant Vipont of the 8th (or Kings) Regiment having neglected to Account with the Detachments of the 8th and 41st Regiments, committed to his Charge, for 60 days Sea Pay which he received at the Army Depot, Major General Glasgow will cause their Accompts to be Settled by the Pay Master of Detachments at Quebec—on Account of that Officer, who is to continue under arrest until the Mens accounts are Settled, and an explanation of his Conduct transmitted for the consideration of The Commander of the Forces.—

(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES
Adjutant General N.A.

Archives, C. 681, p. 106.

From Drummond at Châteauguay to Baynes at —.

Chateaugay Nov^r. 14th 1813
10 Oclock A.M.

Sir

.....

Colonel De Chambault reported to me that Major Gen^l. Riall had sent yesterday morning for 70 of the Indians under his orders ; but as the remainder did not wish to be seperated from those ordered to cross the river, the whole body proceeded together to the Coteau du Lac, in consequence of which his force has been very considerably reduced and the position rendered less defencible. I found it impossible from the badness of the road, and the horses I procured, to return

to Chateaugay last night. On my arrival from Annfield Mills this morning I received the accompanying report of the reconnoissance made in the direction of Four Corners, from which; and M^r. Mann[in]g's Information, I have already carried into effect the Instructions contained in your letter of yesterday, by removing the Head Quarters of Major Gen^l. De Watteville to the La Colle Advance, supporting in front of L'Acadie that position by the Voltigeurs, & Canadian Fencible Light Company, and advancing the Detachment of the Canadian Regiment at Cocnawaga, from thence, to S^t. Phillips.

.....
I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t General

Archives, C. 681, p. 100.

From Drummond at Châteauguay to Baynes at —.

Chateaugay $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 OClock

P:M: Sunday, Nov^r. 14th 1813—

Sir/

I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of The Commander of the Forces, that, in consequence of the intelligence I received from you, relative to the movements of General Wilkinson, I have countermanded the removal of Major General De Watteville, and of the Voltigeurs, and Canadian Fencible Light Company, from the Chateaugay Advance to La Colle, & of the Detachment of the latter from Cocnawaga to S^t. Phillips.—But, having this instant received

the enclosed Report from Major Perrault at La Colle, through Major General Watteville, I propose to support the Position at La Colle, by advancing the Detachment of the Canadian Fencibles to the Rouisseau de Noyé, the four Companies of the 3^d Battⁿ. of Embodied Militia to St. Phillips, and the four Companies of the 1st Battalion in front of L'Acadie,—with two of the Six Pounders to the same place.—

I consider it would be highly advantageous that Major General Stovin should remove his Quarters for the present to the Advance in the rear of La Colle, leaving the Regiment de Meuron, and the two other Guns at Cocnawaga to support either of the Advances as circumstances may render necessary.—

I expect the arrival of Lieutenant Colonel Williams, with the Flank Battalion of the Line, at this place, every moment.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble Servant

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t. General

Archives, C. 681, p. 44.

From Morrison at Mille Roches to Baynes at —.

Mille Roches 15th Nov^r. 1813

Sir

Since the Action of the 11th the Enemys movements have been so rapid that acting with the caution the disparity of the respective forces rendered necessary, has prevented our again engaging him—the retreat of the cavalry was continued during the whole of that night and the Inf^y. which had passed to their own side effected a junction with their front

Division at Massina Point on the 12th; that Evening they crossed their Cavalry, and on the 13th departed from the Canadian shore, Of their operations since I have not been able to obtain positive intelligence, it was reported last night that they were posted between St. Regis and the Salmon River unable to secure their boats at either place on account of the Ice should this prove correct I am in hopes their flotilla will be destroyed as Captⁿ. Mulcaster with the Gun boats came down the Longue Sault this morning—The Detachment has been encreased by the Lt. Comp^y. 103^d Reg^t. and one Comp^y. of the Royal Marines—we are greatly in want of Medical assistance not having a Medical Officer with us, I requested Captⁿ. Cochrane would mention this, and again repeat it least it should have escaped his recollection.—A Flag of Truce was yesterday sent to the American Army the enclosed is a copy of the letter transmitted, Captⁿ. Gilkison who was the bearer I fear has been detained—Since writing the foregoing, Mr. Sheik has stated that he has received positive information, that the Enemy has gone up the Salmon River about eight miles, which I fear prevents our future operations—the fortifying that post had been with the Superior Officers a subject of Conversation—The accompanying return is a corrected one of the killed & wounded on the 11th—I am sorry to observe that some few individuals have suffered from the misconduct of the Men, an Inhabitant of this place had his place plundered and it has been impossible to discover the Offenders a Serg^t. of the Voltigeurs is in confinement for having some of the Articles in his possession

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Ob^t Humble Serv^t

J W MORRISON

L^t. Col^l. 89th Reg^t. Comg.

Archives, C. 681, p. 132.

From Drummond at Châteauguay to Baynes at —

Chateauguay, 11 O'Clock A:M:
Nov^r. 16th 1813.—

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith for the information of His Excellency, The Commander of the Forces, a communication this instant received from Major General De Watteville, covering a Report from Captain Barron relative to the march of Gen^l. Hampton's Army from Four Corners, and the arrival there of part of Gen^l. Wilkinson's Force from Salmon River.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t. General

P:S: I am in momentary expectation of Captⁿ. Kirkberger, Ass^t. Q^r. M^r. Gen^l. with the Report of his Reconnoissance from La Colle.

G: D:

Archives, C. 1694, p. 48.

G.O.

La Chine 17th November 1813,

His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of the Forces is pleased to direct the following movements of Troops.—

The Second Battalion of Royal Marines and Company of Marine Artillery to March to Prescott, in such Divisions and by such Route as may be most convenient; on the arrival of the first Division at Prescott—the detachment

of the Reg^t. De Watteville is to march to Kingston, and as the relief proceeds the detachment of the Royal Artillery is to March to Coteau du Lac and the Canadian Fencibles to Cornwall—One Company of Voltigeurs from *Gananoqui* to the Head Quarters of the Corps.—

The Second Battalion 89th Regiment to proceed by easy Marches to Kingston.—

The Four Companies of the Canadian Fencibles under a Field Officer to be Stationed at Cornwall for the purpose of maintaining the communication uninterrupted from the River Raisin to the Long Sault—the remainder of that Regiment will be concentrated at St. Phillippe and St. Pierre's.

The 49th Regiment and Canadian Voltigeurs to March from the Coteau du Lac to Montreal.—

The 1st Battalion Royal Marines to cross at *Cochonawaga* on the 18th Instant and March to *Isle aux Noix* to relieve the Companies of the 13th Regiment; which corps is to be assembled at St. John's.—

The Right Wing of the Regiment De Meuron to cross to Montreal on the 23rd Instant and March to the *Recollet* Barracks and to relieve the Sedentary Militia in the Garrison duties of that place.—

The Left Wing of the Regiment De Meuron to March on the 23rd Instant to Chambly and relieve the Militia at that Post.—

The Flank Companies of the Line and of the Embodied Militia will join their respective Battalions commencing their march on the 25th Instant.—

The Royal Artillery to be stationed,

One Car Brigade at Longueil

One Ditto — — at Chambly

Reserve and Head Quarters at Montreal.

The Division of Royal Marine Rocket Artillery to be quartered at Montreal in Reserve.—

The 19th Light Dragoons to March at day break on the

18th Instant, to cross the River at Montreal, and to be distributed at,

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Laprairie Head Quarters . . . | Two Troops |
| Half Way House | One Troop |
| Chambly | One Troop, upon its Arrival from Kingston. |

The Battalions of Embodied Militia are to occupy the following Stations.—

1st Battalion—Laprairie.

2nd Battalion Chateaugay Head Quarters 8 Companies

La Fourche 2 Ditto

3rd Battalion Yamaska Head Q^{rs}. . . 7 Ditto

Beloil 3 Ditto

4th Battⁿ. S^t. John's Head Quarters . . 5 Companies

Lacadie 3 Ditto

Advance 2 Ditto

5th Battⁿ. Lachine Head Quarters . . . 5 Ditto

Coteau du Lac 3 Ditto

Cedars 2 Ditto

Frontier Light Infantry—Odell Town and Environs.—

Captain Watson's Troop Provincial Dragoons S^t. John's Head Quarters to furnish Express Troopers for L'Acadie and Chateaugay.—

Corps of Guides, Laprairie Head Quarters additional Guides to be established from S^t. Ann's to Montreal.—

Major General Riall will proceed to Kingston and place himself under the orders of Major General De Rottenburg as soon as the necessary arrangements are made for carrying into effect the Distribution of the Troops assembled at *Coteau du Lac*.—

The Divisions of Sedentary Militia called out by the General Order of the 8th Instant, are to be disbanded and return to their homes in the following Order.—

His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of the Forces in dispensing for the present with the further

Services of the Militia, feels the greatest satisfaction in acknowledging the cheerful alacrity with which they have repaired to their respective Posts, and the loyalty and zeal they have manifested at the prospect of encountering the Enemy— Although he has been checked in his career by the bravery and discipline of His Majesty's Troops in the Upper Province and thus frustrated in his avowed intention of landing on this Island, His Excellency feels confident that had he been able to reach it, whatever might have been his force, he would have met with that steady and determined resistance from the Militia of the Province, which would have terminated his third attempt for its Invasion like those which preceded it, in defeat and disgrace.—

The Montreal Volunteers to March from Lachine at 10 O'Clock Tomorrow morning to Montreal.—

The 1st Battalion of Montreal Militia at 8 O'Clock on Friday morning—The 2nd Battalion at 10 O'Clock and the Third Battalion at 12 O'Clock same day.—

The above Corps are to remain Embodied until the 24th Instant (November 1813) on which day a Corps of the Line will relieve them.—

On the 20th Instant (20th Nov: 1813.) Colonel M^cGill will allow the whole of the Men belonging to the Second Class of Sedentary Militia to return to their respective homes— Upon proper Certificates being produced to the Commissariat at Mont^l each Captain or Commanding Officer of a Company of Sedentary Militia is to receive for every Private Man returning home, at the rate of 1/3 Currency, and Non-Commissioned Officer in proportion, for every five leagues that they have to Travel—this allowance is for that period in lieu of Pay and Rations.—

Colonel La Croix's Division now at Lower La Chine is to March from thence on the 20th Instant, (November 1813.) so as to arrive on the *Champ de Mars* at Montreal by 10 O'Clock in the morning of that day for the purpose of filing

their Arms and returning into Store their accoutrements, Ammunition, Blankets, Haversacks and Canteens.

Lieutenant Colonel M^cKenzie's Battalion will March from their present quarters so as to arrive on the *Champ de Mars* at 12 O'Clock on the same day:—and Lieutenant Colonel Leprohon's at two O'Clock.—

Lieutenant Colonel Cuthbert's Division is to arrive on the *Champ de Mars* at 10 O'Clock on the 21st Instant:—The Battalion placed under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Boucherville will leave the ground it at present occupies on the 22nd Instant (Nov: 1813) and proceed to Montreal on its route to Three Rivers.—The one confided to the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Dechambault will commence falling back to Montreal on the 23^d Instant. (November 1813.) The remaining Battalions of the Sedentary Militia are to commence their March for the respective Parishes on the 23rd Instant.—

The Quarter Master General of the Forces will make the necessary arrangements for relieving Captain Platt's Troop of Volunteer Cavalry, from its present duty on or before the 24th Instant, when it is to return to Montreal for the purpose of being dismissed until further Orders.—

By His Excellency's Command.

(Signed) EDW^p BAYNES—
Adj^t. Gen^l.

Archives, C. 681, p. 159.

*From Harvey at French Mills to Col. Walback, A.G.,
U.S.A., 20 Nov. 1813.*

Head Quarters

British Troops

20th November 1813

(Copy)

Sir,

Having submitted to M General Riall Commanding the British Troops at this point the Proposal of the Commanding

General of the American Force opposite as communicated in Ass^t Adjutant General Hills letter of the 18th, I have the Major Generals directions to say that Flags of Truce will in future be received at Colquhoons Tavern Three Miles below Cornwall, but that he cannot consent that the Village of S^t Regis should be vested with that Character of Neutrality which the arrangement proposes or that Troops posted there should be guaranteed from surprize or attack in the prosecution of any enterprize which may be meditated against the American Army by that Route—

At the same time I am instructed to add that the Guard proposed to be so placed will be respected as far as may be possible, and that no enterprize or attack will be made merely upon that Guard.

I have the honor to be &c &c &c

(Signed) J HARVEY

L^t Col^l D^r A. G^l

Archives, C. 1171, p. 106.

G.O.

H:Q: Montreal 20th November 1813.—

The Commander of the Forces cannot allow the District General Order dated at Kingston 14th Nov^r. 1813, to pass without his decided disapprobation, as it contained an extraordinary violation of the practice of the Service, one His Excellency believes unprecedented—the publication at Kingston of Lieut^t Colonel Morrisons Dispatch of the 12th Instant, was, [—] as it is incorrect; as it could not be held by Major General De Rottenburg as a document at his disposal, but merely as a Report passing through his hands, in conformity with the usage of the Service.—

Nothing less than the express Commands of H.R.H.

the Prince Regent should have brought such a paper in its present shape before the Public.—

.....

By His Excellency's Command
 (Signed) "SIDNEY BECKWITH"
 Quarter Master General—

Archives, C. 1171, p. 107.

G.O. A.G.O. Montreal 21st Nov^r. 1813.—

The Flank Companies of the 70th Regiment, under the Honorable Major De Courcy to embark tomorrow morning at day break if the Wind is not adverse to take five days Provisions.—

The detachment of the 103rd Regiment to march to morrow at daybreak to Point Claire, on their route to join the Head Quarters Detachment of their Regiment—the necessary conveyance for their Baggage, and Route to be furnished to Captain Vyvyan—to take two days Provisions Cooked.—

Staff Adjutant Reiffenstein is appointed Adjutant to the 1st Battalion of Embodied Militia.—

Lieut^t Co^l Plenderleath having been relieved in the Command of the 1st Battalion 49th Regiment, by the arrival of Lieut^t Co^l Yates, will proceed to England to join the 2nd Battalion of that Corps.—

(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES
 Adjutant General
 North America.—

Archives, C. 1171, p. 109.

Adjutant General's Office
 G.O. Montreal 25th November 1813.—

The Commander of the Forces has received a report from Lieut^t Co^l De Salaberry stating that he had been

under the necessity of Sending back a Detachment of the 19th Light Dragoons placed under his charge, for a particular and important Service, in consequence of their Horses not being properly Shod for the Season—His Excellency directs that the Comm^o. Officer will take measures that so very culpable a neglect, may be immediately remedied, and that the whole of the Horses of the Corps be rough Shod without delay.—

Montreal 26th November 1813.—

Major General Stovin is directed to proceed to Montreal, for the purpose of assuming the Command of the Troops in the Montreal District, until the arrival of Major General De Rottenburg.—

Captain A. Johnson of the Glengary Light Inf^y Fencibles, having at his own request resigned his pretensions to a Company in that Corps, and rejoined the Canadian Fen^e Infantry, and afterwards without leave absented himself from a Detachment, with which he was doing duty as a Lieutenant while on its March to Prescott on the 2nd September, and having Since persevered in this Breach of Discipline—The Commander of the Forces is under the painful necessity of declaring him to the Army to be a Deserter, and to direct Captain Johnson be taken into Custody whenever met, in order that he may be brought to a Trial before a General Court Martial, for the Offence which he has committed against the Law Martial.—

The Commander of the Forces having had under his consideration, some claims for remuneration for losses sustained by Capture by the Enemy, which have been brought before different Boards of Claims, and have not been decided on by these Boards in consequence of their not coming under the specific Circumstances prescribed for their guidance.—Of this discription are several claims for necessaries provided for the use of the Soldiers of the Corps, by the Quarter Master, or others, having no personal Interest, and

deriving no emolument or pecuniary advantage whatever for furnishing these Supplies.—

His Excellency taking in consideration, the Strict injunctions laid upon Commanding Officers of Corps, and Captains of Companies, to keep their Men constantly supplied in Regimental necessaries, and aware of the impossibility of this Order being Complied with in the Upper Province, except by the Corps adopting means for supplying the Men with the Requisite Articles of equipment, and that the Soldier and the Public Service, have derived essential benefit from its adoption—Is pleased to direct, that all Claims for remuneration for the Supply of Soldiers necessaries be brought before a Board of Claims, to be submitted for His Excellency's consideration, the following explanation having been previously ascertained.—

1st. The Claims are to consist of such Articles only, as are bona fide required by The Kings Regulations, and the Custom of the Service, for the use, or Comfort of the Soldier, and are considered indispensable.—

2nd. They are to be provided by the Sanction and approval of the Commanding Officer, for the express and sole purpose above assigned.—

3rd. Invoices or Receipts are to accompany the Claims stating the Prime cost, Charges—and the Quarter M^r or other Officer so providing them is to Certify that the whole of the Articles so provided by him are stated at the Prime Cost—that they were provided with the Sanction of the Commanding Officer, for the sole use of the Men, and that he has not directly, or indirectly, any personal Interest, or pecuniary advantage or profit in the transaction.—

4th. And the Commanding Officer is to be called upon to certify to the best of his knowledge and belief, the veracity of the above Statement—and all Claims of this Nature are to be Submitted by the Board to the Military Secretary for the consideration of the Commander of the Forces.—

The Commander of the Forces is further pleased to direct, that in future Boards of Claims be required to investigate and Report upon all claims brought before them, for remuneration for property taken by the Enemy, belonging to the Colonels or to the Corps collectively—the nature of the property and the circumstances attending the Capture, and that it was in nowise occasioned by any violation of the existing Orders of the Army respecting the Regulations for Baggage are to be distinctly Stated and Reported for the Consideration of the Commander of the Forces.—

Captain Hopkins of the Royal Scots is directed to proceed to England for the purpose of joining the Battalion to which he is attached.—

Montreal 27th November 1813.

The Troops when returned to their Winter Quarters are to Receive the usual Treasury Ration of Provisions without Rum, with the exception of the Frontier Piquets, and such detachments as may occupy Posts of Observation, and on Stations not affording the Comfort and accommodation of Regular Barracks, or be employed in the charge or Convoy of Stores, who are to continue to receive Rum.—

In addition to the above exceptions, the General Officers may order an issue of Rum to the Troops in the usual proportion, upon very particular occasions, but they are invariably to Report the circumstance and cause to the Adjutant General, for the information of the Commander of the Forces.—

The Quarter Master General is to take upon himself the General Superintendance of the Barracks in the Canadas until further Orders.—

The Deputy Barrack Masters General of Lower & Upper Canada are to continue to discharge the duties of their respective Districts as heretofore—it not being the intention of The Commander of the Forces to relieve those Officers from the Responsibility which attaches to their Departments

with respect to the Charge of Stores and Accounts, but to place them under the more immediate direction of the Quarter Master General, to whom they are to Report and receive Instructions on all points relating to Military Barracks and Quarters.—

“ Signed EDWARD BAYNES ”
Adjutant General

Archives, C. 1171, p. 143.

G.O.

Montreal 17th Dec^r. 1813—

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces has been pleased to make the following disposition, of the Troops in the Montreal District.—

Major General De Rottenburg will have his Head Quarters at Montreal where the usual Reports and Communications are to be made—The Troops on the Island of Montreal, at Coteau du Lac, under Colonel Scott, and those at Three Rivers will Report immediately to the Head Q^{rs}. of the District.—

Major General Stovin will proceed to Chambly in order to assume the Command of the Troops Serving on both banks of the Richelieu and the Odle Town Road—the Remainder of the Troops in the advance from Longueil to La Prairie, S^t Phillippe, S^t Peter Chateauguay and their Respective advances are placed under the immediate Command of Major General De Watteville.—

Captain Gillman of the 13th Regiment is appointed Major of Brigade to the Forces Serving in the Montreal District.—

Captain Watsons Troop of Provincial Dragoons will be Stationed for the purpose of Communication in the District under the Command of M^r G^l Stovin—and Captain Herberts Corps of Guides for the Same purpose in the District under M^r G^l De Watteville.—

It is His Excellency's most positive Order, that so soon as the Snow falls, no road shall be made out of the Province to the United States, except that by the way of Odle Town under the immediate Superintendance of L^t C^l Williams of the 13th Reg^t Commanding the Troops in the advance from S^t Johns, and the Major Generals Command^r. are enjoined to instruct their out posts accordingly and to enforce this Order in the Strictest manner.—

Great attention must be paid to forwarding the Monthly Return and weekly distribution States so as to admit of the General State arriving at the Head Quarters at the periods appointed in the General Order Dated Kingston the 28th June last.—

(Signed) J: ROWAN
D.A.AG.

Archives, C. 681, p. 304.

From Bathurst in Downing Street to Prevost at Montreal.

Duplicate
No. 54

Downing Street
27th Dec^r 1813

Sir,

I have this day received, through a private Channel, your General Order containing an Account of an Affair which took place in Upper Canada between the American Army under the Command of General Wilkinson and a small British force under the orders of Lieut. Colonel Morrison, which appears to have moved from Kingston—The result has been such as the uniform good Conduct of the Troops under your Command would have led me to anticipate, and the Enemy have again experienced that Superiority of Numbers is not alone sufficient to ensure the Success of their operations.

It will however be very prejudicial to your future

operations, if Gen^l Wilkinson has been allowed to establish himself in Cornwall—

You have long looked for an opportunity of meeting the Enemy, and the advantages gained over Gen^{ls} Harrison and Wilkinson must have so clearly evinced the commanding Superiority of the British Troops, that I trust you have not delayed collecting your force, for the purpose of making an attack before the Enemy could have had time to entrench themselves or to open a Communication with General Hampton.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient,

Humble Servant

BATHURST

Archives, C. 682, p. 109.

From the Duke of York at the Horse Guards to Prevost at Quebec.

Horse Guards—

12th February 1814

Sir,

I have had great Satisfaction in receiving your Dispatch of the 19th Nov^r last, containing the Details of the Attack made by a Division of the American Force under Brigadier General Boyd, against the Corps of Observation commanded by Lieut^t Col^l Morrison of the 89th Regiment, near Chrystlers in the Township of Williamsburg, in which the Enemy was repulsed and defeated with very considerable Loss.—

I request you will convey to Lieut^t Colonel Morrison and the Officers and Men under his Command upon that Occasion, my perfect Approbation of the gallant and judicious Conduct which they displayed; and I have to acquaint you that in Consequence of your Recommendation, the Name of Captain Barnes of the 89th Regiment will be submitted to The Prince Regent, for the Brevet Rank of Major.—

The Account which your Dispatch conveys of the Result of the Action that took place on Lake Erie in September last, is much to be regretted ; but it is still a Source of Consolation in this unfortunate Affair, that the Honor of the British Flag has been nobly sustained by Captain Barclay and the brave Officers and Men of the different Vessels under his Command.

I am Sir,
Yours,
FREDERICK
Commander in Chief

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VIII (*continued*)

OPERATIONS ON THE MONTREAL FRONTIER, 1813

3. RAID ON DERBY IN VERMONT, DECEMBER 17, 1813

Archives, C. 91, p. 151.

Extract from The Memorial of Oliver Barker Esquire, late Captain in the Frontier Light Infantry Corps.—To His Excellency Sir Gordon Drummond, Commander of the Forces of Lower & Upper Canada, &c. &c. &c.

Firstly Sparing no exertion or expense, Your Excellency's Memorialist succeeded in recruiting an Independent Company of Volunteers, consisting of *Fifty* active young men from the Townships, to serve His Majesty during the war against the United States of America conformably to the annexed General Order (marked A), with which he had been honored by His Excellency Sir George Prevost. . . .

Secondly. Your Excellency's Memorialist most respectfully begs to be permitted to represent, that having received Orders from His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, to attempt the destruction of certain Barracks, Store Houses and other Public Buildings, and the removal of a quantity of Amunition and other Military Stores belonging to the enemy, in the States of Vermont and New Hampshire; as will appear by His Excellency's Orders here unto annexed, bearing date "Head Quarters Montreal 25th November 1813, signed by Sir Sidney Beckwith Quarter Master General," (marked C). That Your Excellency's Memorialist in obedience to said Orders upon the 17th of December following succeeded in an expedition against the enemys Post and Depôts at Derby in the State of Vermont; as will appear by the printed General Order hereunto annexed, dated "Adjutant Generals Office Head Quarters Quebec 9th January 1814, signed Edward Baynes Adj^t. Gen^l. N.A." (marked D). And also a subsequent expedition against the enemys Block House and Depôts at Stuart Town in the State of New Hampshire, as will also appear by letters addressed to Your Excellency's Memorialist from Sir Sidney Beckwith Quarter Master General, bearing date "Montreal the 8th and 13th of January 1814," hereunto annexed (marked E, and F).

Which two expeditions having been performed under the command of Your Excellency's Memorialist, and wholly by Sedentary Militia Volunteers, the entire expense thereof devolved upon Your Excellency's Memorialist, and amounted . . .

(From a photograph of the original Orders, in the possession of the Editor.)

Adjutant General's Office,
Head-Quarters, Quebec, 9th January, 1814.

GENERAL ORDERS.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of the Forces, has received from Colonel Sir Sidney Beckwith,

a report from Captain Barker, of the Frontier Light Infantry, stating the complete success of an expedition committed to the charge of that Officer, against the enemy's Post and Depôts at Derby, in the State of Vermont, which were taken possession of at day break, on the 17th December.—An extensive barracks for 1200 men lately erected were destroyed, together with the Stables and Store-Houses, and a considerable quantity of valuable Military Stores, have been brought away.

Captain Barker mentions Captains Curtis and Taplin, Lieutenants Messa and Bodwell, and Ensign Boyntan, of the Township Battalions of Militia, as having been most active with the Volunteers of the Militia, in the execution of this judicious and spirited enterprize.

EDWARD BAYNES,
Adjutant General, N.A.

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP VIII (*continued*)

OPERATIONS ON THE MONTREAL FRONTIER, 1813

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Archives, C. 373. P. 43.

INSTRUCTIONS for Conducting the Department of the Commissary of Transport in Lower Canada, during the Continuance of the War with the United States.

To render more efficient the Department of the Commissary of Transport in this Province, during the War with

the United States, it is Necessary that a Person properly qualified should be allotted in each of the Districts of Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal to superintend the requisite duties ;

The Officer at Montreal will receive the Pay of 12^s. 6^d. Army Sterling per Day, and the Garrison Allowances of a Captain, and be allowed a Clerk at 5^s. 0^d. a day, with Subalterns allowances, and an Office : The Officers at Quebec and Three Rivers, will each receive 10^s. 0^d. a Day, and the Garrison allowances of a Captain, and be allowed a Clerk at 5^s. 0^d. a Day, with Subalterns Allowances, to take place from the 25th December 1812 : These Officers must be constantly Resident in the District's to which they belong, and in the performance of their Duties they should be guided by the Ordonnance of the Governor regulating the Corvée Service ;—

The Duty of the Commissary of Transport is, on requisition from the Commissariat and Quarter Master Generals Department respectively, to provide for Transport, the Carriage or Batteauxmen required, by Requisition to the Officers of Militia According to L[aw] and to take care that the number required be supplied at the time stated for the Public Service ;—In case of failure he is immediately to make enquiry into, and inform himself of the Cause, and Report to the General or Officer Commanding, by whose Omission or Neglect such failure has happened in order that Measures may be taken to bring Delinquents to justice.—

He is to take care that, the Militia Men ordered for the Transport Service, either with Carriages, or Batteaux, produce to the Officer of the Department requiring them, a Roll of the Persons Commanded.

Each Commissary of Transport is to be furnished with, the Means of Paying for all Corvées, at the stipulated Rates, and all incidental Expences connected with this Service, by a Requisition on the Commissariat, and must make up at the end of every two Months an Account of Disbursements,

supported by regular Vouchers in triplicate, approved by the General or Officer Commanding in their District ;—

To preserve regularity, and ensure the punctual Arrival of all Public Stores transported by Corvée, it is necessary that, the Commissaries of Transport should Correspond with each other, and should report the departure of all Trains from their Districts, in order that, the next Commissary should make the Arrangement necessary to keep up the Chain of Communication without extraordinary delays or disappointments ;

The Commissaries directing the Transport Service, will cause to be entered in a Register to be kept in their Offices, the Names of every Person within their respective Districts, liable to Serve as Batteau Men, or to furnish Carriages for the Service of His Majesty, to which shall be Annexed, the Number of Horses and of Winter and Summer Carriages possessed by every such Person : This Register is to be made from Returns to be furnished *Annually* by the Captains of Militia ;

The Commissaries of Transport will Cause all Persons Compellable to serve as Batteau Men, and to furnish Carriages, to be Commanded in their turn of Duty, which will always be practicable, when they receive previous Notification of the Time, at which Batteau Men and Carriages will be Required ;—

The Commissaries will give the greatest Attention to the execution of the provisions contained in the 4th and 5th Articles of the Provincial Ordonnance of 27th Geo: 3: C: 3: and will not fail to require from the Captains of Militia the Rolls therein required, and to Register the Names of every Person employed, and the Parishes to which they belong ;

In order to prevent Accidents and unnecessary delay they will Appoint trusty Conductor's from the Serjeants of Militia, or other proper Persons, who will take charge of the Provisions, Stores, or other Effects, and give the necessary

Receipts for the same :—they will also be Charged to pay the Carriages to be employed on the above Service.—

The Expence of Crossing Troops and Stores &^{ca} at the different Ferries, having been found Considerable, The Commissaries of Transport will therefore be furnished whenever practicable at each Ferry, in their respective Districts with one or more Batteaux (as may be required) for the purpose of Crossing Troops, Baggage, Stores, or other Effect's of Government : Such Batteaux to be left in the Charge of some Person living in the Neighbourhood, who in Consideration of such Service, shall not be required to perform any other Corvée Duty.

The Commissioners of Transport will when required, furnish a Route for the March of such Forces, and will make such Arrangements as to cause each Parish alternately, to lodge Troops on their March, and to provide, *in like manner*, the necessary Carriages for Conveying the Baggage of such Troops.—

On pressing occasions when it may be necessary to move Troops in Carriages, The Commissaries of Transports will attend in Person in order to expedite the necessary Arrangements and prevent disorder. Whenever Complaints are made of partiality or other improper Conduct they will attend on the Spot, to enquire into such Complaints, and when they are of a serious Nature, they will Report the same to His Excellency The Commander of the Forces.—

Head Quarters Quebec

10th January 1813—

Approved and to be Acted upon.—

GEORGE PREVOST
Commander of the forces

Archives, G. 57, p. 17.

From Bathurst at Downing Street to Sheaffe at —.

Downing Street 8 June 1813

Triplicate No. 5.

Sir,

I have received and laid before The Prince Regent your various Dispatches of the Dates & Numbers specified in the Margin—

His Royal Highness views with entire approbation the Conduct of the Legislature of the Province and the Zeal which they have manifested for the Defence of their Country against the Enemy, and the liberal provision which they have made for carrying on the War with Vigour and Effect—His Royal Highness is deeply sensible of the inconveniences which have resulted to the Inhabitants of Upper Canada from the Length of time during which it was in the last year necessary to detain the Militia from their families and their ordinary occupations: The Bill proposed by the Legislature for the formation of incorporated Regiments, and the large Reinforcements which have been lately ordered to Canada will, I trust, have the effect of relieving them from so extended a Service in future years—You will of course partake of the anxiety which His Royal Highness feels not to interfere with the ordinary occupations of the Inhabitants, beyond what may be necessary for the Defence of the Province, and by demanding no Sacrifices beyond what are absolutely required, ensure their being cheerfully borne.

I have already on many occasions expressed to Sir G Prevost the entire approbation of the Conduct of the Troops employed in Upper Canada, whenever they have encountered the Enemy, & it is therefore unnecessary for me to repeat, what His Excellency will not have failed to communicate to you at an earlier period—

A part of the Supply of Indian Presents required in your Letter of the 31st Dec^r. had been dispatched from this Country previous to it's receipt I have only ordered by the next fleet such an additional Quantity as may make up the Difference between those already transmitted, & those specified in the Enclosure in your Dispatch—

I have not failed to lay before His Royal Highness The Prince Regent the Address of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada on the Subject of a Grant of Land to the Representatives of General Brock, and am commanded to signify His Royal Highness's Pleasure that you should make them such a Grant, and under such Conditions as may best fulfil the intentions of the House of Assembly—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

BATHURST

Archives, C. 1170, p. 337.

G.O.

Kingston 29th June 1813.

A relaxation of Discipline and of vigilance being frequently suffered to prevail among the Troops, while on a march—The Commander of the Forces finds it necessary to caution Officers against allowing a mistaken indulgence to operate to the prejudice of the Service—few situations require more unremitting attention in the Officer, than the conducting Troops on route with regularity and order—His Excellency directs that the following Instructions be in future strictly observed.—

The Baggage or Stores in charge of a Detachment or Corps are to be prepared before the hour appointed for the

March or embarkation, and no party on the pretence of escorting Baggage is to remain behind.—

When Movements are made by Water, attention is to be paid in the distribution of the Baggage, and the Crews on the Batteaux, as to insure the boats moving in compact order and to avoid all unnecessary delay.— Officers are always to accompany their respective Companies or Divisions, and whenever they arrive at a place of halt—they are not to quit them until their Party is mustered and every necessary interior arrangement made for the accomodation of the Men, the security of their Arms and Stores and for the regularity of their Messing, nor are they at any time to absent themselves beyond reach of being able to superintend the Conduct of their Men—the Soldiers are not to be permitted to straggle on any pretense—if Fuel or Provisions are to be sent for, an Officer or non-Commissioned Officer is to accompany the fatigue party—and when Soldiers are quartered in the Houses or Barns of the Inhabitants they are to conduct themselves in an orderly peacable manner, and are not to presume to take any Wood for Fuel or Provisions or in any way to injure or destroy the property of the Inhabitants—any Soldier so misbehaving is to be punished for the same, and to make due compensation to the Proprietor—

The Boats, Baggage or Stores are always to be arranged in the most secure manner possible for the Night, the smallest Escorts are to furnish at least one Sentry—and a Captain or Subalterns Guard, according to the Strength of the Detachment is to be mounted at Sunset—and the utmost vigilance and every precaution to be observed, that is required from an Out Picquet in face of an Enemy—The Officers in Command are required to use every exertion, to insure regularity and vigilance and are held particularly responsible that these Instructions are strictly adhered to.—

[*Not signed.*]

Archives, C. 230, p. 18.

From Sherbrooke at Halifax to Prevost at —.

Private.

Halifax 10th August 1813.

My dear Sir George/

Your letter of the 24th June reached me by the last Courier and I feel myself very much obliged to You for sending me the Copy of Your letter to Colonel Torrens upon the subject of the 98th Reg^t—I feel Confident that under the then existing Circumstances perplexed as I was by contradictory Orders that Lord Bathurst is very unreasonable If he still feels discontented with what was done on that occasion And It is quite sufficient for me that You are Contented with the measures I at the time adopted.—

I have in Compliance with Your Orders offered the vacant situation of Town Mayor of Fredericton to Captain Jenkins (Who certainly has a very superior claim to either of his other Competitors for that office) And as soon as I receive his Answer If Captⁿ. J—— accepts the appointment I shall put him in Orders as You direct.—

Rear Admiral Griffith is arrived here And I have represented to him in the strongest manner I could the necessity of sending 200 Seamen immediately to Canada, But I do not see the most distant probability of his being able to spare You a single man, as I learn from him that Sir J. B. Warrens Squadron was never so much in want of Seamen as at present.—I think If a rendezvous was to be opened here for Volunteers for the Lake Service And that those who entered would be discharged again at the expiration of a certain time that You might pick up such a number of Seamen in this Province as would be a seasonable reinforcement to Sir James Yeo by the opening of the next Campaign—

Should You wish any Plan of this kind to be tried under certain modifications let me know And I shall be very happy to use every exertion in my power to forward its success.—

M General Smyth is I understand dangerously ill again. He has written to me for leave to come to Halifax for medical advice And He says If upon Consulting the Doctors here they should be of opinion that his Constitution will not admit of his remaining in this Country the Major General has expressed to me his wish that He may be permitted to return to England before the Cold Weather setts in here As He has a great dread of again exposing himself to the inclemency of another Nova Scotia Winter—Perhaps It may appear rather premature my addressing you on this subject before a Medical Board have given an opinion upon the Patients Case, But as there will be no time for me to Communicate with You on this subject between the period of the Board closing its proceedings and the sailing of the next Convoy for England, I think it right to apprise You that It is very probable I shall be under the necessity of permitting M General Smyth to return to Europe before I Can report his Case to You And hope to be honoured with Your Answer thereto. In the meantime I have ordered M. Gen^l. Sir Tho^s. Saumarez to repair to New Brunswick to relieve M Gen^l. Smyth and as Colonel Douglass will in Consequence Command the Garrison of Halifax I hope You will allow the Colonel to receive the same remuneration You were pleased to grant him when He was before Commandant of this place.

Believe me

My dear Sir George,

Yr^s. very faithfully

J. C. SHERBROOKE.

Archives, C. 1171, p. 26.

G.O.

Kingston 11th September 1813

[*Note.—The Watteville regiment, though foreign, is not to be confused with the following.—EDITOR.*]

At a General Court Martial held at Kingston Upper Canada on the 9th Sept^r., were arraigned Martin Felimonoff, Johan Selizniack, Johan Subatzky, Alexis Gerasino, Johan Duzufly, Private Soldiers in the Reg^t. De Watteville, for having Deserted from the said Regiment, on or about the 28th August 1813.—

The Court is of opinion that the Prisoners Privates Martin Felimonoff, Johann Selizniack, Johan Subatzky, Alexis Gerasino, Johan Duzufly, of the Regiment De Watteville are Guilty of the Crime laid to their charge and doth therefore sentence them all and severally to serve as Soldiers for Life in such Regiments or Corps as His Majesty shall please to direct.—

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces, feels himself under the painful necessity of expressing his marked disapprobation of the Sentence of the General Court Martial above recited.—

The highly dangerous prevalency of the Crime of desertion in this Army, connected with the Critical exigency of the times, demands from every Officer, a rigorous and conscientious discharge of his duty, and in no instance can it be more imperiously called for, than in the suppression of a Crime, preeminent for the infamy and dangerous consequences which characterize it.

The General Court Martial by awarding a Sentence so very inadequate to the enormity of the offence, are not only Guilty of a gross neglect of duty, but thereby exposes to hazard, the Honor, Discipline and very Existence of His Majesty's Service, which they are bound to maintain.—

In order to mark as strongly as possible the abhorrence in which the Crime of the Prisoners ought to be held—His Excellency is pleased to direct, that they be kept in close confinement and sent to Europe pursuant to their Sentence, which is to be read at the Head of all Corps under arms, and the Prisoners are to be Drummed through the Cantonments of Kingston with every mark of disgrace and infamy.—

.....
 (Signed) EDWARD BAYNES
 Adjutant Gen^l.

Archives, C. 788, p. 1.

From Sherbrooke at Halifax to Prevost at —.

[N.B.—This letter refers to the Foreigners sometimes called "Canadian Chasseurs," and thus mistaken for French-Canadians.—EDITOR.]

Halifax 20 September 1813.

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that on the arrival of Admiral Sir J. B. Warren on the 14th Instant, I have not failed to press upon his attention how acceptable reinforcements of troops would be to Your Excellency in Canada: and I am happy to communicate the intention of the Admiral to send forthwith to Quebec, one of the Battalions of Royal Marines.—

On the return of the Ships which are to carry this force thither, it is in Sir John Warren's contemplation, to send back to Europe the two Independant Companies of Foreigners, mentioned in my letter of 13th July.—

I have felt it my duty to concur with the Admiral in this arrangement, rather than attempt any longer to retain them in this district, as suggested by Your Excellency's desire in Mr. Freer's letter of the 12th Ultimo, both on account of the general dread which the inhabitants here entertain of these

troops, the impropriety from the nature of their conduct of employing them on any duty with arms, and the additional insecurity which such a description of men occasion in a neighbourhood where Prisoners of War are rapidly increasing upon our hands.—

I have the honor to be Sir

Your Excellency's

most obedient

humble Servant

J. C. SHERBROOKE

L^t Gen^l Comg;

P.S./

Sir J. B. Warren having considered it necessary for the health of the Troops that they should be landed from the Ships under his command and encamped for a short time, I have acceded thereto, and have at the Admiral's request directed the Deputy Commissary General to issue the allowance of Straw & fuel to them, which the Navy could not supply them with although they are victualed therefrom.—

J. C. S.—

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP IX

OPERATIONS ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, DECEMBER 1813

1. NEWARK BURNT BY THE AMERICANS, December 10, 1813
2. FORT NIAGARA, December 19, 1813
3. BLACK ROCK AND BUFFALO, December 30, 1813



NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP IX

OPERATIONS ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, DECEMBER 1813

I. NEWARK BURNT BY THE AMERICANS, DECEMBER 10, 1813

Archives, C. 681, p. 217.

From Colonel Murray to Major-General Vincent.

Copy

Fort George 12th Dec^r. 1813.

Sir,

Having obtained information that the Enemy had determined on driving the Country between Fort George and the Advance, and was carrying off the loyal part of the Inhabitants; notwithstanding the inclemency of the Season I deemed it my duty to make a rapid and forced March towards him, with the Light Troops under my Command, which not only frustrated his designs, but compelled him to evacuate Fort George, by precipitately crossing the River and abandoning the whole of the Niagara Frontier—On learning our approach he layed the town of Newark in ashes, passed over his Cannon and Stores, but failed in an attempt to destroy the fortifications, which are evidently so much strengthened whilst in his possession, as might have enabled General M^cClure (the Commanding Officer) to have maintained a regular Siege, but such was the apparent panic, that he left the whole of his Tents standing—

I trust the indefatigable exertions of this handful of men (a return of which I subjoin) have rendered an essential Service to the Country by rescuing from a merciless Enemy the inhabitants of an extensive & highly cultivated tract of land, stored with Cattle, Grain, and provisions of every description, and it must be an exultation to them to find themselves delivered from the oppression of a lawless banditti, composed of the disaffected of the Country organised under the direct influence of the American Government, who carried terror and dismay into every family

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most Obed^t. humble Serv^t.

(Signed) J MURRAY
Col

Archives, C. 681, p. 232.

From Murray at Fort George to Vincent at —.

Fort George 13th December 1813—

Sir

I beg leave to correct that part of my dispatch of the 12th In^t. wherein it is stated that the enemy succeeded in passing over his cannon, Stores &c.: it has since been ascertained that the cannon were thrown into the ditch of the fortifications, the darkness of the night & severity of the Snowstorm prevented their being discovered until this Morning—nor can a correct Return of the capture of Ordnance & ammunition be made out until the troops are more at leisure to collect them, they are now employed on a more important Service.— one long 18^{pdr}. four 12^{pdrs}. two 9^{pdrs}. an immense quantity of shot, with Camp equipage for 1500 men have already been found. The Arsenal was burnt to the ground & the principal magazine blown up in which were contained a quantity

of Arms and ammunition, some temporary magazines containing fixed ammunition have been saved.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient hum^{ble}

Serv^t.

J MURRAY

Col

Archives, C. 681, p. 261.

From Harvey at York to McClure, Fort Niagara.

Copy

York 14th Dec^r. 1813—

Sir,

Lieutenant General Drummond President and Commanding the Forces in Upper Canada having just received a report from the Officer in Command of the British Troops on the Niagara Frontier, that the whole of the Town of Niagara was destroyed by fire, previous to its being evacuated by the American Troops.

I am directed to call upon you immediately and distinctly to state, whether this atrocious act has been committed by the authority of the American Government, or is the unauthorised act of any Individual.

It is essential that not a moment should be lost in returning a specific answer to this communication.

(Signed) J. HARVEY

L^t. Col. DAG

THE CANADIAN WAR OF 1812

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP IX (*continued*)OPERATIONS ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIER,
DECEMBER 1813

2. FORT NIAGARA, DECEMBER 19, 1813

Archives, C. 68I, p. 260.

From Harvey at St. David's to Elliott, Indian Department.

Copy

Head Quarters

St. David's 17th Dec^r. 1813.

Sir/

Lieutenant General Drummond having determined to avail himself of the Services of his Bretheren and Allies the Western Indians, in an attack which he proposes to make with the British Troops on the Enemy's Territory and Fortress on the opposite shore, I have received his Honor's directions to request you will assemble the several Chieftains of those Nations and will impress upon them in the strongest manner the expediency of abstaining from plunder and all acts of violence or outrage on the persons of Women and Children and unarmed Men, and even in the case of Prisoners taken in arms the Lieutenant General would willingly indulge the hope, that in conformity with the practice of their white Bretheren, the Warriors of the Western Indians will take a pride in shewing their clemency and forbearance. Indeed I am commanded by the Lieutenant General to add that it is only upon condition of their giving their promise and assurance of observing his wishes on this head that he can consent to employ them on the Service above alluded to.

(Signed) J. HARVEY
L^t. Col. DAG

Archives, C. 681, p. 258.

From Harvey at St. David's to Murray at —.

Copy
Sir/

St. David's Dec^r. 17th 1813—

It appearing to Lieutenant General Drummond that the present moment is highly favorable for an attack on Fort Niagara, I am directed to acquaint you that the Lieutenant General has selected you to command the force to be employed on this service ; and to add that it is his wish that the attack should be made this night if possible.

The 100th Regiment, the Grenadiers of the Royals, the Flank companies 41st Reg^t. and a party of Royal Artillery, are the Troops placed at your disposal, and you will be pleased to make such arrangement of them for the attack as you may think proper. The remainder of the regular Troops with the whole body of the Indians will be passed over to support you.—

It is hoped that with the Batteaux just arrived from the Head of the Lake, you may be able to pass over the whole of the attacking Troops at two embarkations, and by this means effect a surprise.—

It is further hoped that a sufficient number of Militia men will come forward as Volunteers, not only to Man the Batteaux, for the purpose of bringing them back to this shore, (as soon as the first embarkation shall have been effected) but also to aid in the attack of the place by cutting the Picketing, for which purpose it should be recommended that every Militia Volunteer should come provided with a sharp axe.

The Troops should carry scaling ladders (at least 18 or 20) and should be divided into at least two attacks, one to be made on the Lake Face, and the other on the River. The Troops must preserve the profoundest silence and the

strictest discipline. They must on no account be suffered to load, without the orders of their Officers. It should be impressed on the mind of every man, that the Bayonet is the weapon on which the success of the attack must depend.

(Signed) J. HARVEY
L^t. Col. DAG

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----|
| <i>NB</i> | 100 th Reg ^t . (say) | 350 |
| | Royals — — | 100 |
| | 41 st — — | 100 |
| | R ^l . Art ^y . — | 12 |
| | | — |
| | | 562 |
| | | — |

Archives, C. 681, p. 240.

From Drummond at St. David's to Prevost at —.

St. David's. December 18th 1813.—

Sir,

I have the honor to report to Your Excellency my arrival here on the 16th and to acknowledge the receipt, this day, of Your Excellency's letter of the 10th Instant.—

I am concerned to say, that my opinion relative to the exaggerated accounts of the disasters, which were reported to have befallen Commodore Chauncey's Squadron, has proved but too just; the *Madison* only having sustained some damage by being ashore for 48 hours.—But she is now, as well as the other vessels of the Enemy's Fleet, in safety at Sackett's Harbour.—

I have directed Major General Vincent to proceed to Kingston, without delay; he having been this day relieved in the command of the Right Division by Major General Riall. But, as the Major General is extremely anxious to avail himself of Your Excellency's indulgence already granted, I have, in consequence, to request Your Excellency

will permit Major General Stovin to leave Montreal, as soon as convenient.—

I propose, that Major General Proctor should remain in command at York, (it being a Post of little importance at present,) until Your Excellency's pleasure is known.—

On the arrival of the Marines at Prescot, Quere, May not the entire Battalion be drawn, from thence, to Kingston; and their place supplied by the Wing of the Glengary Regiment, in consideration of their great utility at Point Frederick in controuling the conduct of the seamen, and as it will in some degree meet Your Excellency's wishes relative to the Glengary Corps' moving towards the Lower Province.

I have forwarded Your Excellency's letter to Captain Norton.—

The evacuation of this Frontier will now afford ample means to the Commissariat Department in the supply of Provisions & Forage to the Troops of this Division.—

Conceiving the present a favorable opportunity for making an attack on the Enemy's Fort, Niagara; I have placed a Force under the command of Colonel Murray, Inspecting Field Officer, for that purpose.—I had intended, that the Troops should have crossed the River last night; but the Batteaux, which were ordered from Burlington to the Four Mile Creek, having been, in the first instance, considerably impeded in their progress, by a gale of wind upon the Lake, and, afterwards, notwithstanding the unremitting exertions of Captain Elliott, Assistant Deputy Quarter Master General, in landing them, by a very heavy surf, and thence by a tedious land conveyance on slays to the place selected for the embarkation of the Troops at Two-Mile-run, it became too late to carry the design into execution at that time.—This night, however, I propose, that they shall be crossed over; and the Fort attempted by assault.—Major General Riall will follow, immediately, with the Reserve, and the Indians, (under Colonel Elliott,) to act in support

of Colonel Murray, as circumstances may demand.—Independent of which, I propose, that an attack shall be made upon Lewiston, for the purpose of destroying some Works, which the Enemy have been throwing up at that place, with the avowed intention of destroying from thence the Town of Queenstown. In both these attempts I have sanguine hopes of success.—

I have seen a Mr. Muirhead, who has this day arrived from Buffaloe.—He had, with the principal part of the respectable inhabitants of this part of the Country, been carried off, though not in arms, by the enemy, some time since.—He reports, that the enemy is in great apprehension of an attack; and they are, in consequence, sending to the interior all their effects; and endeavouring to collect the Militia, and Indians, from all directions.—The Caledonia is lying in the River, opposite to the Stores at Black Rock; said to have but one Gun on board; and in, otherwise, an indifferent state of equipment. Four or Five other Vessels are said to be ashore between Buffaloe and Presqu'Isle.—

General M^cClure was at Buffaloe; Colonel Wilcox had gone to Washington.—

I have directed a letter to be written to General M^cClure, calling upon him to state unequivocally, whether the atrocious act of the burning of the Town of Fort George had been authorized by his Government; or whether it was the unauthorized act of an individual.—

Captain Barclay, Royal Navy, is at Queenstown; and, I am happy to say, his wound is mending daily.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

most obedient,

humble servant,

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t. General

Archives, C. 681, p. 244.

From Drummond at Fort Niagara to Prevost at —.

Fort Niagara 19th Dec^r 1813
half past 5 O'clock A:M:

Dear Sir/

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the Fort of Niagara fell into our hands at 5 O'clock this morning—It was carried in a most gallant manner by assault at the point of the Bayonet by the Troops, as per margin, I had selected & placed under the command of Colonel Murray,—The Enemy have suffered some loss in killed; that on our part is comparatively small. There have been taken about 150 Prisoners, amongst whom is Cap^t Leonard the Commandant & several officers—I regret to say that L^t Nolan of the 100th Reg^t has been killed, & that Colonel Murray has been wounded severely in the wrist.

There are several pieces of Ordnance mounted in the Fort, & about 3000 Stand of Arms, a large quantity of Clothing Salt, & other Stores.

.

I have the honor to be

Dear Sir

Your faithful

Humble Servant

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t General

[*Note in margin.*] Grenadier Company Royal Scots Reg^t
100 Flank Companies 41 100 100th Reg^t 350 Royal
Artillery 12

Archives, C. 681, p. 253.

From Drummond at Fort Niagara to Prevost at —.

Fort Niagara, Dec^r 20th 1813.—

Sir/

Conceiving the possession of Fort Niagara to be of the highest importance, in every point of view, to the tranquility and security of this Frontier, immediately on my arrival at St David's, I determined upon it's reduction, if practicable without too great a sacrifice.—There being, however, but two Batteaux at this side the water, I did not think proper to make the attempt, until a sufficient number should be brought from Burlington ; at this season of the year a most difficult undertaking. But, by the indefatigable exertions of Captain Elliott, Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, every difficulty, particularly in the carriage of the Batteaux by land for several miles, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, (the ground being covered with snow, & the frost severe,) was overcome ; they were again launched ; and the troops, consisting of a small Detachment of Royal Artillery, the Grenadier Company of the Royal Scots, the Flank Companies of 41st and the 100th Reg^{ts} amounting in the whole to about 550, which I had placed under the immediate orders of Colonel Murray, Inspecting Field Officer, were embarked.—The enclosed report of that most zealous, and judicious Officer, will point out to you the detail of their further proceedings.—At 5 O'Clock, A:M: the Fort was attacked by Assault, at the point of the Bayonet ; two Picquets, posted at the distance of a mile, and of a mile and half, from the Works, having previously been destroyed, to a man, by the same weapon : and at half an hour afterwards this important place was completely in our possession.

By this gallant atchievement, 27 Pieces of Ordnance, (mounted on the several Defences,) 3000 Stands of Arms,

a number of Rifles, a quantity of Ammunition, Blankets, Clothing, several thousand pairs of Shoes, &c, have fallen into our hands ; besides 14 Officers, and 330 others, Prisoners. And 8 respectable inhabitants of this part of the Country, who had been dragged from the peacable enjoyment of their property to a most unwarrantable confinement, were released ; together with some Indian Warriors of the Cocknawaga, and Six Nations, Tribes.—The Enemy's loss amounted to 65 in killed ; and to but 12 in wounded ; which clearly proves how irresistible a weapon the Bayonet is in the hands of British Soldiers. Our loss was only 5 killed ; and 3 wounded.—I have to regret the death of a very promising young Officer, Lieutenant Nolan of the 100th Reg^t.

I beg leave to bear the highest testimony of the anxious, active, and meritorious exertions of Colonel Murray ; who, I regret to say, received a severe, though not dangerous wound in the wrist ; (which I hope will not, at this critical period, deprive me, for any great length of time, of his valuable services ;) and to Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton, of the 100th Reg^t and the Officers, NonCommissioned Officers, and Soldiers, who so gallantly achieved this most daring and brilliant enterprize.—

The Militia came forward with alacrity ; and assisted much in launching, and transporting the Batteaux across the river, in a very rapid current, for which service they are deserving of the highest praise.—Captain Norton, the Indian Chief, volunteered his services ; and accompanied the Troops.—And I beg to recommend in the strongest terms to the favor and protection of His Royal Highness, The Prince Regent, Captain Elliott, of the 103rd Reg^t, Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General ; whose conduct on this, as on every other occasion, has been so distinguished ; as also Lieutenant Dawson, of the 100th Reg^t who commanded the Forlorn Hope ; Captain Fawcett, of the same Regiment who immediately supported him with the Grenadiers ; and Captain Martin, who,

with three Companies gallantly stormed the Eastern Demi Bastion.—

My best acknowledgements are due to Major Generals Riall and Vincent, for the cordial and zealous assistance I received from them in making the arrangements; to Lieutenant Colonel Harvey, Deputy Adjutant General; and to the Officers of my personal Staff.—

I have the honor to forward to Your Excellency the American Colours, taken on this occasion, by Captain Foster, my Aide de Camp; who being in my fullest confidence will give Your Excellency such further information as you may require.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Excellency's

most obedient

humble Servant,

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t General

Archives, C. 681, p. 265.

From Drummond at Queenstown to Prevost at —.

Queenstown December 20th 1813.

Sir,

The Enemy having established a Force, and erected some Batteries, at Lewiston, with the avowed intention of destroying the Town of Queenstown, situated immediately opposite, I determined to dislodge them from thence. And with that view the 1st Battⁿ of the Royal Scots, and the 41st Reg^t with the whole body of the Western Indians, were crossed to the American Frontier, under the command of Major General Riall, in Batteaux, immediately after the landing of the Force under Colonel Murray.—The Enemy retired

on the approach of our Troops; and permitted thereby two Guns, a Twelve, and a Six Pounder, to fall into our hands.—

From Major General Riall's report of the good conduct of the Troops employed on this service, I am convinced, that, if an opportunity had offered, they would have equally distinguished themselves with those at Niagara.—

I am, however, extremely concerned to state, that, notwithstanding my most positive orders, and their own assurances, (made me through Lieut^t Colonel Elliott, in a Council of their Chiefs,) that they would refrain from outrage, several acts of violence were committed by the Indians.

I have the honor to enclose herewith Major General Riall's Report.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

most obedient,

humble Servant,

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t General

Archives, C. 19, p. 239.

From Murray at Fort Niagara to Drummond at —.

Fort Niagara, 22^d Dec^r 1813—

Sir—

I take the liberty of bringing before your honor's notice—Volunteers John-Fraser and Allan M^cNab, two young gentlemen attached to the 100th Reg^t they were amongst the foremost during the attack of the Picquets & the assault of the works of Niagara on the morning of the 19th Ins^t & conducted themselves with great bravery & zeal—also Volunteer Tho^s. Pigot 89th Reg^t whose zeal & intrepidity

were equally conspicuous this latter Gentleman joined the Grenadiers when embarking—

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Serv^t.

J MURRAY Col.

Archives, C. 681, p. 267.

From Drummond at St. David's to Prevost at ———.

S^t David's 22^d December 1813

Sir

Having received information that the Enemy was assembling a Force of Militia for the purpose of protecting Porter's Mills and Rope Walk and the Stores at Sloper's I directed M General Riall to move from Lewiston yesterday morning with the Royals & 41st Regiment and a small Party of Indians for the purpose of dispersing this force and of destroying or bringing off the Stores &^{ca}.

The Enemy retreated on the approach of the British Troops, having first fired upon M General Riall's advance Guard and afforded it an opportunity of making an Officer and eleven Men Prisoners—one of their Officers was also killed—he is said to have been a Lieutenant on his *Parole*—

The Country being deserted and no means of removing the Stores within M General Riall's reach, the Mills, Rope Walk, with its Machinery, and Stores containing a considerable quantity of Flour, Grain, Hay, Iron Cordage &^{ca} were destroyed.—A Barrack at Sloper's was also destroyed together with some Scows & Batteaux which were frozen in and could not be launched.—

I am happy to repeat to Your Excellency that the quantity of Stores of every kind captured in Fort Niagara is far greater

than I had at first any conception of—the enclosed Memorandum will convey some idea of their value & description.—

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's

Most obedient

Humble Servant

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t General

[In Memorandum.] The value of the captured property including the Guns and their Stores, is supposed, cannot amount to less than from £150,000 to £200,000.—

(From a photograph of the original, in the possession of the Editor.)

Adjutant General's Office,
Head-Quarters, Quebec, 2d Jany. 1814.

GENERAL ORDERS.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, having received with the Official Report of Lieut.-General Drummond, of the capture of Fort Niagara, the Copy of a District General Order issued on that brilliant achievement, by the Lieutenant-General; and His Excellency fully concurring in the sentiments of praise and commendation so justly bestowed on Colonel Murray and the Officers and Troops under his immediate command, is pleased to direct that the same be published in General Orders, for the information of the Army.

EDWD. BAYNES Adj. Gen. N.A.

Head-Quarters, Upper Canada,
19th December 1813.

DISTRICT GENERAL ORDER.

Lieut.-Gen. Drummond congratulates the Troops under his command, upon the brilliant success which has crowned the attack made this morning on Fort Niagara. It was

assaulted an hour before day light, and after a short, but severe contest, it was carried, with a very slight loss on our part ; that of the enemy was 65 killed and 15 wounded, *all by the bayonet* ; the remainder of the Garrison, to the number of about 350 regular troops and artillery, were made prisoners. 27 pieces of Ordnance were found in the Fort. Our loss does not exceed 5 killed and 3 wounded. Lieut. Nowlan, of the 100th regt. a very promising young officer, is the only officer killed.—The Lieut.-General has to regret that a severe wound which Col. Murray has received, is likely to deprive the army of the services of that gallant officer for some time. The troops employed on this occasion were the 100th Regt. the Grenadier Company of the Royals, and the Flank Companies of the 41st Regt. Their instructions were not to fire, but to carry the place at the point of the Bayonet. These orders were punctually obeyed, a circumstance that not only proves their intrepidity, but reflects great credit on their discipline. Colonel Murray expresses his admiration of the valor and good conduct of the whole of the troops, particularly of the 100th Regt. which led the attack. He also bestows his particular thanks on Lieut.-Col. Hamilton and Capt. Martin, of the 100th, Capt. Bailey, Royals (Grenadiers), Capt. Elliott, Dep'y Asst. Qr. Mr. Gen. Lieut. Bullock, 41st flank company, Lieut. Charlton, Royal Artillery, and Staff Adjutant Brampton. He likewise notices the bravery and exertions of Captain Kirby, Lieutenants Ball and Hamilton and Ensign Servos, of the Militia. Of the brilliant services of Lieut. Dawson, of the 100th, who led the forlorn hope, and Capt. Fawcett of the 100th Grenadiers, in entirely cutting off two of the enemy's Piquets, and surprising the sentries on the Glacis and at the Gate, by which means the watchword was obtained, and the entrance into the Fort greatly facilitated, the Colonel speaks in terms of the highest and most deserved praise.

Lieut.-General Drummond will perform a most grateful

duty in bringing under the notice of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, through His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, the admirable execution of this brilliant achievement on the part of every individual concerned. The useful services of the Militia Volunteers in launching the Boats and rowing the troops across the river, were not unnoticed by the Lieutenant General.

The Lieut. General has received from Maj. Genl. Riall, a very favorable report of the zeal and alacrity of the detachment of the Royal Scots, under Lieut. Col. Gordon, and the 41st Battalion companies under Major Frend, who advanced under the Maj. General's command to dislodge the enemy from the Heights of Lewistown.—Their steadiness and regularity under circumstances of great temptation, were highly creditable to them. Nothing could more strongly indicate their anxious wish to meet the enemy, and the Lt. General has only to regret that his rapid retreat from Lewistown Heights, did not afford to Major Gen. Riall an opportunity of leading them to victory.

Lt. Gen. Drummond begs that Major-General Riall and Vincent, will accept his acknowledgments for the assistance he has received from them in making arrangements for the late operations.

Lt. Col. Hamilton, 100th Regt. is appointed to command Fort Niagara, and the Lt. General will recommend that the same command money be annexed to it as was granted at Fort George.

A Board of Survey, composed of Lieut. Col. Hamilton, Commandant, President, Major Holcroft, commanding Royal Artillery, and a Captain of the 100th Regiment, Members, will assemble as soon as possible in Fort Niagara, for the purpose of taking an exact account and inventory of the immense quantity of Ordnance, Stores, Arms, Provisions, Clothing, &c. captured in that place.

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col. D.A.G.

Archives, C. 682, p. 21.

From Drummond at Kingston to Prevost at Quebec.

Kingston.—Jan 18th 1814.—

Dear Sir/

It has not been in my power to reply to Your Excellency's letter of the 29th Ultimo, until my return to Kingston, yesterday.—

On the several observations of Your Excellency, with regard to the important advantages, gained over the Enemy, by the possession of Fort Niagara, and to it's future defences, I have had a very full conversation with Lieutenant Colonel Bruyeres, on his passing through this place.—

On his return from Niagara, I will finally determine on some points ; which I am not at present fully decided upon. And I will have the honor of reporting to Your Excellency accordingly.—

Until the arrival of Lieutenant Colonel Bruyeres, I had availed myself of the talents of Lieutenant Gaugreben ; but, I am sorry to say, his means have been very inadequate to his abilities, or zealous inclinations.—

I have the honor to be,

Dear Sir,

Your Excellency's

most obedient,

humble Servant

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t. General

Archives, C. 388, p. 54.

From Drummond at Kingston to Prevost at ———.

Kingston March 29th 1814.

Sir,

Six of the Tumbrils, and a similar number of the Waggons captured from the Enemy at Fort Niagara, having been

completely repaired for the service of the Ordnance Department, in the carriage of Musket Ball Cartridges, Extra Field Ordnance Ammunition, and Forage for the Light Brigade of Artillery; whereby the necessity will be superceded of hiring country teams, which are perpetually failing, at the moment they are most required, are also an enormous expence, and for want of proper covering are the cause of an immense quantity of Ammunition being consequently destroyed, I have deemed it highly beneficial to the service to direct Major General Riall to cause horses to be purchased for them without delay; which I trust will meet Your Excellency's approbation.—Harness has been procured from Niagara also.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient,

humble Servant,

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t General

Archives, C. 1172, p. 19.

Head Quarters

G.O.

Montreal 24th Sept^r. 1814

H.E. The Com^r. of the Forces has been pleased to authorize the payment of the First dividend of the proceeds of the Prize property captured from the Enemy, by the Center Division of the Army in Upper Canada, upon the Niagara Frontier in the Months of June & July 1813; each privates share, for this Issue being 6^s/3^d Currency.—

His Excellency has also been pleased to direct the Payment of the first dividend of the proceeds of the Prize property Captured from the Enemy at Fort Niagara and other places

on the Niagara Frontier in December last, to the portion of the Army entitled to share therein—each private's share for this issue being £2 Currency—

(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES
Adjut'. General

NARRATIVE DOCUMENTS

GROUP IX (*continued*)

OPERATIONS ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, DECEMBER 1813

3. BLACK ROCK AND BUFFALO, DECEMBER 30, 1813

—
Archives, C. 681, p. 272.

From Drummond at St. David's to Prevost at —.

St. David's 22^d December 1813—

Confidential

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that I am endeavouring to get Boats across the Portage from Queenston to Chippawa—but owing to the Severity of the weather and the backwardness of the Militia, so much delay and difficulty is experienced in this movement that I fear the Enemy will have time to collect a considerable force at Buffalo before my preparations for an attack on that place are completed—the destruction of the *Vessels, & Stores at that place are objects of such importance that I shall not be induced to relinquish them on light Grounds—At the same time I ought not to conceal from Your Excellency that the weather

has become so severe within these few days, that, unprepared as the Troops are in point of warm Clothing &c. to meet its rigours,—all of them without Fur Caps and Mitts, and some of them actually without Great Coats however willing and anxious they are to be led against the Enemy, humanity will scarce suffer me to yield to their wishes—fortunately during the operations against Fort Niagara the weather was comparatively mild.—

I have directed Lieutenant Gaugrebin of the Engineers to use every exertion in putting Fort Niagara into the best state of defense that circumstances and our Means will permit—He is also ordered to compleat a new frame Barrack which we found nearly finished, and to put the rest of the buildings into a state of repair for the reception of Troops—Nothing can be in a more wretched state both as to the defences & the cover than Fort Niagara at the time of its Capture—even after it is put into compleat repair, it will require a Garrison of at least 500 effective Infantry exclusive of a strong Company of Artillery—Its present Garrison consists only of the 100th Regiment—I have appointed Lt. Colonel Hamilton to the command and have directed that the same Command Money shall be attached to it as formerly to Fort George, viz^t. 7^s. per diem which I hope will meet Your Excellency's approbation—A Fort Major being also necessary I beg to recommend Lieut: M^cCarthy of the 10th R. Veteran Battⁿ. for that Situation—The Ass^t. Commissary General has been ordered to lay in a supply of Provisions & Fuel equal to two Months Consumption for 1000 Men.—As the Enemy will doubtless make an effort in the Spring, (if not sooner) for the recovery of this most important Fortress, as there are at present no heavier Guns than 18 P^{drs}. mounted in the Fort, and conceiving 24 P^{drs}. to be indispensibly necessary to oppose the heavy Guns which will no doubt be brought against it as well by the Lake as by Land I have to request that at least Six long Guns of that Calibre may be sent up

as soon as possible—one of which must be placed on the Heights of Queenston.—

With regard to Fort George I conceive it adviseable that it should be put into a respectable State of defence which, as the works are not materially injured, can be done in the Spring without much labour or expense—In the meantime some cover must be erected for a small Garrison of (say) 150 Men, and the Batteries armed towards the opposite Bank, as they completely command the approach to Fort Niagara.—

It will be necessary to erect a good sized Block House at Chippawa where, moreover, as the proper right of the whole Position, a considerable Detachment of Troops must always be kept—A Martello Tower at Fort Erie with a couple of heavy Guns will be sufficient—and perhaps an *intermediate* Block House would be desirable to keep up the communication.

I have desired Colonel Elliott to send off an express to Michilimackinack to announce our success in this quarter—and at the same time to assure the Indians that we shall shortly revisit them *in power*.

Recent Information from the neighbourhood of Detroit represents the Enemy's Force in that Country as not exceeding 500 Militia—The Indians there remain true to our Interests—they are in want of Powder which I have invited them to come to us for.—I am convinced that Detroit and the whole of the Western Country might be reoccupied by us at any moment without difficulty provided we had it in our power to detach a force for that purpose.—By this movement Mackina would be preserved to us—the present is the Season most favorable for such an enterprize, as it affords the greatest facility of transport—It must be recollected however that *Troops* alone (even if I had them) are not sufficient for this purpose.—The Corps, however small, should be compleatly equipped with Field Train, Engineers & Artificiers,

Commissariat, Barrack & every other Department—This measure appears to me to offer the only means of getting rid of the Western Indians who, when their presence here ceases to be useful, will be an intolerable burthen—Before I close this Subject, I beg to suggest that the Corps to be sent on such a Service, should be one which is compleatly effective & well appointed & which has not been harassed and disorganized as I am sorry to remark is very much the case with all those at present on this frontier—such a one for instance as the 13th Regiment, which if it could be spared, it has occurred to me, might, in the event of my receiving such accounts from Sackett's Harbour of the Enemy's Force at that place as to hold out a rational hope of the success of an attempt upon that important Depôt, be employed on that Service (in conjunction with other Troops) on its way upwards.—It is unnecessary for me to call Your Excellency's attention to an object to which it has doubtless been unremittingly directed and which should it be attained, would in all probability go far towards putting an end to the War, as far as it relates to this Province, by depriving the Enemy of the means of continuing it.

While I am upon the general subject of the means of defence of the Province I beg to recommend that the whole of the Batteaux, should be placed in the charge of the Civil Commissioner of the Dock Yard, who alone has the means of keeping them in repair—I should also recommend that at all other Stations except Kingston the Batteaux should be in charge of the Officers of the Q^r. M^r. General's Department instead of the Commissariat.—Moreover it appears to me that the Construction of the Batteaux particularly such as are intended to be used on the Lake might be very much improved, with respect to size, lightness, safety, facility of rowing & managing &c—I shall desire the Commissioner to construct one on the principle which he recommends and send it down for Your Excellency's inspection.

Feeling it of infinite importance to bring forward as many Troops as possible to this Frontier and fearing it may not be in Your Excellency's Power to spare me any addition to the Regular Regiments in this Province, I propose relieving the 89th Regiment at Prescott, by the five Companies of the Glengarry Light Infantry, and bring up the former Corps to this Point without delay—I should also be glad as soon as circumstances will permit to be enabled to bring the 2^d Batt: of Marines up to Kingston.—

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Excellencys

Most Obedient

Humble Servant

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t. General

[*Note in margin.*] Chippawa Sch: Ariel—do Tripp—
Sp: Little Belt—do.

PS. I reported to Your Excellency that the Indians who advanced with M General Rialls force on the morning of the 19th had committed great excesses (in consequence of intoxication) and had burnt the greatest part of the Houses at and near Lewiston—I have now the honor to state that on withdrawing the Troops from Lewiston yesterday, I thought it adviseable the Inhabitants having in general quitted their Houses, to direct the remainder of them to be set on fire in order to deprive the Enemy of cover for Troops which might be sent for the purpose of destroying the opposite Town of Queenstown—

From every information I have been able to collect the destruction not only of the Town but of the Houses along the whole of the (British) Frontier of Niagara was a measure resolved on and its execution ordered by the American Government—& that nothing but the rapid advance of

the Troops frustrated this atrocious purpose. Indeed the Inhabitants themselves (of the American frontier) universally admitted the justice of the retaliation upon Lewiston and execrated their own Government as the sole cause of their sufferings—

G: D:

Archives, C. 681, p. 297.

From Drummond at St. David's to Prevost at ———.

Head Quarters

St. David's 26th Dec^r. 1813.—

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two Letters of the 17th Dec^r. and immediately on my return to Kingston shall not fail to give the most close consideration to the plan of Commodore Sir James Yeo, for the destruction of the Enemy's Fleet on Lake Erie, and will transmit to you my opinion as to the probability of our being enabled to effect so very important an object.

I am exceedingly glad to find that you propose sending a reinforcement to Mackinac, and request to be informed what proportion of the Provisions will be required from York, that I may take steps to have it forwarded by Younge Street to Lake Simcoe, to be in readiness to proceed on the first moment of the opening of the navigation.

I have found it indispensably necessary to order up half the company of Marine Artillery from Prescott, until you can send me the requisite number of Royal Artillery, to place Fort Niagara in a state of security. I have also ordered the remainder of the Kings Reg^t. from York.

The Troops at present occupy Chippewa and in advance of it, and tomorrow I move my quarters there. With the greatest difficulty I have been able to collect ten boats and a Scow, with which I hope to cross over the Troops tomorrow,

or the following day, according to circumstances, and effect the destruction of the Enemy's Vessels, Public Buildings, Stores &c.

Immediately after the movement on Lewiston the Indian Warriors retired to Burlington, and are collecting but slowly towards Chippewa, but by tomorrow, or the following day, I am in hopes a considerable number will join us.

At Black Rock I am informed there are 300 Men, and at Buffalo a large force of Militia under Command of Brigadier General Hopkins. This Force is stated to be very badly armed. Brigadier General M^cClure with about 200 Regulars, and some Indians is said to be at the 11 mile Creek, to which place a great part of the public Stores have been conveyed, and indeed I understand that all the Inhabitants have moved from Buffalo with their property. The following are the names of some non-combatants, taken away from their homes by General Dearborn who have just returned on Parole*.—

I transmit a copy of that given by the two latter Gentlemen which appears to me to be most unjustifiable, on which subject Your Excellency may wish to have a communication with the American Government.—

I have found it necessary to make the following appointments until Your Excellency's pleasure shall be made known. Viz^t.—M^r. Duff late Barrack Master at Amherstburg, to the same situation at Fort Niagara.

Captain Wilson of the Indian Department, to issue Provisions to the Indian Warriors, with the pay of 7^s/ per day, and one or more Issuers, under the responsibility of the Officer at the head of the Indian Department. A Surgeon in the American Army taken in Fort Niagara is at present employed in attending the sick and wounded of the Enemy. I request to know what steps Your Excellency would wish to be taken respecting him, when his services as a Medical Officer shall be no longer required. It would perhaps be advisable to permit him to return to the United States, as I

am told the Enemy have not considered our Medical Officers who have fallen into their hands, as Prisoners of War.

I transmit the copy of a Letter from Brig^d. General M^cClure, in answer to one which I directed Lieu^t. Colonel Harvey to address to him (a copy of which was forwarded to Your Excellency) for the purpose of ascertaining whether the burning of Newark, was an Act authorised by their Government, or merely that of an Individual.

I have the honor to be

Dear Sir

Your very faithful

Humble Servant

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t. General

[*Note in margin.*]

*Names

Andrew Heron
John Grier
H. Skinner

— M^cFarlane
— Lyons
George Adams }
Abraham Nellis }

NB I have recommended Captain Elliott D^y. Ass^t. Q^r. M^r. General and Captain Foster my Aid de Camp to be appointed by the Right Division of the Army as joint Prize Agents for the Property captured at the Niagara Frontier.

G: D:

Archives, C. 681, p. 310.

D. GENERAL ORDER,

Head Quarters, Chippewa,
28th December 1813

The Troops will hold themselves in readiness to embark on the service for which they have been assembled—The embarkation will take place tomorrow night, under such arrangements as shall be made by Major General Riall, who

will command the whole of the Troops about to pass to the Enemy's shore—

Lieu^t. General Drummond has great satisfaction in reflecting that the Troops to be employed on this occasion are composed of Corps which have always been distinguished for their discipline and gallantry—The Lieu^t. General having personally served in each of them, may be allowed to feel a more than common degree of interest in their success—The service they are going upon is an arduous one, for though the enemy they will have to encounter be undisciplined, and composed almost entirely of Militia, yet he is numerous and highly exasperated—The Troops must therefore depend, wholly not only for their success, but even for their safety, on their bravery and discipline, a relaxation in the latter may be as fatal as even a deficiency in the former quality—The Lieu^t. General most strongly enjoins the Troops *never to throw away their Fire*; when they do give it, let it be with regularity, and consequently with effect—But the Bayonet is the weapon most formidable in the hands of British Soldiers, and he earnestly hopes that on it they will place their principal dependence on the present occasion—

By the successful accomplishment of the present service, the Enemy will be deprived of all means of offering any further annoyance, and the Troops will be suffered to enjoy a well earned repose, during the remainder of the winter—

Any horses taken from the Enemy will immediately be given up to the Artillery officer for the service of the Guns, to be transferred by him to the Commissariat Department for the Benefit of the Captors—

Any Soldier leaving his ranks for the purpose of plunder, is liable to be shot on the spot. The Captured property belongs not to any individual, but to *all*.

Intoxication in the presence of an Enemy, let it be remembered, is not only the most disgraceful, but the most dangerous crime which a soldier can commit—the man who

wilfully disqualifies himself from meeting his Enemy, by whatever means, cannot be considered as a brave man—

(Signed) J. HARVEY

L^t. Colonel. D.A.G.

Archives, C. 681, p. 312.

From Harvey at Chippawa to Riall at —.

Copy/

Head Quarters, Chippewa 29th Decem^r. 1813

Sir,

Finding that the Enemy is assembling a large force at the opposite frontier, the object of which can only be to attempt the recovery of Fort Niagara, or the prosecution of his atrocious system (begun at Niagara) of laying waste a peaceful frontier; Lieut. Gen^l. Drummond has considered it his duty to pass over to the opposite shore the disposable troops, for the purpose of dispersing this force, and destroying the Villages of Buffalo and Black Rock, in order to deprive the Enemy of the cover which these places afford—

The L^t. General desires that you will accordingly take under your command the Troops now assembled on this line, and in conjunction with the whole body of the Indians, proceed to execute the service above mentioned, by crossing the river in the course of this night, so as to be ready to commence the attack on Black Rock at daylight tomorrow morning—You will make such arrangements for crossing and such distribution of the Troops as may appear to you most advisable for the successful performance of the service—The L^t. General recommends that at least two thirds of the whole force should be landed (under your personal direction) below Squa Island; the remaining third to cross either directly to Black Rock on a concerted Signal, or a little *above*

it, so as to turn that position, while attacked in front by the Troops from below—The first troops which cross, should have directions to secure the Bridge over Conjunctaty Creek to prevent the enemy destroying it, and if possible, capture the Picquet stationed there—

In moving upon Buffalo, the centre Road should be avoided ; while the principal body of the Troops gains the road leading to the Eleven mile Creek, and the Right Column moves by the Beach, so as to reach Buffalo, as nearly as possible at the same moment—

If you find that the Enemy has a force in your rear at the Eleven mile Creek, not a moment should be lost in moving in that direction to attack him, as soon as his Troops at Black Rock and Buffalo have been defeated, taken, or dispersed—

The destruction of these places should be deferred to the last moment, in order that the Troops may avail themselves of the shelter, as long as it may be necessary to keep them on the other side—

You will be particularly careful to secure all *Provisions* and Flour, and if possible have them removed to this side—such of the stores as cannot be moved, must be destroyed.

Finally, I am instructed to repeat the Lt. General's earnest request that you will again use your best exertions, and require all under your command to do the same, in restraining the savage propensities of the Indian Warriors, and to give protection to the persons and property of such of the Inhabitants as may remain in their Houses. All liquors should be destroyed, to prevent its falling into the hands of the Indians or Troops—

I have omitted to the last calling your attention to an object of primary importance and which not a moment should be lost in endeavouring to effect, viz. the complete destruction of three of the Enemy's armed Schooners, on shore high and dry on the beach. Two below the Buffalo

Creek, and one just above it—it would be advisable to appoint an intelligent and experienced officer with a party of select militia, expressly for the performance of this important service—

The passage of the Troops across the river and their operations against Black Rock will be covered as possible by the fire of the Field Guns, and it is also proposed to send a light piece or two across, if found practicable.

I have the Honor

&c &c &c

(Signed) J HARVEY

L^t. Col. DAG

Archives, C. 681, p. 319.

From Drummond at Buffalo to Prevost at —.

Buffalo 30th December 1813

Dear Sir,

I have the satisfaction of acquainting Your Excellency that the attack which was made at day light this morning on the Enemy's Troops at Black Rock has been compleatly successful, M General Riall having in the most gallant Style defeated, after a short but severe contest, a Body of upwards of 2000 Men advantageously posted—The Corps employed on this Service were detachments of the Royals, Kings & 41st Reg^{ts}. with the Flank Companies of the 89th & 100th—After having driven the Enemy from Black Rock M Gen^l. Riall immediately pursued him towards Buffalo from whence after a few rounds from his Field Guns, he again rapidly fled towards the 11 Mile Creek—The number of the Enemys killed and wounded was very great—our Loss has been severe—Not having yet received any Official Reports or Returns I can only say generally that the conduct of

the Troops not only in the field but in their patient sufferance of great Privations &^{ca} was above all praise—But the circumstance of carrying on military operations at so inclement a Season of the Year in such a Climate is sufficient proof of the Zeal of the Troops—

I enclose Copy of my Instructions to M General Riall—It will be my endeavour in transmitting the Major-Generals dispatch, to point out to Your Excellency the great merit of the Major General, the Officers and the Troops in the execution of this arduous Service.

Very few Prisoners were made except such as were wounded—a circumstance which marks very clearly the rapidity of the Enemy's flight—About seventy Prisoners in our hands—amongst whom is the famous Dr or L^t Col. *Chapin*, whom in consequence of his former escape I have sent off towards Quebec by an Officer and two Drags—

We have taken *seven* Pieces of Ordnance of different Calibres, destroyed *four* of the Enemy's armed Schooners & Sloops—The Town of Buffalo has been burnt—as will that of Black Rock previous to its evacuation by the Troops—many & valuable Stores have been taken.—

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obed^t
& faithful Humble Serv^t

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t General

[*Note in margin.*] L^t Col: Ogelvie & Cap^t Fawcet 100th Gren^d are the only officers I have heard of as wounded—with about 50 or 60 Men—and perhaps half that number killed—J H.

Archives, C. 682, p. 17.

From Drummond at York to Prevost at —.

York 9th Jan^y 1813 [*sic*].

Dear Sir/

Your Excellencys Letter of the 27th Dec^r met me on the route to this place yesterday evening and I take the opportunity of replying to it, by Lieu^t Colonel Harvey who leaves this immediately for Kingston, with my permission to proceed from thence to Quebec. I shall pay every attention to the several points touched on by Your Excellency respecting the strengthening and retaining possession of Fort Niagara which will be without doubt an object of the highest importance in the prosecution of the War with the United States. With this view Lieu^t Graugeben has been constantly employed, since the Capture of the place in repairing & adding to such parts of the defences, as appeared most immediately to require it. The Picketing from Fort George has been taken up, & made use of, for the above purpose until more adequate means can be provided. I entirely agree with Your Excellency in regard to the necessity of establishing both a Tower at Missisagua Point, to command the entrance of the River, and also a Heavy Battery opposite to that side of the Fort which it is proposed to weaken, I shall therefore have occasion to remove from York the two 24 Pounders to that situation, & intend replacing them by 18 P^{rs} which I hope will be found to answer every purpose. I shall also forward the two Mortars from hence the moment the roads are in a state to admit of their transportation. I have to request, as mentioned in a former letter, that Your Excellency will order up more Guns of heavy Calibre, as they will be essentially requisite at many points. It gives me much satisfaction to learn that Lieu^t Col: Bruyers is coming to this Province & hope to reap every advantage from his Services. An

enclosed Battery with a heavy Gun, on the Heights of Queenstown will be absolutely necessary, & I have ordered a Log Barrack for 200 Men to be constructed in the hollow where the Huts formerly stood. I propose reestablishing the Barracks at Fort Erie. The distribution of the Troops will be as follows. The Kings Reg^t will Garrison Fort Niagara. The 100th Reg^t & Light Company 89th Reg^t will occupy Chippawa, Fort Erie, & the intermediate line, the Royals, Queenstown, Fort George & the 41st Reg^t will be concentrated at York.

I enclose a Copy of Captain Nellis's, Adams's, & Lyons's, Parole, omitted in my letter of the 26 Ulto.

The Receiver General not being able to procure money from the Commissary here, upon the Warrant for £8000 in his hands, I have authorized him to draw upon the Commissary General for that Amount payable at Montreal, which I hope will meet Your Excellency's approbation.

I have the honor to be

Dear Sir,

Your very faithful

Humble Servant

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t General

Archives, C. 682, p. 25.

From Drummond at Kingston to Prevost at —.

Kingston 19th Jan^y. 1814

Dear Sir/

In reference to that part of Your Excellencys letter of the 10th Ins^t on the subject of Your Excellencys intention of issuing a Proclamation declaratory of your desire to forbear from making any further example in retaliation than what has been already inflicted so severely but so justly on the

Niagara Frontier, and desiring me to take all necessary steps for the prevention in future of any violence being committed against private property ; I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that I propose issuing a District Order fully explanatory of Your Instructions on this head, which will I doubt not have the effect required as far as regards the British Troops, and I trust that the American Government will see in a just point of view the humane and liberal intentions of Your Excellency. Such of the Prisoners of War taken on the Niagara Frontier as have been capable of undertaking so long a March, I have directed Major General Riall to forward on their Route to Quebec by suitable divisions. Several have already passed through this place; and others are expected.

I have the honor to be

Dear Sir,

Your Most Obedient &
faithful Servant

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t. General

Archives, C. 682, p. 88.

From Drummond at Kingston to Prevost at ———.

Kingston. February 1st 1814.

Sir/

I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency, that I have received a report, from Major General Riall ; stating, that the Enemy had erected a small Work, at Black Rock ; and opened a fire, with one Gun, from thence, on the 27th Ultimo.

The Major General had endeavoured to dislodge them. by the fire of a 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ Inch Howitzer ; but could not effect it —

The Major General also states, that the communication,

between Fort George, and Fort Niagara, had been stopped, for nearly a week, by the quantity of ice in the river.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's,

Most obedient,

humble Servant,

GORDON DRUMMOND

L^t General

Archives, C. 1171, p. 196.

G.O.

Adjutant General's Office

Quebec, 22nd February 1814

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces apprehensive least the Proclamation issued by His Command on the 12th day of January last, has not been sufficiently promulgated & explained to the Troops, is pleased to direct that the following Extract from it be published in General Order for their guidance.—

“In the further prosecution of a Contest to which so extraordinary a character has been given, His Excellency must be guided by the course of conduct which the Enemy shall hereafter pursue, lamenting as His Excellency does, the necessity imposed upon him of retaliation upon the Subjects of America, the Miseries inflicted upon the Inhabitants of Newark, it is not his intention to pursue further a System of Warfare, so revolting to His own feelings, and so little congenial to the British Character, unless the future measures of the Enemy should compel him again to Resort to it.”—

“To those Possessions of the Enemy along the whole Line of Frontier which have hitherto remained undisturbed,

in which are now within His Excellency's reach, and at the Mercy of the Troops under his Command, His Ex^y has determined to extend the same forbearance, and the same freedom from Rapine & plunder, which they have hitherto experienced, and from this determination the future conduct of the American Government shall alone induce His Excellency to depart.—

(Signed) EDW^d BAYNES
Adj^t Gen^l

END OF VOL. II.

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