



The Documentary History  
Of the  
**Campaigns**  
Upon the  
**Niagara Frontier**  
In 1812-14.

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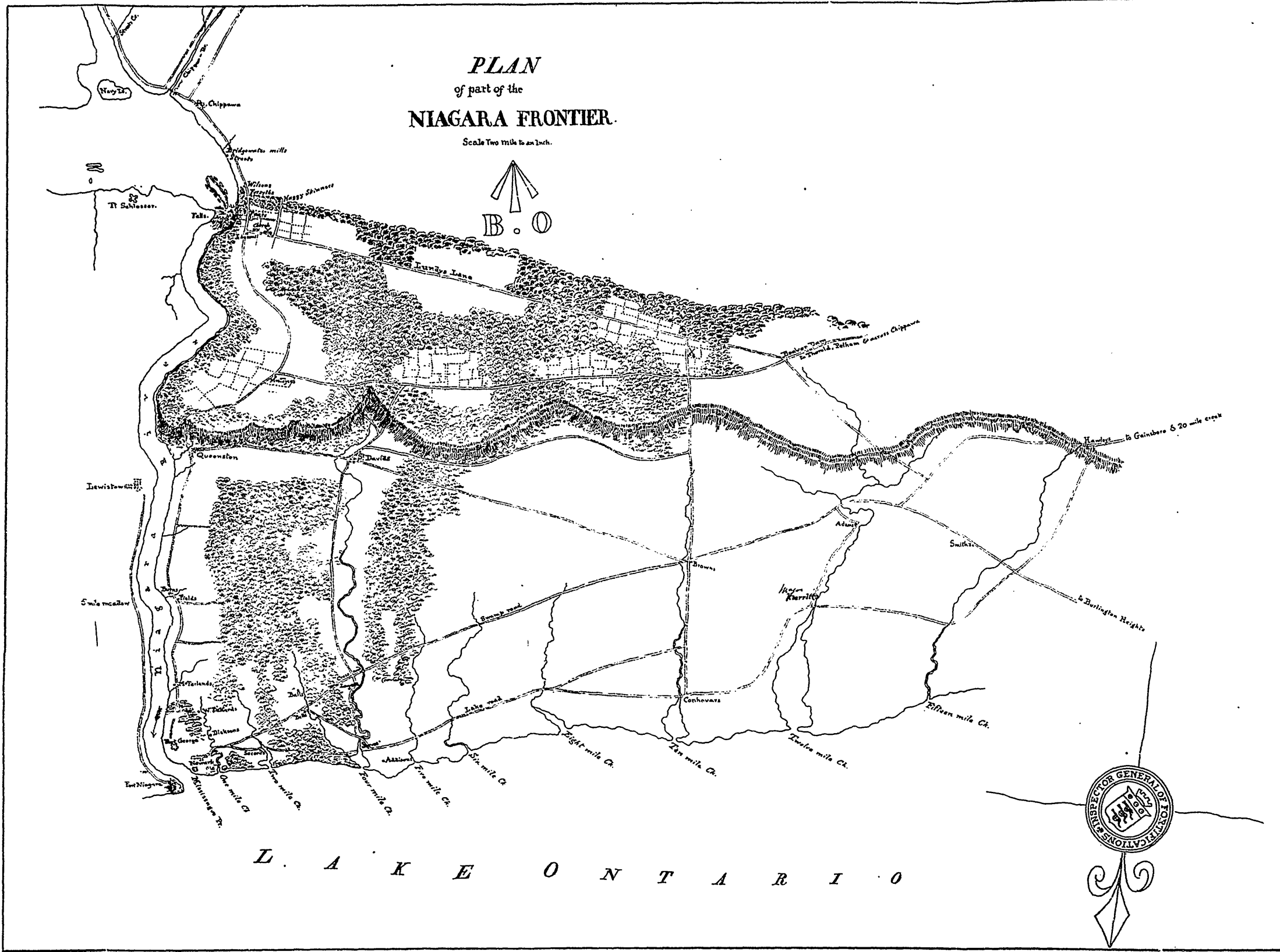
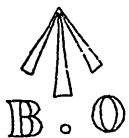
**VOLUME VIII.**

PART IV., 1813  
October to December.

*COLLECTED AND EDITED FOR*  
THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
By LIEUT.-COL. E. CRUIKSHANK, F. R. S. C.

*PLAN*  
of part of the  
**NIAGARA FRONTIER.**

Scale Two miles to an Inch.



L A K E O N T A R I O



THE DOCUMENTARY  
**History of the Campaign**

—UPON THE—

**Niagara Frontier**

**In the Year 1813**

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**PART IV (1813)**

October to December, 1813, with Additional Documents, June to October, 1813

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COLLECTED AND EDITED FOR THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

BY LIEUT.-COL. E. CRUIKSHANK, F. R. S. C.

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# The Documentary History of the Campaign upon the Niagara Frontier.

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## PART IV.

Additional Documents June to October, 1813.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

ERIE, 20th June, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose a copy of an examination of three deserters from the enemy's vessel of war the Queen Charlotte. They deserted with six others, at Canadaway, having landed with a flag of truce to restore some wearing apparel which they had plundered below.

I have great pleasure in stating to you, sir, that one of the sloops of war will be ready for service in a few days, provided one bower anchor (which I hear is on the way) and the shot arrive. The stream anchors having already arrived, I can make out with them and one bower. I shall bend sails day after to-morrow. Great delays have arose from want of iron of a proper size. The anchors and shot have been delayed much beyond the time I expected. I shall be ready to execute your orders the moment a sufficiency of officers and men arrive, with one sloop of war and nine smaller vessels. The other sloop will be ready as soon as the anchors arrive from Pittsburg, which I hope will be in three weeks. I omitted in my last letter of the 19th (written under a severe indisposition) to mention that General Dearborn had placed two hundred troops under my command, to assist in navigating the vessels from Black Rock, and that they are now here on board the vessels, still subject to my order.

The Queen Charlotte and Lady Prevost were at anchor off Canadaway yesterday.

I shall expect your orders, sir, with great anxiety, as I am in hopes to intercept those vessels before their return to Malden. I have to ask the favor of your sending me eleven signal books. The communication from Sackett's Harbor occupies nearly a month, which makes it very difficult to obtain orders from Commodore Chauncey in time to execute them with any advantage.

**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

ERIE, 1st July, 1813.

SIR,—On my return to this place Mr. Hambleton, (purser) showed me an order from you, dated two or three months back, to repair to Lake Champlain. From the delay in this letter's reaching him I am induced most respectfully to ask, sir, that, if it can be done consistent with your arrangements, that he may be allowed to remain on this station. He volunteered and accompanied me from Newport. He has rendered me great assistance in the disbursements of money (there being no agent at this place) and in attending to the transportation of our stores and armament from Waterford, and in fact, sir, without his assistance the service would have suffered much delay, as I have been necessarily obliged to devote my attention particularly to the building and equipping the public vessels.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

ERIE, 2nd July, 1813.

SIR,—Lieutenant Brooks, of the Marine Corps, reported himself to me from Pittsburg by letter, as being ordered to place himself under my command; not until this day did I see his orders from Col. Wharton, which to my surprise I found to be, to ("report yourself to the commanding naval officer as detached for recruiting, and to aid and assist him in forming whatever guards he may require and you able to furnish".) I have informed Lieutenant Brooks I do not consider him under my orders. I shall, however, require the guards as fast as they are recruited, and shall place them on board the sloop of war. I am convinced, sir, it was your intention, from your letter of the 25th of May, that Lieutenant Brooks was to be attached to the vessels under my command. It will give me pleasure to have him sail in the vessel with me, as he is an active marine officer.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

ERIE, 15th July, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 7th and 10th instant. In obedience to your order I enclose a list of all the officers at present under my command. Fortunately, sir, I brought with me every thing belonging to the Navy from Black Rock when I left there with the squadron, except three

12-pounders, which were left in our hurry to get off. We have therefore in the late affair at that place lost nothing but the barracks, —and all the stores (of considerable value,) are now safe deposited here.

I hear nothing of the seamen being on their way to join me. I have, however, sent boats to Buffalo to bring them up the moment they arrive at that place. The vessels are now ready for them. The soldiers who came up with me from Buffalo have been recalled by General Dearborn, and left this place four days since.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

ERIE, 19th July, 1813.

SIR,—I have this moment had the honor of receiving your letters of the 3rd instant. I have only a moment by return of mail to assure you, sir, that your orders shall be complied with immediately as respects the Resolution of Congress. The troops which were placed under my orders, having returned to Buffalo by the express order of General Dearborn, I have not more than 120 officers and men fit for duty at this moment, there being upwards of fifty on the sick list.

The enemy made his appearance this morning, and is now off this harbor, with six vessels, viz.:—the Queen Charlotte, Lady Prevost, Brig Hunter, one schooner and two sloops. As both sloops of war are now ready to go over the bar the moment a sufficiency of men arrive, I shall be able to meet them, and I trust, sir, the issue of a contest will be favorable to your wishes. I have boats at Buffalo to bring the men up. I shall do myself the honor of writing you by next mail.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

U. S. S. LAWRENCE,

ERIE, July 23rd, 1813.

SIR,—Your letter of the 3rd July, via Buffalo, did not reach me until the 19th instant, although I had received one of the 10th some days before. The Queen Charlotte and Lady Prevost on the way up did not wait for the sloop of war to be ready, remaining at that time but one day off the harbor.

In my letter of the 19th I informed you of the enemy's appearance off this harbor that morning. In the evening they disappeared in the direction of Long Point. On the 21st early in the day they were discovered standing this way. The same evening a few shots

were exchanged by their nearest vessels and two of our gunboats, but at too great a distance for execution. I am fully aware, sir, of the importance of capturing or destroying this squadron. Were our seamen now here I think it might be done with great ease, as both sloops are ready to go over the bar, and the shot,—the only thing that could have detained both of them—is now constantly arriving in considerable quantities. I cannot describe to you the mortification of my situation. I have not learned that any seamen have yet left Sackett's Harbor for this place,—as soon as they arrive we shall meet the enemy. He is now off the harbor with six sail.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

ERIE, 27th July, 1813.

SIR,—The enemy is still off this harbor. I have received a letter from General Porter, stating that a number of the enemy's troops had been seen moving up from Fort Erie in the direction of Long Point. From this and several other circumstances we have expected that an attack would be made upon this place. The militia have been called out. I have not the most distant fear of the vessels even should the enemy get possession of the town. Commodore Chauncey has sent me a sailing master, three midshipmen, and sixty-five men. Very few of the men are seamen. I am rejoiced to have them, as bad as they are. We are ready to sail the instant officers and men arrive, and as the enemy appear determined to dispute the passage of the bar with us, the question as to command of the lake will soon be decided.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

U. S. S. LAWRENCE,

ERIE, July 30th, 1813.

SIR,—I enclose a list of officers and men who have joined me since I had the honor to forward the last roll to you. A master's mate, two midshipmen, and fifty-seven men are within twenty miles of this place, and will probably be here this day. I cannot but hope that Commodore Chauncey will send me officers of some experience, as I have not now officers enough *even to navigate* the vessels. I have determined, however, to go over the bar the first opportunity. The enclosed copy of a letter will, sir, convince you of the necessity of my commencing operations, although my vessels are neither officered or manned properly. I have sent a copy of it to Commodore Chauncey by express.



**Enclosure in letter from Perry to Sec. Navy, July 30th, 1813.**

HEAD QUARTERS LOWER SANDUSKY,  
ADJT.-GENERAL'S OFFICE, 23rd July, 1813.

SIR,—The commanding general directs me to inform you that an express arrived last evening from Camp Meigs, with the news of its second investiture by the enemy *en force*.

His appearance before Erie as communicated in your and Capt. Richardson's letters, is considered a most unfortunate occurrence, unless you should find yourself able to fight or elude him. I am ordered to recommend it as the General's opinion that your great object should be to co-operate with the force immediately under him, by sailing up the lake with your fleet as soon as possible. If you can effect this co-operation, the enemy at Camp Meigs must either retreat precipitately, or suffer the ultimate necessity of surrendering. Enclosed herewith is a letter to Col Hill, directing him to afford you every assistance in his power, and to put his regiment on board your vessels should you be able to take it.

I feel great pleasure in conveying to you an assurance of the General's perfect conviction that no exertion will be omitted on your part to give the crisis an issue of profit and glory to the arms of our Country.

By command, with the highest respect,  
A. H. HOLMES, Asst. Adjt. General.

Commodore Perry.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

U. S. S. LAWRENCE,  
ERIE, 8th August, 4 p.m., 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that I have this moment received by express a note from Lieutenant Elliott, dated Cattaragus, (60 miles below here,) informing me that he has eighty-nine men with him for this squadron. I shall immediately dispatch the Ariel for them, and wait their arrival before I sail.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

U. S. Sloop LAWRENCE,  
Off ERIE, 8th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that I have returned from Long Point without having seen the enemy. We are now busily

employed in getting ballast, provisions and procuring volunteers. I propose sailing this evening in pursuit of the enemy.

General Harrison writes me the enemy launched their new ship on the 17th ultimo. If she is equipped they will be considerable superior in force to us. It is much to be regretted that our force could not have been got out before. Nothing but the hope of meeting their fleet before the new ship is ready could induce me to sail at this time, officered and manned as this squadron is.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

U. S. S. LAWRENCE,

OFF ERIE, August 10th, 1813.

SIR,—I am under the disagreeable necessity of requesting a removal from this station. The enclosed copy of a letter from Commodore Chauncey will, I am satisfied, convince you that I cannot serve longer under an officer who has been so totally regardless of my feelings. The men spoken of by Commodore Chauncey were those mentioned in the roll I did myself the honor to send you. They may, sir, be as good as are on the other lake, but if so that squadron must be poorly manned indeed.

In the requisition for men, sent by your order, I made a note saying: "I should consider myself equal or superior with a smaller number of men to the enemy." That requisition, sir, was made nearly two months since; what then might have been considered certain may from lapse of time be deemed problematical. The Commodore insinuates that I have taken measures to obtain a separate command. I beg leave to ask you, sir, if anything in any of my letters to you could be construed into such a meaning? On my return to this place in June last I wrote you the Queen Charlotte and Lady Prevost was off this harbor, and if they remained a few days might possibly be able to intercept their return to Malden. I had no order to act, and the only way of obtaining them in time was to write to you, sir, as the communication between Commodore Chauncey and myself occupied considerably upwards of a month. In my request I meant this as a reason for applying to you on the emergency instead of the Commodore. I have been on this station upwards of five months, and during that time have submitted cheerfully and with pleasure to fatigue and anxiety hitherto to me unknown in the service. I have had a very responsible situation without an officer (except one sailing master) of the least experience. However seriously I have felt my situation not a murmur has escaped me. The critical state of General

Harrison was such that I took upon myself the very great responsibility of going out with the few young officers you had been pleased to send me, with the few seamen I had, and as many volunteers as I could muster from the militia. I did not shrink from this responsibility, but, sir, at that very moment I did not surely anticipate the receipt of a letter in every line of which there is insult. Under all these circumstances I beg most *respectfully* and *most earnestly* that I may be immediately removed from this station. I am willing to forego that reward which I have considered for two months past almost within my grasp. If, sir, I have rendered my country any service in the equipment of this squadron I beg it may be considered an inducement to grant my request. I shall proceed with the squadron, and whatever is in my power shall be done to promote the honor and interest of the service. When I volunteered to join Commodore Chauncey I left a respectable command at Newport. If, sir, I could be ordered to that place until more active service could be found for me it would add very much to the obligation. If this is impossible I beg I may be indulged with a short furlough, the situation of my family requiring my presence.

Very respectfully, I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

O. H. PERRY.

I enclose you, sir, a copy of the letter which Commodore Chauncey takes exception at.

O. H. P.

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**Letter from Chauncey to Perry enclosed in Perry's letter to Sec. of Navy, August 10th, 1813.**

U S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,

AT ANCHOR OFF BURLINGTON BAY, 13th July, 1813.

SIR,—I have been duly honored with your letters of the 23rd and 26th ult and notice your anxiety for men and officers. I am equally anxious to furnish you, and no time shall be lost in sending officers and men to you, as soon as the public service will allow me to send them from this lake.

I regret that you are not pleased with the men sent you by Messrs. Champlin and Forrest, for to my knowledge a part of them are not surpassed by any seamen we have in the fleet, and I have yet to learn that the colour of the skin, or cut and trimming of the coat can affect a man's qualifications or usefulness and I have nearly 50 blacks on board of this ship and many of them are among my best men, and those people you call soldiers have been to sea from 2 to 17

years, and I presume you will find them as good and useful as any men on board your vessel, at least if I can judge by comparison, for those that we have on board of this ship are attentive and obedient, and, as far as I can judge, many of them excellent seamen. At any rate, the men sent to Lake Erie have been selected with a view of sending a fair proportion of petty officers and seamen, and I presume upon an examination that it will be found that they are equal to those on this lake.

I have received several letters from the Secretary of the Navy urging the necessity of the naval force upon Lake Erie acting immediately. You will therefore, as soon as you receive a sufficient number of men, commence your operations against the enemy, and as soon as possible co-operate with the army under General Harrison.

As you assured the Secretary that you should conceive yourself *equal or superior* to the enemy with a force in men so much less than I had deemed necessary, there will be a great deal expected from you by your country, and I trust that they will not be disappointed in the high expectations formed of your gallantry and judgment. I will make an observation which was impressed upon my mind by an old soldier, that is,—“Never despise your enemy.”

I was mortified to see by your letters to the Secretary (extracts and copies of which have been forwarded to me) that you complain that the distance was so great between Sacketts Harbor and Erie, that you could not get instructions from me in time to execute with any advantage to the service, thereby intimating the necessity of a *separate command*. Would it not have been as well to have made the complaint to me instead of the Secretary.

My confidence in your zeal and abilities is undiminished, and I sincerely hope that your success may equal your utmost wishes.

I shall dispatch to you some officers and seamen and further instructions upon my return to Niagara, where I hope to be the day after to-morrow.

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**Letter from Sec. Navy to Perry, August 18, 1813.**

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

August 18, 1813.

O. H. PERRY, ESQ.,

Comdg. U. S. Naval Forces,

Lake Erie.

SIR,—I have received your letter of the 10th and 11th with much anxiety, as they indicate a state of things unfriendly to har-

mony and reciprocal confidence between the Commander-in-chief and yourself, which was the less to have been expected as he selected you for the command of the Erie Squadron and has never ceased to speak of you in terms of the highest approbation and confidence.

Sensible as I am of your love of country, high sense of honor, and zealous devotion to the service, I cannot but believe that reflection will allay the feelings of discontent which you have expressed. The indulgence of such feelings must terminate in the most serious injury to the service, and probably ruin to yourself. Avoid recrimination; persevere in the zealous and honorable path of duty which you have hitherto pursued with so much credit to yourself and utility to your country, and the result, I have no doubt, will enhance the fame of both. A change of commander, under existing circumstances, is equally inadmissible as it respects the interest of the service and your own reputation. It is right that you should reap the harvest which you have sown. The season is short and when active operations have ceased, if you continue to desire a transfer to some other station you shall be indulged.

It is the duty of an officer (and in none does his character shine more conspicuous), to sacrifice all personal motives and feelings when in collision with the public good. This sacrifice you are called upon to make, and I calculate with confidence upon your efforts to restore and preserve harmony, and to concentrate the vigorous exertions of all in carrying into effect the great object of your enterprise.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

U. S. S. LAWRENCE,

AT ANCHOR OFF ERIE, 11th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that Lieutenant Elliott has joined me with nearly one hundred officers and men. I shall sail this evening if the weather will admit with all the vessels except the *Amelia*.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

U. S. S. LAWRENCE,

OFF SANDUSKY, 21st August, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you I sailed from Erie on the 12th instant; arrived off this place on the 16th, and immediately took steps of communicating with General Harrison. On the 19th I

had the pleasure of receiving him on board. He is not yet ready to advance. I shall therefore sail for Malden immediately and offer the enemy battle.

I chased on the 17th with the squadron one of the small vessels of war of the enemy. She escaped by night coming on and running among the small islands when we were nearly up with her.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

U. S. BRIG LAWRENCE,

OFF SANDUSKY BAY, Sept. 2, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that I anchored this afternoon with the squadron at this place for the purpose of communicating with General Harrison.

Since I last did myself the honor of writing you I have been twice off Malden. First on the 24th and 25th of last month and again yesterday.

Owing to a severe indisposition which confined me to my berth I was under the necessity of anchoring the squadron off Bass Island, a situation which commanded the principal passage. The moment I was able to be on deck I again sailed for Malden, and was yesterday all day off that place—close in. Their new ship is rigged, has top gallant yards athwart, and is anchored at the mouth of the harbor under the guns of a battery, together with their other vessels, viz., the Queen Charlotte, Hunter, Lady Prevost, a sloop and schooner. Three other vessels are lying at the navy wharf.

The crews of the different vessels have suffered much from a complaint occasioned, it is supposed, by the water. Many are still sick.

It is said by some deserters who have arrived at Camp Meigs from Malden that the small vessel chased by the squadron run ashore in her attempt to escape and was lost.

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**Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.**

U. S. BRIG LAWRENCE,

OFF SANDUSKY BAY, Sept. 2nd, 1813.

SIR.—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo, and am sorry to observe that my conduct in several particulars is disapproved by the Department. No doubt I have fallen into many errors, but I beg leave to assure you that I have used my best exertions to forward your views in the equipment of the

vessels on this lake with the least possible expense and delay. If I have failed I hope the failure will be attributed to anything but a want of zeal for the service, and a proper attention to the important interests committed to my care.

On ascertaining that pig iron could not be had, and being informed by Mr. Ormsby that lead would at any time command cost at Erie I did not hesitate to order it, the runs in the brigs being so low as not to admit a sufficient quantity of stone ballast.

The expenditures on this station have no doubt amounted to a large sum, but I am well convinced when critically examined will be found to have been necessary. I have not authorized the purchase of a single article but what I have deemed absolutely necessary, and I have paid the strictest attention to economy in every particular.

I was aware at the time I appointed Mr. Magrath that it was irregular; but I was fully convinced that it was the best arrangement I could make. I knew him to be an experienced sea officer, and that his appointment at that time did not interfere with the wishes of the other officers. Mr. Packet (then Acting Lieutenant) by his own application had command of the Ariel, Yarnall (made Acting Lieutenant by myself) was 2nd officer of this vessel. Neither of them would have preferred the command of the Caledonia to the situation he held.

I am sorry that my application for experienced officers should have been considered unreasonable. Mr. Yarnall and Mr. Packet are certainly very fine young men and will make valuable officers; but two sloops of war and nine other vessels required a much greater number of officers than I had, and, as I conceived, of more experience. If I have been too urgent in this instance I hope the ardent desire I had to have under my command a force adequate to the object in view will serve as my apology.

Heretofore I have considered myself fortunate in having but little said in the public prints respecting my force. So far from giving currency to the opinion that is said to prevail, I have endeavored as much as possible to conceal my weakness;—but in a village like Erie it must at all times be impossible to conceal the number or nature of such a force; but particularly when there were several thousand militia in the place, all eager to know the exact state of affairs and so eager to communicate to their correspondents the result of their enquiries.

The commanders of the vessels were personally known to the inhabitants, and it was easy for any printer to procure a list for publication without applying to me or any officer under my command. The list published was without my knowledge,—nor will it be thought strange that General Harrison should have had a tolerably correct

idea of the nature of the force at Erie when it is known that one of his officers was stationed there for several weeks before the squadron sailed. I have the honor to enclose you extracts of my letters to him, which relate in any way to the subject, which I hope will not be thought improper when our relative situation is considered.

I have this day placed Lieutenant Turner (1st of this vessel) in command of the Caledonia.

(ENCLOSURES.)

Extract of a letter to Major Hukill, Assistant Inspector General of the N. W. Army, in answer to one written by him, by General Harrison's order to me, communicating the intelligence of General Procter's intention to attack Fort Meigs.

"I regret that the force under my command is not yet ready for service; but few seamen having as yet arrived. I am unable to man those vessels that are fitted. As soon as the Government forward men I shall sail to execute such orders as they or Commodore Chauncey may think proper to give me."

Dated June 29th, 1813.

Extract of a letter to General Harrison, dated July 19th, 1813, informing him of the enemy being off Erie.

"As yet I hear nothing of the seamen destined for us."

Extract of a letter to General Harrison in answer to one from him giving me the information that Fort Meigs was absolutely besieged.

"Have inexpressible mortification in stating to you that I am not yet able to go out, owing to a sufficient number of officers and men not having yet arrived."

Extract of a letter to General Harrison dated 5th August, 1813.

"The squadron is not much more than half manned, but as I see no prospect of receiving reinforcements I have determined, &c."

O. H. PERRY.

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Kingston Gazette.

Wednesday, July 7. 1813.

A daring and well planned enterprise under the command of Commodore Sir James Yeo, for surprising the American squadron under their batteries at Sackett's Harbor, was undertaken on Wednesday last (June 30) but given up in consequence of discovering that a desertion had taken place from the party to the enemy.



Our brave tars, with a small detachment of the Royal Scots and 100th Regiment lay concealed in the woods within ten miles of the enemy's squadron the whole of Thursday, and the attack was to have taken place on that night.

While the party was retiring the next morning, Commodore Chauncey with his whole squadron got under weigh and stood out of Sackett's Harbor, but our brave fellows, notwithstanding they had a distance of near forty miles to row, effected their return to Kingston without difficulty or loss.

(File in Bureau of Archives, To to.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

(No. 62)

U. S. Ship MADISON,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 15 July, 1813.

SIR:—Forty-five men arrived here last evening from New York. I shall despatch the Lady of the Lake and Pert to-morrow for Niagara, with 120 men, with orders to push on as fast as possible to Erie to join Captain Perry. I shall send another draft in a few days. It will not be advisable to crowd them upon each other, as it will be very difficult to procure conveyances for the men. I hope, however, that part of them may be able to get boats at least for their baggage.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

(No. 63)

U. S. GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 17th July, 1813.

SIR,—I was honored by the last mail with your letters of the 30th ultimo and 3rd instant, No. 25.

I had anticipated your wishes by ordering two detachments of 130 men for Erie, although they did not leave here before this day, owing to a heavy and continued gale from the westward. I shall send off another detachment on Tuesday next, which I shall order to hurry on with all possible expedition.

I feel, sir, the full weight of the responsibility of my situation, and am urged to my best exertions for the accomplishment of the orders of the Navy Department, not only from a sense of duty, but in gratitude from the unlimited confidence placed in me. I only regret that I have not more talents to execute the various and important duties of my command.

In my communication to the Department of the 4th of June,

when I said that "the Squadron was perfectly appointed, but that I had not a man for the General Pike," I did not mean to be understood to the full extent of the expression, but that the number which could be transferred to her would be exceedingly small. This I trust will appear plain to you when I state that the surplus men on board of the Madison and some of the schooners, as appearing on the face of my exhibit of the 15th June, were by far the greater part of them considered as supernumeraries, and consisted of armors, blacksmiths, coopers, blockmakers, carpenters, men belonging to Navy Point, &c., &c. All these people are borne upon the books of some of the vessels, although they do but little duty on board of such vessel—this change in the service being forced upon us by the obstacles we meet in this new country, which compels us to many expedients not necessary to adopt in an Atlantic port, and the services of these men, though of little use on board of the vessels, are yet indispensable to the squadron in keeping it in a state of constant preparation. From these surplus men should also be deducted the sick, which has varied from 10 to 20 per cent., and has oftener been the latter than the former. The General Pike at this moment has more than one-fourth of her men upon the sick list. This explanation will be sufficient I trust to show that the information that I had the honor to give you in my letter of the 4th of June was sufficiently correct for the purpose for which it was intended.

When you, sir, considered that I had a sufficient number of men to man the whole squadron, including the General Pike, I presume that you did not advert to the armament of that ship, which is the same with that of the President's gun-deck, and to be as well manned would require the same number of officers and men, exclusive of those stationed at the carronades upon the upper deck.

With respect to the number of men, guns, caliber and grade of officers on board of the enemy's ships, my information was derived from persons who pretended to know, and it has since been corroborated in all essential particulars by deserters from the Wolfe and Royal George. The reason assigned for having so many men was for the purpose of boarding. I have no means of testing the accuracy of the information which I receive from time to time, but deemed it my duty to communicate it to the Department.

The *title* of Commodore Yeo and the *grade* of his officers carry with them neither *charms* nor *fears*. My mentioning them at all was to show that the enemy considered the command of Lake Ontario as of sufficient importance to employ officers of experience in contending for it. I have every confidence in the officers which I have the honor to command, and am persuaded that whenever they come in contact with the enemy they will do their duty.

In regard to Captain Perry, I have the most unlimited confidence in his skill, judgment, and courage,—but I think it a little strange that he should complain of the want of orders from me, when only about three weeks had elapsed from the time that he had a personal conference with me to the date of his letter. At that period I had assured him most unequivocally that I would send him officers and men the moment they could be spared with safety from this Lake, and that if I was not able to join him myself, I would send *him orders to act without me*.

The General Pike mounts 26 long 24 pdrs. upon her gun deck and 2 long 24 pounders upon circles upon her fore-castle poop; consequently will fight 16 guns on a side.

I have the honor of herewith enclosing a copy of my instructions to Captain Perry, and I shall send him by the officer having charge of the next draft of men a copy of that part of your instructions to me relating to Lake Erie. I hope that Captain Perry's anxiety to be engaged with the enemy will not lead him to risk an action without being properly prepared, particularly when by waiting a few days he might be so well prepared as to place the result of a contest beyond a doubt.

The General Pike mounts 26 long 24-pounders upon her gun-deck, and two long 24-pounders upon circles upon her fore-castle poop; consequently will fight 16 guns on a side.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy**

No. 64

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 18th July, 1813.

SIR,—I was this day honored with your letter of the 8th instant, by the military express from Utica.

I regret to find by your letter that I have misconceived my powers of convening a court-martial. I have been led into this error by the opinions of professional gentlemen, particularly that of Mr. Tazewell, of Norfolk, whose written opinion I have at great length upon the subject. The Honorable Mr. Hamilton also permitted the practice, I was not conscious of exceeding my authority, which I conceived delegated by the Department to prevent long confinements. I shall, however, in future govern myself by your opinion and never convene a court-martial without special authority from the Department.

In consequence of the repeated and urgent request of Lieutenant Drury to be brought to trial before the fleet sailed, I regret that I

ordered a court for his trial before your authority reached me, and as the proceedings of that court will close to-morrow, I shall forward them to the Department immediately. You will of course determine, sir, whether the informality of the warrant will affect the legality of the proceedings.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy**

No. 65

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 19th July, 1813.

SIR,—The heavy rains which have prevailed for the last three weeks have retarded our operations considerably. I am, however, now happy to have it in my power to say to you that I shall proceed from this place to-morrow with the whole squadron, except the York (late the Duke of Gloucester), the Pert, and Lady of the Lake; the two latter are at Niagara, with men for Erie. I shall proceed off Kingston, to allow the enemy an opportunity to give battle if he thinks proper, but which I think he will decline until his new brig is ready. If he should decline coming out I shall proceed up the Lake, communicate with General Dearborn, show myself off York, and return down the Lake to my station off Kingston, from which I will write more fully.

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**(Commodore Chauncey to Captain Perry.)**

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE, 14th July, 1813.

DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of several favors from you, both from Buffalo and Erie, but my anxiety in fitting the General Pike has been such, together with my other engagements, that I have not been able to notice them all, or even to write you as often as I could have wished; but knowing your zeal for the service, I knew that you would do all that could be done with the means that you possessed. I regret that it has not been in my power to send you men before this time, but in consequence of having many of my men sick, the enemy being out, and in hopes of having got the General Pike out to have met him before this time, I thought that it would have been imprudent to have weakened my force here until I got reinforcements, which have now arrived. I shall dispatch two vessels, with about 120 men, tomorrow or the next day, for you by the way of Niagara. The Lady of the Lake is now at Kingston as a flag; upon her return I shall know whether the enemy is out or not. If he should be in port, perhaps I may venture to send a third vessel

with a few more men. I shall be ready with the whole squadron by the 20th,—perhaps before, and I shall seek a meeting with Sir James Yeo as soon as possible, in order to decide the fate of this Lake, and join you immediately after. But as the season is far advanced, and I may be detained upon this lake much longer than I expect, you are at liberty whenever in your opinion you have a sufficient number of men to commence your operations against your enemy. The first object will be to destroy or cripple his fleet, but in all attempts upon the fleet you ought to use great caution, particularly if you are not well manned; for the loss of a single vessel may decide the fate of the campaign. If you should be successful against his fleet, you will proceed to the upper part of the Lake and communicate with Major-General Harrison or the commanding officer of the N. Western Army, and co-operate with him against Detroit or Malden, or any other post of the enemy. I trust in God that I shall be able to join you before you are able to accomplish half this business, but if I should be so unfortunate as not to join you in time and you should succeed against Malden and Detroit, you will proceed into Lake Huron and attack the post at French River, and destroy the establishment. You will then proceed to Machili-Mackinac and carry that post, which ought to be garrisoned and kept. I think you will say that I have *cut out* business enough for you for the summer; and think so too. I shall therefore leave the rest to your discretion, which I have every confidence in.

As soon as Sir James and myself have had a meeting I shall join you with an overwhelming force, which I hope will be in my power by the middle of August. In the mean time you must obtain all the men you can, either by entering or volunteers.

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• Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

No. 66

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 21st July, 1813.

SIR,—Yesterday I received information that two boats from this place, fitted as privateers, had succeeded in surprising and capturing 1 gunboat and fifteen batteaux with stores on their way up the St. Lawrence.

I immediately dispatched the Governor Tompkins, Conquest, and Fair American to cruise between Grenadier Island and the mouth of the river, in order to afford the privateers and their prizes protection to this harbor. This morning I directed Captain Crane in the Madison, to weigh and proceed with the remaining parts of the

squadron off Grenadier Island, and cruise between that island and the Ducks until I joined him, keeping up a communication by signal with the General Pike.

I shall leave here this evening or tomorrow morning. I have been detained thus long for the purpose of fitting my guns completely.

We still continue to be very sickly. Captain Sinclair and every lieutenant of this ship but one are sick, and we have 60 of the crew upon the sick list. I hope, however, that when we get upon the open lake the sick list will be very much diminished,

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 67

U. S. MADISON,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 21st July, 1813.

SIR,—Dr. Ray arrived here on the 9th instant, and Dr. Barton on the 19th. The former has been seriously indisposed ever since he arrived; so much so that in consequence of the enclosed certificate, I have been induced to give him a furlough, with orders to report himself to the Department. Dr. Barton I shall order immediately to report himself to Captain Perry at Erie.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 71

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th August, 1813.

SIR,—I arrived here this day with this ship, Madison, Oneida, Governor Tompkins, Conquest, Ontario, Pert, and Lady of the Lake. The Fair American and Asp I left at Niagara. Since I had the honor of addressing you last, I have been much distressed and mortified; distressed at the loss of a part of the force entrusted to my command, and mortified at not being able to bring the enemy to action. The following movements and transactions of the squadron since the 6th instant will give you the best idea of the difficulties and mortifications that I have had to encounter.

On the 6th instant, I had a conference with Generals Boyd and Williams, and it was determined to attack the enemy immediately; and to ensure the capture or destruction of his whole army I was to take on board of the fleet the next day fifteen hundred men, under the command of General Williams, and land them at Burlington Bay, and after carrying the enemy's position at that place, General Williams was to march upon the road for Fort George, in order to

attack the enemy in the rear,—while General Boyd made a simultaneous movement and attacked him in front. By these arrangements (the fleet acting in concert) the enemy would have been completely cut off, and his whole army must have surrendered in the course of a few days. On the 7th at daylight, the enemy's fleet, consisting of two ships, two brigs, and two large schooners, were discovered bearing W.N.W., distant about five or six miles, wind at west. At 5 weighed with the fleet, and manœvered to gain the winds. At 9 having passed to leeward of the enemy's line and abreast of his van (the Wolf) hoisted our colors and fired a few guns to ascertain whether we could reach him with our shot. Finding they fell short I wore and hauled upon a wind on the starboard tack, the rear of our schooners then about 6 miles astern. The enemy wore in succession, and hauled upon a wind on the same tack, but soon finding that we should be able to weather him upon the next tack, he tacked and made all sail to the northward. As soon as our rear vessels could fetch his wake, tacked and made all sail in chase. In the afternoon the wind became very light, and towards night quite calm. The schooners used their sweeps all the afternoon in order to close with the enemy, but without success. Late in the afternoon I made a signal of recall and formed in close order. Wind during the night from the westward, and after midnight squally. Kept all hands at quarters, and beat to windward, in hopes to gain the wind of the enemy. At 2 a.m. missed two of our schooners. At daylight discovered the missing schooners to be the Hamilton and Scourge. Soon after spoke the Governor Tompkins, who informed me that the Hamilton and Scourge both over-set and sunk in a heavy squall about 2 o'clock, and distressing to relate every soul perished except 16. This fatal accident deprived me at once of the services of two valuable officers, (Lieutenant Winter and Sailing Master Osgood) and two of my best schooners, mounting together 19 guns. This accident, giving to the enemy decidedly the superiority, I thought he would take advantage of it, particularly as by a change of wind he was again brought dead to windward of me; formed the line upon the larboard tack and hove to. Soon after 6 a.m. the enemy bore up and set studding-sails, apparently with an intention to bring us to action. When he had approached us within about four miles he brought to on starboard tack. I wore and brought to on same tack. Finding that the enemy had no intention of bringing us to action, I edged away to gain the land, in order to have the advantage of the land breeze in the afternoon. It soon after fell calm. I directed the schooners to sweep up, and engage the enemy. About noon we got a light breeze from the eastward. I took the Oneida in tow (as she sails badly), and stood for the enemy. When the van of our

schooners was within about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 miles of his rear, the wind shifted to the westward, which again brought him to windward. As soon as the breeze struck him he bore up for the schooners, in order to cut them off before they could rejoin me, but with their sweeps and the breeze soon reaching them also, they were soon in their station. The enemy finding himself foiled in his attempt upon the schooners, hauled his wind and hove to. It soon after became very squally, and the appearance of its continuing so during the night, and as we had been at quarters for nearly forty hours, and being apprehensive of separating from some of the heavy sailing schooners in the squalls, induced me to run in towards Niagara and anchor outside the bar. General Boyd very handsomely offered any assistance in men that I might require. I received 150 soldiers and distributed them in the different vessels to assist in boarding or repelling boarding as circumstances might require. Blew very heavy in squalls during the night. Soon after daylight discovered the enemy's fleet bearing north. Weighed and stood after him. The winds soon became light and variable, and before 12 o'clock quite calm. At 5 fresh breezes from north, the enemy's fleet bearing north, distant about 4 or 5 leagues; wore the fleet in succession and hauled upon a wind on the larboard tack. At sundown the enemy bore N.W. by N. on the starboard tack. The wind hauling to the westward I stood to the northward all night, in order to gain the north shore; at daylight tacked to the westward, the wind having changed to N.N.W.; soon after discovered the enemy's fleet bearing S.W. I took the Asp and the Madison, the Fair American in tow and made all sail in chase. It was at this time that we thought of realizing what we had been so long toiling for,—but before 12 o'clock the wind changed to W.S.W., which brought the enemy to windward, tacked to the northward. At 3 the wind inclining to the northward, wore to the southward and westward, and made the signal for the fleet to make all sail. At 4 the enemy bore S.S.W.; bore up and steered for him. At 5 observed the enemy becalmed under the land, nearing him very fast with a fine breeze from N. N.W. At 6 formed the order of battle within about 4 miles of the enemy. The wind at this time very light. At 7 the wind changed to S.W., and a fresh breeze which again placed the enemy to windward of me. Tacked and hauled upon a wind on the larboard tack under easy sail, the enemy standing after us. At 9 when within about 2 gun-shot of our ear, he wore to the southward. I stood on to the northward under easy sail. The fleet formed in two lines, a part of the schooners forming the weather line, with orders to commence the fire upon the enemy as soon as their shot would take effect, and as the enemy neared them to edge down upon the line to leeward and pass through the intervals and form to leeward. At



about half past 10 the enemy tacked and stood after us; at 11 the rear of our line opened his fire upon the enemy: in about 15 minutes the fire became general from the weather line, which was returned from the enemy; at half past 11; the weather line bore up and passed to the leeward, except the Growler and Julia, which soon after tacked to the southward and brought the enemy between them and me. Filled the maintopsail and edged away two points to lead the enemy down, not only to engage him to more advantage, but to lead him from the Growler and Julia. He, however, kept his wind until he completely separated those two vessels from the rest of the squadron. Exchanged a few shot with this ship as he passed, without injury to us, and made sail after our two schooners; tacked and stood after him; at 12 (midnight) finding that I must either separate from the rest of the squadron or relinquish the hope of saving the two which had separated I reluctantly gave up the pursuit, rejoined the squadron then to leeward and formed the line on the starboard tack. The firing was continued between our two schooners and the enemy's fleet until about 1 a.m., when I presume they were obliged to surrender to a force much their superior. Saw nothing more of the enemy that night. Soon after daylight discovered them close with the north shore, with one of our schooners in tow; the other not to be seen,—presume she may have been sunk,—the enemy showing no disposition to come down upon us, although to windward and blowing heavy from west. The schooners laboring very much I ordered two of the dullest to run into Niagara and anchor, the gale increasing very much, and as I could not go into Niagara with this ship I determined to run for Genesee Bay as a shelter for the small vessels and with the expectation of being able to obtain provisions for the squadron, as we were all nearly out, the Madison and Oneida not a single day's on board. When we arrived opposite Genesee Bay I found there was every prospect of the gale's continuing, and if it did I could run to this place and provision the whole squadron with more certainty and nearly the same time, than I could at Genesee, admitting that I could obtain provisions at that place. After bringing the breeze as far as Oswego, the wind became light, inclining to a calm, which has prolonged our passage to this day. I shall provision the squadron for five weeks, and proceed up the Lake this evening, and when I return again I hope to be able to communicate more agreeable news than this communication contains.

The loss of the Growler and Julia in the manner in which they have been lost is mortifying in the extreme, and although their commanders disobeyed my positive orders I am willing to believe that it arose from an error of judgment and an excess of zeal to do more than was required of them, thinking probably that the enemy

intended to bring us to a general action, they thought by gaining the wind of him they would have it more in their power to annoy and injure him than they could by forming to leeward of our line. From what I have been able to discover of the movements of the enemy he has no intention of engaging us except he can get decidedly the advantage of wind and weather, and as his vessels in squadron sail better than our squadron, he can always avoid an action unless I can gain the wind and have sufficient daylight to bring him to action before dark. His object is evidently to harrass us by night attacks, by which means he thinks to cut off our small dull-sailing schooners; in detail fortune has evidently favored him thus far; I hope that it will be my turn next, and although inferior in point of force, I feel very confident of success.

I enclose herewith a plan of the order of battle on the night of the 9th inst. I.C.

*(This despatch was printed in an imperfect form in Volume VII p.p. 14-18—Editor.)*

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 72

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, August 13, 1813.

SIR,—On my way down the Lake I fell in with the Lady of the Lake on her return from Sackett's Harbor, where I had sent her on the 6th instant, for the purpose of taking up 50 marines. I have brought her back with me to this place. The loss of 4 schooners has reduced our number of men so much that I shall now detain the marines, in order to man the new schooner, which will be launched on the 18th instant. Captain Perry can supply their place from the Army, and I understand that Lieutenant Brooks has nearly fifty recruited at Erie.

Captain Wainwright arrived at this place on the 1st instant, with        men, of which        are reported fit for duty.

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**Kingston Gazette.**

TUESDAY, August 17, 1813.

*(For the Kingston Gazette.)*

MR. EDITOR,—By some late papers received from the United States it appears that some of our ships of war were proceeding up the Potomac, and that our neighbours began to be alarmed for their

famous city of Washington. What an outcry would be raised against us by the Americans should our troops take possession of their Metropolis and give to the flames the vaunted capitol in which their national legislature hold its sittings. We should be abused as worse than Gothes or vandals and insulted by every epithet that implies whatever is barbarous or hostile to civilization. Yet such proceedings on the part of Admiral Warren might well be justified as a measure of retaliation for their conduct of the Americans in their invasion of the capital of Upper Canada. They it is true entered into a formal stipulation not only that private property should be respected but that papers belonging to the civil departments of the Government should not be removed or destroyed. Yet the first object they selected for depredation was the Printing Office. They broke and otherwise destroyed the press, carried off or rendered useless the types and burned a large number of copies of the Provincial Statutes that had been recently printed for general distribution. They then pillaged the Public Subscription Library kept at the Elmsley House, carried away a great part of the books and did great injury to the house itself. And to crown all before they embarked, they set fire to the two houses erected for the accommodation of our Provincial Legislature and Courts of Justice which though they were not such splendid pieces of Architecture as the Capitol at Washington were neat and substantial buildings and had been erected and fitted up at an expense of several thousand pounds. These with the offices containing all the journals a large collection of books and other appendages connected with such an establishment were all consumed by the flames, and the bare walls alone remain, a monument of the Gothic ferocity and worse than Punic faith of our enemies.

Of these exploits no notice has been taken in the States. They are not alluded to in the despatches of General Dearborn or Commodore Chauncey, though the latter in order perhaps to vindicate what he is yet ashamed to avow, condescends to state in his despatch that "in the House of Assembly a scalp had been found appended to the mace," a most palpable falsehood, calculated for the prejudices of the most violent and ignorant only and which it is impossible that he or any other man of common sense could believe.

That they should have been silent on a subject so little to their honor is not surprising but it is a matter of astonishment that while the utmost pains are taken by the enemy on all occasions to misrepresent the conduct of our troops and to magnify the smallest irregularities into acts of atrocity we should have passed over without remarks, behaviour so disgraceful in itself and made still more so by being a deliberate breach of a formal stipulation which had received the signature both of the American General and Commodore.

FALKLAND.

## Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

No. 73.

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 19 August, 1813.

SIR,—I am sorry that I am obliged to address you so soon from this place.

After I had provisioned the squadron for five weeks, I sailed on the 13th, only remaining here twelve hours, but the winds being light I did not arrive in the vicinity of Niagara before the 16th. On that day in the afternoon we discovered the enemy's squadron (eight in number) to the westward of us; the wind light from the eastward run down for them until sundown, at which time the wind changed to the westward, distant from the enemy about 4 or 5 miles. Wore to the southward in order to gain the south shore, to take advantage of the land breeze. Continued under easy sail all night, the wind increasing to a gale. At daylight saw nothing of the enemy; the small vessels laboring very much, and being unwilling to run back to this end of the Lake, I determined to run for and anchor in Genesee Bay until the weather moderated. Bore accordingly, and at 11 a.m. anchored, the wind blowing very heavy from S.W. The gale continued to increase and the wind veered to west, and from that to W.N.W., which gave a very heavy sea and made our situation dangerous and critical. At about 2 p.m. the Madison and Ontario struck adrift; finding they were drifting upon a lee shore, I made the signal at half past 4 for the fleet to weigh and gain a position clear of the land. Most of the vessels either parted a cable or broke an anchor. In heaving up at 5 the Conquest made the signal of having sprung a leak; at 7 the ships under courses and the schooners under reefed top sails, and laboring very much, bore up and steered N.E. At daylight more moderate, but a heavy sea. Discovered the enemy at anchor under the lee of the False Ducks; brought to, and sent top gallant yards up, examined and reloaded the guns. The wind having changed to N.N.W. brought the enemy to windward, wore to the west, and made sail in order to gain the wind. At 10 the enemy finding that we should weather him, he tacked and run under the lee of the False Ducks and anchored. At meridian we wore to the northward, but not seeing the enemy, presume that he had run into Kingston. At 4 wore to the westward, the gale having increased very much, and the schooners laboring so extremely that I became apprehensive for their safety, the Madison with eighty of her crew sick, and every vessel having sustained more or less injury, either in spars, cables, or anchors, and the enemy having gone into port. These considerations operating upon my mind, together induced me reluctantly to bear up for this place, where I arrived with the

Madison, Oneida, Governor Tompkins, Conquest, Ontario, Pert and Lady of the Lake this day. (The Fair American and Asp are still at Niagara.)

The new schooner Sylph having been launched yesterday, and as I can fit her for services by the 24th, I shall take her with me. She is a very fine vessel, which I shall mount 4 32-pounders upon, and 6 6-pounders, and as from her construction she must sail fast, she will add very much to my present force, and in point of real service fully counterbalance the vessels which I have lost.

I find upon examination that the Conquest must be entirely recaulked, and some of her butts re-nailed. This will not detain us, as I hope to have her nearly finished before tomorrow night. Her guns and part of her stores are already out, and she will be ready for the carpenters this evening.

You may be assured, sir, that I shall lose no time in again appearing upon the Lake.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 75

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 20th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, together with the commissions therein enumerated, and agreeably to your directions I have handed them to the following gentlemen:—Captains Woolsey and Trenchard, and Lieutenants Wragg, Dudley, and Skinner. The other gentlemen being absent upon Lake Erie (except Lieutenant Jones, who is at Niagara) has prevented me from complying with your order with respect to them. I shall lose no time in forwarding them to the gentlemen respectively.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 76

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 20th August, 1813.

SIR,—I find upon examination that my clerk made a mistake of the date of the order of battle sent you on the 13th instant. It ought to have been 10th instead of 9th of August. Be pleased to correct the error.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 77

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 20th August, 1813.

SIR,—It appears from the best information that can be obtained from Kingston that the enemy is building three vessels. The carpenter who has contracted to build them has agreed to launch one every forty days, commencing 3rd August. Reports vary as to their size from 20 to 40 guns. The probability is, I think, that they are to be corvettes; to carry 18 to 22 guns. I regret that I have not another schooner of the description of the Sylph, as in that case I would have all my heavy sailing schooners in port, which are really of little service to me upon the open Lake, for with the heavy winds that we have had they were found quite useless. However the fate of the Lake must be decided before I could build another, and I hope before the enemy can get another vessel out.

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 78

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 23rd August, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose a letter from Acting Lieutenant Gregory, this moment received.

The circumstances which led to the precipitate and inconsiderate resignation of this gentleman appear to be these: On the evening upon which the other gentlemen received their commissions they supped together, and the officers who had been commissioned and those who had not became the subject of conversation, and as Mr. Gregory's warrant as midshipman was of the same date as most of those gentlemen on this station who have received commissions, they persuaded him that he had been neglected and that he ought to resign. Being warned with wine, and irritated with their sneering remarks, he inconsiderately wrote his resignation at the supper table. He has kept no copy of the letter, nor did he remember the style or language, and is extremely unhappy least he may have been indecorous in his style. He wishes if possible that you may forget that he ever wrote such a letter, and that he may be restored to his rank and your confidence.

Mr. Gregory has been with me since last fall, and has acted as a lieutenant on board of the Madison and General Pike since March, during which time he has given me perfect satisfaction. He is an officer of more than common merits. He is brave, honorable, and

intelligent, and possesses all the requisites to make a most valuable officer,—and in my estimation would be a real loss to the service. If, sir, upon the explanation here given, you would have the goodness to return Mr. Gregory's letter and forgive him the false step, I would be willing to pledge myself for his future good conduct, and whenever you may deem him worthy of a commission, he will I know show himself worthy of it.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 78.

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 23rd August, 1813.

SIR,—Ezra May, late pilot of the *Julia*, arrived here this day. He made his escape from the enemy at Ernestown, on the Bay of Cанта, on the night of the 21st instant, and brought off with him the sentinel.

Mr. May states that the *Growler* and *Julia* did not surrender until completely surrounded by the enemy, and under a shower of musketry; that one man was killed on board of the *Growler*, and that vessel considerably cut up in her rigging and sails. The *Julia* not much injured and no one hurt. The prisoners were landed at York on the 11th, except Thomas Goldsmith (O.S.) who was detained upon a pretext that he was a British subject. I shall write to Commodore Yeo immediately to ascertain his determination with respect to Goldsmith, and will inform you immediately of the result of the communication. Mr. May further states that the enemy was considerably cut in sails and rigging, and he believes several men killed and wounded; that the prisoners were robbed of their clothes, and after being landed at York were not suffered to remain together, but marched towards Kingston in small parties, I presume to prevent escape.

The enemy's fleet is still at Kingston, and believed to be ready for sea. I hope to leave here on Wednesday for Niagara. General Wilkinson goes with me.

P.S.—This letter was by some accident, in the hurry of business, mislaid, and not sent forward as it ought to have been.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 80

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 27th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have this moment been honored with your letter of the

19th instant, with its enclosures; and also with a letter from Captain Perry, informing me that he had made such application. I regret that Captain Perry should at this time think of leaving his station upon Erie, because I think him a valuable officer, and the public interest might suffer by a change, before the season for active operations is over.

Captain Perry has treated me with less candor than I conceived myself entitled to, and has made unnecessary complaints about the men sent him from this Lake, which I do assure you, sir, were equal to any that I have in my squadron, and those which he complained of most were men that he brought from New York, and requested might be sent to him at Erie. Upon a perusal of the exceptional letter which induced Captain Perry to apply for his removal I do not perceive sufficient cause for such a step. Lest, however, such might be the impression, I have this day wrote to him in a style which I hope will be calculated to allay the irritation caused by my letter of the 30th July, and induce him to weigh well the consequences of such a step before he takes it. I can only assure you, sir, that no private feelings of my own shall ever interfere or clash with my public duties.

P.S.—A copy of my letter to Captain Perry is herewith enclosed.

(Enclosure to No. 80)

Commodore Chauncey to Captain Perry.

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 27th Aug., 1812.

SIR,—I have received your letter of the 11th instant, wherein you informed me that you had enclosed a copy of my letter of the 30th July to the Honorable the Secretary of the Navy, with a request that you might be immediately removed from Lake Erie.

I regret your determination for several reasons. The first and most important is that the public service would suffer from a change, and your removal might in some degree defeat the objects of the campaign.

Although I conceive that you have treated me with less candor than I was entitled to, considering the warm interest that I have always taken in your behalf, yet my confidence in your zeal and ability has been undiminished, and I should really regret that any circumstance should remove you from your present command before you have accomplished the objects for which you were sent to Erie, and I trust that you will give the subject all the consideration that its importance requires before you make up your mind definitely.



You ought also to consider that the first duty of an officer is to sacrifice all personal feelings to his public duties.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 81

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 28th August, 1813.

SIR,—I have been detained here a little longer than I expected, owing to our belt rope falling short for the Sylph. I have, however, made out by using some of our running rigging. She is now ready, and I shall proceed up the Lake this night with the following vessels, mounting altogether 91 guns, viz. ; General Pike, Madison, Oneida, Sylph, Governor Tompkins, Ontario, Pert, and Lady of the Lake.

The flag that I sent to Kingston returned last night without an answer to my letter, as the fleet was out. I hope to fall in with the enemy between this and the head of the Lake. You need not fear for the result, although he is superior in point of guns. I am sorry to say that our people continue to be sickly.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 82

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 28 August, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor of informing you that I have delivered commissions to Doctors Buchanan, Campbell, and Caton. Doctor Barton is at Erie. His commission I will forward to him immediately. Doctor Ray has left this station in ill health. I therefore return his commission to the Department.

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**Kingston Gazette.**

TUESDAY, September 7th, 1813.

List of British vessels of war on Lake Ontario :—

Wolfe, 23 guns. Sir J. L. Yeo, Com.

Royal George, 22, W. H. Mulcaster, Capt.

Melville, 14, E. Spilsbury, Commander.

Earl Moira, 14, A. Dobbs, do.

Sir Sidney Smith, 12, H. C. Owen, Lt. and Commander.

Beresford, 12, H. Radcliffe, do.

American naval forces on Lake Ontario:—

Ship Gen. Pike, maindeck 28 long, 24s., on poop and top gallant forecastle 6 guns.

Madison, 22 carronades, 32s., and 2 long 12s.

Oneida, 16 carronades, 32s., and 2 long 6s.

Schr. Hamilton, 1 long 12, and 3 18lb. carronades.\*

Fair American, 1 long 32, and 1 long 24.

Gov. Tompkins, 1 long 32, 1 long 24, and 4 32lb. carronades.

Conquest, 1 long 32, 1 long 24, and 1 long 6.

Growler, 1 long 32, and 4 long 4s.\*

Ontario, 1 long 32, and 1 long 18.

Scourge, 3 long 6s.\*

Péret, 1 long 32, 3 long 6s.

Julia, 1 long 32, 1 long 18, 1 long 6.\*

Asp, 1 long 24, 1 long 18.

Lady of the Lake, 1 long 6, and 1 long 2.

Raven, 1 long 18.

Duke of Glo'ster, 10 long 5s.

\* Taken or destroyed by Sir James Yeo.

File in Bureau of Archives, Toronto.)

By His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost, Baronet, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's North American Provinces and Commander of the Forces in the said Provinces &c., &c., &c.

#### A Proclamation.

It having been represented to His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, that in consequence of the adoption by the Government of the United States, of the novel and unjustifiable principle of making prisoners of war and paroling the unarmed peaceable citizens of these Provinces, several subjects of His Majesty have under such circumstances been deterred from accepting employment in their different callings as mechanics or otherwise, or from aiding in any other manner the public service, under an apprehension of exposing themselves to the resentment of the enemy for having violated their parole. His Excellency takes this public opportunity of declaring that such a principle is not sanctioned by the usages of war amongst civilized nations and that no parole thus extorted from peaceable citizens not taken in arms can be considered as binding upon them or as exempting them from any military or other duties which they may be called upon to perform.

The only legitimate objects of capture on land during war as

recognized by the law of nations are those who are actually engaged in military service, or who are found with arms in their hands, beyond these two descriptions of persons it has never been the practice of the modern nations of Europe to consider any others as liable to be carried away as prisoners of war or as subject to be paroled.

It was reserved for America who has the last assumed a rank amongst the nations and for those acting under her authority, unnecessarily to increase the calamities of war by making peaceable and unoffending citizens subject to its rigors and by exacting from them engagements, the nature of which is to preclude them from gaining their subsistence by their honest and ordinary callings if exercised in support of the government which protects them. In order to remove from the minds of such persons who having fallen into the power of the enemy, having been obliged to enter into engagements of this nature, all apprehension from the consequences of violating them. His Excellency deems it necessary thus publicly to declare that a parole, even when lawfully taken can only extend to the military service in arms, either in garrison or in the field of the persons giving it and cannot preclude them from performing their ordinary duties as subjects or from the exercise of their usual civil occupations.

And His Excellency hereby further declares that should the enemy still persist to act upon the unjust principle before mentioned and should any such persons (who having been paroled as aforesaid shall again fall into the hands of the enemy) be treated with severity in consequence of their having been employed in the public service in any other manner than that of actually bearing arms, His Excellency will not fail immediately to avail himself of the means within his power of removing from the American frontiers such of their citizens as shall be within his reach and of retaliating upon them all the severity and rigor which shall have been practised towards any of His Majesty's subjects under the foregoing circumstances.

His Excellency at the same time feels it incumbent upon him further to declare that as he has strong reason to believe that in several instances the paroles thus taken have been sought for by the persons giving them as the means of evading the performance of their militia and other duties and as others notwithstanding the present declaration may from similar or worse motives be induced still to withhold their aid in carrying on the public works His Excellency will feel himself compelled forthwith to send all such useless and disaffected characters out of the country to the enemy to whom they consider themselves as belonging as prisoners of war there to remain as such until regularly exchanged.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms at Kingston this Fourth day of September one thousand eight hundred and thirteen.

GEORGE PREVOST,

Commander of the Forces.

By His Excellency's Command, E. B. Brenton.

(From Kingston Gazette, September 7. 1813. File in Bureau of Archives, Toronto.)

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No number.

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,

Off the DUCK'S ISLANDS, 13th September, 1813.

SIR,—On the 7th at daylight the enemy's fleet was discovered close in with Niagara River, and from the southward. Made the signal and weighed with the fleet (prepared for action) and stood out of the river after him. He immediately made all sail to the northward; we made sail in chase with our heavy schooners in tow, and have continued the chase all round the Lake night and day until yesterday morning, when he succeeded in getting into Amherst Bay, which is so little known to our pilots and said to be full of shoals that they are not willing to take me in there. I shall, however (unless drove from my station by a gale of wind) endeavor to watch him so close as to prevent his getting out upon the Lake.

During our long chase we frequently got within from one to two miles of the enemy, but our heavy sailing schooners prevented our closing with him until the 11th. Off Genesee River we carried a breeze with us while he lay becalmed to within about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of him, when he took the breeze and we had a running fight of three and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours,—but by his superior sailing he escaped me and run into Amherst Bay yesterday morning. In the course of our chase on the 11th, I got general broadsides from this ship upon the enemy, which must have done him considerable injury, as many of the shot was seen to strike him, and people was observed over the side plugging shot-holes. A few shot struck our hull, and a little rigging was cut, but nothing of importance,—not a man was hurt.

I was much disappointed that Sir James refused to fight me, as he was so much superior in point of force, both in guns and men, having upwards of twenty guns more than we have, and heaves a greater weight of shot. I think his object is to gain time to add to his force and play a sure game, or as the boisterous season is approaching he may wish to defer an action until he meets me upon the Lake, when it is blowing heavy and to leeward of him, when my

small vessels would be of no service and he might succeed in cutting some of them off.

This ship, the Madison, and the Sylph has each a schooner constantly in tow, yet the others cannot sail as fast as the enemy's squadron, which gives him decidedly the advantage and puts it in his power to engage me when and how he chooses. I shall, however, endeavor to manage this little fleet so as to make it answer the main object for which it was created, even if I am not able to take or destroy the enemy's naval force on this Lake.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No number.

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,

NIAGARA RIVER, 25th September, 1813.

SIR,—After I had the honor of addressing you on the 13th, I continued to blockade the enemy until the 17th, when the wind blowing heavy from the westward, the enemy having run into Kingston, and knowing that he could not move from that place before a change of wind, I took the opportunity of running into Sackett's Harbor for the purpose of having a personal conference with General Armstrong, the result of which determined me to proceed to this place, for the purpose of protecting the troops down the Lake, and also to induce the enemy to leave his station at Kingston to follow me, which would enable me to get between him and that place, and either force him to risk an action or suffer us to accomplish our object without it.

I remained but a few hours at the Harbor, and left it at daylight on the morning of the 18th, but did not arrive here until yesterday, owing to continued head winds, not having laid our course during the passage. On the 19th I saw the enemy's fleet near the False Ducks, but took no notice of him, as I wished him to follow me up the Lake.

General Wilkinson informs me that the last of his troops will be ready to embark on the 28th, when himself and suite will come on board of this ship, and I shall proceed down the Lake with all the expedition that the nature of the service will admit of. The troops at the harbor will be ready to move by the time that we arrive there, and I calculate that the result of the contemplated operations will be such as not to disappoint the just expectations of our country.

There is a report here, and generally believed, that Captain Perry has captured the whole of the enemy's fleet on Lake Erie. If this should prove true in all its details (and God grant that it may) he has immortalized himself and not disappointed the high expectations formed of his talents and bravery.

I have learnt from a source which can be depended upon that we

did the enemy much more injury in our encounter on the 11th than I had expected. I find that we killed Captain Mulcaster, of the Royal George, and a number of his men, and did considerable injury to that ship, as well as several of the other vessels. It was truly unfortunate that we could not have brought the enemy to a general action on that day, as I am confident that the victory would have been as complete as that upon Lake Erie. I, however, have the consolation to know that every exertion was used to bring him to close action; if we did not succeed it was not our fault. I yet hope to have the proud satisfaction of communicating to you that Sir James L. Yeo is my prisoner.

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REPORT of killed and wounded September 28th, 1813, on board the U. S. Ship *General Pike*, under the command of Commodore Isaac Chauncey.

Names	Rank.	Observations.
William Douglass	Q. Master	Contusional wound
William Henry	Seaman	" "
William Lovett	"	" "
John Williams	"	" "
Andrew Oslin	"	" "
John Douglass	"	" "
Bartholomew Flint	"	" "
Daniel Lewis	"	" "
Lemuel Cole	"	Lacerated
William Vandine	"	Compound fracture of thigh
William Tate	"	Fracture of the arm and concussion of the side.
Henry Love	"	Contusional wound
James Alford	Q. Master	" "
John Brannon	Seaman	" "
Thomas Davis	"	" " Dangerous
Francis Elliott	"	" "
James Woodard	"	" " Dangerous
Thomas Williams	"	" " And amputa- tion of one arm
John Bennet	"	Compound fracture of the thigh. Amputated
James Hatch	"	Compound fracture of the thigh. Dangerous
Dennis Vandahider	Master at Arms	Concussion of the brain
Daniel McNeil	Boy	Contusion of the arm
William H. Collins	Seaman	Contusion of the arm
James Tollahand	Soldier	Mortally (died next day)
Thomas Jones	Seaman	Killed
Thomas Daily	"	"
Thomas Nelson	"	"

3 killed.  
24 wounded.

JOHN D. McREYNOLDS,  
Surgeon.

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No number

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 6th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to inform you that I arrived here this morning, with five of the enemy's vessels, which I fell in with and captured last evening, off the Ducks. These were part of a fleet of seven sail, which left York on Sunday, with 234 troops on board, bound to Kingston. Of this fleet, 5 we captured, one burnt, and one escaped,—the prisoners amounting to nearly 300, besides having upwards of 300 of our troops on board from Niagara, induced me to run into port for the purpose of landing both.

I have an additional pleasure in informing you that amongst the captured vessels are the late U. S. schooners Julia and Growler; the others are gun vessels.

HONORABLE WILLIAM JONES,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 88

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 6th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 26th August and 3d ultimo.

Enoch Chase shall be discharged and paid off immediately. Mr. Gregory requests me to tender his warmest acknowledgements for your goodness in returning him his resignation without prejudice to his future prospects, and promises that his future conduct shall be such as to meet your approbation.

With respect to Mr. Grandison, I do assure you, sir, that I never gave him any encouragement whatever that I would employ him in any way; on the contrary I told him distinctly that I had no employment for him. Mr. Grandison's general character has been known to me for several years.

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 89

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 7th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters of the 13th, 19th, 22, and 23d ultimo.



Lieutenant Babbitt leaves here this day for New London. The loss of an officer of his merit is a serious inconvenience where we have so few.

The proceedings of the several court-martials shall be immediately returned to the Department.

I most sincerely rejoice at Captain Perry's victory upon Lake Erie. It is complete in all its parts. He has justified the high expectations formed of his talents, zeal, and courage, and his country will do him ample justice. I am not a little flattered in being in some degree the means of placing an officer of his merit in a situation where his talents could show forth to his own glory and his country's advantage.

I shall dispatch a marine officer from this station immediately to take charge of the marines on Lake Erie. I shall at the same time instruct Captain Perry as to his future operations upon Erie and Huron. My last communication from him was dated the 4th September. I presume, however, that I shall get his official report of the action in a day or two.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 90

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 7th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose to you a copy of a letter this day received from Captain Leonard, with my answer.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 92

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 8th Oct., 1813.

SIR,—Your letter of the 19th ultimo, conveying to me the undiminished confidence of yourself and government, was truly grateful to my feelings, particularly at this time, and will stimulate to still greater exertions (if greater is possible) for the accomplishment of the object and wishes of the Executive. Although an officer may be conscious himself of having done all that it was possible for him to do in the execution of his duty, yet he may fall far short of the expectations and wishes of his employers, consequently suffer, (though innocently) in his reputation.

Fifteen years of the best part of my life have been devoted to the service of my country. The remaining years and the small portion of talents that I possess, with life itself, is still at her service, and

if I am so fortunate as to execute the various duties entrusted to me by the Government of my country to its satisfaction it is immaterial what the opinions of the opposition may be with respect to me and my conduct.

I am still in hopes to be able to bring the enemy to close action. If I do I am confident of success. A few days must determine. I have no idea that Sir James will come out and fight me upon the open Lake, but in a few days I shall take a position for the purpose of covering the troops in landing near Kingston, which I think will induce the British Commodore to risk an action in which the supremacy of this Lake must be determined. If I am as successful as I hope to be, we have force enough; but if the enemy shall be triumphant, he not only destroys this fleet, but preserves Kingston, which will enable him to increase his present force so as to preserve his ascendancy upon the Lake. But if any circumstances should prevent a meeting of the two fleets this fall and the enemy should retain possession of Kingston it would be necessary for us to build a sufficient number of vessels to meet him in the spring upon equal terms. To do this we must build vessels of an equal class. From the best information that I can get, there are materials prepared at Kingston for three vessels; two of them are in some state of forwardness. One of these vessels is to be a frigate,—the length of her beam obtained from various sources is 150 feet; a part of her frame is already raised. The other two are to be 20-gun ships or brigs.

Although I have the highest opinion of Messrs. A. and N. Brown, yet as Mr. Eckford has built four vessels at this place, and has become acquainted with the resources and the people of this part of the country, I think that he could have built sooner, and perhaps cheaper than many other man; and as to his talents as a ship carpenter, I am bold to say that there is not his equal in the United States, or perhaps in the world. His exertions here were unexampled. The *Madison* was built in 45 working days, in a new country, where every thing was transported from New York, except the timber. The *General Pike* would have been launched in 40 days, except from the circumstance of my being obliged to send Mr. Eckford with 35 of his best workmen to Black Rock, where he rebuilt and fitted out five vessels in less than 30 days; returned to this place and launched the *General Pike* in 62 days from the time her keel was laid. The *Sylph*, a schooner of 340 tons, was built in 21 days.

Such exertions on the part of Mr. Eckford I should humbly hope would entitle him to a share of public patronage, and from your known liberality I trust that you will at least make him an offer, as it must be extremely mortifying to him to see others preferred after

his best exertions had been used to obtain the confidence of his government.

With respect to Captain Leonard, I do assure you, sir, that I am as anxious as he possibly can be to bring him to trial, and not one moment shall be lost in doing so whenever it will not interfere with the public service. A few weeks cannot make so great a difference to him. The cruising season is almost over, when the trial can take place without injury to the public service. In fact it may be convenient to convene a court when the squadron next returns to port; if so, it shall be done.

Muster-rolls shall be forwarded to the Department as soon as they can be made out,—as also estimates for the ensuing year.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 91

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 8th October, 1813.

SIR,—As soon as the last of the Flotilla with the troops cleared the Niagara, I proceeded in quest of the enemy. On 2nd instant, at 10 a.m., discovered him steering a course for Niagara, with studding sails and all sails set; wind from the south and westward. We made all sail in chase, but as soon as we shot out from the land so that he could fairly make us out he took in studding sails and hauled upon a wind to the westward and made all sail from us, the wind being light all day we made but little progress against the current, and at sundown the enemy was off the 20 Mile Creek, and had evidently gained considerably from us. During the night the wind continued so light that we altered our position but very little, and at daylight on the 3rd, saw the enemy at anchor close in with the land between the 12 and 20 Mile Creek. As soon as he saw us he weighed and made all sail to the westward; wind from south to southwest and squally. I made all sail in chase, and continued the chase the whole day, it blowing very heavy in squalls. At sundown we could barely make him out from the masthead, when he appeared nearly up to the head of the Lake, it continued squally with rain and the night very dark. At daylight on the 4th hazy,—could see nothing of the enemy. Continued working up for the head of the Lake. Towards meridian it became calm. I ordered the Lady of the Lake to sweep up to Burlington Bay and ascertain whether the fleet was there. At half past 9 p.m., she returned with information that the fleet was not there. Saw but two gunboats. It struck me at once that he had availed himself of the darkness of the preceding night and had either run for Kingston or down the Lake, for the purpose of intercepting the Flotilla with the army. I there-

fore made all sail and shaped my course for the Ducks, with a view of intercepting him or his prizes if he should have made any. The wind increased to a strong gale from the northward and westward, and continued during the whole day. On the 5th we therefore made a great run for at 1 p.m., we passed Long Point. At 3 discovered 7 sail near the False Ducks, presuming them to be the fleet made sail in chase. At 4 made them out to be sloops and schooners. I made the signal for the Sylph and the Lady of the Lake to cast off their tow and chase N. E. Soon after perceiving the enemy separating on different tacks, I cast off the Governor Tompkins from this ship, gave the Squadron in charge of Captain Crane, and made all sail in chase; at 5 the enemy finding us to gain fast upon him, and one of his gun vessels sailing much worse than the rest, he took the people out and set her on fire at sundown, when opposite the Real Ducks. The Hamilton. (late Growler), Confiance (late Julia), and Mary Ann struck to us. The Sylph soon after brought down the Drummond cutter rigged. The Lady Gore run into the Ducks, but the Sylph, (which was left to watch her) took possession of her early the next morning. The Enterprise, a small schooner is the only one that escaped, and she owed her safety to the darkness of the night.

Finding much difficulty in shifting the prisoners, owing to the smallness of our boats and a heavy sea, I determined to take the prizes in tow and run for this place, and land the prisoners and troops that I had on board. We arrived here at daylight. On the 6th, the Lady of the Lake, having towed one of the prizes in I dispatched her immediately to cruise between the Real and False Ducks. She returned the same afternoon, having discovered the enemy's squadron going into Kingston.

I have repaired the principal damages sustained by this ship in the action on the 28th ultimo, and have put a new fore mast into the Governor Tompkins. We are now ready and waiting the movements of the Army, which is contemplated will leave here on the 10th.

The vessels captured on the 5th are gun vessels, mounting from one to three guns each, with troops from the head of the Lake, (but last from York) bound to Kingston. We learnt from the prisoners that the enemy was very much cut up in their hulls and spars, and a great many men killed and wounded, particularly on board of the Wolf and Royal George. I enclose herewith a list of the prisoners taken on the 5th.

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**Kingston Gazette.**

SATURDAY, October 9, 1813.

By all accounts we understand that the Americans are on the eve of attacking this place. It is our province to observe that their intentions have been completely anticipated and every necessary preparation has been made to give them a warm reception.

We are happy to announce the arrival of Lt. Col. Drummond with the first detachment of the 104th Regiment from Burlington Heights. This Regiment with the 49th and the corps of Voltigeurs may be expected here in the course of to-day or to-morrow. These three gallant Regiments together with our brave Militia who are pouring in from all quarters and have already assembled in considerable numbers will be a sufficient reinforcement and with our present respectable garrison will be able to repel any force which the enemy may be able to bring against us.

We are glad to observe that every piece of artillery is most advantageously posted and we must really congratulate our fellow citizens on the formidable appearance of every defensible position in the vicinity of this town.

(File in Bureau of Archives, Toronto.)

No. 93

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 9th Oct., 1813.

SIR,—I enclose herewith a copy of additional instructions sent to Captain Perry.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

Enclosure to No. 93

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 9th Oct., 1813.

SIR,—Your letters of the 13th and 14th ultimo, announcing your brilliant victory upon Lake Erie have this moment been received. The one referred to in your letter of the 13th has not come to hand.

This victory, so decisive and important in its consequences, reflects the highest honor upon the heroes that achieved it, and appears to be duly appreciated by your country, and I hope and trust

that when Congress meet they will reward you and your companions in arms with something more solid than applauses.

The destruction of the enemy's fleet being so complete that it will leave you at liberty to carry into execution the other parts of your instructions,—I mean the operations upon Lake Huron—if upon receipt of this letter General Harrison should be in possession of Malden and Detroit, and the season in your opinion not too far advanced—you will immediately detach Captain Elliot, with three vessels the best calculated for that service into Lake Huron, for the purpose of destroying the enemy's post at St. Joseph and cutting off the communication between that post and Michilimackinac and the Indians to the westward. I have official documents in my possession which shows that the post of St. Joseph is very weak and deficient almost in every requisite of defense.\* It will therefore be an easy conquest and a rich harvest to the conquerors, as I understand that it is a deposit for large quantities of furs. The season I think is too far advanced to undertake any enterprise against Michilimackinac. We must therefore relinquish that object for the present.

You will be particular in your instructions to Captain Elliot, or the officer that you send into Lake Huron, that he is not caught in that Lake for the winter. He must therefore pass Lake St. Clair on his return before the ice begins to make.

Your squadron and such of your prizes as can pass the bar at Erie you will lay up there when you can no longer keep the Lake.

The two ships, if we get possession of Malden and Detroit, can be laid up in that neighborhood. If we should not garrison those posts for the winter you will use your discretion as to their disposition.

I have to request that you will continue to afford to General Harrison and the army under his command all the assistance in your power, and that you will co-operate in such a way as will be best calculated to promote the public interest; but let that co-operation be full and with all the means in your power,—the manner I leave to your own judgment, the correctness of which you have exhibited many proofs of.

You will be pleased to inform me what arrangements you have made for supplying your men with provisions for the ensuing winter, and whether you have a sufficient supply of winter clothing for them. Let the sick and wounded have all the comfort and accommodation in your power to procure.

You will keep me informed of all your movements and the progress of the army.

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\* The enemy had in June but 4 6-pounders at St. Josephs, 4 barrels powder, 6,420 musket-ball cartridges, 214 flints, 179 muskets.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Captain O. H. Perry,  
Commanding Naval Officer on Lake Erie.

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**General Order.**

NEWARK, 10th Oct., 1813.

The General commanding is about to march at the head of the gallant volunteers of his brigade to attempt to drive our skulking and insidious enemy from his hiding places. It is disgraceful to our arms that with a force composed of such men as I am about to lead into the field, we should be penned up in corners and by-places by a force which dare not show itself in open and manly conflict. A handful of the brave volunteers have already driven in the enemy's pickets and compelled him to rally his whole force.

You are brave and vigorous. You fight in the cause of liberty, for the defence of your country and for the preservation of those rights purchased by the blood of your fathers. The army you have to contend with is composed of slaves and mercenaries who are compelled to fight the battles of a tyrant, who shed their blood in a cause they detest and who act not from the ennobling sense of duty, but from the stern and rigid commands of despotism. Your cause is a righteous one and must ultimately prevail. With such a cause to animate us with a benign Providence to protect us, with true hearts and firm minds. Can such an enemy stand before us? No, soldiers! They will fly before you or seek an opportunity to join your standard and beg your protection.

The Brigadier General has the utmost confidence in the volunteers whom he has the honor to command. He has tried your spirit and courage and he is ready to risk his life and what is dearer to him his honor upon your efforts. Let us all be of one mind to conquer or to die. In the performance of our duty let each man be calm, deliberate, and steady. The success of our efforts, the preservation of this army from death and infamy and the safety of every individual depend upon the most implicit obedience to your officers. The privates without hesitation or scruple must obey their immediate officers. Every officer whether commanding regiments, companies, or platoons, must adhere strictly to his orders in preparing for the field of battle or when engaged. The Brigadier General strictly enjoins it upon every soldier that on our march through the enemy's country, no depredations shall be committed on the property of the inhabitants and no

insults shall be allowed to their persons, all private property is sacred, but public property of every description shall be lawful prize.

The Brigadier General hopes and believes that there is not a coward in his ranks, but should there be any who shrink in the hour of danger exemplary punishment will most certainly be inflicted and shame and infamy shall await them thro' life. But the brave and courageous shall be duly honored. Their names and their deeds shall be the boast of their countrymen and the pride of their friends and shall be handed down in grateful remembrance to the latest posterity.

By order of Brig. General McClure,

W. R. Rochester, Aide-de-Camp.

**National Intelligencer, Washington, D. C., October 30th, 1813.**

ERIE, PA., October 15th, 1813.

On Saturday evening last, (October 9th,) it commenced snowing and continued with but little intermission until Thursday. On Tuesday, the snow was more than a foot deep. Vegetation continues green and fruit hangs on the trees unripe.

**New York Evening Post, 27th October, 1813.**

From the *Ontario Messenger* of the 19th October.

Extract of a letter to the editor dated Upper Canada, Head Quarters, 12 Mile Creek, October 10.

Here we are undisputed possessors of the Upper Province from Malden to Burlington Heights. On Friday and Saturday last (October 8th and 9th) the brave volunteers of General McClure's brigade crossed over and this morning we took up our line of march in pursuit of General Vincent's army. About 1,000 men, choice spirits, then marched to meet the enemy. But lo, on arriving at his encampment at the Cross Roads, we found that he had precipitately abandoned it and marched to Burlington Heights where he is entrenching in a fortified camp. We pursued with all the speed and vigor consistent with prudence and arrived here early this morning. Here we have been employed in collecting the baggage and public stores which Vincent in his retreat had left behind. At least 250 barrels of flour, 70 Glengary hats, quantities of bread and pork etc. are ours. Our next steps I am not at liberty to communicate but rely upon it we shall not be idle.

From the accounts of deserters who come in daily and from the inhabitants we learn that Procter's army is entirely defeated, that



none but the General and his aid escaped. Further accounts state that General Harrison is at Grand River. If this should be correct General McClure's movement will have been most fortunate, for then Vincent will be between him and Harrison. God grant that we may have a chance to try the spirit of militia upon regular British soldiers. Vincent has a force of from 1500 to 2000. We have 1000 Indians and 500 to 600 Indians who are under the command of our friend General Porter.

The most remarkable order has as yet been preserved and the inhabitants of Canada treated us as friends and deliverers. It is true General McClure has not distinguished himself by an action, but he has done what the whole regular force under Boyd and Wilkinson did not do, he has caused the enemy to evacuate the whole territory as far as the head of the Lake.

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Extract of a letter to the Editor dated Headquarters, Queenston, October 13th, 1813.

We are now on Queenston Heights on the anniversary of Van Rensselaer's battle. By a wonderful coincidence on the very day that our gallant militia had stormed and taken the heights and were afterwards foolishly surrendered, a small militia force took possession of the ground without opposition. On the 11th, I wrote you from 12 Mile Creek. The next day we took a circuit through the country. We found that the enemy had retreated to their entrenchments at Burlington and that pursuit would avail but little as our last accounts inform us that Harrison was nearer the enemy than we were. We therefore left him the care of Vincent and took a circuit thro' the country to collect public property.

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**Colonel Winfield Scott to General Wilkinson.**

FORT GEORGE, Monday, 7 o'clock p.m., October 11, 1813.

SIR,—within the last five minutes I had the honor to receive your despatch by the *Lady of the Lake*.

The enemy has treated me with neglect. He continued in his old positions until Saturday last (the 9th) when he took up his retreat on Burlington Heights and *has abandoned this whole peninsula*. Two causes are assigned for this precipitate movement: the succor of Procter who is reported to have been entirely defeated, if not taken; the other the safety of Kingston endangered by your movement.

We have had from the enemy many deserters, most of whom concur in the latter supposition.

The British burnt everything in store in this neighborhood, three

thousand blankets, many hundred stand of arms, also the blankets in the men's packs, and every article of clothing not in actual use.

They are supposed to have reached Burlington Heights last evening from the rate of their march the night before. I have information of their having passed "the 40" by several inhabitants who have come down. They add to what was stated by the deserters that two officers of the Forty-first had joined General Vincent from Procter's army, with the information Procter was defeated eighteen miles this side of Malden. I cannot get particulars.

From the same sources of intelligence it appears that the 49th a part of the 100th and the *Voltigeurs* moved from this neighborhood the day after our flotilla left this the 3rd instant but with what destination is not certainly known.

It was first reported (I mean in the British camp) that these regiments marched to support Procter who it is said, wrote that he would be compelled to surrender if not supported.

I am pretty sure, however, that they are gone below. The movement of our army below seems to have been known in the British lines as early as the 3rd instant together with the immediate objects in view; hence, I have no difficulty in concluding that all the movements of the enemy will concentrate at Kingston.

Chapin who has been commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel marched late last evening up the Lake with about one hundred volunteers under his command, and was followed this morning by Generals McClure and Porter with about one thousand men, Indians and militia included. There is no danger of their coming up with the enemy, or they would be in great danger of a total annihilation.

Vincent took hence with him about a thousand or eleven hundred regulars. Many of the militia left this with the avowed design of plunder; but I fear from reports that the British have left the miserable inhabitants without anything to be ravished. I expect General McClure back to morrow evening as he only took with him supplies for two days. He will probably go as far "the 20."

On the 8th Chapin went out with a small party and attacked one of the enemy's pickets which brought on a skirmish in which many of Colonel Swift's regiment participated. After a great waste of ammunition the parties retired to their respective camps with little loss on either side. We made and lost a prisoner, had two Indians killed and two other men wounded. We hear the enemy had five men wounded.

I had this morning made an arrangement on application of General McClure to be relieved in the command of this post on the morning of the 13th instant, with an intention of taking up my line of march for Sackett's Harbor, according to the discretion allowed me

in the instructions I had the honor to receive from you at this place. My situation has become truly insupportable without the possibility of an attack at this post and without the possibility of reaching you time enough to share in the glory of impending operations below. I am nevertheless flattered with the assurance that transport will be forwarded for my removal and to favor that intention I propose taking up my line of march on the morning of the 13th for the mouth of the Genesee River, and there await the arrival of the vessels you are good enough to promise me. By this movement Captain Mix thinks with me that I shall hasten my arrival at Sackett's Harbor five, possibly ten days. Captain Camp has a sufficient number of waggons to take me thither. I can easily make that place by the evening of the 15th. I hope I shall have your approbation and everything is arranged with Brigadier McClure.

Knowing your wishes respecting the invalids or subjects for discharge and fearing that water-transport might not be had till the season was too far advanced for their removal, I have ventured to send Lieutenant Archer, (paymaster of the 20th who was left here without orders) on command to Greenbush with one hundred men of this description. It was a measure approved of by Doctor Mann, and I hope not contrary to your wishes and intentions. Doctor Hugo, Surgeon's Mate of the 14th, (also left here without orders) accompanied the detachment. The quartermaster's department furnished eight waggons on my requisition.

The sick list of the garrison is much reduced since your, (I have the honour to enclose my report of this morning,) and Doctor Mann has discharged many patients from his hospital. I also enclose you his last report. Those marked "subjects for discharge" are part of the number sent off to Greenbush.

Doctor Mann and Captain Camp have concluded to move the general hospital to the Eleven Mile Creek near Buffalo, the barracks at which place will be sufficient for the reception of the whole of the sick with some trifling repairs.

From the morning report enclosed you will find seven hundred and ninety-four the total, etc., present of the regulars of this garrison including officers, etc. Transport will be necessary for about eight hundred and fifty persons. I wish also to take with me four iron 6's, one 5½ inch howitzer, and two caissons, the whole on field carriages. This train will form no impediment in my march to the mouth of the Genesee river as I have horses belonging to the regiment sufficient to draw it. If it meet your approbation, I can send the horses thence to Sackett's Harbor by land.

I have by working almost night and day greatly improved the

defences of this post and nearly filled up the idea of the engineer. I flatter myself that I have also improved the garrison in discipline.

I must apologize for the haste in which this is written but Captain Mix proposes to sail immediately and I fear to detain him a moment. I think I shall certainly be at the mouth of the Genesee by the 15th instant.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I, p.p. 482-3.)

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**Major General Vincent to Major General De Rottenburg.**

BURLINGTON, 11th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have reported to the Deputy Adjutant General my arrival here this morning and the different positions I have taken up for the troops. I have as yet nothing further to report respecting General Procter but I hope I shall have an opportunity before the express sets off as I have sent Lieut. Barnard to find out the General who is somewhere on the Grand River for not only information respecting the enemy but the official statement of his action and if possible have the General to meet me half way to give me an opportunity of returning here the same night.

I have now to say that my situation requires your serious consideration and most positive orders otherwise I must risk every action rather than give up so much public stores as I find at this depot and I unfortunately find in the position I am under the necessity to protect that I may be attacked in my front, rear, and flank.

I have consulted with Lieut-Colonel Bruyeres this day and he agrees with me that my heavy ordnance are not of the least use for any kind of protection to the depot. I intend therefore to send the 24 pounders, the two mortars and the carronades with some ship-guns intended for Amherstburg and their ammunition to York the very first opportunity I have of batteaux [of] which I am in great want at present.

They may be of some service at York if we have time to place them in a good situation and if Colonel Bruyeres' health will allow him I shall recommend his going there for that purpose.

As I have no militia to act on having almost all deserted home, General Shaw's services can be dispensed with from this army and may be well employed at York. He has therefore my liberty to proceed there tomorrow with instructions to call out the people of the country to repair the roads and bridges and to give out that I am under the necessity of doing so as the quickest mode now for bringing up all supplies to the army which I hope will take away any cause of alarm in the country.

I expect my determination will not only be approved of by you but that I shall have the satisfaction before I can receive an answer to this that orders to the same purpose may be sent me.

My time is so taken up I have not time to write to Colonel Baynes. May I request that he may be informed of the particulars of this letter.

(Canadian Archives, C 680, pp. 212-15.)

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**Adjutant General's Office, Montreal, 10th October, 1813.**

**General Orders**

His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of the Forces has received a despatch from the Right Honorable the Earl of Bathurst by command of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent declaring His Royal Highness approbation of the conduct displayed by the different troops engaged under the command of Major MacDonell of the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles against the enemy's post of Ogdensburg. The complete success which attended this attack is in itself sufficient evidence if any were wanting—and His Royal Highness is peculiarly gratified to find that the militia have in this as in previous instances emulated the example of the regular army.

In considering the case of Captain Jenkins of the Glengarry Light Infantry and Lieut. Impey of the militia whose gallantry has been so eminently conspicuous His Royal Highness has great pleasure in acceding to the recommendation of the Governor and Commander of the Forces extending to Lieut. Impey the same remuneration according to his rank which Captain Jenkins will receive as an officer of a regular regiment, and His Royal Highness is pleased to authorize and command that with respect to Lieut. Impey and any other militia officer in a similar situation being wounded on actual service do henceforth receive out of the Colonial Revenue, the same annual provision to which they would have been entitled had their wounds been received while in the regular army.

In order that His Royal Highness' views may the more effectually be carried into execution, a statement of the allowances granted to wounded officers is hereunto annexed.

EDWARD BAYNES, A.G.N.A.

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**Major General Darroch to Noah Freer.**

KINGSTON, 11th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have four of the De Watteville companies at work daily

at Point Henry. The long 24 pounder that was to have been at Point Henry I am obliged to give to Sir James to put in a gunboat, just finished or finishing. The seamen I expect this day. We shall then have three new gunboats.

We shall get up one of the American 32 pounders at Point Henry in place of the 24 pounder given to the gunboat.

General De Rottenburg has not yet arrived but he is somewhere between this and York. The 104th, 49th, and *Voltigeurs* are arrived but do not look over well. I hope the troops with the Centre Division are in better health than these seem to be.

(Canadian Archives C 630, p.p. 164-5.)

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### Colonel Pearson to Colonel Baynes.

PRESCOTT, October 12th, 1813.

SIR,—The following is the information received this evening from a well-informed man who at my instigation sets off to-morrow for Sackett's Harbour, and will return on Saturday evening or sooner should he be able to reach this before the expedition.

General Boyd's rearguard arrived at Sackett's Harbour on Sunday morning. The army with his brigade of 3,000 men were to embark yesterday morning, but from some unknown cause the embarkation did not take place. The whole regular force is 6,000, commanded by General Wilkinson with seven other general officers under him; 300 boats of all descriptions, exclusive of those from Niagara, are to transport the troops, artillery, and baggage. They are to be lightly loaded to receive Hampton's 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 Prescott or Montreal or both are the destined objects. They have two 24 pounders at least, embarked in scows, which are fitted so that they can be fired in any situation. All the River St. Lawrence pilots from every quarter are at the Harbor. There are 400 dragoons very carelessly posted at Malone and might easily be cut off. The dragoons from the Harbor 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 desertions to 5,000. 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 it 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 will instantly follow them with my light artillery and part of my regulars and 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.

(Canadian Archives, C 680, pp. 171-3.)

No. 94

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 12th October, 1813.

SIR,—On the 24th of August last I wrote to Commodore Sir James L. Yeo respecting the detention of Thomas Goldsmith, late a seaman belonging to the *Julia*, and detained by Commodore Yeo for trial as a *British subject*. I have this day received his answer to that communication. Copies of both letters I have the honor to enclose.

I shall wait your instructions as to what further measures are to be adopted in regard to Goldsmith.

We are still detained here on account of the weather. It has blown a severe gale from the westward with snow since the 9th, and still continues. The ships are ready with two anchors ahead, and lower yards and top-gallant masts down. It will be impossible for the army to move before the weather moderates; in fact the division from Fort George has not yet arrived. I shall remain here to move with the army and cover their landing. I am apprehensive that the severity of the storm will add many to the sick list, both of the army and navy, particularly that division of the army that is between this and Oswego.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

Major General Hampton to the Secretary of War.

HEAD QUARTERS, CHATEAUGUAY,

October 12, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—My solicitude to know your progress, and the real state of the *grand army* is extreme. It is perhaps not less *necessary* for both that I should be constantly informed. Implicit faith, cordiality and concert ought to unite our efforts. These have formed the basis of our exertions so far and promise more than our numbers the

result so much desired. I have no reference to individuals but to the *heart* of every man. The point and movement of our junction is all important and that and not the movement of my departure from hence ought to be indicated, because I ought to be the best judge of the *time* necessary to surmount the obstacles in the way. Between this and Cognawaga much work on the road is necessary and I ought to advance upon it two or three days earlier than might be judged necessary on a smooth and solid road. By seizing and holding strong positions in my front, the work could progress in my rear without incurring risk until I arrived within a striking distance. You have said "hold fast," and it might be considered precipitate to advance before I hear, at least, that the Rubicon is passed above. These are points for your consideration and those with you who guide the general movement. You have not sent me the two hundred mounted dragoons. Their presence on ground, the possession of which I do not despair of gaining, added to a force of four thousand effective infantry and a well appointed *train*, ought to inspire you with some reliance upon our army, new as it is. High pretensions have been avoided, but the moment has arrived when it is perhaps necessary for us to be estimated at as much as we are worth.

The Tenth is at hand and is included in the estimate. It is believed the militia may serve for escorts to what must follow us.

Colonel Clark is carrying on his small war on the lines with all the effect contemplated. The enemy's motley force have everywhere nearly disappeared. He is concentrating no doubt on points in my way or on the river.

P.S.—We had an intelligent deserter of the regiment of Canadian Fencibles. He states the enemy's force near us, at three thousand men, but when put to the detail gave it as follows:

Thirteenth Regiment two flank companies and part of a battalion.....	300 men
Meuron's French Regiment, two flank companies.....	200 men
Canadian Fencibles, Colonel Robinson.....	150 men
Colonel Salaberry's command <i>Voltigeurs</i> and Indians and some Fencibles.....	700 men
Two battalions of incorporated militia.....	750 men

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The whole commanded by Colonel Williams 2,100

Sir George had gone along to Montreal. He brought down thirty-six boats and about six hundred troops, included in the above.



No. 95.

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have this moment been honored with your letter of the 29th ultimo, and notice with regret that you have consented to suffer Captain Perry to resign his command upon Lake Erie and retire from the Lake service. Although Captain Perry is as much entitled to indulgence as any other officer, yet the principle which it establishes will be found to be a troublesome one,—for the moment that it is discovered that the Department is disposed to indulge all who are dissatisfied with the Lake service, it will be inundated with applications, and I shall be left without an officer of experience to support and assist me in the various duties of my command. I have not been disposed to complain, from a wish not to be troublesome, knowing at the same time that it was not always convenient for the Department to order officers from one station to another. I have therefore been satisfied with such officers as I have had, but which, with very few exceptions, were much too young and inexperienced for the important situations that they held. But if the few who have experience should be withdrawn, my reputation as a naval commander will rest upon a very uncertain tenure.

The idea which I have of service, and which I have cherished ever since I have had the honor to bear a commission, is that an officer has no right to question the propriety of an order which he receives from his superior. It is his business and his duty to obey it. He has no right to select for himself a particular service or be dissatisfied with that assigned to him, for it is to be presumed that the head of that Department under which he serves, or the commanding officer who selects him, has done it with a view of his peculiar fitness to perform the service assigned to him. With these impressions, I have never asked a change in any order that I have ever received, and I should have accepted the command of a half dozen bark canoes on Lake Superior with as much alacrity as I did the command of these Lakes.

It is a fact that I believe is generally known amongst my naval brethren that few, if any, officers have made greater sacrifices than myself, both in a pecuniary point of view and in domestic comforts, yet I have no disposition to complain. The Government of my country has thought that I could serve them better upon the lakes than upon the Atlantic. I am satisfied, and although I have not been fortunate in gathering laurels, I have the consolation to believe that I have done my duty, and I have certainly provided the means for others to reap the harvest. It will be recollected that when I received my appointment 13 months since, that the only vessel owned by the Government of the United States upon Lakes Ontario, Erie,

Huron; and Michigan was the little brig Oneida. Since that period there have been two fleets created, one of which has covered itself with glory,—the other, though less fortunate, has been quite as industrious. I, however, acknowledge with gratitude that all this could not have been done but from the unlimited confidence and plenary powers conferred on me by the Navy Department, for which I am grateful, and my unremitting exertions shall be used to merit the continuance of such confidence.

If the Lake service is a hard one, I have not been exempt from its hardships and its privations, but have shared in common with the other officers the fatigues and anxieties incident to such a service, yet I should be ashamed to ask a removal before I had accomplished the object for which I was sent.

The removal of Captain Perry from Lake Erie will subject the Department to inconvenience, if not loss. I mean in the final settlement of the accounts upon that lake; for as Captain Perry had discretionary powers most of the expenditures were by his orders, and if he does not examine and certify to the correctness of the accounts before he leaves the station, the Department will not only be subject to imposition, but I shall have much trouble in a final settlement of the accounts upon that lake.

I have the highest opinion of the zeal and talents of Captain Elliott, and as this opinion coincides with yours, I shall leave him in command upon Lake Erie after Captain Perry retires. I have instructed him accordingly. Copies of my letters to him and Captain Perry are herewith enclosed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,

Secretary of Navy, Washington.

Enc. to No. 95.

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th October, 1813.

SIR,—The Honorable the Secretary of the Navy has informed me that he has granted you permission to resign your commission upon Lake Erie and withdraw from the Lake service.

In this event the command of the Squadron will devolve upon Captain Elliot, who will be instructed accordingly. You will be pleased to furnish him with certified copies of all your instructions. I have also to call your attention to all unsettled accounts: be pleased to have them collected and certified to, and forward to me a list of

the same. It will also be important for me to know what contracts have been entered into that are not completed and what provision has been made for the ensuing winter.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Captain O. H. Perry,  
Senior Naval Officer, Erie.

2nd Enc. to No. 95.

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th October, 1813.

SIR,—The Honorable the Secretary of the Navy having granted to Captain Perry permission to retire from his command upon Lake Erie, the command of that Squadron, as senior officer, will devolve upon you, and with the approbation of the Secretary you will be continued in command.

Captain Perry has been directed to furnish you with copies of all his instructions. You will therefore consider them as addressed to you as the commanding officer, and carry them into execution accordingly.

You will, as long as you consider me as your principal, address *all* your communications to me, and send to the Navy Department copies of all such communications as you may deem important to be known.

From a personal knowledge of your zeal and intrepidity I have every confidence in your exertions to carry into effect the unexecuted part of your instructions, and that you will do everything your power to promote the honor and interest of our common country.

I shall from time to time forward to you additional instructions, and shall expect to hear from you frequently and keep informed of all your movements.

I have the honor to be very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Captain Jesse D. Elliott,  
Commanding U. S. Brig Niagara, Erie.

Thomas G. Ridout to Thomas Ridout.

BURLINGTON, 14th October 1813.

Yesterday I received your letter of the 10th. The times are so gloomy that I know not what to say. We shall soon retreat to

Kingston. Every preparation is making. The Americans with 1,000 men have advanced as far as the Twenty. Last night 600 men marched to drive them back. General Vincent complains of De Rottenburg leaving him in this eventful period when every difficulty stares him in the face. The troops are recovering their health. I am afraid you will have to go to Quebec. It must be before the army retreats or not at all. There will be no getting down with them. George must stay at home to protect all left behind. I hope you will take John wit' you.

I am Couche's secretary, cashier, etc. Young Jones was left behind sick. I have now £9,000 at charge. I have been busy since seven this morning—it is now twelve o'clock at night.

Procter has more than 200 of his regiment collected. He is still at the Grand River with them.

(From "Ten Years in Upper Canada," by Lady Edgar, pp. 237-8.)

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**Major General Vincent to Major General De Rottenburg.**

BURLINGTON, 14th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 10th instant, "if I did not consider myself adequate to hold out against the superior force of the enemy to destroy the stores, &c., of the post and fall back on Kingston."

As yet I have not the least fear that a force can be brought against me which would compel me to make a sudden retreat, but I am taking every precaution to send my sick off and those particular stores that would be of most advantage to the enemy, and at all events I should rather wish an action than leave General Procter and his scattered army behind, especially having great hopes that in two or three days I may find out the number that can be collected.

Lieut Barnard is returned. He found the General at the Grand River where he informed him he would remain until Lieut. Bullock of the 41st Regiment joined, who was collecting the remains of that corps with some Indians. He likewise informed Lieut Barnard that he had promised Colonel Elliott, who had followed the enemy towards Sandwich, to remain at that situation until his return, and requested this period before he made out his official letter on the sudden attack made on him.

I am therefore perfectly ignorant of what had taken place on that day, but by the letters I have already forwarded from the General.

From the want of bateaux my intention is retarded, and for fear the enemy may send some of their small craft against York I have

sent Colonel Bruyeres with some artificers to plan some work at York for two twenty-four pounders which I am in hopes I shall be able to get from this in charge of Lieut. Kitson and a few artificers.

Doctor Macaulay is ordered to proceed for York to prepare for the sick and if possible to find out some situation for an hospital at the other side of York.

I am of opinion the 19th Dragoons would be of more service at Kingston or Montreal than here, besides they are much in my way and I find the greatest difficulty in procuring them forage: I shall, therefore, if I find I can do without them, send the whole to join you.

I have taken this post into my most serious consideration, and I have to assure you that from the barracks which with every exertion may be erected they would not contain half the army, and the barns are in such a wretched situation with the repairs we could give them it would be perfectly impossible to make them temporary quarters.

Under this consideration we must retire without some great change takes place, consequently it is expedient to have a deposit of provisions placed at different situations between Kingston and York to put this into execution. Mr. Couche informs me steps must be taken from Kingston, on which subject he has wrote to Mr. Crookshank.

I should recommend some spirits to be sent up, as we have only three days at present at half allowance.

(Canadian Archives, c 650, pp. 235-8.)

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**Lieut.-Col. J B. Glegg to Hon. Wm D. Powell.**

HEADQUARTERS,

BEASLEY'S, 14th October, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am obliged to send you hasty and imperfect details of our proceedings. Your consideration must make the necessary allowance. We arrived here on the 12th after undergoing a very harassing march for our poor fellows, particularly the numerous sick, whose pallid countenances cut me to the quick. The elements were most unkind during our retreat but anything was pleasing after quitting that sink of disease on the 12 Mile Creek, where an inactive residence had nearly annihilated as fine a body of men as were ever led against an enemy. Our men are comparatively comfortable in this position. They are all under cover but of course barns will not do much longer. *Considering all things*, the casualties of our retreat have been very trifling. Fortunately the enemy did not pursue us. Colonel Murray brought up the rear with the 100th and light company of the King's and he is still at the 40, merely

waiting until the batteaux with sick, etc., have passed. He will then fall back upon Stoney Creek, watching the two roads on the right and left at that place. Of General P[rocter] we have received no official statement of his late disaster except knowing that his army is nearly all captured. This is the *ninth day* and he remains silent on a subject of such importance. All the officers who have arrived are loud indeed in his condemnation. My maxim has ever been on similar occasions *audi alteram partem*, but I fear it is a doubtful business. Of our future movements I can give you no certain information at present. A plain statement of our situation has been transmitted to Kingston and Montreal, and the wisdom of others must decide the fate of this once efficient army. At all events nothing will be done, unless compelled by the enemy, before our sick are sent off. We are sending some heavy ordnance to York under the direction of Col. Bruyeres, who left us yesterday and has received orders to throw up some works for its defence. I have strongly recommended detailing at once a force there to prevent the enemy anticipating our arrival. I believe General V[incent] is merely awaiting the arrival of General P[rocter] to acquiesce in this measure.

(From MSS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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For General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, 14th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have had the honour to receive Your Excellency's letters of the 6th and 12th inst., with the enclosed copy of a letter addressed by Your Excellency to Commodore Sir James Yeo on the subject of the protection expected by the vessels and gunboats under his command between Kingston and Prescott.

Previous to the receipt of this communication I had instructed Sir James Yeo to proceed with the squadron to the head of the lake for the purpose of affording all the aid in his power to the centre division of the army, which Your Excellency is aware has been placed in a situation the most critical and alarming in consequence of the total defeat of the troops under the command of Major General Procter. Since this decision was adopted the accompanying communications from Major General Vincent and Colonel Young have been received and with Your Excellency's communications have been taken in consideration by the Commodore and myself, and after the fullest discussion we have agreed that to endeavor to effect the salvation of this division of the army is a subject of greater importance than any other on which the squadron can be employed. I would not abandon that brave army to its fate without equally compromising the honour of the British

army and the interest of the Province committed to my charge. Kingston, reinforced as it has been, is, I hope, capable of a successful defence even without the aid of the squadron. Lower Canada, powerful as to its resources, numerous and loyal in its population, you have little to fear of even the whole of the force by which it is threatened. At the point, however, (the eastern extremity of Long Island,) at which it was proposed to station the squadron for the purpose of obstructing the passage downwards of the enemy's flotilla, will be stationed the *Vincent* schooner and all the gunboats, which will, I trust, be of no trifling opposition to the enemy's descent. Every exertion shall be used in sending down the corps designated by Your Excellency (49th and 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 Excellency's letter to me and to supersede your orders to Sir James Yeo, I can only assure Your Excellency that I have acted in conjunction with Sir James, as I am 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 Excellency's orders might have been altogether lost. Sir James will sail at daylight to-morrow morning. Lieut.-Colonel Harvey, Deputy Adjutant-General, goes with the fleet to assist in the necessary arrangements to bring off our forces.

I cannot obtain any positive information as to the road from Sackett's Harbour to Chateauguay Town. It cannot at this time of the year be very good. I am told that cavalry have been moving down that road from Sackett's Harbour.

(Canadian Archives, c. 690, pp. 188-191.)

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Kingston Gazette.

Saturday, October 16, 1813.

On Wednesday evening last Major General De Rottenburg and suite arrived in town from the Centre Division.

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Kingston Gazette, 6 November, 1813.

Montreal, October 16.

From Mississquoi Bay :

Information has been received that on the night of Monday the 11th inst., between eleven and twelve o'clock, twelve or thirteen boats or batteaux, containing about three hundred men of the American regular troops, commanded by Colonel Clarke, arrived near the house

of Capt. Cook of the militia, at Caldwell's Manor on the lines immediately adjoining Mississquoi Bay. This party landed and entered the house of Capt. Cook and plundered from it sundry articles of merchandise and a quantity of household furniture, including candlesticks, knives and forks, bedding, etc.—in short all moveables they could conveniently carry off. The merchandise was chiefly the property of Joshua Healy, who occupied part of the house as a store. Col. Clarke headed this plundering party into the house and actually assisted in tearing off the cotton furniture from the bedsteads. This officer even took fancy to a silver thimble belonging to Mrs. Cook, which he discovered on the chimney piece, and pocketed it. Mrs. Cook had part of a loaf of sugar which she had provided for the use of a sick child and which she entreated the Colonel might be spared her, but he did not possess sufficient humanity to allow even that article to escape him. This field officer also degraded himself by strictly searching, avowedly for papers and money, the bed, and the person of a gentleman who was accidentally sleeping in the house of Captain Cook, and having ransacked his pockets, would have taken away the few shillings he found in them but for some observations. The Colonel and his companions having secured the booty in their boats, they departed. From Captain Cook's they proceeded to Philipsburg, a village within our lines in Mississquoi Bay where this marauding party again landed, but being opposed by a small guard of militia some shots were exchanged, in which one man on each side was killed and several were wounded. The Americans by their great superiority in numbers succeeded in surrounding the small party of our militia, who with almost the whole of the inhabitants of the village were made prisoners and sent off in charge of a guard. The arms taken from our militia were deposited by the enemy in charge of Mr. Russell, an innkeeper at Philipsburg, exacting from him a declaration that he would be answerable to produce them upon their return.

#### FURTHER ACCOUNTS.

On Tuesday the 12th inst. about 4 a.m. a detachment of about 150 of the enemy, commanded by Colonel Clark, landed at the mouth of Rock River in Vermont, three miles south of the village of Philipsburg in St. Armand. They immediately proceeded and came upon that place by surprise at daybreak and surrounded the militia that were stationed there. Our men made resistance, on which they fired whole volleys of musketry and one on our side was killed and eight wounded and two on their side were wounded. They then made prisoners of about 90 men, the remaining five made their escape. They then marched off for Burlington or Greenbush it is concluded. In the course of the morning eleven boats, a sloop and two scows came hav-



ing three field pieces on board, came into the bay and landed about 250 men and one field piece at Philipsburg. They embarked at 2 p.m. but the wind and weather being very adverse to their getting out of the bay re-landed. They then proceeded to plundering the store of Mr. Charles Lester, which they robbed of property to the value of 3,300 dollars. They also plundered the store of Messrs Day and Gilson of a few articles. They re-embarked about 5 p.m. and landed at the mouth of Rock River that night. Next morning some of their soldiers plundered the houses of Messrs. Deal, Hogle and Strite in a shameful manner and the inhabitants of the village were again alarmed, but they did not return there. They also took and drove off some horses, cattle and sheep from the neighborhood of the bay. It is believed that they all returned to the west side of the lake, from whence they came.

(File in Bureau of Archives, Toronto.)

No. 96

U. S. Ship GENERAL PIKE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 16th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have been waiting until this day for the movements of the army; the severity of the weather has detained them.

At the request of the Secretary of War, I shall proceed in half an hour with the squadron for the mouth of Genesee River, for the purpose of taking on board Colonel Scott and the men under his command, and proceed with them to the place of rendezvous, (Grenadier Island.)

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of Navy, Washington.

John C. Spencer to Governor Tompkins.

HEAD QUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
October 16, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 27th September was received at Canandaigua and forwarded to me at this place. It is certain I should not have left home had not Mr. Bacon represented to me what you say was [not?] authorized. But I am rejoiced I accepted the appointment even under the circumstances under which it was conferred, because I believe I have been of some use. It was very necessary I should

come here for I have been every day constantly employed in trying privates and officers, and the records of the court will show that we have convicted nearly fifty prisoners. Had I not been here the privates would probably have been under guard for three months and then discharged without trial. I do not precisely understand how the courts martial are to be organized in the different counties. General McClure's sentiments, in which I concurred, are exposed in a letter lately written from Fort Niagara. I will wait till I see the *Argus* containing General Hopkins's orders and may be understand the allusion in your letter.

General McClure and his aid are both so constantly employed that the General has requested me to communicate to you intelligence of our late movements. On the 10th, for the first time, the troops who had volunteered were prepared for a march with infinite trouble.

We had various and contradictory accounts of the enemy but his force had no terror for us. With a view of knowing at all events where the enemy was and what he was doing, and if practicable to attack him, we marched about eleven hundred, including 300 Indians, towards him. We arrived at his late encampment at Cross Roads and found he had precipitately abandoned in such haste as to burn and destroy the stores he could reach.

The cause of this sudden departure I do not hesitate to say was the appearance of the militia in crossing the river and entering Fort George, who, the enemy supposed, were 5,000 in number.

The deserters, the prisoners of war and the subjects all concurred in saying the army expected an attack from an immense force of militia and Indians; the latter apparently was an object of terror.

We marched to the 12 Mile Creek and found that the enemy had retreated to Burlington Heights, about 50 miles from this place, where they had fortified. A part, perhaps 200, were at the 40 Mile Creek, which General McClure meant to have attacked and if he had he would have taken them, their baggage and sick. But Colonel Knott (*sic*) of the United States Artillery, who had commanded the fort and who also had been previously informed of the intended movement without opposing it, completely defeated the General's intentions. We had marched 8 miles when an express from him overtook us and informed the General that Colonel Knott should abandon the fort with all his regiment on the morning of the 13th. He pressed all the teams so as to deprive us of provisions and arrest our march. In this situation General McClure had but one course, which was to return. He took a circuit through the country to Clippawa, from thence to Queenston Heights and to this fort. In our route we had collected immense quantities of public property, perhaps 1,000 barrels of flour, bread, salt, hides, tallow, arms, &c., &c. Excursions have been made to the different encampments, which we have destroyed. The Indians

on the whole have behaved very well. An account of their conduct will be found in an address which General McClure has been under the necessity of issuing to the inhabitants of Canada.

General McClure is an excellent officer and if this frontier is to be protected during the winter by the militia and these forts to be garrisoned by them, I do not hesitate in saying that a better commander than him cannot be found in the State. From his having been here so long he has become well acquainted with the peculiar duties of the station, with the precautions necessary to prevent surprise and with the character of the inhabitants. To a new hand these would be great difficulties, which he has already overcome. I presume the General does not wish it, but this statement is due to him and the public service.

The propriety of retaining this post is obvious on the least reflection. It affords an excellent observation from which to watch the enemy and gain intelligence of his movements. It is essential to protect the inhabitants, who will otherwise be thrown open wholly defenceless to the rapine and pillage of marauders from our side. They are now restrained with difficulty and if no force is left here a scene of desolation and ruin will inevitably ensue. The only regular force on this frontier consists of two half companies of artillery commanded by Captains Leonard and Reed at Niagara Fort. The term of service of this detachment expires in about 5 weeks and it is highly necessary that the new detachment, if any is made, should be here to take our places a short time before we are dismissed.

Our camp is as healthy as could be expected but we have much to apprehend from rains and cold weather.

General McClure sends his best respects and begs that you accept this information I have given of our movements in the place of a letter from him, which he has not time to write.

(Tompkins Papers, vol. VIII, pp. 557-60, New York State Library.)

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### **Address to the Inhabitants of the Province of Upper Canada.**

Brigadier General McClure, commanding the Niagara frontier, finds the Upper Province deserted by the British army and abandoned by its government. In the peculiar situation of the inhabitants it is essential to their security that some regulations should be established for their government while the American army has the power of enforcing them. The General regrets to say that illegal, unauthorized and forbidden pillage has been committed by a few who are lost to all honor and insensible of the obligations of a soldier. To arrest such practices, to afford all the protection in his power and to ensure

safety to the property and persons of the inhabitants who are now under his control the General has issued this address.

The employment of the Indians has been a source of extreme regret to the General. But finding them called out by the government of the United States and expecting to attack an army who had long employed them in scenes of atrocity and outrage at which humanity shudders, he was driven to the only alternative left him of using the same weapon against our enemies which they had used against ourselves. That the British army had abandoned their encampments and fled before the American force does not weaken the necessity which he was under of employing the Indians before he knew that the enemy had abandoned them. At the same time it is due to them to say that the Indians have conducted themselves far better than could have been expected, if the example of British officers and British savages be a criterion. Not a single individual has been scalped or tomahawked by them, no prisoner of war has been burnt, the dead have not been thrown into the public highways, the women and children have not been massacred, nor has private property been destroyed except in cases where the former conduct of the owners required exemplary retaliation. The property which they have plundered has in cases where it was possible been restored to the inhabitants at the expense of the United States, and when the necessity for their employment ceased to exist the Indians were sent to the American side of the river beyond the reach of temptation to wait until circumstances justified another call upon them. The relation of these facts is due to the honor of our government, to the reputation of the General, and to the reputation of the Indians. From it also the inhabitants of Canada may learn what they may expect from American forbearance and clemency.

To ensure that forbearance the inhabitants have an easy duty to perform. Let them abstain from communication with the British army and remain at home quietly pursuing their avocations. Those who conduct themselves differently will incur the penalties of rigorous martial law. The character of our free republican government and the nature of our institutions will justify an expectation of security and protection. All civil magistrates will continue to exercise the functions of their offices *merely* as conservators of the peace; as far as they are able they will preserve order and quiet among the inhabitants. The existing laws of the province, so far as they regard the public peace and not interfering with the regulations of the army, will be considered in force until other measures are taken. The magistrates are particularly required to give information at headquarters of all violences committed by the American troops or citizens, unless they are authorized by a written order. The General enjoins the inhabitants

to submit to their magistrates and those who refuse obedience must be reported to headquarters. The Brigadier General invites all the inhabitants who are disposed to be peaceable, orderly and neutral, to return to their homes and their business. He cannot promise complete security but he engages as far as his power extends to protect the innocent, the unfortunate and the distressed.

GEORGE MCCLURE,

Commanding Niagara Frontier,

Head Quarters, Fort George, Oct. 16, 1813.

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**General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 15th October, 1813.

SIR,—With reference to my letter of last night I beg to acquaint Your Excellency that the squadron sailed at daylight this morning with a favorable wind, which changed before they could reach the Nine Mile Point and has ever since blown from the S. west. Consequently they were obliged to return. In addition to this unfortunate circumstance, intelligence has been received from Sackett's Harbour, by the return of the flag of truce sent there by the Commodore some days ago, that the enemy's preparations for the attempt, whenever it is to be made, appear to be completed. The harbour is stated to be full of batteaux and other craft and the rumor among their seamen is that Kingston is to be 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 ready for sea.

He likewise reports that the *Lady of the Lake* arriving 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 that rumor 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 enemy's descent towards Prescott and Montreal by sending all the light vessels to the easternmost point of Long Island, under the direction of Captain Mulcaster, and retaining the two ships under his own command for the defence of this post. The flotilla of gunboats is also to be stationed at the east point of Long Island on their arrival from Prescott, and I suggest the propriety of not ordering forward any further convoys until the enemy's intentions are more clearly developed.

With regard to the Centre Division, as the state of the wind renders it impossible for anything to move to its aid at present, I can

only hope that the next accounts from Major General Vincent, which I am hourly expecting, may be of a more cheering nature than the rumors to which I have above alluded.

Canadian Archives, c. 680, pp. 192-4.

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**From Thomas G. Ridout to Thomas Ridout.**

BURLINGTON, 16th October, 1813.

I wrote to you the other day from this place, which letter I suppose you have received. I was in such a hurry I could hardly tell you anything. We had a most dreadful time from the Cross Roads. Upwards of 300 men were straggling upon the road, and waggons loaded with miserable objects stuck fast in mudholes, broken down and unable to ascend the hills, and the men too ill to stir hand or foot. One thousand Western Indians arrived last night from Detroit, besides 2,000 women and children. Poor creatures! What will become of them? It is said the great Tecumseh is killed. The Indians have made horrid work with Harrison's army, killing several hundred. We are sending all the heavy baggage to York but do not think Sir George will allow this army to retreat. In two days Mr. Couche and I set off for Quebec. Mr. Dance wanted his brother with Mr. C., but he said he would not part with me. I shall ride one of his horses down. If the army retreats, 8,000 barrels of flour besides immense stores will fall into the enemy's hands.

The troops have left the Forty. Vincent is waiting for orders from below before he retreats. It is said that Evans, Muir, and Chambers are killed. For these four days I have worked from six in the morning till ten at night. Mr. Couche will soon be Commissary General. I suppose you have heard of Lord Wellington's defeat in Spain, where he lost 7,000 men.

York will be left in a dreadful state if we retreat. We shall stay two days with you.

(From "Ten Years of Upper Canada," by Lady Edgar, pp. 238-9.)

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**Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, the 16th October, 1813.

SIR,—Your Excellency will perceive from the enclosed copies of letters just received from Major-Generals Vincent and Procter that affairs in that quarter are by no means so disastrous as has been most shamefully represented by Staff Adjutant Reiffenstein, whose false reports and speculations upon the extent and consequences of Major

General Procter's defeat have been openly circulated by that officer and have created the greatest alarm among all classes of people throughout the whole country. Mr. Reiffenstein assured me that he had not communicated the intelligence of the defeat of General Procter's detachment to any person, whereas I am assured by an officer who heard him that he made it the subject of his conversation at a large dinner party at York. Moreover, the cause and mode of the gentleman quitting the officer to whom he was attached call for inquiry.

Your Excellency will perceive on reference to my letter to Major-General Vincent of the 13th (of which a copy has been transmitted to you) that that officer has anticipated all my wishes and directions, as intimated in that letter. I feel that the conduct of the operations of the Centre Division may be safely confided to Major-General Vincent. I am equally satisfied with the firmness evinced under his difficulties by Major-General Procter.

As the squadron could not reach the head of the lake with the present winds without a greater sacrifice of time than can at present be risked, it has been directed to send up the schooner *Vincent*, which may be useful in assisting the transport of stores from Burlington to York. She will sail to-night and I will risque a few stand of arms and some Indian presents (articles much wanted) on board her.

The great extent of the works here and their unfinished state certainly require a very large garrison for the defence of this place, and I cannot regret having detached from the Centre Division, which with the remains of General Procter's [division] and the Indians accompanying, will still have as many men as can be fed and more than can easily be covered either at Burlington or York.

Until your Excellency's pleasure is communicated, I shall not make any alteration in the orders which I have given to Major-General Vincent (in the letter above referred to) which leaves it discretionary with him to maintain his present position or fall back upon York, according to circumstances.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680. pp. 216-9.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to General Wilkinson.**

U. S. Ship *Gen. Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOUR, 16th Oct., 1813.

SIR,—The Honourable the Secretary at War having requested that I would afford transport to that part of the army now under the command of Colonel Scott and believed to be at or near the mouth of

the Genesee River, I shall therefore proceed immediately with the squadron under my command for Genesee River, take on board Colonel Scott and his men and join you at Grenadier Island as soon as possible.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix.)

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**General Wilkinson to Commodore Chauncey.**

HEADQUARTERS, SACKETT'S HARBOUR,

Oct. 16th, 1813.

SIR,—I have had the honour to receive your letter of to-day, and briefly reply that the arrangement with regard to your movement has been made without my privity or approbation, and I hold myself therefore irresponsible for consequences.

N.B. The front of the troops will move to-day for Grenadier Island.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix.)

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**The Secretary of War to Major-General Hampton.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, October 16, 1813.

DEAR GENERAL,—Your favor of the twelfth instant has been handed to me by Major Parker. The Niagara division has been slow in its movements. It has at length reached Henderson's Harbor and moves this day to Grenadier Island, whither the division here is moving also. From this point (Grenadier Island) we take our departure either for Kingston or for Montreal. The enemy broke up his positions before Fort George on the ninth, burned his surplus stores, arms, etc., and moved rapidly for Burlington Bay, which he reached on the eleventh instant. Advices from the Bay of Cante state that he is coming down to Kingston and that his sick and convalescent, to the number of one thousand two hundred, had already arrived there. He will bring with him about one thousand five hundred effectives, and, thanks to the storm and our snail-like movements down the lake, they will be there before we can reach it. The manœuvre intended is lost so far as regards Kingston. What we now do against that place must be done by hard blows and at some risk. The importance of the object may, however, justify the means. In the other case (an immediate descent of the St. Lawrence) the army will make its way to the Isle Pierrot, whence we shall immediately open a communication with you. Under these circumstances you will approach the mouth of the Chateaugay or other



point which shall favor our junction and hold the enemy in check. Your known vigilance and skill make it unnecessary to suggest any measures of precaution against the enterprises of the enemy while you remain within stroke of him. The dragoons will pass the St. Lawrence near the Coteau du Lac.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 461.)

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**Major General Lewis to Mrs. Livingston.**

(SACKETT'S HARBOUR, 16th October, 1813.)

We have been delayed here near a month beyond our calculations by unforeseen events. General Wilkinson, who went to Fort George to bring up the troops from thence, was long confined there by severe indisposition, which has again assailed him at this place. The troops left Fort George the 30th of last month and have been encountered by such dreadful tempests that they have not yet all arrived.

Our embarkation commenced from here this day (on which I enter my sixtieth year,) and by to-morrow evening we shall all be afloat. The fleet has gone out to clear the way for us. Our objects are, first, Kingston; next, Montreal. The first I fear we shall be obliged to relinquish on account of the advanced state of the season. We have already had upwards of two feet of snow in our neighborhood. The last, I think, will be an easy conquest, though our final decision will be made when we reach our place of rendezvous, which is Grenadier Island, near the head of the St. Lawrence.

The enemy has broken up from Fort George and about 1200 of his troops have arrived at Kingston, which will oblige us, if we attempt that place, to make regular approaches, for which I think we have not time, and to attempt it now by assault would cost, I think, more than it is worth.

(From a "Biography of Morgan Lewis," by Julia Delafield, vol. II., pp. 91-2.)

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**Major-General Harrison to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, DETROIT, October 16, 1813.

(Extract.)

A detachment of the army under the command of Brigadier-General McArthur has been for some days waiting at this place for the necessary provisions to proceed to Lake Michigan. I am sorry to inform you that from the effects of a violent storm there is now no prospect of accomplishing that desirable object, the reduction of Michilimackinack, this season. It is with the greatest regret I inform

you is almost reduced to a certainty that two of our schooners have been lost on Lake Erie, the *Chippewa* and *Ohio*, the former loaded with the baggage of the troops from Bass Island, the latter with flour and salt provisions from Cleveland.

Upon a consultation with the two Brigadiers and Commodore Perry and Captain Elliott, it was unanimously determined that the season is too far advanced to attempt an expedition to Mackinack if it were not commenced in two or three days, and there was no hopes of supplies being obtained in that time.

It is generally believed here that General Procter despatched an order to the commanding officer at Mackinack to destroy the post and retreat by the way of Grand River. At any rate it is not a matter of much importance to have that place in our possession during the winter, cut off as it is from a communication with the rest of the world.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, vol. I., p. 355.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to General Wilkinson**

U. S. Ship *General Pike*, SACKETT'S HARBOUR,

16th. October, 1813.

SIR,—Since I wrote you this morning, I have received a letter from the Hon. the Secretary at War, which, in consequence of the information received from you, makes it unnecessary for the fleet to proceed to the mouth of the Genesee River for Colonel Scott. I shall therefore cruise in this vicinity and in the Kingston channel until the army is ready to move for its ulterior object. I beg to repeat to you, sir, that I am now, as I always have been, ready to co-operate with the army, with the force under my command to the full extent of its power in any enterprise against the enemy.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix.)

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**Major Francis Cockburn, Canadian Regiment, to Lieut. Colonel Pearson.**

PRESCOTT, Oct. 17th, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that in compliance with your instructions I left this place about ten o'clock last night and proceeded with a detachment of the Canadian Regiment to the Red Mills, where I succeeded in capturing a picquet of the enemy's dragoons, consisting of one lieutenant and seven privates. I also brought away with me nine horses with their bridles, saddles, &c. Owing to the folly of the enemy in firing upon us from the house in which he was posted, one of his sergeants and one private were killed and one private badly wounded.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 225.)

**Colonel Pearson to Colonel Baynes.**

PRESCOTT, October 17th, 1813.

SIR,—In my last letter I had the honour to inform you that a detachment of the enemy's dragoons had made their appearance in Ogdensburg. It appears that this force consisted of 180 troopers of the 1st Regiment of United States Dragoons and that they were stationed on the frontier, extending down as far as Hamilton. On receiving advice that one of their picquets was stationed at a large mill about eight miles from Prescott, I determined to attempt surprising it and sent Major Cockburn with a detachment of the Canadian Regiment for that purpose, who, I am happy to say, succeeded in capturing and destroying the whole party, with the exception of two privates who unfortunately made their escape. The prisoners will be forwarded this morning in charge of Captain Daly of the Militia of Lower Canada, who, with a detachment of his regiment, is proceeding to join his corps.

I will thank you to inform what His Excellency's instructions are respecting the captured horses and equipment. They are well adapted either for the artillery or cavalry.

I hope His Excellency will not disapprove of the steps I have taken by acting offensively on the enemy's shore.

In consequence of General Hampton's army not making any demonstration toward St. Regis or on that part of their frontier I have forwarded Major Dennis, with the flank companies of the 49th only, to Cornwall, and have detained the *Voltigeurs* at Johnstown for a few days to be in readiness to support this post if occasion should require them, particularly as the enemy's expedition is reported to be in perfect readiness to move and their object not yet ascertained, although I cannot help entertaining the idea that Kingston and Prescott are their immediate objects. I have apprized Major-General De Rottenburg of the steps I have taken. I expect a message from Sackett's Harbour this night. He was to have returned last night. His information I shall instantly transmit to the necessary posts.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 226-8.)

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**Major-General De Rottenburg to the Military Secretary.**

KINGSTON, 17th October, 1813.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 14th instant, I have the honour to state, for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, that orders by me were given to the two companies of De Watteville's Regiment at York to proceed to

Kingston by water. They availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the small transports bound to Kingston, and an application was made to Commodore Sir James Yeo to afford those vessels the necessary protection.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, p. 229).

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**Information from Sackett's Harbour received at Kingston, 17th October, 1813.**

(Probably from Samuel Casey.)

Went from hence for the purpose of procuring intelligence; crossed above Prescott, went to a Quaker settlement south of Ogdensburg; from thence sent on trusty friends, who left Sackett's Harbour on Monday last. Says there was a large force, viz., 6,000 regulars and 1000 volunteers from the militia, intended for an expedition to Canada. A large number of militia were to remain at Sackett's Harbour for its protection. They had 150 large boats, 17 gunboats and 17 scows for artillery, horses and forage. That their object was Kingston and that they had actually embarked, but that they were disembarked on hearing that our fleet was in port. That they gave out they were going to Prescott, but merely with a view to draw reinforcements from this place. It was reported that a number of boats, as many as forty, and a number of men had been lost on Sandy Beach on their way from Niagara, but could not learn particulars. In their meditated attack they were to be aided by their fleet. Deponent believed that nothing but the reinforcement of Kingston and the return of our fleet has prevented the enemy from attacking it. Kingston has always been their real object and no other place. They were fully impressed with the idea that our squadron was disabled at the head of the lake.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 239-40.)

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**Colonel William Johnston, Addington Regiment of Militia, to Colonel Richard Cartwright, at Kingston.**

ERNESTOWN, 17th October, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—I send down to you by William McCoy, ten Americans. They came ashore in a boat this morning near Robt. Clarke's, Esq. They say they left Oswego the 15th instant and was bound to Sackett's Harbour. Their boat was wrecked and left on the Isle of Tonti, where they left in the woods all their arms except

one which they brought over; took a boat from the inhabitants of the Isle of Tonti and crossed over, delivered themselves up.

List of their names :

Ensign James Stewart.

Soldiers: { Jonathan Thompson,  
Isaac Leonard,  
Robert McCurdy,  
David Wilcox,  
Mark McLaughlin,  
Wm. Fleming,  
James Gilchrist.

Citizens:—Cornelius Van Slyke, Stephen Brace.

(Canadian Archives, c. 680, p. 241.)

No. 97.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

At anchor off the Ducks, 17th October, 1813.

SIR,—After the squadron was under way yesterday for the purpose of proceeding to Genesee River to take on board Colonel Scott and the men under his command, I received a note from General Armstrong (a copy of which is enclosed) saying that in consequence of information received from General Wilkinson it would be unnecessary for me to proceed to the Genesee River at this time, but requests that I would afford the necessary protection to the army in its passage to Grenadier Island. I accordingly took my station about these islands, which will enable me to observe any movement of the enemy at Kingston, and completely covering the movement of our army in its passage to Grenadier Island, which I hope will not occupy more than two days.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

#### A PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, Governor-in-Chief, and Commander of the Forces in and over the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, etc., etc.

*To the inhabitants of Lower Canada:*

As the period is in all probability fast approaching when it is to

be finally decided whether the arrogant expectations of the enemy are to be realized by the successful invasion of this province, or whether he is to meet with defeat and disgrace in the attempt, His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief and Commander of the Forces confidently appeals to the loyalty, courage, and patriotism of His Majesty's subjects of all classes in it for their prompt and cheerful acquiescence in whatever sacrifices the arduous conflict in which they are now engaged may require of them. Preserved as this highly favored country has hitherto been from the calamities of war by the exertions which have been made for its protection, its inhabitants are happily ignorant of those miseries which would unavoidably result from an invasion of their territory, and which have already been so severely felt in the sister province.

The stern mandate of an insulting foe has not yet been heard within our cottages, nor has his foot been permitted to pollute our soil; our plenteous harvests have everywhere been gathered in security and the industrious peasant has in the midst of his family tranquilly enjoyed the fruits of his honest labors.

To secure a continuance of blessings like these and to avert from yourselves and families the evils which are inseparable from an hostile invasion, you must be prepared to manifest the most determined devotion in resisting it, a ready submission to whatever hardships and privations it may expose you, and a firm resolution only to yield with your latest breath your country to a foreign rule.

To cherish and encourage such sentiments, which are alone worthy of a free people, His Excellency calls in a more particular manner upon the gentry of the province to persevere in that noble example they are now affording, by the sacrifice of their private ease to the public good and by standing forth amongst the foremost ranks to meet and repel the advance of the enemy (such conduct cannot but inspire confidence among those who look up to and depend upon them, and will not fail, under the blessings of Heaven, aided by the brave people whom they command and seconded by the valor and discipline of His Majesty's regular troops and embodied militia, to lead to a successful and honorable termination of the present contest.

As a further incentive to your most strenuous efforts in order to produce so glorious a result His Excellency would direct your attention towards the momentous conflict in which the Mother Country has been so long engaged, to the profusion of blood which she has shed, and treasure expended, to the many splendid victories she has obtained, and to the important fruits of them—the emancipation of kingdoms from the iron grasp of a powerful and inveterate enemy. He would again point your view to her, whilst thus straining every nerve for the independence of other nations, still not unmindful of her

children and her subjects in this distant though valuable part of her dominions; but amidst the great concerns with which she is surrounded and the vast demands which are made upon her during such a contest still manifesting her undiminished anxiety for your welfare and outstretching her powerful arm for your protection. Already are her fleets conveying fresh reinforcements of troops upon your coasts, all of them eager to share with their brethren in arms the honor and glory of defending the Canadas.

With such support in your favor and with such strong incentives for a vigorous use of the means which Providence in its mercy has vouchsafed to you for your defence, will it not depend upon yourselves whether you are to be conquered? The history of the world abundantly proves that an united nation cannot easily be overcome. If therefore you are true to each other; if you are only solicitous who shall best discharge his duty to his God and his King by devoting himself to the defence of his religion and his country; if with one heart and soul you cheerfully and promptly unite for their preservation, you need not fear what hosts may be opposed to you. The breasts of such a people will raise the most formidable as well as most successful ramparts against the attempts of any enemy to subdue them.

Given under my hand and seal at Arms this eighteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirteen.

GEORGE PREVOST.

By command of His Excellency, E. B. Brenton.

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**Major-General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, October 18th, 1813.

The diminution of our force by disease and various casualties, and more especially the uncertainty of the period of our movement against Montreal, render it necessary in my judgment that you should revoke the order of march you have given to General Hampton, and that he should be directed to march for Morrisville as rapidly as may be consistent with the health of his troops. This proposition is founded on the presumption that we make the reduction of Kingston and the conquest of the upper province the first objects of our operations.

(From Armstrong's "Notices of the War of 1812," Vol. II., p. 265-7, Appendix No. 12.)

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**Major General Vincent to Major-General De Rottenburg.**

BURLINGTON, 18th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have every reason to believe General Harrison and his army have returned to Sandwich, but whether he intends to make an attack on me from Fort Erie or Long Point is yet to be determined. At all events I see no necessity to retire from this position from any present attack of the enemy, and notwithstanding my former opinion, and which I do not now change, that this is no situation for the protection of the country, still I shall urge every exertion to cause the different barracks to be erected according to your original order and plans, but I fear the contractors have not the different articles required for that purpose and that in the end we shall be disappointed.

As I was not in the habit of seeing any of your private letters from the Commander of the Forces in the plan of defence of the country, I cannot judge the necessity of building barracks at Burlington in preference to Ancaster, but if I am left in command here for the protection of the army I should prefer the latter place.

I hope by the express I shall receive your final and perfect order how I am to act, and that you will take into your most serious consideration before you give them, what is to become of General Procter and the Grand River Indians. If they once quit us they are lost for ever and from that instant changed to the enemy. From this alone it is with reluctance (if it is possible to keep it) I would give up the country, and if we are obliged to do so, our Indians must be taken with us, provided they consent to come, but General Procter, who is at present with me, thinks the whole will immediately quit us, more especially as we have no presents to give them on their arrival. I understand from Colonel Claus that what Indian presents were coming up were ordered back by Lieut-Colonel Coffin. I hope this is not the case. If so, that they may be returned without loss of time, and I am under the necessity of supplying the Indians from the ordnance store with ammunition.

I have to report the arrival of Colonel Elliott with some Indians, about 150. He reports that about 500 are following him but will not be in for a few days, having to collect their families.

(Canadian Archives, C. 580, pp. 261-3.)

**Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 18th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit enclosed the substance of information received last night through the medium of a respectable inhabitant who was sent by Colonel Cartwright on that service. The



opinion I am inclined to form from this information is that the enemy, frustrated in his designs against Kingston by the rapid movement of troops and of the squadron to this point, never having seriously intended anything against Lower Canada or even Prescott, having a large body of disposable troops collected at Sackett's Harbour and immense means of transport, with the disposal of which he is now perplexed, may adopt the resolution of landing a considerable part of it in the rear of the Centre Division and establish himself at York. Checked as I am by the enemy's formidable and menacing attitude at Sackett's Harbour, Your Excellency will see the difficulty of my making any further effort at present in favor of the Centre Division. If I detach troops and the squadron (by which alone troops could move at present to York,) I uncover this place and invite the enemy to attack it, and if attacked in the absence of the fleet and with a reduced garrison it must fall.

Under these circumstances, strongly impressed with the probability of the enemy diverting his designs from this place which he finds prepared, to York, which he knows to be defenceless, and by which position he may entertain a hope of the capture of the Centre Division, in co-operation with the force under General Harrison, I have thought it right to direct or to repeat my directions to Major-General Vincent to hasten his arrangements for retiring to York, by sending to that place, as fast as he can command the means, all his stores, guns, (a proportion of field guns excepted,) provisions, sick, and in short every incumbrance, and to march with the whole division to that place as soon as he has completed the removal of these things, and I have informed him that the squadron will be held in readiness to follow the motions of that of the enemy whenever it is clearly established that he makes a movement upwards, and that I shall also embark on board of it every man I can spare to his assistance. The necessity of not dividing the squadron is now more apparent than ever. Commodore Sir James Yeo will report to Your Excellency the arrangement of gunboats and a floating battery which he proposes to substitute for the lighter vessels of his squadron which he had intended to detach to the lower point of Long Island. This arrangement, together with a rapid communication by signal, will, I hope, be established before this evening. In the meantime the weather is so boisterous that no movement could be made by the enemy's small craft.

2 o'clock.—I have this moment received the enclosed letter from Major-General Vincent. The affair of the 5th seems to have been the sudden irruption of an overwhelming force upon the 41st Regiment, which gave way and dispersed but is rapidly re-collecting. The enemy, satisfied with his slight success, appears immediately to have fallen

back upon Sandwich, followed by our Indians under Colonel Elliott. General Procter is collecting his division upon the Grand River and had sent to General Vincent to say that he required nothing from him but provisions, which had been sent.

The order to which General Vincent alludes in the first part of his letter was given by me in consequence of the information, false and scandalous as now appears, which was verbally given to me by Lieut. Reiffenstein, that General Harrison with 8,000 men had utterly defeated and captured the whole of Major-General Procter's force and was rapidly advancing on Burlington, at which place, he informed me, that General Procter had arrived, altho' the Major-General was never nearer than within 36 miles of it. General Procter states to Major-General Vincent, in a letter forwarded by the Deputy-Adjutant-General to Colonel Baynes, that Lieut. Reiffenstein had merely his orders to go to Ancaster and that by going beyond that place he had been guilty of a positive disobedience of orders. I hope some serious and public notice will be taken of Lieut. Reiffenstein's scandalous conduct.

P.S.—I enclose a report of a boat containing soldiers having been thrown on the Isle of Tonti from Oswego. They are part of the troops on their passage to Sackett's Harbour, of which I have reason to believe a great many have been wrecked. I shall send them on by the first opportunity to Montreal.

(Canadian Archives, C. 20, pp. 241-6.)

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**Major-General Vincent to Major-General De Rottenburg.**

BURLINGTON, 19th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have to report that Major-General Procter has joined this army and affords me every assistance as second in command

By a letter I received a few days ago from the Deputy Adjutant General, I find that the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to take my situation and health under consideration by permitting me to be relieved immediately, which will yet give me an opportunity to return to England this year. I therefore wait most anxiously to receive your order for that purpose, when at any other time it would be with most serious reluctance I would quit this command, but I am sorry to have to confess that if His Excellency's kindness had not taken place, I must have been under the necessity of taking out a sick certificate from my ill state of health, which must at all events have caused me to retire from this army for a few months.

(Canadian Archives, C. 690, p. 264.)

**From the Secretary of War to Major-General Wilkinson.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, (SACKETT'S HARBOR.)

October 19th, 1813.

I received your letter of yesterday and should have answered it more promptly, but that business of the south and west required my immediate attention.

When on the 4th inst. you returned from Fort George, we had the prospect of a speedy concentration of our force at this point; the Niagara division had sailed on the 30th ult; the enemy's principal force occupied a cantonment between Lakes Erie and Ontario; his fleet was at the head of the lake and his garrison at Kingston reduced to seven or eight hundred men. Under these circumstances it was no doubt wise to decide, as we did, that our first attack should be carried against that place, but do these circumstances any longer exist? The expected concentration is but now effected, (18th October.) a reinforcement of 1,500 men has been thrown into Kingston; the British fleet has got into port there, and our force from disease and other casualties, according to your statement, diminished and diminishing. To reinstate and augment this, it is proposed to order General Hampton from his present position at Chateaugay to Morrisville on the St. Lawrence. These places are distant upwards of one hundred miles. A march of such length at this season of the year and in the present condition of the roads, loaded as he is with a train of artillery, with means of subsistence, and with tents and baggage, cannot be performed under fifteen days, to which must be added the time necessary for giving the order, for settling the arrangements preliminary to such a movement, and for making also the subsequent one from Morrisville to the mouth of the Gananoqui; all of which would probably protract the moment of junction till the 15th of November. Admonished as we are by the storms which have assailed us for ten days past—and which have not yet ceased—I cannot but think that a period so late would of itself be fatal to the project.

Other circumstances lead to the same conclusion. Beginning our operation from the mouth of the Gananoqui we shall have a march of twenty-four miles to Kingston and through a country covered with woods, destitute of inhabitants and pervious only by two roads, which, without any interruption from the enemy, are represented as nearly impassable at present. This movement (unlike that originally projected) cannot be made without the aid of horses and a less number of these than six hundred, including the 2nd Regiment of Dragoons, is, I understand, deemed insufficient. Now these must be fed, and their provender drawn from this place, as the country between Gravelly Point and Fultneyville affords none and interposes a swampy desert

which shuts us out from the supplies of Rossie and Rayville, &c. An important question arises here—can the necessary forage be obtained in this neighborhood? The Quarter-Master-General says “it cannot, that it must be carted from Lowville (40 miles distant) and transported hence by water.” These facts on your plan menace our operations against Kingston with a delay which would probably surround us with all the embarrassments of a Canadian winter and extinguish every hope of grasping the other, the safer and the greater object below. I call it the safer and the greater object, because— at Montreal you find the weaker place and the smaller force to encounter; at Montreal you meet a fresh, unexhausted, efficient reinforcement of four thousand men; at Montreal you approach your own resources and establish between you and them an easy and expeditious intercourse; at Montreal you occupy a point which must be gained in carrying your attacks home to the purposes of the war and which, if seized now, will save one campaign; at Montreal you hold a position which completely severs the enemy’s line of operations, which shuts up the Ottawa as well as the St. Lawrence against him and which, while it restrains all below, withers and perishes all above itself.

These, General, are the thoughts which present themselves on your proposition, which I understand as abandoning for this campaign the proposed attack on Montreal. I am entirely disposed to listen to all that can be said on the other side of the question, but at present the reasons assigned leave me no doubt of the policy of pursuing promptly and firmly the plan already indicated and which, beside the approbation of the President, has received the sanction of a Council of War.

(From “Notices of the War of 1812,” by John Armstrong, New York, 1840, Vol. II., pp. 207-9, Appendix No. 12.)

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### General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,

October 18, 1813.

The Commander of the Forces has the deepest regret in announcing that Lieut. Reiffenstein, Staff-Adjutant, arrived yesterday, and is the bearer of the following unpleasant intelligence: Major-General Procter having sustained, by the unfortunate capture of the squadron on Lake Erie, the loss of a very considerable portion of his military force, which was serving on board that fleet, as well as the principal heavy ordnance necessary for the defence of his military positions, commenced his retreat from the port of Sandwich on the

24th September, having previously dismantled the posts of Amherstburg and Detroit, and burned and destroyed every public building and stores of every description.

The retreating regular forces, consisting of a small detachment of Royal Artillery, a troop of Provincial Dragoons and the remains of the 41st Regiment, in all about 450 rank and file, was accompanied by a body of Indian warriors, numbering from 1000 to 1500.

The enemy's fleet and army appeared off Amherstburg on the 26th Sept., and landed on the following day but soon re-embarked their troops and proceeded by Lake St. Clair to the mouth of the River Thames. The American army was again landed and, accompanied by gunboats, followed the route of Major-General Procter's corps, which, having been much retarded by the slow progress of loaded batteaux, they were enabled to come up with the rear guard and loaded boats on the third inst., and succeeded in capturing the whole. Major-General Procter, being thus deprived of the means of supporting his little army, was under the necessity of awaiting the enemy's attack, which took place at 4 o'clock on the evening of the 5th inst. near the Moravian Village.

A six-pounder on the flank was by some unpardonable neglect left destitute of ammunition, and the enemy, availing himself of this unfortunate circumstance, pressed upon that part of the line, which, wanting the support of artillery, was forced by the superior numbers of the enemy. Major-General Procter exerted himself to rally the troops, who, being exhausted with fatigue, not having received any provisions the preceding day, were unable to make adequate exertions to resist the superior numbers by which they were assailed.

The safety of Major-General Procter, the officers of his personal staff and some few others, together with about fifty men, has only as yet been ascertained.

The Indian warriors retreated towards Matchedash.

The enemy's force employed on this service is estimated at from 10,000 to 12,000 strong, including troops of every description.

EDWARD BAYNES, Colonel,  
Adjutant-General.

**Colonel Baynes to Colonel Scott, 103rd Regiment, Commanding at Coteau du Lac.**

MONTREAL, 13th Oct., 1813.

DEAR COLONEL,—I have received your letters, public and private, which I have laid before the Commander of the Forces. With all its deficiencies and imperfections the post of the Coteau du Lac and the

position placed under your command is better provided and more capable of defence than almost any part of this extensive frontier, nor will the season of the year or the demands from other quarters admit of any further reinforcement or addition being made to your command, which His Excellency considers as fully competent to resist any attempt of the enemy to force a passage by that route. He is therefore confident that you will not be called upon to act in the supposition of his succeeding in that design. Should such an event (which he trusts you will never suffer,) occur, you will act, according to circumstances, in the enemy's rear, following the route he may take and if practicable pass his flank and throw yourself into Montreal, if he lands on that island.

The proportion of arms are as great as can be spared for your post. It is advisable to leave the militia as much to their agricultural pursuits as practicable, but a signal should be arranged for their general assembly by ringing the tocsin or church bell, firing beacons, and cannon. It is not probable that the enemy's attempt can be made without previous intelligence of some sort transpiring.

As soon as you have established the mounted militia men to carry the expresses, who will receive each 3/9 per diem in lieu of all pay, forage or rations, you will send in the troopers of the 19th Dragoons to join their corps.

(From MSS. of Colonel Scott.)

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**Major-General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 19th October, 1813.

(Extract.)

Personal considerations would make me prefer a visit to Montreal to an attack on Kingston, but before I abandon this attack, which by my instructions I am ordered to make, it is necessary to my justification that you should, by the authority of the President, direct the operations of the army under my command particularly against Montreal.

(From Armstrong's "Notices of the War of 1812," Vol. II., p. 209.)

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**The Secretary of War to General W. H. Harrison.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, October 20, 1813.

SIR,—The enemy's corps before Fort George broke up their cantonments on the 9th and marched rapidly for Burlington Bay, which he reached on the 11th. By taking this route he may intend

to reinforce Procter on the River Trench, or Kingston at the head of the St. Lawrence. He was apprised of the abandonment of Malden on the 5th.

We are perhaps too remote to profit by each other's suggestions, but it does not appear to me that Sandwich is the point at which Procter will stop if you pursue him. From Point au Pins on Lake Erie there is a good road to Chatham on the Thames, the distance not more than twenty-four miles. Were this gained and travelled back to Sandwich, the enemy's means of subsistence might be destroyed, and himself compelled to surrender. But of the practicability of this you are the best judge; my opinion is suggested by the map.

The first division of the army sailed two days ago. The second and the reserve follow to-day.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 456.)

#### From the Secretary of War to Major-General Wilkinson.

WAR DEPARTMENT, (SACKETT'S HARBOR,)

October 20th, 1813.

I received your letter of yesterday by Major Lee. You appear to have written it under an impression that your instructions of August last made a direct attack upon Kingston unavoidable. A copy of these instructions is before me and in the last paragraph of them we find a summary of their substance. It is as follows: "After this expedition it is unnecessary to add that in conducting the present campaign you will make *Kingston your principal object* and that you will choose, as circumstances may indicate, between a *direct* and an *indirect* attack on that post." Both modes of attack are slightly detailed in these orders and a preference given to the latter, but without at all infringing your right of choice or in any degree lessening your responsibility. Nor am I now at liberty to change the ground of these instructions, since the only effect of this would be to substitute my opinion for yours. The former has not, however, been withheld; it has been given freely and fully and is yet unshaken by any consideration presented to my mind.

As we are now about to part it may be proper that I should subjoin to what I have said in favor of a movement on Montreal a short statement of my objection to a direct attack on Kingston:

- 1st. If its garrison consists of four thousand of the best troops of the enemy (as you suggest) your attack will fail.
- 2nd. If your attack fails your retreat is impracticable.
- 3rd. Your descent must necessarily be made above or below the

town, on the water's edge, and within a short distance of your object. If made below the town, your fleet cannot cover it; if made above the town it must be done in the presence of the enemy and within stroke of his fleet, and that he will think the object sufficient to justify the risk cannot be doubted. Besides an approach on this side, however successful, leaves to the enemy the means of escaping.

4th. The experiment already made of the lake navigation is not encouraging. Though pressed by no enemy other than the weather, the army has not been able to reach Grenadier Island but in broken order and with considerable loss. On your plan they have eighteen other miles to go on the open lake, and much of this distance under the eye of the British fleet. Is it probable that our *scows* will be able to navigate this remaining distance, (at a season and under circumstances so unfavorable) in better order or with less loss?

(From "Notices of the War of 1812," by John Armstrong, New York, 1840, Vol. II., pp. 209-210, Appendix No. 12.)

#### Speech of Red Jacket at a Council held at Buffalo.

October 21st, 1813.

Addressed to Erastus Granger, Esq., agent, etc.

Brother, we are rejoiced to meet you in health, for which we are grateful to the Great Spirit. Brother, our feelings were hurt, that after the willingness we have shown to assist our brethren of the United States in the war in which they are engaged, our friendship should be suspected. Our dissatisfaction arose from another cause.

Brother: General Porter and myself had promised our warriors that they should have pay for one month's services for guarding the lines. General Wilkinson also promised them pay for their services, but went away and told them that General McClure would fulfil the promise made to them. We have not received pay according to promise. We think you were not authorized to promise us. We think we are trifled with. We were promised that all horses and cattle should be free plunder. We took horses; we had to give them up. We have been deceived. We, the Senecas and Onondagas, gave up the property we took. The Oneidas, whom you have educated and taught your habits, gave up nothing. We want you to state this to the President. We want permission to go to Washington. We are an independent nation. We have taken up arms in your favor. We want to know on what footing we stand. We know not how long the war will last. It was agreed by all at Fort George that we should send word. We want a small deputation from the friendly Indians at the westward to meet us at Washington. Let us unite,



and in one season more we will drive the red coats from this island. They are foreigners. This country belongs to us and the United States. We do not fight for conquest, but we fight for our rights—for our lands—for our country. We hope our request will be granted. We trust that you will make our request known to the President and that we shall not be deceived.

(From Ketchum's History of Buffalo, Vol. II., pp. 433-4.)

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**General W. H. Harrison to the Secretary of War.**

(Extract.)

HEAD QUARTERS, ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA,

October 21, 1813.

Soon after my letter to you of the 16th instant was written, I was informed that a special messenger from you had left Bass Island in the schooner *Chippewa*, which had been driven from the mouth of the Detroit river in a violent storm; and from the circumstance of a quantity of baggage belonging to the officers which was known to be on board being found on the lake shore, she was believed to have been lost. As I had nearly completed the arrangement for a suspension of hostilities with the Indians, although I had no information as to the movement of the army on Lake Ontario, I determined to embark General McArthur's brigade and the battalion of the United States Riflemen and proceed with them down the lake, until I could receive some certain information of the movements of the army under General Wilkinson and what was expected of me. I arrived here this morning with Commodore Perry in the *Ariel*, having left the remainder of the fleet at Bass Island. It is probable they will be here this evening, when we shall immediately proceed to Buffalo.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 456.)

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**Kingston Gazette.**

(Saturday, 23rd October, 1813.)

(From the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.)

GENERAL ARMSTRONG.—We understand that General Armstrong on his way to the frontier, stopped at his place in Redhook. While there, he stated in conversation with some gentlemen, that General Dearborn had been dismissed from the command of the army for disobedience of orders. That he had been directed to attack Kingston instead of Little York—that his force was sufficient to have taken Kingston at that time in the state of defence in which it then was,

and that his conduct on that occasion had ruined the plan of campaign. He further stated that the future success of the campaign, depended on our gaining the ascendancy on Lake Ontario, an event which from the recent operations on that lake, we think not likely to happen this year. The General further remarked that there was no longer any prospect of peace, and spoke of a contemplated removal of the regular troops from Burlington to Sackett's Harbor, and intimated that their place was to be supplied by militia.

PLAN OF THE CAMPAIGN—It is now said that the latest plan formed by our redoubtable warriors for conquering Canada, is to concentrate all our armies in the neighbourhood of Burlington, when they will penetrate directly into Lower Canada and make a dash at Montreal.

(File in Bureau of Archives, Toronto.)

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**Major-General De Rottenburg to Major-General Vincent.**

KINGSTON, 23rd October, 1813.

SIR,—I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 16th instant. It is not in my power to alter the arrangement or to suspend the execution of the orders of the Commander of the Forces communicated to you with my letter of the 20th. You must accordingly proceed to carry into effect by removing all the stores, provisions and other incumbrances to York, preparatory to falling back with the troops to that place, and in like manner continuing your retreat towards this place.

I shall not lose a moment, however, in communicating with His Excellency on the different points contained in your letter, particularly on the important but embarrassing and perplexing subject of the Indians.

It is possible that their determination of following our troops may induce His Excellency to keep a corps at York, and no time shall be lost in making you acquainted with his decision thereon. In the meantime the Indians, through their chiefs, must be assured that they shall never be abandoned by us, but shall be treated by their father with every degree of favor and regard, which their steady attachment merits.

The Indian presents, which had been ordered to return toward Kingston on receipt of the accounts brought by Mr. Reiffenstein, were immediately ordered back, and I hope have reached you.

The construction of barrack accommodation at Burlington must of course be discontinued.

Our Indians must not be abandoned. When you retire, which you should do without delay, all the Indians must accompany you,

and you must do everything possible for their accommodation and that of their families. The encumbrance will be dreadful but it must be submitted to; but, as I have said before the Commander of the Forces' distinct orders respecting their final disposal shall be sent to you.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680 pp. 266-8.)

**Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 23rd October, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter by Captain Cochrane, and of a subsequent one of the 20th instant received this morning. Your Excellency will have learnt by later communications than those noticed in your letters, that Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton's detachment has not retreated from Long Point, nor has any loss of provisions been sustained at that place. The remainder of Your Excellency's letter is also answered by communications which have been forwarded and will prove to Your Excellency that no despondency pervades the minds of the troops, and that both Major-General Vincent and those under his command are prepared and determined to do their duty.

The loss of flour at the commencement of Major-General Vincent's retreat I was ignorant of until the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 20th, no such loss having been reported to me. But with the great difficulties, which I explained while with the Centre Division, in removing even the sick of the army to the rear, owing to the bad state of the batteaux from want of means of repairing them, and to the difficulty of procuring hands to row them, I cannot wonder at Major-General Vincent not finding means of removing all his stores, etc., particularly at a moment of such general alarm as that occasioned by Staff-Adjutant Reiffenstein. Moreover, but for this officer's exaggerated report, the division would probably have remained in its advanced position long enough to have consumed the small remaining depot of flour with it. With regard to the numerous stores and large depot of provisions at Burlington, I much fear even greater difficulties will be experienced in their removal, the season of transport by batteaux being so near at an end and the means of conveyance by land being so limited.

I feel confident, however, that every degree of exertion will be used, and I would beg to suggest that Major-General Vincent be authorized to leave at Burlington a lightly equipped detachment, supported by Indians and the militia of the neighborhood, for the purpose of covering the removal of such stores as it may be found impossible to convey away previous to the march of the division.

The sentence of death passed on privates Robert Dome of the 100th and J. Danielkowitz of the Regiment of De Watteville, have been carried into execution.

I have the honour of enclosing letters received from Major-Generals Vincent, 18th October, and Procter, 16th October. The latter officer has been called upon for a more distinct and detailed report of the affair of the 5th instant. A copy of my answer to Major-General Vincent is also enclosed.

P.S.—I beg Your Excellency's early answer on the subject of the Indians. A cypher will be sent to Major-General Vincent by a confidential officer.

Memo. by Sir George Prevost in the margin:

"I approve of a lightly equipped detachment being left at Burlington or Ancaster, according to Major-General De Rottenburg's determination from the knowledge which he possesses of the advantages and disadvantages of both. The detachment is to be placed under an active and intelligent officer, who will cordially support the Indians and co-operate with them. The salubrity and security of the position fixed upon offers to the troops are essential considerations. York must be retained and, securely garrisoned. After those services have been performed, the residue of the troops are to be brought to Kingston."

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 269-272.)

No. 98.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

At anchor off Ducks, 23rd October, 1813.

SIR,—On the 20th instant, when standing off and on between Grenadier Island and Long (or Grand) Island, we discovered a white flag on the latter island. I dispatched the Sylph to ascertain the cause and bring me word. Captain Woolsey returned late in the afternoon with information that the flag was hoisted by Lieutenant Scott of the 2nd Regiment of Artillery from Sackett's Harbor, bound to Grenadier Island with forty men, but for the want of pilots he had lost his way and run upon Long Island on the 17th, where his boat was totally lost, and himself and men left without the possibility of a retreat if discovered by the enemy. It was at this time blowing so heavy from the westward that it was impossible to afford Lieutenant Scott any any assistance from the fleet. I, however, directed Captain Woolsey to take my launch and remain as near to Lt. Scott as he could with safety, and the moment that the weather moderated to relieve him and his men, which he did yesterday and landed them safe at Gravelly Point. I am apprehensive that from the severity of the weather that other boats have shared the same fate. I have as far

as practicable reconnoitred the shores of the different islands to discover boats that might want assistance, but have seen none except upon our own shores, with the exception of Lieutenant Scott.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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**General W. H. Harrison to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, BUFFALO, N.Y., October 24, 1813.

(Extract.)

I have this moment landed at this place from on board the schooner *Ariel*, which is one of the seven vessels with which I left Detroit, having on board the greater part of McArthur's brigade, and the detachment of the United States rifle regiment under Colonel Smith. The other vessels are all, I believe, in sight, and will be up in a short time. The aggregate number of troops with me is about thirteen hundred, but not more than one thousand fit for duty. Before this reaches you, you will no doubt be informed of the loss of your messenger with the despatches that were entrusted to him. Not having received your directions and being entirely ignorant of the state of our military operations in this quarter, I was much at a loss to know how to proceed, but, believing that General Cass with his brigade would be able to secure Detroit and our adjacent conquests, after having concluded an armistice with a greater part of the hostile tribes, I concluded that I could not do better than move down the lake with the remaining troops. A part of McArthur's brigade is still at Bass Island, where they were left for the want of means of conveyance, and a considerable portion of their baggage was also left for the same cause. Means, however, have been taken to collect and bring them on.

I shall move down the troops immediately to Fort George, where I shall await your orders, unless an opportunity should previously occur of striking at the enemy. The information I have received here of the situation and movements of the enemy on the heart of Lake Ontario is vague and contradictory.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 456.)

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**Lieut. W. F. Woolsey to General Wilkinson.**

U. S. Schooner *Sylph*,  
Off GRENADIER ISLAND, Oct. 22nd, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note by Captain Crane. In answer to it, can only observe that I am entirely ignorant of the cause of the firing at Kingston this morning. It is possible the Commodore has gone in; but I hardly think he would leave the *Sylph* with her heavy guns behind. I parted from the fleet last evening to take Lieutenant Scott and 40 men of the 2nd Regiment off Long Island, where they had been cast away. I landed them this morning at Cape Vincent. Sixty barrels of provisions and their camp equipment are left on the island.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol III., Appendix No. IV.)

**General Wilkinson to Major-General Lewis.**

SIR,—I send you the report of Lieutenant Woolsey. Commodore Chauncey parted with me at 10 o'clock last night; he is off the Ducks. Can any means be adopted to relieve Lieutenant Scott and his party and to bring off the provisions and camp equipage he left on Grand Island? Let us save what we can without hazarding more than we attempt to save. The depending movement demands every exertion of all and no effort should be left unemployed to get up those behind us. Preserve and return this letter, as I keep no copy.

*Lady of the Lake*, off Grenadier Island, October 23rd, 1813.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III, Appendix IV.)

**G. Van Horne to Captain Wm. H. Merritt.**

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK,  
22nd October, 1813.

Upper Canada has held out to the admiration of us all here for a long time, but I fear the enemy will be too numerous for you at last unless you receive more help. I am sorry that the late accounts of the capture of our squadron on Lake Erie are too true.

We see nothing of the war as yet in this quarter. Almost the same friendly intercourse exists between the inhabitants on both sides the line as did before the war, and no hostilities commenced on either side except now and then an American privateer or *Shaving Mill*

being drove on shore and destroyed by the British seamen on the American side, which does not trouble the inhabitants as they do neither assist the privateers nor resist the British seamen in destroying them. The Yankees come here with flour, &c., and take away British manufactures as formerly, without molestation or hindrance by our Government. I fear the number of them which come here daily do not all come with good designs and I expect we shall find this out too late.

The commerce of this Province has increased greatly since you left and where one vessel sailed then on a voyage, upwards of ten does now, to England, West Indies, New Foundland, &c. Our attention, however, is principally turned to the West Indies, where our produce in general finds a ready market.

(From the Merritt MSS.)

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#### General Order.

On board the *Lady of the Lake*,

Off GRENADIER ISLAND,

October 23rd, 1813.

The contractor is immediately to report the quantity and condition of the articles in his department; the quartermaster-general the quantity and condition of the articles in his department, and all alterations in those departments are to be reported daily. These reports are to be sealed and transmitted to the General or to such officer as he may hereafter think proper to direct, and no communication is to be made to any other person. The attention of every gentleman in commission from the highest to the lowest ranks must be assiduously and incessantly given to the health of the men, the state of the army, ammunition and accoutrements and the preservation and repair of the boats and their equipment, which ought to be held in constant fitness for the embarkation of the troops. The boats are to be arranged by regiments in order of battle, and the commanding officers will be held strictly responsible for their safety and good condition: they are of course authorized to establish distinct boat-guards.

This army is destined within a very few days, that is, the moment the stragglers and lost corps can be collected and organized, to seek the enemy in a situation and under circumstances which admit of no idea of retreat; the General therefore flatters himself the industry, attention, and exertions of every officer he commands will be correspondent; in their zeal and valour he has every confidence

and, under Heaven, he will give them such a direction as will ensure their triumph if they will execute his orders with promptitude and decision.

The provisions must be embarked and secured in the best possible manner; the same attention is to be paid the quartermaster's stores, tools and implements; also to those of the ordnance and hospital departments.

Major-General Lewis will be pleased to have the immediate charge of the encampment until the commander-in-chief can land, and will see that the preceding orders are carried into immediate execution. He will be pleased to reduce the guards and police to the lowest number which may consist with the good of the service in all its branches, and if the contractors and quartermasters have been so negligent of their duty as not to have representatives on the ground, he will immediately employ and appoint suitable persons to supply the defect at the expense of the heads of those departments.

By order,

J. B. WALBACH,

Adjutant-General.

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Major J. B. Glegg to Wm. Jarvis.

BEASELEY'S, 24th October, [1813.]

A great change has taken place within a short period in this province, and God only knows what will be the final result. I am much obliged by your exertions in my behalf, and notwithstanding the gloomy prospect before us a future day may come when some advantage will perhaps be derived from my Rainham estate.

(From Jarvis Papers, Toronto Public Library.)

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Major-General Morgan Lewis to Mrs. Lewis.

GRENADIER ISLAND, 25th October, 1813.

I arrived at this point on Thursday. Ill fortune still persecutes me. The troops embarked from Sackett's Harbour on the Saturday preceding, the distance only ten miles. A storm, which arose in the space of ten minutes without any previous notice, dispersed the ships and wrecked them in all possible situations. They have suffered much and are not yet all collected. God knows when we shall set out from hence. If we do not in a few days we may as well abandon our expedition, for the winter will soon begin here.

(From "Biography of Morgan Lewis," by Julia Delafield, Vol. II., pp. 93-4.)



No. 99.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

At anchor off the Ducks, 25th October, 1813.

SIR,—I am still waiting the movements of the army. The weather for the last three days has been so boisterous that I have not had communication with Grenadier Island, consequently am ignorant whether the whole of the troops have arrived at that rendezvous, and when the army intends to move for its ulterior destination. I have, however, left the *Lady of the Lake* with General Wilkinson, for the purpose of communicating to me when he is ready to move, in order that I may cover his operations, and I beg to assure you, sir, that everything within my power shall be done to insure a safe transport of the army to the place of its debarkation, and I confidently believe that a most glorious result will be the consequence of this movement.

Our present situation is well calculated for a close blockade of Kingston, as we have both entrances to that harbor open, as well as the mouth of the St. Lawrence. We occasionally run down towards Kingston so as to get a full view of the town and shipping, and alarm them a little by a movement which possibly may cover the point of our real attack.

The weather at this season is extremely boisterous, and has several times drove us from our anchorage and brought us to close-reefed sails, and really would render the small vessels of the squadron of but little use in case of any actual operations against the enemy during the continuance of such weather.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

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**Extract of a letter from an Officer in the Army, dated Grenadier Island, Oct. 26.**

Here we are at the east end of Lake Ontario, pelted daily with the inexhaustible rains, which seem to be collected and poured upon us from all the lakes and swamps between this and Lake Superior. We have indeed for nearly a month been exposed to such torrents as you have no idea of in your part of the world. In consequence of the bad weather our troops from Fort George and Sackett's Harbour have been scattered everywhere along the coast, many having staved their boats, but most of them have now arrived here.

Thus you see how the best laid plans may be frustrated or postponed by the weather. General Wilkinson had drawn most of the

troops out of Kingston, up to the head of the lake, and intended to have run down rapidly and attacked that place thus emptied, but the dispersion of our boats by storm baffled this fine scheme. I hope, however, it is not defeated. I pretend not to know what new features new events may produce, but, seeing that our Commander-in-Chief arrived here after the fine season had gone, we ought not to expect that he can overcome nature and bring back in winter the opportunities of summer. Had his predecessors performed their duties, our army would not now be shivering on a comfortless island. Yet I know the General feels the necessity of striking a blow, and he will strike when practicable.

Considering the copious and uninterrupted rains, our troops are healthy and spirited.

P.S.—If we attack Kingston after allowing the enemy so much time for preparation, I anticipate a tremendous contest. Fresh troops coming out of warm, dry barracks, have a great advantage over a weather-beaten army, yet I doubt not we shall be victorious, meet them when or where we may.

(From the Kingston Gazette of December 25, 1813.)

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**James M. Cawdell, late Ensign 100th Regiment, to Noah Freer, Esq.,  
Military Secretary.**

SIR,—I beg leave to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General that, having taken a step of an extraordinary nature, I think it my duty to make my design known to His Excellency. The country between Stoney Creek and Fort George, being abandoned to the enemy, I have presumed (induced by personal ambition and a desire to be of service to my country,) to select a township in the neighborhood of Fort George, and erect it into an independent district *pro tempore*, and declare it in a state of neutrality, in this manner to prevent the marauding of the enemy, and to organize it, so that when our army advances in the spring, I shall be able to join it with two or three hundred men. When that happens, the nominal and temporary independence will, of course, cease. Should it happen (which heaven forbid,) that that part of the country is to be totally abandoned to the enemy, I hope to continue its independence, and, forming an English party, make the possession of the country never cease to be a thorn to the Government of the States. By this means I am confident I can be of more service to myself and country than if I remained a humble subaltern without a name and without distinction.

STONEY CREEK, 26th October, 1813.

## Return of the Six Nations and other Indians from the Grand River.

BURLINGTON, 26th October, 1813.

	Men	Women and Children	Total
Mohawks.....	90	237	327
Oneydas.....	16	64	80
Onondagas.....	49	128	177
Upper Cayugas.....	57	141	198
Lower Cayugas, Upper and Lower Tututies and Nanticokes }	100	176	276
Oughquagas.....	27	77	104
Tuscaroras.....	46	86	132
Delawares.....	67	123	190
Aron's party of Delawares.....	14	32	46
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>1064</b>	<b>1530</b>

W. CLAUS, D. S. G.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 9.)

## Return of the Western Indians who have arrived at Dundas, as near as can be ascertained.

BURLINGTON, 26th October, 1813.

	Men	Women and Children	Total
Ottawas and Chippewas.....	117	234	351
Munsies, Delawares and Nanticokes.....	143	266	409
Moravians.....	29	47	76
Saukes and Musquakies.....	60	105	165
Shawanoes.....	17	30	47
Hurons.....	8	6	14
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>1062</b>

W. CLAUS, D. S. G.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 10.)

**From the Diary of Thomas McCrae.**

RALEIGH, Tuesday, 26th October, 1813.

Arnold's mill dam broke on Sunday last. There is not a water mill on the river to grind, Chatham mill being burnt by the Indians and Joshua Cornwall's by the British cavalry.

**Diary of Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph G. Totten.**

1813

- October 4th.—Arrived at Sackett's Harbour with General Wilkinson.  
 " 6th.—Commodore Chauncey came in with some prisoners.  
 " 7th.—Wind blows hard from the west.  
 " 15th.—The wind has continued till to-day, blowing violently  
 —rain.  
 " 16th.—Rain in the morning. In the afternoon about forty  
 boats pushed off for Grenadier Island.  
 " 17th.—South-east wind, increased to a gale at 2 o'clock p.m.  
 Continued thus till 4 p.m. Rain. Wind changed  
 suddenly to the west and blowed a gale. Fleet  
 came in at night.  
 " 18th.—Fleet sailed early. Wind south-east and light. At  
 2 p.m. wind changed to west and blows violently.  
 Many of our boats have returned. Some have  
 been destroyed. Our troops have attempted the  
 passage with every appearance of favourable  
 weather. Those promises hitherto have proved  
 delusive.  
 " 19th.—Wind in the morning light. Afternoon strong from  
 the west. Our troops have improved the favour  
 of the morning, and most of them have arrived at  
 Grenadier Island.  
 " 20th.—Wind this morning south-east and light. Leave  
 Sackett's Harbour.  
 " 24th.—Arrived at Ogdensburg.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III, pp. 224-5.)

**George O'Kill Stuart to Alexander Wood.**

KINGSTON, October 26, 1813.

Our fleet is in the harbor at its station near the mouth of Cataraqui Creek and the entrance to the Bay of Kenti. Accounts by a deserter (American) say that the American forces left

Sackett's Harbor last Friday seven-night for the invasion and attack upon Kingston. The weather has as yet particularly defeated their machinations.

(From the Wood Papers, Toronto Public Library.)

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**The Secretary of War to General Wilkinson.**

DEAR GENERAL,—I received your letter by Mr. Lush. The alarm of the enemy is general along his whole line, at every point of which he is weak. Three days ago he called out a regiment of militia, which produced but 15 men, 14 of whom deserted during the first night of their service. One of these men is now here.

Should any fever continue, I shall not be able to approach you as I had intended; in this case write to me by duplicates; one copy put upon this route to follow and to find me, the other to take the nearest route to Washington. Again, adieu. All kinds of prosperity attend you.

27th October, 1813, Antwerp.

From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix XLI.)

No. 100

U. S. Ship *General Fike*,

Off GRENADIER ISLAND, 27th October, 1813.

SIR,—As the time of service of a number of seamen on this station has already expired, and others will expire in the months of November and December, we shall require a considerable sum of money to pay them off. I have directed the pursers to make out the estimates.

I will take the liberty to suggest the propriety of endeavoring to re-enter these men, not only because they are better in every respect than new men, as being already disciplined to their different vessels, but they are in some degree seasoned to this climate, and of course would be less liable to disease. By way of inducement for them to re-enter I would propose as a bounty to allow them the amount, that it would cost Government to transport them from New York to Sackett's Harbor, (say \$20.)

If you approve of this idea, be pleased to direct blank shipping articles to be sent to me.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

**General Order.**

Headquarters, LA FOURCHE on the  
Chateauguay River, October 27, 1813.

**General Orders.**

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief and Commander of the Forces has received from Major-General De Watteville, 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 piquets of the British, thrown out for the purpose of covering working parties under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel De Salaberry. The judicious position of his little band, composed of the Light Company Canadian Fencibles and two companies of 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 Col. 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 3rd Embodied Militia, under Captain Daly, supported by Captain Bruyer's Company of Sedentary Militia; Captains Daly and Bruyer being both wounded and their companies having sustained some loss, their position was immediately taken up by a flank company of the First 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 labor unmolested. Lieutenant-Colonel De Salaberry reports having experienced the most able support from Captain Ferguson in command of the light company Canadian Fencibles, and also from Captain J. B. Duchesnay and Captain J. Duchesnay of the two companies of Voltigeurs; from Captain Lamotte and Adjutants Hebden and O'Sullivan, and from every officer and soldier engaged, whose gallantry and steadiness were conspicuous and praiseworthy 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 Maj.-Gen. De Watteville for the admirable arrangement established by him for the defense of his post; to Lt.-Col. De Salaberry for his judicious and officer-like conduct displayed in the choice of position and arrangement of his force; to the officers and men engaged with the enemy the

warmest acknowledgements 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 heads 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 sergeant, 3 rank and file wounded.

3rd Battalion Flank Company, 1 captain wounded; 2 rank and file killed, 6 wounded, and 4 missing.

Chateauguay Chasseurs, 1 Capt. wounded.

Total—5 rank and file killed; 2 captains, 1 sergeant, 13 rank and file wounded and 4 missing.

Officers wounded—Capt. Daly, 3d Embodied Militia, twice wounded severely, but not dangerously; Capt. Bruyer, Chateauguay Chasseurs, slightly.

EDWARD BAYNES, A. G.

(Kingston Gazette, 6 November, 1813.)

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From the Diary of Thomas McCrae.

RALEIGH, Friday, 29th October, 1813.

Lieutenant Johnson and a party of men came up to hunt public property.

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Major-General De Rottenburg to the Military Secretary.

KINGSTON, 30th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have received in due time your letter of the 23rd October. As far as practicable accommodations at York for the retreating troops are in a state of preparation, but the retreat of the troops to York on the 23rd has not been effected yet, as the orders to that officer were only sent from here on the 20th.

I request you will be pleased to submit the enclosed to the favorable consideration of His Excellency the Commander of the

Forces. Mrs. Hill is a very respectable woman, the widow of Major Hill of the 85th Regiment, who died at Walcheren, under my command.

(Canadian Archives, C., 680, pp. 351-2.)

**Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 30th October, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose Major-General Procter's despatch, relative to the unfortunate affair of the Moravian village. His statement appears to me very unsatisfactory and subject to further explanations. From Major-General Vincent I have letters up to the 23rd, at which period he had not received the orders to effect his retreat in the manner prescribed by the Adjutant-General's letter of the 16th instant. I trust it will be conducted in a better style than that from the 4 Mile Creek to Burlington, which was effected in a most shameful manner and with unnecessary precipitation. I have called upon the Major-General to report the losses he has sustained. I must confess it will be a difficult task to save all the stores at Burlington at this time of the year, when conveyance by water as well as by land is almost impossible. The 20 bateaux sent from this nearly three weeks ago, had not reached the head of the lake on the 23rd, the weather having been constantly stormy. The Indians that will follow the retreating army will also be a great encumbrance. I am told the Six Nations are coming to the Bay of Quinte, and we will find it very difficult to feed them.

The enemy has made a movement in force round Carleton Island, and Sir James has sent out reconnoitering boats to ascertain the point they are gone to. They have been erecting log houses opposite Grand Island for the purpose of giving more shelter to their troops, so much crowded at Grenadier Island. Commissary Turquand reports to the Commissary-General the great difficulties that he experiences in procuring supplies, more on account of the means of conveyance than actual want in the country.

(Canadian Archives, C. 680, pp. 353-5.)

**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

No. 163.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,

30th October, 1813.

MY LORD,—In order that Your Lordship may be made acquainted with the disposition of the regular forces in the Canadas, I



have the honor to inform you that from the last reports which have reached me, the Right and Centre Division of the Upper Canadian army, composed of the corps *stated in the margin\** are now consolidated and occupy on Lake Erie, Turkey Point, in the interior, Ancaster, and on Lake Ontario, Burlington Heights.

The Left Division, as per margin, under the immediate command of Major-General De Rottenburg, is quartered at Kingston, Ganonoqui, Prescott, and prese ves the communication to Lake Francis.†

And for the defence of Lower Canada and the garrison of Quebec there remains, exclusive of the six battalions of embodied militia,

3 troops of the 19th Light Dragoons.

2 companies of Royal Artillery.

10th Royal Veteran Battalion.

13th Regiment.

103rd Regiment.

6 companies Canadian Fencibles.

De Meuron's Regiment, and

4 companies of *Voltigeurs*.

Canadian Archives, Q, 123, pp. 231-2.)

#### The Secretary of War to General Wilkinson.

WAR DEPT., DENMARK, Oct. 30, [1813.]

9 o'clock p.m.

DEAR GENERAL,—I this moment received your despatch by Captain Nourse. I rejoice that your difficulties are so far surmounted as to enable you to say with assurance when you will pass Prescott. I should have met you there, but bad roads, worse weather, and a considerable degree of illness admonished me against receding further from a point where my engagements call me about the 1st proximo.

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\* Right and Centre Division :  
 1 squadron 19th Light Dragoons.  
 1 company of Royal Artillery.  
 1st Battalion Royal Scots.  
 Remains of 1st Battalion King's Regiment.  
 Remains of 1st Battalion 41st Regiment.  
 100th Regiment.  
 Glengarry Light Infantry.

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† Left Division:  
 1 troop 19th Light Dragoons.  
 2 companies of Royal Artillery.  
 2nd Battalion 41st Regiment.  
 Remains of 49th Regiment.  
 2nd Battalion 89th Regiment.  
 104th Regiment.  
 De Watteville's Regiment.  
 4 companies Canadian Fencibles.  
 4 companies *Voltigeurs*  
 Remains of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment serving as marines.

The resolution of treading back my steps was taken at Antwerp and communicated in a letter from that place by Major Lynch. I wrote a single line to you to-day giving the fortunate issue of Harrison's business and his arrival at Fort George with McArthur's brigade. If Vincent be within the peninsula, Harrison will rout him out. It remains with you to sweep the rest of the line before you. Montreal taken; what are Prescott and Kingston? Give Hampton timely notice of your approach and of the place and hour of junction.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix XL.)

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### The Secretary of War to General Harrison.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WILNA, October 30, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the fifth and of the twenty-fourth instant.

The despatch by Captain Brown, and which with him was lost in Lake Erie, suggested as an ulterior movement, the coming down to the Niagara river and putting yourself on the right and rear of De Rottenburg's position before Fort George, while General McClure with his brigade of militia volunteers, and Indians should approach them in front. The enemy seems to have been aware of this or some similar movement, as he began his retreat on the ninth and did not stop until he had gained the head of Burlington Bay, where, I understand, he yet is. This is his last stronghold in the peninsula. Routed from this he must surrender or make his way down Lake Ontario to Kingston. His force is estimated at twelve to fifteen hundred effectives. The capture or destruction of this force would be a glorious *finale* to your campaign. Our operations in this quarter are but *beginning* at a time when they ought to have *ended*.

I shall go on slowly towards Utica, where I may have the pleasure of seeing Adjutant-General Gaines.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 456.)

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### Chauncey to Secretary Navy.

No. 101.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

Off Stony Island, 30th October, 1813.

SIR,—By request of Major-General Wilkinson I visited him yesterday at his quarters on Grenadier Island, for the purpose of making final arrangements as to the co-operation of the fleet with the army in its operations against the enemy.

I was much disappointed and mortified to find that the General

had taken his determination to descend the St. Lawrence and attack Montreal in preference to Kingston; disappointed because in all consultations upon this subject for the last four weeks Kingston was fixed upon as the point to be first attacked, and when I parted with the Secretary at War on the 16th I understood that it was his decided opinion that Kingston should be first reduced; mortified to find that the navy had been used as a mere attendant upon the army, for the purpose of transport and protection, and when it could be no longer used for those purposes and the season too far advanced to cruise on the lake with safety, it is left to protect itself in the best manner it can without the possibility of participating in any enterprise against the enemy this season.

To my mind there are various and important objections to attacking Montreal at this advanced season of the year, and leaving Kingston in full possession of the enemy in the rear. I will state those that strike me as the most prominent.

1st. The enemy for the last month has been under the impression that Montreal was the point to be attacked; consequently he is better prepared there than Kingston, and we have certain information that he has fortified the different passes in the river, particularly about the rapids, so as to annoy and cut up our troops in their passage down the river. This will oblige the General to land at each of those fortified passes and take possession of them, to insure a safe passage to his army. These necessary detentions will probably prevent his arrival at the vicinity of Montreal until late in November. This will enable the enemy to draw the whole of his disposable force from Quebec to the protection of that island, and possibly be able to keep our army in check for ten or fifteen days longer, and when he is eventually obliged to abandon the city and island to our troops we shall be reduced by sickness and death to probably eight or nine thousand men. This force will be constantly diminished during the winter, and in the spring the enemy may and probably will transport an army of double that force to Montreal, which he can readily do, as sloop-of-war and transports can ascend the river quite to that island.

If, therefore, the force that may be collected at Kingston this winter should act in concert with those from Quebec in the spring, it would place our army in a perilous situation and possibly eventuate in their defeat and surrender.

The second objection to the General's determination to attack Montreal in preference to Kingston is, that the latter place may be occupied by our troops in ten days, and I think with less loss than we shall sustain at Montreal. The possession of Kingston would place in our hands an immense quantity of stores, both of provisions, clothing, and munitions of war, and also the whole of the enemy's

fleet on this lake, which would enable the army to pursue its conquest uninterruptedly. It would also enable the Government to withdraw a large number of officers and seamen from other objects; besides avoiding the expense of making any addition to our naval force on this lake, which can be no longer useful than while the enemy has possession of the province above Kingston.

Another view of this subject is that the occupation of Kingston presents as many advantages to the final conquest of the upper province as that of Montreal, and many more to our own troops; for if the army landed below Kingston (as proposed) the enemy would be obliged to retreat upon York, where he could not procure supplies for such a body of men. Moreover, it would place him between General Harrison's army and the one at Kingston, which would oblige him to surrender at discretion, and place in our power between four and five thousand men; besides this advantage over the enemy, our own troops would occupy a location perfectly secure from any attack, either this winter or spring, and at the same time be in the vicinity of a deposit at Sackett's Harbor, (made safe by their situation) from which they would draw supplies or reinforcements. I will venture to say that in one month after our troops occupy Kingston there would not be a hostile soldier to the westward of Montreal, which would render that city less an object of protection to the enemy.

The third and not the least objection to the determination of the General of leaving Kingston to the full and quiet possession of the enemy and withdrawing the whole of the force from Sackett's Harbor, is that it exposes the fleet and stores to certain and total destruction the ensuing winter; for if the enemy collects the whole of his force from the different points of the upper province at Kingston, he will have, from the best information, between four and five thousand regular soldiers; with this force he can (after the first of January) cross on the ice to Sackett's Harbor in one day, burn the fleet and town, and return to Kingston without difficulty; in fact, I should not be astonished if Sir James should take advantage of a westerly wind while I am down the St. Lawrence and run over to the harbor and burn it, which he certainly can do if he knows its defenseless situation; for to the best of my knowledge there are no troops left there except sick and invalids, nor is there more than three guns mounted.

I, however, conceive it to be my duty to afford to the army every facility of transport and protection in my power. I shall therefore accompany and protect it until it passes a point beyond which it will be perfectly secure from annoyance by the enemy's fleet. I shall then make the best of my way out of the St. Lawrence, as it is deemed unsafe to be in that river after the first of November; on account of the ice.

I have deemed it to be my duty thus briefly to state to you, sir, my objections to the contemplated movement of the army, and my fears for the consequences of such movement. I beg at the same time to assure you that my exertions shall not be relaxed for the preservation of this fleet and the protection of the army, nor my prayers withheld for the complete success of our army against the enemy, both by land and water.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

— — —  
Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,

October 30, 1813.

MY LORD,—Since I had the honour of addressing Your Lordship in my despatch of the 22nd of September last, I have received the enclosed communication from Major-General 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 Détroit 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-General Harrison that the small numbers he had with him; consisting of not more than 450 regular troops, were unable to withstand it, 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 scattering remains of his force, amounting to about 200 men, and had with it subsequently reached Burlington Heights, the headquarters of Major-General Vincent. Tecumseh, at the head of 1200 Indian warriors, accompanied our little army on its retreat from Sandwich, and the prophet as well as his brother, Tecumseh, were of the most essential service in arresting the further progress 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-General 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 and soldiers who were missing, and requesting his indulgence for a few days, until its 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 Grand River, had retired to Sandwich, followed by Tecumseh and his warriors who had much harassed 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 Michilimackinack, and our abandonment of the posts in Upper Canada beyond the Grand River.

(Canadian Archives, Q, 122.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,

October 30, 1813.

MY LORD,—On the 8th inst. I had the honour to report to Your Lordship that Major-General Hampton had occupied, with a considerable force of regulars and 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 its last position, for the purpose of bringing forward its artillery.

Major-General Hampton, having completed his arrangements on the 24th, commenced on the following day his operations against my advanced posts. At about 11 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 abbatiss. Lieutenant-Colonel de Salaberry, 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 Purdy, was in like manner repulsed in its progress on the south side of the river by the spirited advance of the right flank company of the third battalion of the embodied militia under Captain Daly, supported by Captain Bruyere's company of Chateauguay Chasseurs. Captains Daly and Bruyere, being both wounded and their companies having sustained some loss, their position was immediately taken up by a flank company of the first 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 its commencement, I witnessed the conduct of the troops on this glorious occasion, and it was a great satisfaction 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 in the advance, and Lieutenant-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 continuance of that zeal, steadiness and discipline, and of that patient endurance of hardships and privations which they have hitherto evinced, and I particularly noticed the able support Lieutenant-Colonel de Salaberry received from Captain Ferguson in command of the light company of the Canadian Fencibles, and from Captain J. B. Duchesnay and Adjutant Hebden of the *Voltigeurs*, and also from Adjutant O'Sullivan of the sedentary militia, and from 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 valour and continued exertions of its 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 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 prisoners taken from the enemy in the affair on the Chateauguay, the American force is stated at 7000 infantry and 200 cavalry, with ten field pieces. The British advanced force actually engaged, did not exceed 300. The enemy suffered severely

from our fire and from their own; some detached corps in the woods fired upon each other.

I have the honour to transmit to 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 battalion of the Canadian militia, five pair of colors, for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Battalions.

(Canadian Archives, Q, 122.)

John F. Bacon to Governor Tompkins.

FORT GEORGE, October 31, 1813.

SIR,—As General McClure has written you whenever anything of note has transpired, I have not thought it worth while to trouble you with any communication. Perhaps, at this advanced period of the campaign, a letter from me may not be altogether unacceptable, tho' I have nothing of great importance to communicate.

I have found the duties of my station much more arduous than I expected, particularly as forage and transportation are scarce, also have had a good deal of labor in searching the King's dominions for public property and of getting it into safe quarters. Public property to a very considerable amount has been collected and more discovered every day. Day before yesterday 170 barrels of flour was discovered within a few miles of the Falls, also a considerable quantity of clothing at the Cross Roads.

Yesterday about 12 o'clock General Harrison, with about 1100 men, arrived here; they are quartered in the village of Newark. We of course retain our station in the fort. General McClure and suite, together with Colonel Fleming's regiment in uniform, met General Harrison and his army about a mile from here on the Queenston road. The remainder of our troops were formed in a line outside the fort and a salute of 15 guns was also fired from the fort. General Harrison's troops look much fatigued. There are 500 good looking riflemen among them, in which the General has the greatest confidence. General Harrison expects 300 or 400 men to join him soon. General Harrison and his suite, together with four colonels, dined with us yesterday. I am somewhat disappointed in his appearance. It is natural to form an opinion of a man's appearance from the noise he has made in the world. He is an extremely plain-looking man and was *very ordinary clad*. He is very sociable and a man in whose company we cannot but be perfectly at ease.

General McClure's brigade, I do not think have disgraced them-



selves, neither have they had an opportunity of performing much. I consider tho' that the unaccountable conduct of Colonel Scott while we were in pursuit of the enemy prevented our doing something handsome. From the most correct information from the enemy it would appear that the enemy are yet at Burlington Heights, about 1000 or 1500 regulars and a large body of Indians; for my own part, and I form my opinion from the weight of information, they are between 2,000 and 3,000 strong, very strongly fortified on a commanding situation.

Colonel Grieve arrived here last week with about 80 of his men. Colonel Fleming is really a fine old gentleman, rather too old for anything but garrison duty. Colonel Swift has got leave to return home. Colonel Hopkins of the same regiment is an excellent officer, Colonel Bloom, so-so.

P. S.—Nov. 1st, 1813.—General Harrison has this moment given General McClure intimation of his intention of dislodging the enemy from the heights. In consequence of which expresses have been sent in every direction to collect volunteers to be here on the 12th of this month, by General Harrison's order.

(Pompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 561-3, New York State Library.)

**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

No. 104.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,

31st October, 1813.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to announce the arrival of the troopships named in the margin, having on board the two battalions of Royal Marines and the two companies of Marine Artillery attached to them, from Halifax, in consequence of a representation I had made to Sir John B. Warren, requiring this reinforcement on account of the disaster that had befallen our fleet on Lake Erie, and the danger to which the Right Division of the army in Upper Canada was exposed owing to that circumstance.

By the latest accounts from Major-General De Rottenburg, dated at Kingston on the 28th instant, I am informed that the enemy still menaced that post, but no attack had actually taken place.

The American Armada, under Major-General Wilkinson and Commodore Chauncey, was at Grenadier Island on the 28th, within 18 miles of Kingston, where it had collected after being dispersed in its first attempt from Sackett's Harbor to pass over to Kingston.

The state of the weather prevented the attack of Major-General

Hampton on the Lower Province and that of Major-General Wilkinson on Kingston from being simultaneous as was intended.

I have reason to hope their enterprise against Kingston will experience a similar fate to that against Lower Canada.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 122, pp. 293-4.)

#### Major William King to the Secretary of War.

By command of the General, who is too much indisposed to write, I have the honor to send you the subjoined report of the movements of this division from the 19th of September to the 28th of October, both days included.

19th of September.—Troops assembled at Cumberland Head, consisting of four thousand infantry, one squadron of dragoons and of artillery, one 12-pounder, one howitzer, and eight 6-pounders. Embarked the infantry in boats, the artillery and horse sent by land. Arrived at Chazy about midnight. Elite detached under Major's Snelling and Hamilton to Odelltown to surprise two British pickets forming Prevost's advanced posts, one of these stationed in the village, the other near it on the lake shore. Both parties of the Elite misled by their guides. Snelling finding himself off the track leading to the picket on the shore, pushed for the other in the town and killed or captured nearly the whole of it. Hamilton arrived soon after, and soon after him the army.

20th.—Examining our new position, we found in our front a hemlock swamp of great extent, (behind which lay Acadie,) the position the general aimed at; on our left the St. Lawrence, with Prevost's main body; on our right the Sorel with the posts St. John and Chamblee, and a strong regiment under Col. Taylor commanding on the Isle Aux Noix, covered by three gun-boats, each carrying a heavy gun. The roads through the swamp carefully abbatied and occupied by Canadian militia presented serious difficulties, which would not have prevented us from advancing and removing obstructions as we could, but for a *scarcity of water* so great as made it necessary to send back our horses and draught cattle to Champlain. From this cause, a council of war unanimously decided that this route be given up and that of Chateauguay taken in its stead.

21st.—Began our march this afternoon for Four Corners.

25th.—Arrived at that village, distant twenty-five miles from St. Regis and forty from Coghawaga—the latter said to be within ten miles of Montreal.

26th.—Employed in improving our communication with Plattsburg.

4th of October.—Road finished to-day—quite a turnpike. During the afternoon, the camp of the Elite was smartly attacked by a British Canadian and Indian party. Speedily routed and driven off to their camp, about twelve or fourteen miles from this place, where they are busy in obstructing the road. Two of our men killed, Lieutenant Nash and a private, both of the 33rd Regiment.

12th.—Several deserters came in today. One of them, a native of New England, gives a very clear account of the force, and positions, past and present, of the enemy. Chateauguay route, no defence upon it till we took our present position. Detachments have since been sent to form two lines of defence, both on the western side of the Chateauguay, the one six miles southward of the confluence of the English river and Chateauguay, the other about the same distance northward of it. The works at both places, when finished, will consist of heavy abbatiss, flanked by block houses.

18th.—Another deserter came in to-day. Gives the following account of the enemy's strength on each line :—

Front, or southern line, no regulars .....	350
Rear or second line—detachment of the 13th Regiment. .	300
De Meuron's do .....	200
Robinson's fencibles.....	150
Embedded Militia.....	700
	<hr/>
Total.....	1600

The preceding statement, showing the present weakness of the enemy and rendering probable his increasing strength if left undisturbed, the General believed it to be his duty to break him down without loss of time, and therefore began a march on his first line on the 20th. His conclusion was that if Prevost was unable from want of force to check the movement, there had arisen that condition of things which, as he understood the plan of campaign, permitted, if it did not enjoin, an attack on Montreal.

21st.—General Izard, with the Elite and one regiment of the line, began his march early in the morning with orders to turn the obstructed parts of the road and drive off such Indians or other outlying parties of the enemy as he might find in his way, while the main body, preceding by an advanced guard and a strong working party, took the road along the bank of the river. The two corps met at Spears's (eighteen miles) and arrived at the junction of the Outarde and the Chateauguay in the evening of the 22nd. We had now got over twenty-four miles of the forty which separated us from Coghnavaga, and with but little annoyance from the enemy. Besides, we now found ourselves in an open country with a good road before us.

23rd and 24th were employed in improving the road in our rear, and making it practicable for the artillery and baggage, which were now brought up. The enemy's first line of defence (as we had understood before leaving the Four Corners) was short and straight, its left covered by the river, its front abbatied, and its right resting on a wood occupied by a few Abenaki Indians. In the rear of his left was a good fording place, commanded by a blockhouse reported as not yet finished. The enemy's entire force on this line did not exceed three hundred and fifty combatants altogether, Canadian and Indian, and commanded by a militia colonel, (De Salaberry.)

25th.—The plan of attack adopted by the General was to detach Colonel Purdy with the Elite and 1st Brigade, forming the most efficient part of the army, across the river, and by a night march gain the fording place on the left of the enemy's line, re-cross the river at that point and at dawn of day attack the enemy's rear; while Izard's brigade, under his own direction, should pursue the road and at the same hour attack it in front. The whole of this plan miscarried shamefully. Purdy's column, probably misled, fell into an ambuscade and was quickly beaten and routed, and that of Izard, after a few discharges, was ordered to retreat.

28th.—The two brigades again united, when, with the sanction of a council of war, they returned to the Four Corners.

W. KING, Adjutant-General.

No. 103.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,  
Off Stony Island, 31st October, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose to you the copy of a letter this moment received from Captain Perry.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Honorable William Jones,  
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

General McClure to Governor Tompkins

FORT GEORGE, November 1st, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—General Harrison with part of his army, about 800, arrived here yesterday, and has taken up quarters for his troops in Newark, and continues me in command of both forts. I have about 1,300 troops in this fort, 1,000 of whom are fit for duty, and will not

disgrace themselves, should they come in contact with an equal number of British regulars. They are very anxious to meet the enemy in the field, and I expect, in the course of ten days they will be gratified.

General Harrison and myself have agreed upon a cordial cooperation against the enemy at Burlington Heights. We will dislodge them from this stronghold. It is of the utmost importance that our troops should possess that position. To accomplish this object the General wishes to proceed with caution and, to save the effusion of blood, has required me to send expresses into the Western District to invite volunteers, and order out such companies of light infantry, riflemen and dragoons, as I should deem proper. I have also required of Generals Hopkins and Rhae 1,000 men, and the whole are to rendezvous here on the 10th instant, when a movement will be made. I have patrols continually out reconnoitering the enemy's lines. Their forces at Burlington Heights and Stoney Creek, from the best information I am able to obtain, consist of from twelve hundred to 1,500, and about the same number of Indians, under the command of Colonels Vincent and Procter. In consequence of false reports which have been circulated through the Western District by internal enemies, *alias Tories*, that the enemy had retreated from Burlington to Kingston, the volunteers, which assembled in great numbers in different parts of the District under my former invitation, returned home, being led to believe their services would not be necessary. Had they come on according to my expectation, I would have been able to give you a good account of the enemy by this time.

As I am no longer Commander-in-Chief on this station the responsibility will of course devolve on General Harrison, in whom I have the utmost confidence as an able commander and zealous to promote the views of the general government, and I trust I shall not be disappointed in my expectations.

Colonel Fleming is a meritorious officer and a worthy old man. He is not much acquainted with infantry manœuvres but is certainly an able artilleryman and engineer. Colonels Hopkins and Dobbins have exceeded my expectations. As to Colonel Bloom, I will say to you in confidence that he is the meanest officer in my brigade. He is grossly ignorant of his duty and I doubt much his courage. It is a disagreeable task to animadvert so freely on an officer of his rank, but I consider it a duty to inform you in order to prevent his being assigned a command in future.

**Petition of Samuel Casey.**

To His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada and Major-General Commanding His Majesty's forces in the same:

The petition of Samuel Casey of the Township of Adolphustown, in the Midland District, humbly sheweth :

That in the autumn of 1813, during the late war with the United States of America, he was employed by the late Colonel Cartwright on secret service; that in the execution of that service he went over to the American shore about the time General Wilkinson was collecting the enemy's forces at Sackett's Harbor, and remained there until he obtained positive evidence of that General's plans to destroy the British forces and attack Kingston. He then came over to Kingston with the intelligence and was the first who gave it. It was acknowledged by Colonel Cartwright and a board appointed to examine your petitioner's claim, to have been highly important.

Your Excellency's petitioner was promised remuneration for this service, but one cause or other delayed his receiving it until the death of Colonel Cartwright, when all hopes of obtaining it were destroyed, as it was by that gentleman your petitioner was employed.

(Canadian Archives, Q, 331, pp. 127-8.)

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**Major-General Wm. H. Harrison to Governor Tompkins.**

HEAD QUARTERS, NEWARK, U. CANADA,

1st November, 1813.

SIR,—The force which I have at my disposal at this place not being sufficient for the purpose of attacking the enemy, who have established themselves at the head of Lake Ontario, I have requested Brigadier-General McClure, whom I found in command here and who informed me that he was authorized to do so, to call for an additional number of volunteers or militia to serve for a time not exceeding thirty days, from the neighboring counties of your State. The necessity of getting those men immediately will form my apology for not making the application to Your Excellency. General Porter has promised me his assistance, and from the well known patriotism of your State I have no doubt of obtaining in a few days a sufficiency of volunteers to answer my purpose.

I have ordered a considerable reinforcement of regular troops from Detroit but they will probably not arrive in time. The enemy must not be suffered to occupy the head of Lake Ontario thro' the winter or from thence they may attempt the recovery of the Upper District. It is also important that the attack should be made upon

them before they strengthen their position by the erection of strong works. The reports of their strength are various and contradictory. Indeed, I find it a matter of the utmost difficulty to get any correct information. It is certain all the Indians who still adhere to the British are there, *i. e.*, those who reside in this province and some hundreds of those who escaped with General Procter from the action of the 5th ulto.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 569-70, New York State Library.)

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**Major-General De Rottenburg to Major-General Vincent.**

KINGSTON, November 1st, 1813.

SIR,—I lose not a moment in acquainting you, 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 Lieut.-Colonel Harvey of the 25th, *viz.*—800. This force should consist of the Royals, 41st, and 100th Regiments. 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 consideration with Major Holcroft. Long Point should continue to be occupied by a strong detachment, assisted by the loyal militia of that neighborhood.

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 opportunity presenting itself of your pushing on a detachment 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 judgment, I have no hesitation in authorizing you to act according to the best of your judgment, with a view to the good of His Majesty's service. This extends to authorizing such disbursements of money on account of the public service as are actually necessary in all cases where any doubts may exist as to the intention 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 a 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 the 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 meantime, 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 neighborhood, 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 meantime repeat to them the assurance that they shall never be abandoned by us and that the powerful reinforcements of every description daily arriving from Europe 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.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 5-8.)

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**Major-General Hampton to the Secretary of War.**

HEAD QUARTERS, FOUR CORNERS,

November 1, 1813.

SIR,—On the morning of the 21st ultimo, the army commenced its movement down the Chateauguay for the purpose of placing itself in a situation which would enable it to fulfil its part of the proposed combined operations on the St. Lawrence.

An extensive wood of eleven or twelve miles in front, blocked up with felled timber and covered by the Indians and light troops of the enemy, was a serious impediment to the arduous task of opening a road for the artillery and stores. Brigadier-General Izard with the light troops and one regiment of the line was detached early in the



morning to turn these impediments in flank and to seize on the more open country below, while the army, preceded by a strong working party, advanced on a more circuitous but practicable route for a road. The measure, as will be seen by the report of Brigadier-General Izard which I have the honor to enclose, completely succeeded and the main body of the army reached the advanced position on the evening of the 22nd. The 23rd and 24th were employed in completing the road and getting up the artillery and stores.

I had arranged at my departure a line of communication as far up the St. Lawrence as Ogdensburg for the purpose of hastening to me the earliest notice of the progress of our army down. I had surmounted twenty-four miles of the most difficult part of the route and had in advance of me seven miles of open country, but at the end of that distance commenced a wood of some miles in extent, which had been formed into an entire abbatis and filled by a succession of wooden breastworks, the rearmost of which were supplied with ordnance. In front of these defences were placed the Indian force and light corps of the enemy and in the rear all his disposable force. As the extent of this force depended upon his sense of danger on the St. Lawrence, it was a cause of regret that all communication from yourself or Major Parker seemed to be at an end. As it was, however, believed that the enemy was hourly adding to his strength in this position, if free from apprehension of danger from above, an effort was judged necessary to dislodge him, and if it succeeded we should be in possession of a position which we could hold as long as any doubts remained of what was passing above and of the real part to be assigned us.

Our guides assured us of a shoal and practicable fording place opposite the lower flank of the enemy's defences and that the wood on the opposite side of river, a distance of seven or eight miles, was practicable for the passage of the troops. Colonel Purdy with the light corps and a strong body of infantry of the line was detached at an early hour of the night of the 25th to gain this ford by the morning and to commence his attack in rear, and that was to be a signal for the army to fall on in front, and it was believed the pass might be carried before the enemy's distant troops could be brought to his support.

I had returned to my quarters from Purdy's column about 9 o'clock at night, when I found a Mr. Baldwin of the Quartermaster General's Department, who put into my hands an open paper containing instructions to him from the Quartermaster General, respecting the building of huts for the army on the Chateauguy below the line. This paper sunk my hopes and raised serious doubts of receiving that efficacious support which had been anticipated. I would have recalled

the column but it was in motion and the darkness of the night rendered it impracticable. I could only go forward. The army was put in motion on the morning of the 26th, leaving its baggage, &c., on the ground of encampment.

On advancing near the enemy, it was found that the column on the opposite side was not so far advanced as had been anticipated. The guides had misled it and finally failed in finding the ford. We could not communicate with it but only waited the attack below. About two o'clock the firing commenced and our troops advanced rapidly to the attack. The enemy's light troops commenced a sharp fire, but Brigadier-General Izard advanced with his brigade, drove him everywhere behind his defences and silenced the fire in his front. This brigade would have pushed forward as far as courage, skill, and perseverance could have carried it, but on advancing it was found that firing had commenced on the opposite side and the ford had not been gained.

The enemy retired behind his defences, but a renewal of his attack was expected and the troops remained some time in their position to meet it. The troops on the opposite side were excessively fatigued. The enterprise had failed in its main point, and Colonel Purdy was ordered to withdraw his column to a shcal four or five miles above and cross over. The day was spent and General Izard was ordered to withdraw his brigade to a position three miles in the rear, to which place the baggage had been ordered forward.

The slowness and order with which General Izard retired with his brigade could but have inspired the enemy with respect. They presumed not to fire a shot at him during his movement, but, the unguardedness of some part of Purdy's command exposed him to a rear attack from the Indians, which was repeated after dark and exposed him to some loss. These attacks were always repelled and must have cost the enemy as many lives as we lost. Our entire loss of killed, wounded, and missing does not exceed fifty. In its new position, within three miles of the enemy's post, the army encamped on the night of the 26th, and remained until 12 o'clock of the 28th. All the deserters, of whom there were four, having concurred in the information that Sir George Prevost with three other general officers had arrived with the whole of his disposable force, and lay in the rear of these defences, and a letter from Major Parker (by express received on the evening of the 26th,) having informed me that no movements of our army down the St. Lawrence had been heard of at Ogdensburg and for some distance above, the following questions were submitted to the commanding officers of brigades regiments, and corps, and the heads of the general staff, in a council convened for the purpose. "Is it advisable under existing circumstances to renew the attack on the

enemy's position, and if not, what position is it advisable for the army to take until it can receive advices of the advance of the grand army down the St. Lawrence." The opinion of the council was expressed in the following words:

"It is the unanimous opinion of this council that it is necessary for the preservation of this army, and the fulfilment of the ostensible views of the Government, that we immediately return by orderly marches to such a position (Chateauguay) as will secure our communications with the United States, either to retire into winter quarters or be ready to strike below. In pursuance of this opinion, the army has returned by slow to this place, and now awaits the orders of the Government. Its condition will be stated by the bearer, Colonel King, who can give you upon every point more full and perfect information than could be contained in a written detail.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 461-2.)

**Major-General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

GRENADIER ISLAND,

November 1, 1813.

You will perceive from the duplicate under cover (letter of the 28th of October) what were my calculations four days since, but the winds and waves and rains and snow still prevail, and we have made several fruitless attempts to turn Stony Point, one of them at great peril to three thousand men, whom I seasonably remanded to the harbor without the loss of a life. Our sick, one hundred and ninety-six in number have not fared as well; they were embarked in stout, comfortable vessels, and sailed the day before yesterday morning for Sackett's Harbour, but they were driven on shore by a storm which continued with unremitting violence all night, and as no exertion could relieve them, I anticipated the loss of the whole, but the tempest having abated, and the wind shifted from S.W. to N.E., boats were sent out yesterday morning, and Dr. Bull reports the loss of three men only. Other means of transport will be provided to-morrow, and these unfortunate men will be sent to the hospital at Sackett's Harbor.

Brigadier Brown, with his brigade, the light artillery, the rifle-men, the volunteers, the gunboats, Bissell's regiment and a part of Macomb's are, I expect, safe at French Creek with the artillery and ordnance stores. These corps have made a traverse of the arm of the lake under circumstances of great danger, though fortunately without the loss of a life, but at the expense of some boats.

I shall wait one day longer, and if the passage should still

continue impracticable to the troops, I will land them on the opposite shore, march them across the country to the St. Lawrence, and send the empty boats round to a given rendezvous.

As Major-General Hampton is under your orders, permit me to suggest to you what is worthy of reflection, whether he should take up a position and wait the arrival of my command near the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Grand River, or whether he should move down the St. Lawrence and menace Chambly? If he is strong enough to meet Sir George, the latter will be the preferable plan, because it will have the effect to divide the enemy's force, otherwise he should adopt the first idea, hazard nothing and strengthen my hands.

The enclosed copy of a memorandum from Colonel Swift will show you what he is about, I flatter myself to your satisfaction. The sole unpleasant circumstance before me is our total ignorance of the *preparations* of Sir George and what we may expect to meet on the island; I fear no consequences, but it must be painful to lead more than six thousand men to battle hoodwinked, and yet all my efforts to procure intelligence from Montreal have proved fruitless.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I, p. 474.)

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**The Secretary of War to Major General Wilkinson.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, 1st November, 1813.

(Extract.)

Prevost will perhaps be found between Coteau du Lac and the Isle Perrot. If wise, he will attempt to fight you before your junction with Hampton. Avoid this and leave nothing to chance that you can settle on your own terms. A junction with Hampton enables you to give the law.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 474.)

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**General Hampton to the Secretary of War.**

CHATEAUGUAY, Nov. 1st, 1813.

SIR,—The object of this letter is to recall your attention to my communications of the 23rd and 31st August last, and to add that events have had no tendency to change my opinion of the destiny intended for me, nor my determination to retire from a service where I can neither feel security nor expect honour.

The campaign I consider substantially at an end. The acceptance of my resignation or permission to return to the seat of Govern-

ment as soon as the troops are put into winter quarters, for the purpose of returning the authority of my commission into the hands that conferred, is what I trust you will not refuse to send me by return of Colonel King.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix LXIX.)

**Major-General Lewis to Mrs. Lewis.**

GRENADIER ISLAND, 2nd November, 1813.

After many delays and losses by incessant storms we have at length succeeded in getting the whole of our army, except the rear-guard, safe into the St. Lawrence.

Wilkinson and myself with the rear-guard join them to-morrow, weather permitting. He is very feeble but he will go with us. Our army is still a fine one, though it has had to encounter innumerable hardships and privations, and when united to Hampton's will be sufficient in my opinion to place our standard even on the walls of Quebec, were the season not too far advanced. Our enemy is still distracted as to our object—we shall remove his doubts in a fortnight.

The prospect before us is an animating one, and with the divine blessing we have an almost certainty of success. Consternation prevails in the ranks of the enemy. He finds he has to contend with a foe his superior in bravery, his equal in every other requisite of a soldier. I should not be surprised if, after a feeble resistance, he were to retire to Quebec.

In the militia he has lost confidence, and *all* those who were employed at Prescott have been discharged.

I hope soon to write you from Montreal. Keep up your spirits, hope for the best. Heaven will not suffer a righteous cause to be defeated. I do not believe we have much to apprehend beyond a few hardships.

(From the "Biography of Morgan Lewis," by Julie Delafield, Vol. II., pp. 94-96.)

**Captain Wm. H. Mulcaster to Sir James L. Yeo.**

His Majesty's Sloop *Melville*,

East end of Long Island, 2nd November, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to acquaint you that His Majesty's sloops *Melville* and *Moirra*, accompanied by four gunboats, formed a junction with the *Sir Sidney Smith* and *Beresford* schooners yesterday morning, and I instantly made arrangements with the commanders of those vessels for an immediate attack on the enemy's position at French Creek as soon as we could see through the snow. The

squadron weighed anchor and made sail. The enemy had posted a strong detachment of infantry on the bluff at the entrance of the creek to pour musketry on the vessels' decks. The bluff was passed by His Majesty's squadron within hail, receiving the fire of the enemy and returning discharges of grape and canister. They were compelled to abandon their post with precipitation, nor was it again occupied during our stay.

On rounding the bluff the enemy appeared in great force drawn up in three columns with a battery of two brass 18-pounders in front and a numerous train of artillery on their flanks. I anchored the *Melville*, *Moira*, and *Sir Sidney Smith* in order of battle, (there not being room for the *Beresford* owing to the narrow entrance of the creek.) A sharp cannonading now commenced from the ships, which was well returned from the shore for near an hour.

On a preconcerted signal being made the gunboats under Captain Spilsbury put off and pulling along the eastern bank kept up an animated fire. As the day was closing fast the enemy's troops could no longer be descried from the thickness of the trees so as to fire at them with precision, and the squadron having received several shot in their hulls and a few between wind and water, I thought it right to haul off for the night.

The wind was too strong for the gunboats to pull in to annoy the enemy in the middle of the night, as had been intended; however, at daylight the wind abated and the squadron again passed in and exchanged fire with the batteries. The enemy had mounted several guns in the night and some hot shot came on board the squadron.

The scows and batteaux of the enemy were hauled up on the shore. To have brought off or destroyed them would have cost an immense number of men (considering the fine position of the enemy) which I could not afford, having to guard against the enemy's squadron in the morning.

One merchant schooner without a soul on board was afloat, but a boat came out and cut her cables as we rounded the bluff and she drifted on the rocks. I am happy to say our loss has been trifling; one seaman killed, Mr. Walter Leslie, master's mate, and four seamen wounded.

From the manner in which the enemy's troops were exposed I am warranted in saying they must have lost men.

I have much satisfaction in reporting to you the great exertions of Captains Spilsbury and Dobbs, of Lieutenants Radcliffe of the *Beresford* and Owen of the *Sir Sidney Smith*, and all the officers and men, both of the squadron and gunboats, whom you did me the honor to place under my command.

**Major-General De Rottenburg to the Adjutant-General.**

KINGSTON, 2nd November, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th October. It is to be regretted that no proviso was left in the orders communicated to me in your letter of the 16th October relative to the bringing back of the Centre and Right Divisions, which was communicated to General Vincent. It is also to be regretted that the Military Secretary on the 23rd October stated that the Commander of the Forces left Montreal for Coteau du Lac in the confident expectation of receiving by the next courier from Kingston an official report of the arrival of Major-Generals Vincent and Procter with the remains of the Right and the whole of the Centre Division at York. I trust, however, that the measures I have taken will prevent any further retrograde movement and that the post of Burlington will be maintained. I transmit enclosed a copy of my despatch to General Vincent sent off yesterday by an officer, express, who is to go night and day and pledges himself to carry the despatch in three days. I also transmit a copy of General Vincent's letter in reply to the orders contained in your letter of the 16th. The feeding of the numerous tribes of Indians with their families will be a most serious task and cannot be affected anywhere but at Ancaster and the adjacent country in our possession.

The enemy has assembled on their own shore, opposite the east end of Long Island, a corps of about 4,000 men. All our disposable gunboats and our fleet, with the exception of the *Wolfe and Royal George*, under the command of Captain Mulcaster, went off the night before last for the purpose of destroying their small craft. A heavy cannonading was heard yesterday about 5 o'clock p.m., but the result is not yet known. Sir James went out yesterday in an armed boat. Should he return before the despatch goes I will let you know what has been effected.

(Canadian Archives, C., 681, pp. 11-13.)

**Major-General Brown to Colonel Richard Dennis.**

HEADQUARTERS, FRENCH CREEK,

November 2, 1813.

SIR,—We were attacked last evening by the enemy. He shewed two brigs and two schooners, with some gun and other boats. He was repulsed. This morning the attack was renewed, with the same success. The enemy did not succeed in landing anywhere in the neighbourhood of our position that I have yet learned. We have

lost, say, ten men in killed and wounded. The enemy must have lost considerably as we saw many bullets take effect.

He is now making the best of his way into Kingston Channel. Our boats have sustained no loss whatever.

J. AUSTIN, A.D.C.

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**General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

GRENADIER ISLAND,

November 3rd, 7 o'clock a.m., 1813.

DEAR SIR,—I have received two letters from you of the 30th ult., one dated at Denmark, and the other without mention of a place, I have not seen or heard of such.

The troops and squadron are at last in the river, excepting Macomb's regiment, with which I shall join them by 10 o'clock, as the weather is propitious. Extreme illness and the arrival of Colonel Randolph with 230 men, kept me here last evening. We shall be encamped at French Creek to-night; will take to-morrow for final organization and arrangement, and the next day either pass or prepare to take Prescott. By preference I shall not disturb the place because I have not time to spare.

You desire me to notify Hampton of the point of junction. I have written you on that subject and as he has treated my authority with contempt and has acted exclusively under your orders I wish this information could come from you that I may be saved the hazard of a second insult, for I need not say to you, who have seen service, what an outrage it is on the sensibilities of a soldier and how radically destructive to military enterprise for a subordinate to resist or neglect the orders of a superior. You may, however, believe that in this case my feelings shall be silenced and that I will humiliate myself to make the most of this pretender.

P. S.—I pray you to send me the following appointments, Ninian Pinkney, Adjutant-General; Captain Robert G. Hite and Captain John Biddle, assistants. The duties of the office cannot be discharged without these assistants, in a corps of ten thousand regulars.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix XXXVIII.)

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**From the "Montreal Gazette," 2nd November, 1813.**

On Friday last arrived here 50 American prisoners, which were captured by the Indians from General Harrison's army, and on the



same day ten others taken from the enemy in the late brilliant affair at Chateauguay.

The steamboat arrived on Sunday last from Quebec with about 350 marines and marine artillery.

(File in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

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**The Secretary of War to General Harrison.**

(Extract.)

BOONSVILLE, November 3, 1813.

I have fortunately met Colonel Gaines on his way to his regiment. The deputy paymaster shall have orders to attend to the brigade you have brought with you. Captain Butler will act as your assistant adjutant-general, and shall receive an appointment as such. The officers of the several corps composing your division (as well those at Fort George as of General Cass's brigade) not indispensable to the command of the several corps now in the field, should be immediately despatched on the recruiting service. I need not invoke your attention to a subject so important to the early and successful opening of the next campaign, and to the extent and character of your particular command. Will the whole of Cass's command be wanted to the westward? In the event of a peace with the savages, a less force will be sufficient, and to hasten and secure this event the present moment and present impressions must be seized. Of the warriors suing for peace, one or more should be sent by the nearest route, and by the most expeditious mode to the Creek nation. The story of their defeat by you and subsequent abandonment by the British, communicated by themselves, would probably have a decided effect on their red brethren of the south, and save us the trouble and expense of beating them into a sense of their own interest. When I wrote to you from Wilna, it was doubtful whether our attack would be made directly upon Kingston or upon Montreal. Reasons exist for our preferring the latter course, and have probably determined General Wilkinson to do down the St. Lawrence. In this case the enemy will have at Kingston, besides his fleet, a garrison of twelve or fourteen hundred men. Had we not a corps in the neighborhood these might do mischief, and even render insecure the winter station of our fleet. To prevent this, it is deemed advisable to draw together at Sackett's Harbor, a considerable military force. There are now at that post between four and five hundred men of all descriptions—sick, convalescent, and effective. Colonel Scott's detachment (about seven hundred) are on their march thither, and it is barely possible that Colonel Randolph's (not arriving in time to

move with the army) may be there also. This does not exceed three hundred and fifty; McArthur's brigade added to these will make a force entirely competent to our object. To bring this brigade down the lake you must have the aid of the fleet, which will be readily given by Commodore Chauncey. On this point I shall write to him and suggest a communication to you in relation to it.

This new disposition will render necessary the employment of so many of the militia and volunteers now in service under General McClure as you may deem competent to the safe keeping of Forts George and Niagara and their dependencies.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., pp. 456-7.)

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**Colonel Winfield Scott to the Secretary of War.**

(Extract.)

GEORGETOWN, December 31, 1813.

At your desire I have the honor to make the following report: I left Fort George on the 13th of October last by order of Major-General Wilkinson with the whole of the regular troops of that garrison, and was relieved by Brigadier-General McClure with a body of the New York detached militia.

Fort George as a field work might be considered as complete at that period. It was garrisoned with ten pieces of artillery (which number might easily have been increased from the spare ordnance of the opposite fort,) with an ample supply of fixed ammunition, &c., as the enclosed receipt for these articles will exhibit.

Fort Niagara on the 14th October was under the immediate command of Captain Leonard, First Artillery, who besides his own company had Captain Read's of the same regiment, together with such of Brigadier-General McClure's Brigade as had refused to cross the river. Lieutenant-Colonels Flemming, Bloom and Dobbins of the militia had successively been in command of this fort by order of the Brigadier-General, but I think neither of them were present at the above period. Major-General Wilkinson in his order to me for the removal of the regular troops on that frontier excepted the two companies of the First Artillery, then at Fort Niagara, and, under the supposition that I should meet water transport for my detachment at the mouth of the Genesee River, I had his orders to take with me the whole of the convalescents left in the different hospitals by the regiments which had accompanied him. This order I complied with.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 463.)

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The Secretary of War to Major Lee, 16th U. S. I., Deputy Paymaster at Utica, N. Y.

SHELDEN'S, November 4, 1813.

SIR,—You will immediately take measures to pay off the brigade of McArthur (1,300 men) at Fort George, and the militia, volunteers, and Indians under General McClure. Send an assistant without loss of time on this business.

Colonel Robert Purdy, 4th United States Infantry, to Major-General Wilkinson.

I arrived at Cumberland Head September 16th, 1813, and on the 18th took command of the 4th Regiment of infantry, stationed at that place. The army, consisting of about four thousand men, was composed principally of recruits who had been but a short time in service, and had not been exercised with that rigid discipline so necessary to constitute the soldier. They had indeed been taught various evolutions, but a spirit of subordination was foreign to their views. On the 19th orders were issued for the whole army, except a squadron of horse and the artillery, to embark in bateaux. The army got under way, preceded by the light corps and flanked on the right by the navy, and arrived at Chazy at 12 o'clock at night, lay on their arms, embarked again soon after sunrise next morning, proceeded down the lake as far as Champlain, and up Champlain River a distance of four miles, where we landed and immediately marched to Odelltown. The light troops, who preceded the other troops some hours, surprised and defeated a guard of the enemy at that place. We remained at Odelltown until the middle of the next day, during which time a want of system in the management of the army was readily discovered by every military man, that led to apprehensions for the safety of the troops should the enemy oppose with any considerable force. The army returned to Champlain the 21st, the 22nd to Chazy, and the day following commenced the route to Chateauguay. The whole of this march, a distance of more than seventy miles, was very disagreeable; the officers were not permitted to take with them the necessaries, much less the conveniences of life, and were compelled to abandon clothing and other things essentially necessary to preserve the body in health. We forbore complaint, endured every privation, presuming the commanding officer had sufficient reasons for his conduct and concluding it was *pro bono publico*. The scene has past, and time sufficient has elapsed to have discovered those reasons had they existed; none have been found; on the contrary circumstances have demonstrated that it was a useless and unnecessary sacrifice of both public and private

property. The army remained at Chateauguay twenty-six days and on the 21st October commenced an excursion into the enemy's country. The first brigade followed the course of the Chateauguay River to Spear's, the distance of eighteen miles and upwards, and there met the second brigade, which had taken a nearer and more convenient route. The march was very fatiguing, equalled only by another that soon followed. Credit is due to both the officers and soldiers for their orderly conduct, patience, and perseverance in surmounting the incredible obstacles the enemy threw in their way. On the 25th a difficult and very fatiguing expedition was planned and the execution of it assigned to the first brigade, which had been for some time previous and still remained under my command. The design was to cut off the retreat of a body of the enemy supposed to be encamped on the banks of the Chateauguay, six miles distant. With this intention the first brigade was ordered to cross the river at night, march silently down and re-cross at a ford two miles below the enemy and attack them in rear, giving a preconcerted signal, while the second brigade moved down the road in front. We commenced the march at sundown and by sunrise next morning had gained only six miles. Here we were discovered by the enemy and fired on from the opposite side of the river. During that night we were repeatedly misled by the guides, who knew nothing of the country, having never been that way, and at the time we were attacked they had led us into a thick cedar growth or swamp on the bank of the river and immediately opposite the enemy's position, and knew not how to extricate us. Incredible as it may appear, General Hampton entrusted nearly one-half of his army and those his best troops to the guidance of men each of whom repeatedly assured him that they were not acquainted with the country and were not competent to direct such an expedition. And at the same time General Hampton told me he had a man by the name of Smith, who had a perfect knowledge of the country and whom he promised to send me but which he neglected to do. The defeat of the expedition was the consequence of this neglect of the Major-General. About two o'clock, while receiving an order from Colonel King, Adjutant-General, upon the opposite side of the river, to march back four miles and then ford the river and join the 2d brigade, the enemy made a furious attack on the column by a great discharge of musketry accompanied by the yells of savages. Unfortunately the word "retreat" was heard, which for a short time spread confusion among the several corps. A sufficient number, however, remained firm and the enemy was soon compelled to retire. Towards sundown, I sent General Hampton a request that a regiment might be ordered down to cover my landing on the opposite side of the river; but judge my surprise on receiving intelligence that he had

retreated with the second brigade nearly three miles. Thus was I deserted without the smallest guard to cover my landing. To what cause shall it be attributed that the General ordered a retreat and that too at a moment when the presence of the second brigade was required or could be useful, as soon afterwards he declared that "he should be willing to compound with the first brigade for five hundred men." The wounded had previously been conveyed across on rafts, which made a removal of my brigade absolutely necessary for their protection. An attempt was accordingly made and a floating bridge soon constructed of old logs found on the margin of the river. The enemy, discovering our disposition, commenced a firing from the opposite side and killed several while crossing. Major Snelling with about a hundred men effected a landing and joined the main body. The remainder of my force, exhausted by the excessive exertions of the preceding night and weary with the fatigues of the day, not having had a moment either for rest or refreshment, were compelled to endure the privation of sleep another night. We retired two or three miles and took a position. At about twelve o'clock the enemy came up and made an attack upon us, but were soon routed. The men at this time were formed, and lying on the ground they were to occupy in case of an attack, and were ordered to and did immediately rise, seize their arms, and remain under them the residue of the night. An excessively heavy rain prevented the firing both of the enemy and ourselves, except occasionally a single gun from the former. Our troops were ordered not to fire, but in case of a repetition of attack to charge bayonets; this was accordingly done. The enemy charged several times, and as often were put to flight. It is observable in this place that so greatly were the men overpowered by fatigue, though it was a situation every way dangerous and in which they had every reason to believe they should be sallied upon by the enemy every moment, many were unable to conquer their disposition to sleep, and it was not in the power of the officers to keep them awake. It was on the morning of this last attack that the General expressed his apprehensions for the first brigade and made the declaration above quoted. The next morning we crossed the river and joined General Hampton; on the 28th the army retreated four miles, and on the 30th and 31st marched back to Chateaugay. The troops at the times of the attack, were not in a situation to endure further fatigue, and it is an indubitable fact that many of them were so debilitated that they were unable to proceed with the brigade on its march from the place of its last attack and actually did not reach the main body until the day after the brigade had joined it, and some not even until the army had reached the Four Corners of Chateaugay.

Never to my knowledge during our march into Canada, and

while we remained at the Four Corners, a term of twenty-six days, did General Hampton ever send off a scouting or reconnoitering party, (except in one or two cases at Spear's in Canada, when he detached a few dragoons on this duty) nor did he from the time we commenced our march from Cumberland Head to our arrival at Plattsburg, ever order a front flank or rear guard to be kept up, though a great part of the time we were in situations which evidently required it. True it is, these guards were occasionally sent out, not, however, by his order, but by the orders of the officers commanding brigades.

By a general order dated Chateauguay, November 5, the General says he has paid the first attention to the sick and has granted them indulgences which created murmurings on the part of some officers at their posts. It is only necessary here to observe that every officer of the army can testify that the sick were very much neglected as far as regards comfortable quarters and transportation, and that they were strewed along the roads through which we marched without care or attendance, and it is presumable that many have died in consequence of this who might have been saved to themselves, if not to the service. The General, indeed, at the time this order was issued, which was after our return to the Four Corners, did order transportation for the sick to Burlington, but this is the only instance to my knowledge.

The Commissary's Department is worthy of notice. My order for provision was not sufficient, nor could I obtain any, but by special license of General Hampton. The commissary of issues has been constantly in the habit of selling the livers, etc., of beeves to officers, and though I represented this to General Hampton as unusual and improper, he refused to take any other notice of it than saying, "the commissary is accountable for all parts of the beef, even to a pound or ounce of tallow;" nor did he take any notice of another piece of misconduct of the commissary, that of acting in the capacity of sutler, but sanctioned it by purchasing of him.

The common practices with General Hampton of arresting officers and releasing them without their consent, of releasing arrested officers without the knowledge or consent of the officers by whom they were arrested (the case of Lieutenant Morris of the 33d regiment, who was arrested by me on the charge of cowardice and misconduct before the enemy on the 26th October, 1813, the time of the skirmish with the enemy at Ormstown or Chateauguay river, being an instance;) of refusing to arrest officers whom I reported to him as having deserted their posts in time of action; of daily issuing orders and countermanding them, and of interfering in an improper manner with the subordinate commands of the army, as a reference to the orders issued by him will show, mark very strongly the capriciousness of his conduct and the total want of steadiness in his intentions.

Such has been the General's conduct on some occasions that I have, in common with other officers, been induced to believe that he was under the influence of a too free use of spirituous liquors.

I must in justice to General Hampton say that the expedition he planned, and which I have called "difficult and fatiguing," did, at the time it was suggested to me by him, meet my full approbation, and that I have since seen no reason for changing my opinion of its practicability or usefulness, but I must also say that it required competent guides, and these (as I said before) he promised to furnish me but did not.

I am of opinion no officer that has served under General Hampton on the late campaign can or will contradict this statement.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., pp. 479-480.)

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#### After General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FRENCH CREEK,

4th November, 1813.

As there is no appearance of rain, the Commander-in-Chief recommends that there should be no general encampment; that the men, properly assigned by brigades and corps, should make large and comfortable fires for themselves.

The "*general*" will beat in place of "*reveille*" at 4 o'clock to-morrow morning, and the baggage, camp equipage, etc., is to be packed and loaded on board the boats; half an hour after, the "*march*" will beat, when the troops are to embark. These signals are to be given from the tent occupied by the General, and to run through the line. At 8 o'clock, Colonel Eustis will discharge two guns, at which the boats will put off and proceed agreeably to the order of the day.

J. B. WALBACH, Adjutant-General.

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#### Major-General Wilkinson to Commodore Chauncey.

FRENCH CREEK, November 4, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—I was so ill yesterday I could not call to see you, and I now send up to say that I shall sail this evening and if I am not obstructed by the enemy's armed vessels, which may have slipped down the other channel, I shall pass Prescott to-morrow night, or land the next morning to take the place, if I cannot pass it without too great hazard. As this operation may require three or four days, it is not improbable the enemy's squadron may make some attempts to

destroy my boats; and therefore I must entreat to watch his every motion and to give my flotilla every protection in your power.

We are a match for the gunboats of the enemy but inferior to armed schooners, and therefore could you consistently spare us the *Pert* or some armed vessel to run down to the vicinity of Ogdensburg and immediately return, it would add security to our movement.

Major Johnson will have the honor to deliver you this and I will thank you for any information you can give me respecting the movements of the enemy.

I wish very much to say farewell to you but I am sensible of the delicacy of your situation, and my disease having changed into a violent inflammation of the breast, I dare not get wet. If then it is destined that we are not to meet again I will leave you with my prayers for long life and laurels in this world and everlasting happiness in that which is to come.

Farewell, my friend, and may your country understand your skill and valor as well as does

JAS. WILKINSON.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 481.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to Major-General Wilkinson.**

United States Ship *General Pike*,

At anchor off east end of  
Long Island, River St. Lawrence,

November 4, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—Your favor of this day's date has this moment been handed to me by Major Johnson.

From the best information that I can get, the enemy's fleet is at or in the vicinity of Kingston, and I think you have nothing to apprehend from them, as I am in a situation to watch both channels.

I should deem it unsafe to separate any part of my squadron as long as the enemy remains above me; in fact I am in hourly expectation of being attacked by Sir James down the south channel; in that case I shall require all my force, as he has added a number of gunboats to his fleet. If, however, Sir James should detach any part of his fleet down the north channel I will send a sufficient force down to oppose him.

I will remain in my present station until you pass Prescott, but am anxious for that event to take place at as early a day as possible, as the fleet cannot move out of this river except with a fair wind. It is to be apprehended that after a few days, a spell of westwardly



winds will set in, which may detain us until the ice makes, which would endanger the safety of the fleet and probably lead to its final destruction. If it is possible for you to communicate to me in any way when you pass Prescott, I should esteem it a particular favor.

May your present enterprise be crowned with all the success that you yourself can wish, and that your eminent services may be duly appreciated by your country is the prayer of,

Dear sir, your friend and humble servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Volume I., p. 482.)

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**Chauncey to Secretary Navy.**

No. 105.

U. States Ship *General Pike*, at anchor  
off the East end of Long Island,  
in the River St. Lawrence.

4th November, 1813.

SIR,—I entered this river of the 2d instant, and anchored here yesterday morning. The last of the troops, with General Wilkinson, left Grenadier Island yesterday morning, and the whole army is now at French Creek, about three miles below me, and by a letter which I received this day from the General, he informs me that the whole will move forward to-morrow morning, and that on the 6th he will pass Prescott. I shall remain in my present position until the army has passed below Prescott, and then I shall use every exertion to get out of the river as soon as possible. The *Pert*, which has been sent to Sackett's Harbor for the purpose of bringing a part of Colonel Randolph's Regiment, joined me to-day, and the troops were landed at French Creek. The *Growler*, *Asp*, and *Raven*, which were lent to the army for the purpose of transport, have been left by the General at Grenadier Island without protection, and I am apprehensive that the enemy will send over and take or destroy them. If the gale abates so that I can send boats up in the morning, I will have them brought down here and keep them with the squadron. Two of the prize vessels, which I also lent to the Quartermaster-General, are on shore, and I am apprehensive will be lost. I will, however, do my best to save them.

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## Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

No. 106.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,

4th November, 1813.

MY LORD,—The loss of our fleet on Lake Erie, which I had the honor of reporting to Your Lordship in my despatch No. 90, of the date of 22nd September last, together with the increasing sickness amongst the troops of the Centre Division and the diminution of the force in Upper Canada by the different actions which had taken place, induced me to send an express to Halifax with the representation to Admiral Sir John Warren, referred to in my despatch, No. 104, of the 30th ulto.

The Admiral was absent upon a tour into the interior of the country upon the arrival of my letters at Halifax, having previously sent to me the 2nd Battalion of Marines and 1 company of Marine Artillery, but His Excellency, Sir John Sherbrooke, with a promptitude and decision which I cannot too highly praise, gave immediate directions for the embarkation of the other battalion and the artillery company attached to it, which, sailing with a fair wind and being much favored by the weather, arrived in the St. Lawrence at the same time with the 2nd Battalion, as I have already had the honor of reporting to Your Lordship.

I have now the honor of acquainting Your Lordship that both battalions, together with the two companies of artillery and the rocket company, having been disembarked at Quebec and proceeded to this place, where part of them have already arrived, it is my intention to make the following distribution of them, viz:—To send the 1st Battalion with its artillery company to Isle Aux Noix, and the 2nd Battalion with its artillery company to Prescott, where it will be on hand to serve on board the squadron in the spring.

I have the satisfaction to report to Your Lordship the arrival at Quebec of the *Eolus* with three hundred seamen, and my intention of having them immediately forwarded from thence in the steamboat that I may, if possible, get them to Kingston before the navigation of the river closes. I have also received a report of part of the 70th Regiment being in the St. Lawrence together with a fleet having on board, in all probability, the remainder, which I cannot but consider a particularly fortunate circumstance when I advert to the period of their sailing and the lateness of the season in which they have arrived.

In my despatch No. 104, I communicated to Your Lordship the movement and disposition of the enemy's flotilla and force upon their quitting Sackett's Harbor on the 18th ulto., and of their being on Grenadier Island on the 28th.

I have now to inform you that on the 29th a part of this force was sent to Gravelly Point, where it was observed on the 30th to be employed in constructing huts, but it is not improbable it may have had some other object in view, perhaps to proceed down the river and by landing at Gananoqui to aid in a combined attack on Kingston, which Major-General De Rottenburg still thought on the 30th, the date of his last despatch, was likely to take place.

General Hampton's army has altogether quitted the Lower Province and from the reports of the different parties hanging on its rear is retiring to its former encampment at the Four Corners.

The position of the force under my command continues the same as when I last reported them to Your Lordship.

It is my intention to concentrate the remains of the Right Division with the Centre, and to place the whole under the command of Major-General Riall as soon as he arrives from Quebec, where he is stated to be with Lieutenant-General Drummond.

I am happy to tell Your Lordship that the sickness amongst the troops is diminishing, and the convalescents numerous, the lake fever has been the most prevalent disorder, and has affected the officers more than the privates.

The Newfoundland Regiment being reduced to a very considerable number from their losses in action, from sickness, and particularly by the capture of a large part of them employed as marines with the fleet on Lake Erie, I submit to Your Lordship's consideration whether it may not be expedient for me to send the remains of that regiment to Newfoundland to recruit there and to replace them by the Nova Scotia Fencibles.

I have just received from Major-General De Rottenburg, Major-General Procter's official report of his retreat from Sandwich on the 26th September, and of the disastrous affair of the 5th October, which ended in the dispersion of his army, but the account is so extremely confused, indistinct and unsatisfactory, that I have desired Major-General De Rottenburg to call upon him for a more clear, detailed and comprehensive statement of facts in order that the subject may be brought before His Majesty's Government for their decision upon the conduct to be observed towards Major-General Procter should it appear that in this instance he has acted with negligence in the discharge of his duty towards his King and country.

(Canadian Archives, Q., 123, pp. 5-16.)

## From the Diary of Thomas McCrae

RALEIGH, Friday, 5 November, 1813.

Another party of A[merican] light horse arrived to-day.

## Major-General De Rottenburg to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, 5th November, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 31st of October. The instructions therein contained have been communicated to Major-General Vincent.

The last despatch I received from the Major-General was in reply to the Adjutant-General's order of the 16th October and he was then making preparation for moving his stores from Burlington to York, but the difficulties he must experience in effecting this task will, I trust, have detained him long enough to receive the orders for retaining the position of Burlington with the light corps and the Indians.

Several gentlemen from Amherstburgh have followed Major-General Procter's retreating army and remain destitute of all means of subsistence. They receive rations, but I must request Your Excellency to fix an allowance to be granted to these unfortunate and loyal subjects.

The militia officers who have followed the army I have directed should receive the pay of their respective ranks.

The enemy's fleet is now off the eastern point of Long Island and the whole of our fleet move down this morning to take a position on the western side of the island, for the purpose of being at hand to fall upon the flotilla whenever they should attempt to cross over. I expect this will be in the course of the day, as the weather is remarkably fine and moderate.

(Canadian Archives, C. 691, pp. 14-15.)

## Kingston Gazette.

Saturday, November 6, 1813.

Seven boats containing private property, on their way from Montreal to this place, were taken by the enemy some time last week about 12 miles below Prescott. The principal sufferers in this place are Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Merrills and Mr. Badgley.

By all accounts the enemy seem to have assembled in considerable force at Gravelly Point, etc., but from motives best known to themselves, the contemplated attack on this place has been delayed—*perhaps till the memorable tenth day of November shall again return.*

(File in Bureau of Archives, Toronto.)

**Kingston Gazette**

Saturday, December 4, 1813.

MONTREAL, November 6,

The famous, or rather infamous, Colonel Clarke has again been over to Mississquoi Bay and took off about 90 head of cattle, which he with his party had followed from the other side of the line. In this excursion the Colonel is said to have behaved very honorably and we are glad to give "the devil his due." He told the inhabitants that they should not be molested and that his only intention was to take the persons and property of American citizens who were in the habit of supplying traders of this province with beef and other provisions.

**Morning General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, ST. LAWRENCE,

November 6, 1813.

The regiments and brigades which were deranged last night, must be put in strict order as speedily as possible, preparatory to a forward movement. The boats must be ranged by corps at such distance as to prevent their dashing each other to pieces in case of a storm. The Commander-in-Chief begs to speak to the general officers at mid-day.

The men immediately to cook two days' provisions, exclusive of the present.

JAMES WILKINSON.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs. Vol. III., p. 282.)

**PROCLAMATION.**

James Wilkinson, Major-General and Commander-in-Chief of an expedition against the Canadas, to the inhabitants thereof:

The army of the United States which I have the honor to command invades these Provinces to conquer and not to destroy, to subdue the forces of His Britannic Majesty, not to war against his 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 unjust—to seduce dishonorable—yet it is just and humane to place there alternatives before you.

Done at the headquarters of army of the United States, this sixth day of November, 1813, near Ogdensburg on the River St. Lawrence.

JAMES WILKINSON.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., December 4th, 1813, Vol. V., p. 232.)

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, 6th. November, 1813.

(Private.)

The boats will pass Prescott this night after the setting of the moon, in the following order: The gunboats to cover the front and exposed flank. The boat of the General-in-Chief will lead, followed by the whole of the ordnance boats and scows; then the corps of Colonel Macomb, the riflemen and Colonel Randolph, who are to be followed by brigades and regiments as directed for the flotilla at French Creek. The hospital vessel and contractor's boats will take the station heretofore prescribed. To save all unnecessary hazard, the powder and ammunition has been landed and will pass the enemy's batteries in wheel carriages, and to save the men from unnecessary exposure the boats are to be manned strongly, and the rest of the troops are to be marched by land under cover of the night to such point below Ogdensburg as the General may hereafter direct. But it is to be clearly understood that every boat is to be conducted by a commissioned officer or sergeant of unquestionable fidelity. Brigadier-General Brown, general officer of the day, will see this order carried into vigorous effect.

By command,

J. B. WALBACH, Adj-Gen.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., p. 283.)

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**From Major-General Wilkinson to Major-General Hampton.**

Headquarters of the Army,  
7 miles above Ogdensburg,

November 6th, 1813, (in the evening.)

SIR,—I address you at the special instance of the Secretary of War, who by bad roads, worse weather and ill health was diverted from meeting me near this place, and determined to tread back his steps to Washington from Antwerp on the 29th ult.

I am destined to and determined on the attack of Montreal if not prevented by some act of God, and to give security to the enterprise,

the division under your command must co-operate with the corps under my immediate orders; the point of rendezvous is the circumstance of greatest interest to the issue of this operation, and the distance which separates us and my ignorance of the practicability of the direct or devious roads or routes by which you must march make it necessary that your own judgment should determine the point; to assist you in making the soundest determination and to the most prompt and effectual measures I can only inform you of my intentions and situation, in some respects of first importance. I shall pass Prescott to-night, because the stage of the season will not allow me three days to take it, shall cross the cavalry at Hamilton, which will require a day. I shall thence pass forward and break down every obstruction from this river to the Grand River, there to cross to the Isle Perrot and with my scows to bridge the narrow inner channel and thus obtain foothold on Montreal Island, about twenty-five miles from the city, after which our artillery, bayonets and swords must secure our triumph or provide us honorable graves.

Enclosed you have a memorandum of field and battering train pretty well found in fixed ammunition, which may enable you to dismiss your own, but we are deficient in loose powder and musket cartridges and therefore hope you may be abundantly found.

On the subject of provisions I wish I could give as favorable information; our whole stock of bread may be computed at fifteen days, and our meat at twenty. In speaking on this subject to the Secretary of War he informed me ample magazines were laid upon Lake Champlain, and therefore I must request you to order forward two or three months' supply by the safest route in a direction to the proposed scene of action. I have submitted the state of our provisions to my general officers, who unanimously agree that it should not prevent the progress of the expedition, and they also agree in opinion that if you are not in force to meet the enemy you should meet us at St. Regis or vicinity.

I shall expect to hear from if not to see you at that place on the 9th.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., December 4, 1813, Vol. V., p. 235.)

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**General McClure to General Porter.**

FORT GEORGE, 7th November, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—There is a fair prospect of our making a movement shortly against the enemy, who still are in considerable force at the head of the Lake and York, the prospect of our moving in the course of this week a very considerable reinforcement of drafted militia

and volunteers is very flattering, in which case I should be happy to share my command with you in the contemplated expedition. The season is far advanced, and what we do must be undertaken immediately, and I believe General Harrison only waits for such a reinforcement as will insure success. I have the utmost confidence in him as a skilful commander. In great haste,

I remain, Dr. Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. McCCLURE.

(MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**National Advocate, New York, 26th November, 1813.**

Extract of a letter to the Editor of the *Democratic Press*.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 10th November.

The *Lady of the Lake* came in this afternoon from our fleet then in sight off Stony Island. It is said they are going up to Fort George for General Harrison and such regulars as he has with him for this place.

The British are badly off in Canada. An order was issued a few days ago directing the crops of last year to be beat out immediately. Commissioners were appointed to say how much of the crop was necessary for the family on the most close calculation, the surplus to be given to the Commissioner of the King, to be paid for at the rate of 11 dollars per barrel of flour, while His Majesty's subjects in Kingston cannot get flour at 30 dollars. What would a Pennsylvania farmer say to such treatment? The people are distressed for salt. I am told it has been sold as high as a dollar per quart. They have no saltworks on the other side of the lake, except a small one at the head of the Bay of Cauty, which yields them but trifling. Before the war their supply was derived from our waters, since when they have to depend on supplies from Quebec.

(New York Society Library.)

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**General Wilkinson to Colonel Alexander Maccomb.**

HEADQUARTERS, ST. LAWRENCE RIVER,

7th November, 1813.

SIR,—I have received advice that the enemy occupies a strong post with several pieces of artillery at the Narrows, a few miles above Hamilton, for the purpose of annoying the flotilla in its descent. You will proceed immediately with the reserve under your



command, Forsyth's riflemen, Colonel Randolph's command, and Major Herkimer's volunteers and drive him from his position. I think it would be most prudent for you to make the shore above him, and march to the attack by land, leaving a sufficient number of men to secure your boats in case you should find it necessary to retreat. If the enemy is in considerable force, you will not risk an action, but inform me of it immediately. If you succeed in executing this order, you will drop down to Hamilton and wait there until I join you. Wishing you a successful enterprise.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., pp. 284-51.)

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**Lieutenant Edward MacLahon to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.**

KINGSTON, 8th November, 1813.

SIR,—I have had the honour of yesterday receiving your letter of 3rd inst., which I have laid before the President, and it gives me great pleasure to signify to you his cheerful compliance with your desire, and in transmitting herewith the authority to the Receiver-General to pay Mrs. John Powell the last half year's salary due to Mr. Powell, and also the certificate of his being detained in the United States as a prisoner of war.

The enemy, who has for such a length of time been hovering about this place, has by the last accounts passed down to near Prescott with the view, we have good reason to believe, of proceeding to Montreal without delay. It is supposed that his reason for stopping near Prescott was to take advantage of the night in passing our batteries there, and yesterday, (Sunday,) about 2 o'clock, firing, which continued for near two hours, was distinctly heard in that direction at Gananoqui and by some people at this place, which is supposed to have been opened on the flotilla when passing. The force is stated to be 10,000 men, besides an addition of two or three thousand more which have been encamped nearly opposite to Cornwall for some days past, and which will, no doubt, join the expedition. In the meantime General Hampton is engaging the attention of our force below, for the troops occupying our advanced positions in that quarter have had two affairs with him, in both of which his advance has been checked. General Hampton's engaging the attention of our force is done, no doubt, with a view of drawing it from Montreal and thereby rendering that place an easy prey to General Wilkinson. I trust, however, they will be prepared to meet him there, as they have been, as well as ourselves, for sometime past expecting him.

General Drummond, who succeeds to the command in this Province, has arrived below with a small reinforcement, and he

proceeds in the first instance to Burlington and returns to this place, when General De Rottenburg leaves it for Montreal, where he is to have a command during the winter. Knowing your anxiety to hear of the enemy's movements and of the news of the day here, I have taken the liberty of thus obtruding them upon you. Let me not, however, forget to mention that Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey with a very considerable portion of this garrison have followed the enemy with a number of gunboats, commanded by one of our naval gentlemen, and the last note from the Lieutenant-Colonel expressed a sanguine hope of being able to do the enemy much harm. This note was received last night. Two of our schooners have also gone down, but I fear the enemy will have passed Prescott, more than five miles beyond which the schooners can't go, before they can reach there, the enemy having much the start of them. They, however, expected if they could do no more, to take the *Lady of the Lake* and another of his schooners that accompanied the flotilla. Captain Mulcaster commands the naval part of this service, and from his ability and experience much is expected.

9th, 4 o'clock, p.m.

P.S.—Since writing the above, the account that the enemy has passed Prescott with some loss, has arrived. Two of his schooners and some boats have been destroyed, the schooners by themselves lest they should fall into our hands. The particulars have not yet been received. Since the departure of a portion of the garrison after the enemy information has been received that a very considerable force still remains at and in the vicinity of Gravelly Point, (some say 5,000 men,) in consequence of which the troops detached from hence have been ordered back with all possible despatch. We are anxiously looking for them.

(From MSS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

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**Council of War at the White House near Hamilton on the St. Lawrence.**

Nov. 8th, 1813.

Major-General Wilkinson states in a council of war to Major-General Lewis, Brigadier-Generals Boyd, Brown, Covington, and Porter, as follows, viz:—

That the force under his immediate command is reported at 7,000 non-commissioned officers and privates, and that he expects to make a junction with Major-General Hampton at St. Regis, whose division has been reported at 4,000.

The provisions on hand amount to about ten days' bread and twenty days' meat.

The best information of the enemy's force is as follows: 600 under Colonel Murray, troops of the line, at the Coteau du Lac, strongly fortified with artillery; 200 on the island opposite with two pieces of artillery, and about the same number on the south shore with two pieces of artillery; 200 or 300 more of the British line with artillery, but without ammunition, at the Cedars; at Montreal 200 sailors and 400 marines with the militia, numbers unknown; no fortifications at that city or in advance of it; 2,500 regular troops expected daily from Quebec. The militia on the line reported at 20,000 men, Canadians chiefly.

Under these circumstances Major-General Wilkinson submits to the council the following propositions, viz:—

Shall the army proceed with all possible rapidity to the attack of the said city of Montreal? The above information is given by a confidential agent of reputed integrity, who left Montreal on the 3d instant. It may be added for the information of the council that two British armed vessels with sixty batteaux with troops had arrived at Prescott this morning, and that 400 men were the last evening at Cornwall, about 33 miles from this point.

It is our opinion that we should proceed to attack Montreal, the object of the expedition.

MORGAN LEWIS,  
JOHN P. BOYD,  
JACOB BROWN,  
ROBERT SWARTWOUT.

It is our opinion that we proceed from this place under great danger from the want of proper transport, pilots, &c., but are anxious to meet the enemy at Montreal because we know of no other alternative.

LEONARD COVINGTON,  
MOSES PORTER.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix XXIV.)

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**Major-General Hampton to Major-General Wilkinson.**

HEADQUARTERS, FOUR CORNERS, Nov. 8, 1813.

SIR,—I had the honor to receive at a late hour last evening by Colonel King your communication of the 6th, and was deeply impressed with the sense of responsibility it imposed of deciding upon the means of our co-operation. The idea suggested as the opinion of your officers of effecting the junction at St. Regis was the most pleasing as most immediate until I came to the disclosure of the amount of your provisions. Colonel Atkinson will explain the reasons that would

have rendered it impossible for me to have brought more than each man could have carried on his back, and when I reflected that in throwing myself upon your scanty means I should be weakening you in your most vulnerable point I did not hesitate to adopt the opinion, after consulting the general and principal officers, that by throwing myself back on my main depot where all the means of transportation had gone and falling upon the enemy's flank and straining every effort to open a communication from Plattsburg to Coghawaga or any other point you may indicate on the St. Lawrence, I should more effectually contribute to your success than by the junction at St. Regis. The way is in many places blockaded and abbatied and the road impracticable for wheel carriages during winter—but by the employment of pack horses, if I am not overpowered, I hope to be able to prevent you starving. I have ascertained and witnessed that the plan of the enemy is to burn and consume everything in our advance. My troops and other means will be described to you by Colonel Atkinson. Besides their weakness and sickliness they have endured fatigues equal to a winter campaign and are sadly dispirited and fallen off, but upon the subject I must refer you to Colonel Atkinson.

With these means what can be accomplished by human exertion I will attempt, with a mind devoted to the general objects of the campaign.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., December 4, 1813, Vol. V., p. 235.)

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**Major Dennis to Colonel Scott at Coteau du Lac.**

10 o'clock, CORNWALL,

8th November, 1813.

SIR,—I had the honour to receive your letter dated 6 o'clock, 8th November, and in consequence of your offering a supply of flour and ammunition, I have sent down the gunboat for such quantity as you can spare, as both are very scarce here, and perhaps you may be able to spare some flints.

I have just received intelligence from Mr. Colquhoun that 4,000 of the enemy last night arrived at Salmon River. This, he informed me, he received from an intelligent Indian of the Americans named De Lorne, who is in our employment. To-night he is to ascertain it to a fact, for he told Colquhoun it was hear say information from one of his own tribe. Should this be the case Montreal is still their ulterior object unless they have an intention of crossing here and moving up the communication to join Wilkinson's army. We cannot judge their intentions except as circumstances arise out of the move-

ment, nor can I be answerable to give any certain information. You shall receive it as I do and judge accordingly. You will give it just application. I have received no despatch from Colonel Pearson since the interruption of the communication, although I have made repeated efforts to communicate with him.

When arms, &c., arrive at your post I presume it would be advisable to send them up, as many of the militia, particularly the Glengarry, are most anxious to have them.

(Canadian Archives, C., 681, pp. 24-5.)

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**Extract from a letter from an officer in the United States Navy to — in Richmond, Va.**

In escorting General Wilkinson's army the *Pike* and *Madison* went aground but were got off without injury. The confluence of the St. Lawrence from Lake Ontario is formed into two channels by an island twenty miles long, the northern leading by Kingston and bearing its name. The lower end of this island, where their channel came into ours, was the point to be guarded and here we anchored. Sir James was soon in sight on his way down, but he was compelled to abandon his enterprize by meeting us. He lay so near round the point of the island that the bells of the ships could be heard and our guard boats in the passage were firing on each other during the night. Our pilots could not venture to take the *General Pike* through, as there was only six inches more water than she drew and the passage was a difficult one. We lay here a week to ensure time for our army to get beyond his reach, although we confidently believed he would come into our channel and garrison one of the strongest and most regular built forts in our country, which stands on Carleton Island, and by mooring his fleet under this battery we could not have passed out this way, and we must either have wintered here or run the gauntlet by Kingston batteries. We returned to Sackett's Harbor on the 12th inst., with the intention of laying up for the winter, which had then set in very severely. Here the Commodore found a letter from the Secretary of War pointing out the very exposed situation of our fleet from leaving Kingston unconquered, and wishing us to transport Harrison's army from the head of the lake. We sailed immediately and embarked the troops the third day, but a most tremendous snow storm came on from the eastward which lasted three days and separated our fleet, and had it lasted twenty-four hours longer most of our vessels must have perished, or had the enemy come out immediately he must have taken us in detail. Some of our vessels lost their masts, some sails and one her rudder. Many had men

washed overboard and some rode out the gale and anchored upon an enemy's lee shore. One is ashore in the Niagara River, where she anchored for safety but parted her cable and went ashore. Only two lives were lost on board her.

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**Morning General Orders.**

HEADQUARTERS, TUTTLE BAY,

10th November, 1813.

General Brown will prosecute his march with the troops yesterday under his command, excepting two pieces of artillery and the 2nd dragoons, who, with all the well men of the other brigades, are to march under the orders of Brigadier-General Boyd. This precaution is enjoined by regard to the safety of the men's lives in passing the Long Saut; and as this rapid is long and dangerous the General earnestly requests the commanding officers of regiments and companies to examine the boats and see them properly fitted in order to avoid accidents as much as possible. Brigadier-General Boyd will take the necessary precaution to prevent the enemy, who hangs on our rear, from making an advantageous attack; and if attacked is to turn about and beat them. The boats are to resume the station assigned them in the original order respecting the flotilla, and for this the commanding officers of regiments or brigades will be held responsible. The movement of yesterday was a reproach to the service. The flotilla will come to-day at Barnhart's, near Crab Island, and two guns from the front will be the signal for landing. In case of an attack in force beyond all expectation, the columns under Generals Boyd and Brown are to co-operate with each other promptly and with decision. The general officer of the day will see that the flotilla puts off and moves in the prescribed order, and will arrest any officer who presumes to deviate therefrom.

J. B. WALBACH, Adjutant-General.

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**Diary of Captain John Keyes Paige, 13th Regiment.**

1813, September 20th.—The whole army were industriously employed in repairing and fitting out boats.

22nd.—Colonel Scott, with between 400 and 500 men, embarked about 8 o'clock p.m. on an expedition. The night was dark and a strong off land breeze sprung up; the boats were dispersed and all did not return until next day.

24th.—Militia arrive at Lewiston.

25th.—Orders issued for the embarkation of the 5th, 12th, 13th, 15th and 20th regiments. The wind prevents their mooring.

26th.—Wind still ahead.

27th.—All the troops except the 23rd regiment embark, but the wind still continues ahead.

28th.—The army leave Fort George and sail down the lake. The wind, after rounding the point at Fort Niagara was ahead and increasing, but by rowing we had made from 8 to 10 miles when orders were received for our return; wind heavy during the night. The two fleets had been engaged, and were still so when they went out of sight.

29th.—Wind heavy ahead.

30th.—Wind continues the same; we march out towards the enemy's encampment; General Wilkinson commands in person.

October 1st.—The wind had died away, and about 10 o'clock we again set sail. Towards night the wind strong ahead, and many of the boats obliged to put in at Twelve Mile Creek.

2nd.—Get under way very early; weather pleasant; sail to Forty Mile Creek.

3rd.—Fair wind the first part of the day; arrive about dusk at Braddock's Bay.

4th.—Sail early, wind fair; towards night appearance of a squall; wind increasing; arrive at Oswego a little after 11 o'clock, p.m.

5th.—About 1 a.m., a severe storm and gale; some of the boats wrecked during the night; wind continues during the day.

6th.—Wind continues.

7th.—Principal part of the boats arrive at Oswego.

8th to 13th.—The wind was high and a great proportion of the time the weather cold, stormy, and disagreeable.

13th.—Left Oswego about 9 o'clock; wind heavy and fair, but increased so that about 1 o'clock obliged to put in at Stony Creek.

14th.—Wind continues heavy; remain at this place.

15th.—Sail to Henderson's Harbour.

16th.—Orders issued for organizing brigades and divisions.

17th.—Cold rain, and severe wind.

18th.—Sail to Grenadier Island, wind fair and brisk.

19th to 23rd inclusive.—The weather a principal part of the time very pleasant.

24th to 25th.—Continued and severe storm.

26th.—Artillery and 5th Regiment leave the island.

28th to 29th.—Rain and snow, severe wind prevents our sailing.

30th.—Embark; severe wind renders it impossible for our boats

to weather Four Mile Point; some in making the attempt were driven on Fox Island.

31st and Nov. 1st.—Violent wind and snowstorm.

2nd.—Embark and have a fine sail to Gravelly Point, 12 miles; stop in consequence of information that part of the British fleet lay off the point of Long Island.

3rd.—Our fleet move down the channel and we sail to French Creek.

4th.—Remain at this place; weather pleasant.

5th.—Four o'clock a.m. "*general*" beats instead of "*reveille*." Signal guns for putting off at 5; we get under moderate way; wind light but favourable; weather pleasant; arrive within 5 or 6 miles of Ogdensburg about 2 o'clock in the morning; boats in considerable disorder.

6th and 7th.—Weather pleasant; pass Prescott in the night; on the evening of the 7th, light corps under command of Colonel Macomb move down the river.

8th.—Sail to Hamilton.

9th.—Arrive at Williamsburg.

10th.—General Brown marches for Cornwall, is attacked.

11th.—Battle; embark and sail down the river about four miles; land on the American shore.

12th.—Sail to Cornwall.

13th.—To French Mills.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., pp. 287-290.)

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**Major James Dennis, 49th Regt, to Colonel Hercules Scott at Coteau du Lac.**

1 o'clock p. m., 10th Nov., (1813.)

11 miles from Cornwall.

SIR,—My advance at Uphold's bridge (which I have destroyed) is at this moment engaged with the advance of the enemy, cavalry and infantry. They have brought up two field pieces, which obliges my retiring by the wood parallel to the Glengarry Road. In consequence of their six-pounders I have ordered off everything by waggons and shall endeavor to cover their retreat, taking an opportunity to annoy them when I can with my people, who are raw and completely undisciplined, altho they are reluctant of retiring and when acting with regulars will be an efficient and daring force.

The enemy appear to have a cloud of riflemen and were in the act of gaining my right flank when I ordered the men to fall back.



I write this in the field on a fence and the bearer is Dr. McCloud, who will describe what I have not time at present to do. We had a few wounded, as also had the enemy.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 22-3.)

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**Major General De Rottenburg to [Sir George Prevost.]**

KINGSTON, November 11th, 1813.

SIR,—The communication being precarious and partly interrupted by the enemy, I shall only state that your despatches of the 3rd and 6th November have been received as well as those of the Adjutant-General of the 3rd and 6th, and the Military Secretary of the 4th and 6th, which have all been acted on.

(In cypher.) Colonel Harvey, who is with the corps I have detached under Colonel Morrison, has been directed to give, as far as practicable, constant information of the progress and movements of the enemy. Having received positive information that the enemy is advancing with his whole force upon Montreal, Colonel Morrison has received directions to continue to hang upon his rear in conjunction with the gunboats. (Cypher ends.)

Major-General Vincent had received on the 4th the orders I sent him on the 1st relative (cypher begins) to his keeping his position at Burlington. General Harrison had arrived with fifteen hundred troops of the line at Fort George, besides three hundred dragoons, which has [induced] General Vincent to detain Major Lisle's troop. Captain Vernon's troop has arrived and is distributed on the Bay of Quinte for the purpose of enforcing martial law as far as relates to the supply of the troops, which I have been obliged to proclaim. (Cypher ends.)

The enemy's fleet is reported to have returned to Sackett's Harbor.

I stop for the present the conveyance of all private letters which, should they fall into the hands of the enemy, might convey intelligence.

(In cypher.) The finishing our works and ship-building go on but slowly for want of hands.

(Canadian Archives, C., 681, pp., 29-30.)

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**CAPITULATION.**

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 of truce is permitted to land, all the public property belonging to the

United States if any should be found here, also all property belonging to His Britannic 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 have been spared in consideration of the preceding arrangement and we do hereby further pledge our honor that two boats shall also be delivered, which belong either to the Government of the United States or 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.

DAVID OGDEN,  
ALEX. RICHARDS.

Dated Hamilton, November 10th, 1813.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 74-5.)

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**Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison to Major-General De Rottenburg.**

WILLIAMSBURG,  
11th November, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose a copy of the agreement entered into by Captain Mulcaster of the navy, and myself, with two of the principal inhabitants of Hamilton in the State of New York, having understood that public property was deposited there, and being informed by Lieutenant-Colonel 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 fulfil the intentions of His Excellency. Not having sufficient conveyance or time to bring the property away, and as it appeared that it principally belonged to merchants at Kingston, we decided the enclosed terms the best to propose.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 78.)

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**Captain Cochrane, Royal Marines, to Colonel Scott at Coteau du Lac.**

McMARTIN'S INN,  
2 o'clock, Nov. 11, [1813.]

DEAR COLONEL,—A person has this instant arrived from Cornwall, which place he left at 7 o'clock this morning, at which time part of the enemy's cavalry were entering the town but in what force he was unable to ascertain. I arrived at this house yesterday evening at 4 o'clock and having learnt that it was Major Dennis's intention to retreat on this road I thought it better to remain here until his arrival,

which was at 12 o'clock last night. This house is situated on the right bank of the River Raisin, near the road to Coteau du Lac 14 miles from the mouth of the river, 17 miles from Martin's Inn and 16 miles from Cornwall, the road from which place enters the main road to Coteau du Lac, 7 miles from here. I have employed three persons of *respectability* to give me information: one placed on the road near Martin's, the second near Cornwall, and the third between the River Raisin and Jones's, so that the enemy cannot move without being observed by one of them. I have not had a report from any of them, but may expect to hear very soon. Major Dennis with about 400 of the militia are here, and will remain until the movements of the enemy are ascertained to a certainty. Should their cavalry, as is reported, attempt to pass this road, he will be able to annoy them very much. Forty-three boats with provisions, etc., from Cornwall left this to-day for Coteau du Lac. I have not yet been able to communicate with Colonel Morrison. Mr. Johnston brings the latest accounts from his division. A very heavy and constant firing has been heard the whole of this morning a short distance above Martin's. I shall proceed in that direction, but this at present is the most central place and best calculated to receive information. The militia suffered but little in the skirmish, but I am sorry to say their officers are very bad, particularly the two Colonels. The men are well disposed, and, I am convinced, had they officers, would behave well. Colonel Bouchette left this early in the morning to endeavor to cross the lake.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 31-4.)

**Colonel Hercules Scott, 103rd Regiment, to Sir George Prevost.**

COTEAU DU LAC,  
11th November, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that some officers I sent off this morning to join the Glengarry Militia have this moment returned, not having been able to get up with them. They report that Sheaffe's Mills were seen in a blaze last night, and that the enemy are supposed to have been in Cornwall in the evening. Report says that the whole of the Glengarry militia are retiring by the upper road and may be expected by 2 o'clock to-morrow. I have received no information from Captain Cochrane, and none later from Major Dennis than that dated one o'clock yesterday, which I forwarded to Colonel Baynes this morning.

After consulting the officers of artillery and giving it every consideration in my power regarding the two twenty-four pounders on travelling carriages at the Cedars, I have determined to move them

to this position for the following reasons: If the enemy are able to pass our position at the Coteau it is not to be supposed that two twenty-four pounders remaining at the Cedars will stop them passing. They will certainly land below Coteau du Lac, and take those guns. The same reasons apply to the Beauharnois Channel after they have passed its danger. Two guns firing at a distance of 750 yards will not prevent their proceeding, although it may do some damage to their boats.

Only two of the Glengarry militia were yesterday wounded. The enemy re-established the bridge last night eight miles above Cornwall (the name I forget) under the protection of several gun-boats, who kept up an incessant fire. The whole of the boats I ordered to the River Raisin have been ordered back, and returned this evening loaded with Government stores.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681. pp. 35-7.)

**Major Dennis to Colonel Scott.**

3 o'clock p.m., 11th November, 1813.

McMARTIN'S MILLS.

SIR,—Yesterday evening about six o'clock, the division of militia under my command arrived here and took post. The enemy crossed Uphold's Creek shortly after they had cannonaded my advance with 6-pounders. Determining on falling back, from the conviction that there was no prospect of having it in my power to push them or effect the destruction of any of their boats which might be descending the rapids, I directed the return of the stores and provisions which I could collect at Cornwall and Martin's (which I had previously held in a constant state of readiness) to proceed to Coteau du Lac. I fear much that some of the stores will diminish from the impossibility of my affording them any disciplined protection.

I trust it will appear to you that there was an expediency for retiring under the circumstances of my force being so disorganized and undisciplined that it became preposterous for me to calculate on any movement against the enemy, and that no advantage could be derived more than might from the fire of a crowd without arrangement, and which from the general high spirits of the people themselves would bring on them an unavoidably severe destruction.

Retaining what provisions I deemed necessary for our supply for some days, I directed more to be stored at the Rev. McDonald's, and

the remaining portion of what I have been able to collect to be forwarded as expeditiously as possible to the Coteau. Our biscuit, I fear, will fall short, as, owing to the wet weather, some part of our supply having been deposited on the Concession Road from Cornwall, and which from our having retired will be open too much to plunder, I say I fear from these circumstances I must look to your promised supply, which you have signified is sent round by the back road, and which, of course, I must fall in with.

I have ordered the boats down that were in the River Raisin, lest the enemy's gunboats should be detached in quest of them.

We are waiting information which from my having detached three militia officers of some intelligence to different distances, and to endeavor to obtain it on different points, will soon be here, and I shall not fail to lay it before you when received, should it be of any importance.

Since our arrival here, I am sorry to report that we have many desertions of the militia to their homes. The dreadful state of the roads and the severe rainy weather, has tended much to excite a disposition to this criminal conduct, and the inefficiency of many old but ignorant and indolent officers to keep them under control.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 41-3.)

#### Chauncey to Secretary Navy.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

No. 106.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 11th November, 1813.

Sir,—I had the honor on the 4th instant of informing you that the squadron was then at anchor off the east end of Long Island, and that the army was collected at French Creek, a little below me.

I have now the honor to inform you that the whole of the army left its position at French Creek on the 5th and proceeded down the river with a fair wind and fine weather. The same day the enemy's fleet dropped down below Kingston on the north side of Long Island, and anchored off Sir John's Island, within about five miles of me. The north and south channels, in which the two fleets lay, are separated by a chain of small islands, connected by reefs of rocks, and there is but one passage (which is situated near the foot of Long Island) that vessels can pass from one channel to the other, and in this passage vessels drawing more than twelve feet water cannot pass. I, however, determined to attack the enemy if he remained in his position and I could get this ship through the reef which separated us. For this purpose I meant to lighten the *General Pike* and *Sylph* and warp them through. Early on the morning of the 6th, I sent boats to sound out the best water in the channel and buoy it out. The

The moment that the enemy perceived us he weighed and run up under the guns at Kingston, which made it unnecessary for us to get our fleet into the north channel.

I was apprehensive that when the enemy found that our army had descended the St. Lawrence and that he had nothing to apprehend for the safety of Kingston, that he would take on board a thousand men and take possession of Carlton Island, which would have given us much trouble and perhaps led to the general destruction of the fleet.

Upon Carlton Island there is a regular work and very strong both by nature and art, and a thousand men with a few pieces of cannon would command the channel most completely, and would prevent a fleet much stronger than ours from passing up or down. Knowing the commanding situation of this island I felt anxious (after the enemy returned to Kingston) to take a position near it, so as to command the passage from the westward and prevent him from taking possession. I accordingly shipped my station from the foot of Long Island to Carlton Island, where I remained until the evening of the 9th, when I changed my anchorage to Gravelly Point. There I lay until yesterday, when from the threatening appearance of the weather I was induced to leave the river and proceed for this place, where the squadron arrived safe this morning. It is now blowing a heavy gale from the westward, with snow, and every appearance of the winter having set in.

From the 2d to the 10th the weather has been uncommonly fine. The winds prevail from the southward and westward and clear dry weather, and as mild as the autumns are in the Middle States. The army could not have asked for a more favorable time, which I have no doubt but that the General has taken advantage of, and I presume by this time is in Montreal.

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**From the Diary of Thomas McCrae.**

RALEIGH, Thursday, 11th Nov., 1813

Eight of Johnson's men also came here this afternoon.

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**John Ten Broeck to Lieutenant Colonel Glegg.**

SIR,—Previous to Colonel Talbot leaving this place the last time for Burlington he directed the officers of the different regiments to order out the militia, but for some reason as yet unknown they did not attend to the orders, which left this place destitute of any sort of guard, liable to be plundered or destroyed by a number of marauders assembled some distance down the lake.

The inhabitants thought it prudent as well for the safety of this little village as the settlement adjoining, to adopt some measures for their security, and after only a couple of hours' notice near forty of the officers and principal inhabitants assembled, and after forming themselves into a regular meeting, adopted some resolutions, which, as secretary, they directed me to transmit to the commander of the forces at Burlington, which I herewith enclose and trust it will meet the approbation of the General, being the only means we could devise to secure our persons and property from such a lawless banditti.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 65-6.)

#### **Report of a Meeting of the Inhabitants of Dover.**

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the London District, held at the house of Mr. Wm. Drake in Dover, for the purpose of devising some measures to enable them to defend their persons and property against a lawless banditti, said to be hovering on their borders for the purpose of plundering the inhabitants of the District:—

It is Resolved, that Thomas Bowlby, Esquire, be appointed chairman of the said meeting, and Jno. Ten Broeck, Esqr., Secretary.

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this meeting that some effectual means should be immediately adopted for the purpose of defending the District against any attempt that may be made against the persons or property of the inhabitants until some more effectual means are devised for its defence.

Resolved, that it is the desire and determination of every person in this meeting to defend not only this District, but any and every part of this Province to the utmost of his power, and at the risk of his life and property, against any attack that may be made against it.

Resolved, that every person in this meeting do volunteer their services to go from this place for the purpose of attacking and driving from their position any marauders that may be found, and also that it is highly expedient that every person in this meeting do use his endeavors to procure volunteers for that purpose, and to be in readiness to march on the 13th inst., at 6 o'clock a.m.

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this meeting that a guard should be kept at the mouth of Patterson's Creek, and that exertions be made to procure volunteers for that purpose.

Resolved, that it is not the intention of this meeting to interfere with any militia order that may be given, and also that these resolutions are the result of the peculiar situation in which this part of the country is placed.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the Commander of the Forces at Burlington, and that they be signed by the chairman and secretary.

Resolved, that the names of the persons who compose this meeting be taken down :

Colonel Bostwick,  
 Colonel Burwell,  
 Capt. John Bostwick,  
 Capt. Daniel McCall,  
 Capt. Jon. Williams,  
 Capt. Wm. McCracken,  
 Capt. Wm. Parks,  
 Capt. Wm. Drake,  
 Capt. Samuel Ryerse,  
 Lieut. Jon. Austin,  
 Lieut. B. Mead,  
 Lieut. H. Medcalf,  
 Lieut. Jacob Potts,  
 Lieut. Wm. F. Willson,  
 Ensign McCall,  
 Lieut. D. McQueen,  
 Ensign Gilbert,  
 Lieut. M. Welch,  
 Adj. Welch,  
 Quartermaster Berdan,  
 Richard Mead,  
 R. W. Dease,  
 Ensign J. Lemon,  
 Mathias Steel,  
 Jos. Lemon,  
 Jeremiah Anderson,  
 David Long,  
 Wm. Raymond,  
 John Conrad, Jr.,  
 Samuel Thompson,  
 James McQueen,  
 Richard Gilbert,  
 Gregory Warwick,  
 Benj. Bacon,  
 Israel Diston,  
 John Misener.

By order of the meeting.

(Sgd.) THOS. BOWLBY, J.P.

JNO. TEN BROECK,

Secretary to the meeting.

Dover, 11th Nov., 1813.



### Statements of American Deserters.

Sergeant Stephen Barber, drafted from a militia corps, attached to the rifle corps, was with this corps in advance when the two actions took place—the army was 6,000 strong when it first moved—had only a few guns, 6-pounders, disembarked—doesn't know how many were in the boats—supposes there were two hundred batteaux—only one gunboat, which was the one taken from the British—the others were Durham boats, with a carronade mounted for the occasion—left the army the morning they retreated—went to the house of a brother-in-law, having many relations settled near Cornwall, and told them he had left the army and meant to remain with them—a great proportion of the troops' time was expired, and very high offers of 40 dollars a month was made to some to remain, but their detention created great discontent.

—Hiles, private, 5th Infantry, deserted from disgust to the service—knows no one in these Provinces—did not leave any regular corps at Sackett's Harbour—the Brownsville Militia formed its garrison—the army [was] composed of all descriptions, volunteers, militia, 6 months' men to five years' men—no apprehension was ever expressed of their easy success till they got to Cornwall, when the strength of the Coteau became a subject of alarm. He heard some of the officers say that many of them would smell hell in passing the Coteau. Some thought the army crossed to avoid the Coteau and meant to come down the other side. No difficulty was supposed to exist to the fleet of boats getting down to Montreal till they arrived at Cornwall. His brothers-in-law are in the militia, serving with the British.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 68-9.)

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### Chauncey to Hon. Wm. Jones, Secretary of Navy.

No. 107.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 12th November, 1813.

SIR,—Upon my arrival at this place I found a letter from General Armstrong, requesting me to afford transport to General Cass' brigade, which he had ordered from Fort George for the protection of this place. I shall therefore leave here for Niagara the moment that the weather moderates sufficiently to enable me to get out, and I shall use all the exertions in my power to arrive at Fort George as soon as possible, for if our passage up the lake should be prolonged beyond the 18th or 20th, the situation of the small vessels would be extremely unpleasant, if not dangerous, for as soon as it is sufficiently cold to freeze, the ice would make so fast upon them that they would soon

become unmanageable, from the circumstance of the ice formed of fresh water becomes so much harder than that formed from salt water. The rigging and sides of the vessel cannot be cleared as upon the Atlantic; she of course very soon becomes almost a solid mass of ice.

I shall endeavor to return to this place with the whole squadron on or before the 25th, as I should deem it unsafe to remain on the lake after that day.

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**General Order.**

HORSE GUARDS, 9th September, 1815.

At a General Court Martial held at Montreal in Upper Canada on the 21st December, 1814, and continued by adjournments to the 28th January, 1815, Major General Henry Procter, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 41st Regiment, was arraigned upon the undermentioned charges, viz. :—

1st—That the said Major-General Procter, being entrusted with the command of the Right Division of the army serving in the Canadas, and the retreat of the said division from the western parts of Upper Canada having become unavoidable from the loss of the fleet on Lake Erie on the 10th September, 1813, did not immediately after the loss of the fleet was known by him make the military arrangements best calculated for promptly effecting such retreat and unnecessarily delayed to commence the same until the evening of the 27th of the said month, on which day the enemy had landed in considerable force within a short distance of Sandwich, the headquarters of the said division, such conduct on the part of the said Major-General Procter endangering the safety of the troops under his command by exposing them to be attacked by a force far superior to them; being contrary to his duty as an officer, prejudicial to good order and military discipline, and contrary to the Articles of War.

2d—That the said Major-General Procter, after commencing the retreat of the said division on the said 27th September, although he had reason to believe that the enemy would immediately follow it with very superior numbers and endeavor to harass and impede its march, did not use due expedition, or take the proper measures for conducting said retreat, having encumbered the said division with large quantities of useless baggage, having unnecessarily halted the troops for several whole days, and having omitted to destroy the bridges over which the enemy would be obliged to pass, thereby affording them the opportunity to come up with the said division, such conduct betraying great profes-

sional incapacity on the part of the said Major-General Procter, being contrary to his duty as an officer, prejudicial to good order and military discipline and contrary to the Articles of War.

3d—That the said Major-General Procter did not take the necessary measures for affording security to the boats, wagons, and carts laden with the ammunition, stores and provisions required for the troops on their retreat, and allowed the said boats, wagons, and carts on the 4th and 5th October, 1813, to remain in the rear of the said division, whereby the whole or greater part of the said ammunition, stores and provisions either fell into the enemy's hands or were destroyed to prevent their capture, and the troops were without provisions a whole day previous to their being attacked on the said 5th of October, such conduct on the part of the said Major-General Procter being contrary to his duty as an officer, prejudicial to good order and military discipline and contrary to the Articles of War.

4th—That the said Major-General Procter, having assured the Indian chiefs in council at Amherstburg, as an inducement to them and their warriors to accompany the said division on its retreat, that on their arrival at Chatham they should find the Forks of the Thames fortified, did, nevertheless, neglect to fortify the same, that he neglected to occupy the heights above the Moravian Village, although he had previously removed his ordnance, with the exception of one six-pounder, to that position, where, by throwing up works, he might have awaited the attack of the enemy and engaged them to great advantage, and that after the intelligence had reached him of the approach of the enemy on the morning of the 5th of October, he halted the said division, notwithstanding it was within two miles of the said village and formed it in a situation highly unfavorable for receiving the attack which afterwards took place, such conduct manifesting great personal incapacity on the part of the said Major-General Procter, being contrary to his duty as an officer, prejudicial to good order and discipline, and contrary to the Articles of War.

5th—That the said Major-General Procter did not, on the said 5th day of October, either prior to or subsequent to the attack made by the enemy on the said division on that day, make the military dispositions best adapted to meet or to resist the said attack, and that during the action and after the troops had given way he did not make any effectual attempt in his own person or otherwise to rally or encourage them or to co-operate with and support the Indians who were engaged with the enemy on the right, the said Major-General Procter having quitted the field soon after the action commenced, such conduct on the part of

Major-General Procter betraying great professional incapacity, tending to the defeat and dishonor of His Majesty's arms, to the sacrifice of the division of the army committed to his charge, being in violation of his duty and unbecoming and disgraceful to his character as an officer, prejudicial to good order and military discipline and contrary to the Articles of War.

Upon which charges the Court came to the following decision :—

The Court having duly weighed and considered the evidence adduced, as well in support of the charges as in support of the defence, is of opinion :—

That the prisoner, Major-General Henry Procter, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 41st Regiment, is not guilty of any part of the First Charge, and doth therefore wholly acquit him, the said Major-General Procter, of the same.

On the Second Charge, the Court is of opinion that the said Major-General Procter is guilty of the following part thereof: That he did not take the proper measures for conducting the retreat, but the Court is of opinion that the said Major-General Procter is not guilty of any other part of the said charge and doth therefore acquit him of the same.

On the Third Charge, the Court is of opinion that the said Major-General Procter is guilty of that part thereof in which it is charged that the said Major-General Procter did not take the necessary measures for affording security to the boats, waggons, and carts laden with ammunition, stores and provisions required for the troops on their retreat, but the Court is of opinion that the said Major-General Procter is not guilty of any part of the remainder of the said charge and doth therefore acquit him of the remainder thereof.

On the Fourth Charge the Court is of opinion that the said Major-General Procter is guilty of that part thereof in which it is charged that he neglected to occupy the heights above the Moravian Village, although he had previously removed his ordnance, with the exception of one six-pounder, to that position, where, by throwing up works, he might have awaited the attack of the enemy and engaged them to great advantage, and that after the intelligence had reached him of the approach of the enemy on the morning of the said 5th October, he halted the said division notwithstanding it was within two miles of the said village, and formed it in a situation highly unfavorable for receiving the attack which afterwards took place, but the Court is of opinion that the said Major-General Procter is not guilty of any part of the remainder of the said charge, and doth therefore acquit him of the remainder thereof.

On the Fifth Charge the Court is of opinion that the said Major-General Procter is guilty of that part thereof in which it is charged that he did not, on the said 5th day of October, either prior to or subsequent to the attack by the enemy on the said division on that day, make the military dispositions best adapted to meet or to resist the said attack, but the Court is of opinion that that part thereof in which it is charged that during the action and after the troops had given way he did not make any effectual attempt in his own person or otherwise to rally or encourage them, or to co-operate with and support the Indians who were engaged with the enemy on the right, has not been proved, and the Court doth therefore acquit him, the said Major-General Procter, of the same, and the Court is of opinion that the said Major-General Procter is not guilty of any part of the remainder of the said charge and doth therefore fully and honorably acquit him of the same.

Upon the whole, the Court is of opinion that the prisoner, Major-General Procter, has in many instances during the retreat and in the disposition of the force under his command been erroneous in judgment and in some respects deficient in those energetic and active exertions which the extraordinary difficulties of his situation so particularly required.

The Court therefore adjudge him, the said Major-General Procter, to be publicly reprimanded and to be suspended from rank and pay for the period of six calendar months.

But as to any defect or reproach with regard to the personal conduct of Major-General Procter during the action of the 5th of October, the Court most fully and honorably acquits the said Major-General Procter.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased in the name and on behalf of His Majesty to confirm the finding of the Court on the 1st, 3d, 4th, and 5th Charges. With respect to the Second Charge, it appeared to His Royal Highness to be a matter of surprise that the Court should find the prisoner guilty of the offence alleged against him while they at the same time acquit him of all the facts upon which that charge is founded, and yet that in the summing up of their finding upon the whole of the charges, they should ascribe the offences of which the prisoner has been found guilty to error in judgment and pass a sentence totally inapplicable to their own finding of guilt, which can alone be ascribed to the Court having been induced by a reference to the general good character and conduct of Major-General Procter to forget, through a humane but mistaken lenity, what was due from them to the Service.

Under all the circumstances of the case, however, and particularly those which render it impossible to have recourse to the otherwise expedient measure of re-assembling the Court for the revival of their proceedings, the Prince Regent has been pleased to acquiesce in and confirm so much of the sentence as adjudges the prisoner to be publicly reprimanded and in carrying the same into execution His Royal Highness has directed the General Officer commanding in Canada to convey to Major-General Procter His Royal Highness's high disapprobation of his conduct, together with the expression of His Royal Highness's regret that any officer of the length of service and of the exalted rank which he has attained should be so extremely wanting in professional knowledge and so deficient in those active and energetic qualities which must be required of every officer, but especially of one in the responsible situation in which the Major-General was placed.

His Royal Highness directs that the foregoing charges preferred against Major-General Procter, together with the finding and sentence of the Court and the Prince Regent's pleasure thereon, shall be entered in the General Order Book and read at the head of every regiment in His Majesty's Service.

By command of His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief.

HARRY CALVERT, Adjutant General.

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**General McClure to Governor Tompkins.**

DEAR SIR,—Nothing very interesting has transpired on the frontier since I last had the honor of writing you. The uncertainty in which we have been kept respecting the actual force of the enemy has not been done away by any recent accounts obtained. A deserter came in from them this morning whose report is entitled to some credit, tho' I am induced to think he overrates their regular force. This he states to be at Burlington Heights at least 2,000 strong, their Indian force he represents to amount to as many more.

On the first instant, Major-General Harrison authorized me to invite volunteers, and also to make a requisition of one thousand militia from the counties of Niagara and Genesee, required to repair to this post by the 12th inst., after which time he promises to march out against the enemy. Whether he will or not appears to be questioned in camp. The force which I can rely on amounts to about one thousand, that of General Harrison to eight hundred effective men.

Should I receive a reinforcement of 1500 volunteers and militia

before the season is too far advanced and get from General Harrison permission, I will undertake to obtain possession of Burlington Heights.

My men are under good discipline and perfect subordination; an equal number of the enemy cannot, I am confident, stand before them.

Should we have to remain penned up in this fort until the expiration of our term of service, I shall not return home satisfied. So far my men have evinced a willingness to act. Now is the favorable moment to do so successfully by completing the conquest of this province.

I have not been able to obtain any certain information as to the disposition of the British Indians, tho' every account we receive says they are much divided and dissatisfied. I am still induced to think that with proper management they might be brought to terms of peace. If they cannot, their resistance will be an effort of desperation, as they will have no refuge but in their arms and those of their discomfited allies. This moment a detachment of my dragoons has arrived from the 40 Mile Creek. Last night they were fired upon by a party in the garb of Indians. They have, however, come in without sustaining any further injury than having one horse killed and another wounded.

I flatter myself that something important will take place in the course of a few days in this quarter, in which event I shall improve the earliest opportunity to give you intelligence of our operations.

Much I think depends on the success of Wilkinson and his army, whether the opposition we shall meet with at the head of the lake will be formidable. Should Kingston fall, the enemy ought not to be left undisturbed in their hiding-places here. If they are, it shall be said that my services or the services of the militia under me have been kept back on account of an unwillingness to serve.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 566-8, New York State Library.)

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**From a Memorandum of the Services of Lt.-Colonel Charles Plenderleath, C. B., sent to his Widow after his death on Jan. 1, 1854, by Colonel James Fitz Gibbon.**

In the month of November following, an American army under Major-General Wilkinson was assembled on Grenadier Island in the River St. Lawrence, below Kingston, as it was thought for the attack of that post, but they suddenly took to their boats and descended the river to attack Montreal in concert with Major-General Hampton, who approached that city from Lake Champlain. At 10 o'clock at

night the 49th, then reduced by the previous campaigns to little more than 200 strong, and the 89th under Lt.-Col. Morrison, about 450, with two companies of the Canadian Fencible Regt. and 2 field pieces under Capt. Jackson, R. A., were hurriedly embarked in Canadian batteaux and sent after the Americans from Kingston. They soon overtook them, their flotilla being very numerous and many of their vessels large and difficult of management in the rapids. Our few troops were then landed and from the several points on the shore they galled the Americans with the field pieces and sometimes with musketry. To prevent this General Wilkinson disembarked about 3000 men under Major-General Covington, early in the morning of the 11th of November, who, screened by the woods, came unobserved upon our men, who were at the moment cooking their breakfasts. They, however, quickly stood to their arms. The 49th wore their gray great-coats, while the 89th appeared in their scarlet uniform. Genl. Covington, supposing the men in gray to be Canadian militia, called aloud to his men saying, "Come lads, let me see how you will deal with these militia men," but on their advancing the 49th, who as yet were calmly standing in open column under the fire of the enemy's skirmishers, quickly wheeled into line and commenced firing regularly by platoons, which soon threw the advancing Americans into confusion and drove them back beyond the range of fire. A troop of dragoons then charged upon the right of the 49th, when the grenadiers were quickly wheeled back upon their left, leaving the enemy room to pass and as they swept by they received a volley from the grenadiers, which soon brought them to the right about and sent them back more rapidly than they advanced, leaving some men and horses on the field behind them. General Covington being killed, the Americans soon after retreated to their boats and under cover of their guns re-embarked and finally retired to their own shore and ultimately went into winter quarters, abandoning altogether their intended attack upon Montreal.

For this action Lt.-Col. Plenderleath obtained the gold medal, and on the 4th of June, 1815, was created a Companion of the Military Order of the Bath. This was his last service.

(From MSS in possession of Revd. W. C. Plenderleath, Mamhead Rectory, Exeter, England.)

Colorel Wm. Claus to Lieut. Wm. Claus, Jr.

YORK, UPPER CANADA,

11th May, 1814.

MY DEAR WILLIAM,—After a lapse of upwards of two years, we have had the happiness to hear of you in a letter from the Governor



to Mr. Cameron of this place. He mentions his having heard of your being in London, and from that gone to Holland, and being well, all of which, be assured, afford us as much happiness as our present situation allows, for from our recent losses in the death of two of our dear children happiness cannot be our lot. Long since I wrote to you of the death of my beloved Baby Anna Bella, and in December last I acquainted you of the death of your brother Daniel; in my letter I mentioned that he died the latter end of November, but that was not the case—about the 12th of December we understood that he was still living and your mother, myself and Julia, left this immediately for the place he lay wounded (Chrysler's) about 300 miles below this, but it was the will of Providence that we should not see him alive; he died on the 10th December, about 11 at night, after suffering amputation twice; his extreme weakness from severe indisposition did not enable him to stand the operation. When here in the summer he was so ill that his life was despaired of, but as soon as a little recovered he would join and the regiment was ordered to Kingston from the lines near Niagara; from thence they moved down the river with a few other troops, he still continuing very ill; this was a corps of observation following General Wilkinson's army. The enemy were landed at Williamsburg and the little corps of observation pressing the division (this was on shore, under General Boyd, upwards of 4000) so hard that he was obliged to make a stand on the 10th of November, and after a good deal of fighting both retired, our force about 800 men. Your brave brother was all the time in the field, although hardly able to stand, and so ill at night that Colonel Plenderleath ordered him into his own quarters, none of the others being under cover; notwithstanding, he, the next day, went to the field with his regiment, having the command of Captain Nairne's company, who was up here said to be ill, and at the moment the charge was made he received a grape shot in the ankle, and he lay in the field until the action was over. It was fought in ploughed fields; you may judge what a wretched situation he must have been in, it having rained for several days before; this was on the 11th at night, his poor little limb was taken off below the knee, and my letters spoke of his doing extremely well, which prevented my going down immediately with your mother, and had we, I am induced to believe, from her tender care, he might have been saved. After we lost him I was then informed that care was not taken of him that night, and if it had not been for his faithful servant he would have wanted for many things; he was put into a small room with 9 men of the 89th that were wounded, and the reports I always received was most flattering; on our arrival at Kingston, I understood from General De Rottenburg the reports from Chrysler's were favorable, but the day

after we left Kingston, we heard of his melancholy fate, and continued our jaunt to the place, and had him taken up and every respect paid to so dear and dutiful a son, and had him laid out, and re-committed to his grave in a double coffin, as it is my intention to remove his remains to Niagara when time will allow.

The fate of General Procter's little army has reached you, and it only remains for me to say that it was a disgraceful business and may probably come to light yet, as I understand the officers intend bringing the business forward, which must now shortly be the case, as an exchange has taken place and all expected in, in the course of eight or ten days. Mr. Geale is among the prisoners, and has been all winter in Kentucky. The American government has entered into a war that they cannot carry on, the people are opposed to it, and whenever they have attempted any thing they have failed, although their number have been five and eight to one; the only instance in which they have succeeded was in that of General Procter, and if Colonel Elliot and the Chief Te Kumthe's advice had been followed the fate of that day would have been very different. The troops were drawn up in a wood, and a capital position left in the rear which ought to have been the ground occupied. The Indians drove the enemy a mile and a half, but the troops, after one or two rounds, laid down their arms. Te Kumthe, the great Shawance chief, was killed here. The Western Indians joined us at the head of the lake, nearly 4000 men, women and children, where they have been all winter, as well as the Grand River Indians. I am sorry to say Indian affairs appear to be going wrong, and if we lose the aid of these people we shall be badly off. The interference in this Department will ruin us, I fear, but as it is done by high authority—nothing is to be said. You will be surprised to hear of the fleets we have on the lake; we have one ship of 54 guns, and one 44, and six others carrying not less than from 16 to 8, besides gun boats, a 74 is building. The Americans have many more vessels than we have at present, not carrying more guns than ours, but they have two 32 gun ships and a 60 that is nearly ready to come out. An expedition sailed from Kingston on the 4th inst., supposed for Oswego, to destroy or carry away the guns, rigging, etc., of the new 60 gun ship; they were brought that far in the winter and left there. We look hourly for accounts; as very heavy firing and a good deal of it was heard here on the 3th. Major Chambers of the 41st arrived here today from Frankfort, Kentucky; he is determined to bring General Procter to a Court Martial. He left all the officers and men well, 31st March, not a man had deserted or left them. I shall not close this until I hear from Kingston, that I may let you know the result of the expedition.

Lieut.-Colonel Joseph Warton Morrison, 89th Regiment, to Major-General De Rottenburg.

CHRISTLER'S, WILLIAMSBURG,  
UPPER CANADA, Nov. 12, 1813.

SIR,—I have the heartfelt gratification to report the brilliant and gallant conduct of the detachment from the Centre Division of the army as yesterday displayed in repulsing and defeating a division of the enemy's force, consisting of two brigades of infantry and a regiment of cavalry, amounting to between 3,000 and 4,000 men, who moved forward about two o'clock in the afternoon from Christler's Point and attacked our advance, which gradually fell back to the position selected for the detachment to occupy, the right resting on the river and the left on a pine wood, exhibiting a front of about 700 yards.

The ground being open the troops were thus disposed, the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, the detachment of the Canadian Fencibles with one field piece, under Lieut.-Colonel Pearson on the right, a little advanced on the road; three companies of the 89th Regiment under Captain Barnes with a gun formed in *echelon* with the advance on its left supporting it. The 49th and 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 *Voitgeurs* under Major Heriot and the Indians under Lieut. Anderson. At about half-past two the action became general, when the enemy endeavored 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 *echelon*, 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 the gun posted opposite to ours, but it became necessary when within a short distance of it 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 Captain Barnes and the well directed fire of the artillery that they quickly retreated, and by an immediate charge of those companies one gun was gained.

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 half-past four they gave way at all points from an exceeding strong position, endeavoring by their

light infantry to cover their retreat, who were soon driven away by a judicious movement made by Lieut.-Colonel 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 enemy's infantry after the action precipitately retired to their own shores.

It is now my grateful duty to point out to Your Honour the benefit the service has received from the ability, judgment, and active exertions of Lieut.-Colonel Harvey, the deputy adjutant-general, for sparing whom to accompany the detachment I must again publicly express my acknowledgements. To the cordial co-operation and exertions of Lieut.-Colonel Pearson, commanding the detachment from Prescott, Lieut.-Colonel Plenderleath of the 49th, Major Clifford of the 89th, Major Heriot of the Voltigeurs and Captain Jackson of 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 rank and file. To Captains Davis and Skinner of the Quartermaster-General's Department I am under the greatest obligations for the assistance I have received from them; their zeal and ability has been unremitting. Lieut. Hagerman of the militia has also for his services deserved my public acknowledgements, as has also Lieutenant Anderson of the Indian Department.

As the prisoners are hourly bringing in, I am unable to furnish Your Honour with a correct return of them, but upwards of 100 are in our possession; neither of the ordnance stores taken, as the whole have not yet been collected.

(From the "London Gazette," Tuesday, January 4th, 1814.)

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**Brigadier-General John P. Boyd to Major-General Wilkinson.**

Camp near CORNWALL,

November 12, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you that yesterday while the rear division of the army, consisting of detachments from the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Brigades and placed under my command to protect the flotilla from the enemy that hung on our rear, was under arms in order to move, agreeably to your orders, down the St. Lawrence, a report was brought to me from the rear-guard that a body of about two hundred British and Indians had advanced into the woods that skirted our

rear. General Swartwout with the 4th Brigade was immediately ordered to dislodge them, General Covington with the 3rd Brigade being directed to be within supporting distance. General Swartwout dashed into the woods and with the 21st Infantry (a part of his brigade) after a short skirmish drove them back to the position of the main body. Here he was joined by General Covington. The enemy had judiciously chosen his ground among the deep ravines which everywhere intersected the extensive plain, and discharged a heavy and galling fire upon our advancing columns. No opposition or obstacle, however, checked their ardor. The enemy retired more than a mile before their resolute and repeated charges. During this time the detachment of the 1st Brigade under Colonel Coles, whose greater distance from the scene of action retarded its arrival, rapidly entered the field.

Being directed to attack the enemy's left flank, this movement was promptly and bravely executed amid a shower of musketry and shrapnel shells. The fight now became more stationary until the brigade first engaged, having expended all their ammunition, were directed to retire to a more defensible position to wait for a re-supply. This movement so disconnected the line as to render it expedient for the 1st Brigade likewise to retire. It should be remarked that the artillery, excepting two pieces under Captain Irvine attached to the rear division, (which from the nature of the ground and the circuitous route they had to take were likewise much retarded in their arrival,) did not reach the ground until the line, for want of ammunition, had already begun to fall back. When they were arranged, in doing which I was assisted by the skill of Colonel Swift of the engineers, their fire was sure and destructive. When the artillery was finally directed to retire, having to cross a deep and, excepting in one place, (to artillery,) impassable ravine, one piece was unfortunately lost. The fall of its gallant commander, Lieutenant Smith, and most of his men may account for this accident. In the death of this young man, the army has lost one of its most promising officers. The squadron of the 2nd Regiment of Dragoons under Major Woodford was early on the field, and much exposed to the enemy's fire, but the nature of the ground and the disposition of his line did not admit of those successful charges which their discipline and ardor, under more favorable circumstances, are calculated to make. The reserve, under Colonel Upham and Major Malcolm, did not arrive from the boats in time to participate in more than a small part of the action, but the activity and zeal they displayed while engaged evinced the benefit that might have been derived from their earlier assistance.

The whole line was now re-formed on the borders of those woods from which the enemy had first been driven, when, night coming on

and the storm returning, and conceiving that the object you had in view, which was to beat back the enemy that would retard our junction with the main body below, to have been accomplished, the troops were directed to return to the ground near the flotilla, which movement was executed in good order and without any molestation from the enemy.

I cannot close my representation of this battle without indulging in a few remarks upon the merits of those officers whose conduct will give a character to the conflict of this day. General Covington, whose readiness to enter the field was an earnest of his subsequent activity, received a mortal wound while leading his men on to a successful charge. His troops, still feeling the effect of his gallant example, continued to advance long after their brave commander had fallen. His fate will perpetuate the plain which has been crimsoned by his blood. Colonel Preston was severely wounded while nobly fighting at the head of his regiment. The universal sympathy which is excited by the honorable misfortune of this amiable officer, attests the high estimation which is entertained of his talents as a soldier and his virtues as a man. Major Cummings, with whose military merits and exertions I have long been acquainted, met with a similar fate while leading to a charge and, undiscouraged by the wound, continued to advance until loss of blood obliged him to retire. Many platoon officers received disabling or slight wounds in the honorable discharge of their duty, a report of whose names and merits I have directed the several chiefs of brigades to make to me that I may transmit it to you. It is with great satisfaction I acknowledge my warmest approbation of the gallantry and zeal which was constantly displayed throughout this eventful day by Brigadier-General Swartwout and Colonel Coles, who commanded the detachment of the first brigade.

After the fall of General Covington, Colonel Pearce, on whom the command of the 3d Brigade devolved, conducted it with his characteristic coolness and valor. In speaking of the other numerous field officers who participated in this battle, Colonels Gaines and Ripley, Lieut.-Colonel Aspinwall, and Majors Morgan, Grafton, and Gardner, their equal claim to applause forbids the invidious task of discrimination. I find a pleasure likewise in acknowledging the eminent service derived from the experience and activity of Adjutant-General, Colonel Walbach, from the assistance of Inspector General, Colonel Johnson and Assistant Adjutant-Generals Majors, Bebee and Chambers, the latter was wounded in the honorable discharge of his duty. In addition to these acknowledgements a sense of justice as well as personal friendship induces me to express my entire approbation of the conduct of Lieutenant Henry Whiting, my aid-de-camp, who was in this instance, as he has been during the whole campaign,

my zealous and brave assistant. Lieutenant Worth, aid-de-camp to Major-General Lewis, left the flotilla and volunteered his acceptable services to me in the field.

Permit me now to add, Sir, though the result of this action was not so brilliant and decisive as I could have wished and the first stages of it seemed to promise, yet, when it is recollected that the troops had been long exposed to privations and fatigues, in inclement storms from which they could often have no shelter, that the enemy were superior to us in numbers and greatly superior to us in position, supported by 7 or 8 heavy gunboats, that the action being unexpected was necessarily commenced without much concert, that we were by unavoidable circumstances deprived of our artillery, and that the action was obstinately and warmly contested for more than three hours, during which there were but a few short cessations of musketry and cannon—when all these circumstances are recollected perhaps this day may be thought to have added some reputation to the American arms. And if on this occasion you shall believe me to have done my duty and accomplished any one of your purposes I shall be satisfied.

Allow me to express my regret, which is felt in common with the army, that the severity of your indisposition deprived us of your presence in this action. The adjutant-general has been directed to furnish a report of the killed and wounded.

(From Nile's Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., December 18, 1813, Vol. V, 266-7.)

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RETURN of the killed and wounded of a detachment of the Army of the United States descending the St. Lawrence river under the command of Major-General James Wilkinson, in an action fought at Williamsburg in Upper Canada on the 11th of November, 1813:—

Killed—Subalterns, 3; sergeants, 7; corporals, 3; musicians, 1; privates, 88; total, 102.

Wounded—Brigadier-General, 1; assistant adjutant-general, 1; aid-de-camp, 1; colonel, 1; major, 1; captains, 5; subalterns, 6; sergeants, 9; corporals, 13; musicians, 1; privates, 198—total 237.

Total killed and wounded, 339.

Names of the commissioned officers killed and wounded:

Killed—Lieut. Wm. W. Smith, light artillery; Lieut. David Hunter, 12th Regiment of Infantry; Lieut. Edward Olmstead, 15th do.

Wounded—Brigadier-General Leonard Covington, mortally (since dead); Major Talbot Chambers, assistant adjutant-general, slightly; Major Darby Noon, aid-de-camp to Brigadier-General Swartwout, slightly; Colonel James P. Preston, 23d Regiment

of Infantry, severely, his right thigh fractured; Major W. Cummings, 8th Regiment, severely; Captain Edmund Foster, 9th do., slightly; Captain David S. Townsend, \* do., do., severely; Captain Mordecai Myers, 15th do., severely; Captain John Campbell, do., slightly; Captain John B. Murdock, 25th do., slightly; Lieut. Wm. S. Heaton, 11th do., severely; Lieut. John Williams, 13th do., slightly; Lieut. John Lynch, \* 14th do., severely; Lieut. Peter Pelham, \* 21st do., severely; Lieut. James D. Brown; 25th do., slightly; Lieut. Archibald C. Crary, do. do., severely, in the skirmish the day before the action.

Adjutant-General's office, Head Quarters Military District No. 9, French Mills, Nov., 1813.

J. B. WALBACH, Adjt.-Gen.

N.B.—Colonel Preston commanded the 13th Regiment of Infantry during the action and Major Cummings did duty with the 16th Regiment of Infantry in the action.

\* Taken prisoners.

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### Kingston Gazette.

Saturday, November 13, 1813.

We have heard nothing of the progress of the American army since its departure from Johnstown, at which place it is said they were kept in check from landing by the gallant exertions of 300 militia. They were pursued so closely by our troops near Ogdensburg as obliged them to destroy two of their small vessels to prevent them from falling into our hands. It is also said that Col. Pearson has taken two mortars which were deposited under ground, information being given by some of the inhabitants of their deposit.

POSTSCRIPT.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

[The following important intelligence was received in town this morning by express.]

“CHRISTLER'S, 11th November.

“The enemy attacked us this morning, supposed from 3 to 4000 men in number, and has been completely repulsed and defeated with a very considerable loss, a number of prisoners and one gun taken by us; the loss of the enemy cannot be less than 4 or 500; ours has been severe. The Americans were commanded by Generals Lewis and Boyd.

WILLIAM MORRISON, (Sic.)  
Lt.-Col., 89th Regt.”



From the Diary of Thomas McCrae.

RALEIGH, Saturday, 13 Nov., 1813.

Lieut. Johnson and party left this for Sandwich to-day.

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**Extract from General Order by Major-General Wilkinson of November 13, 1813.**

The troops are to be embarked without loss of time, yet are not to be hurried in leaving the Canadian shore, from whence the Commander-in-Chief is compelled to retire by the extraordinary, unexampled, and it appears unwarrantable conduct of Major-General Hampton in refusing to join this army with a division of four thousand men under his command agreeably to positive orders from the Commander-in-Chief, and, as he has been assured by the Secretary of War, of explicit instructions from the War Department.

Thus deprived of a large portion of his promised force, the Commander-in-Chief feels himself bound by a sense of regard to this meritorious corps and of sacred duty to the United States, to spare the lives of brave men and not to hazard the character or interests of the nation by an unequal conflict. He, with lively regret and the deepest mortification, suspends the attack on Montreal, but he assures the army that it is not abandoned.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 479.)

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**Major-General Lewis to Mrs. Lewis.**

FRENCH MILLS, November 13th, 1813.

At this place, which is situated at the northern boundary of the State and above six miles from the St. Lawrence, terminates our northern campaign for this year. The causes no doubt will be given to the public in due time. An important one is that General Hampton declined uniting his force with ours, though ordered so to do by General Wilkinson and the Secretary of War. He preferred remaining on Lake Champlain, and thus deprived us of a large portion of our forces. We found the enemy much stronger than we expected. We had a few skirmishes with him previous to the eighth. On that day Brown was sent forward to attack a force which lay about twenty miles in our front, consisting of nine hundred men. On the tenth he beat them, burnt the blockhouse, and captured goods to the amount it is said of \$30,000. On that evening the enemy made a show in our rear and retired whenever we advanced upon him. On the eleventh he opened upon us a brisk cannonade, which he kept up

at intervals from the field-pieces and a number of gunboats concealed behind a point. As he did us no injury we supposed he merely intended to retard our movements and we paid no attention to him. At three, orders were given for an embarkation in twenty minutes. Wilkinson and myself were both ill in our separate boats, unable to move. Before the twenty minutes were expired we were surprised by a smart firing of musketry. Boyd, instead of embarking, had sent out Swartwout's brigade to give them battle. Covington marched to support Swartwout, and Boyd to support the whole.

A general action took place. The enemy being, as is said and believed, 2500 strong. While our troops maintained their order, they three times charged and drove the enemy from their position behind fences.

The impetuosity of Boyd, it is said, (but you must not say it,) threw our lines into disorder, broke their ranks, and the enemy drove us in turn. Covington's ammunition was exhausted, and our artillery just arrived in the field as our troops gave way.

The enemy did not choose to try us again, though his force was at least equal, if not superior to ours, as we had just sent away many detachments. We have not as yet the whole of the returns.

General Covington and several other officers fell gloriously. He was a very gallant soldier.

I have never in my life suffered as much as I have done in this expedition.

(From the Biography of Morgan Lewis, by Julia Dolanfield, Vol. II., pp. 56-5.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 109.

U.S. Ship, *General Pike*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th Nov., 1813.

SIR: The fleet are now getting under way for Niagara, and if the troops are ready when I arrive there I hope to be back to this place before the 25th.

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, LA CHINE,  
13th November, 1813.

The Governor-in-Chief and Commander of the Forces has the satisfaction to announce to the troops that the corps of observation, with the division of gunboats which he had ordered from Kingston to follow the movements of the enemy's army under Major-General Wilkinson, and to be placed under the command of Lieutenant-

Colonel Morrison of the 89th Regiment, has completely defeated a large division of the enemy's army, consisting of cavalry, riflemen and infantry, exceeding four thousand men, which attacked it on the 11th November near Crystler's, about twenty miles above Cornwall, taking from the enemy one field piece and four hundred prisoners. As His Excellency is not yet in possession of the particulars of this brilliant achievement he cannot specify the loss sustained by either; that of the enemy is represented by an eye-witness to the action to have been very considerable.

It has been further reported to His Excellency that Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison with the 89th Regiment, and Captain Mulcaster of the Royal Navy, with a division of gunboats, had effected a landing at Hamilton, where they were put in possession by the inhabitants of that place of all the public stores left there for the use of the American army, and among other articles they restored to them the goods that had been taken on board the seven merchant batteaux, belonging to Montreal, captured a few weeks ago, and after destroying the public buildings our forces again united and continued to hang on the enemy's rear.

His Excellency has also a report from Captain Mulcaster of the Royal Navy, stating his having brought over from Ogdensburg to Prescott a 13-inch and a 10-inch brass mortar with their stores, and a large supply of provisions which had been deposited there by the American army.

It will also be satisfactory to the troops to learn that our loss of brave and gallant soldiers was not considerable; neither Lieutenant-Colonels Morrison, Harvey, nor Pearson has suffered on this occasion, and on the 12th, the daring little band were renewing their molestation of the enemy in his progress towards Montreal, where Major-General Wilkinson had publicly declared that it was the order of his government to take up his winter quarters.

This order to be publicly read at the head of every regiment of regular troops and battalion of militia.

By His Excellency's command,

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjt.-Gen.

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**District General Order.**

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,  
November 14, 1813.

His Honor Major-General De Rottenburg has received the following despatch from Lieut.-Col. Morrison, commanding a detachment

of the Centre Division, following up the American army commanded by General Wilkinson, while moving down the St. Lawrence for the avowed purpose of invading Lower Canada.

The Major-General feels the highest satisfaction in announcing this glorious event to the troops in Upper Canada. The greatest praise is due to Lieut.-Col. Morrison for his gallant conduct and judicious dispositions, as well as to those distinguished officers, Lieut.-Col. Harvey, Deputy-Adjutant General, Lieut.-Col. Pearson, Lieut.-Col. Plenderleath, 49th Regiment, Majors Clifford, 89th Regiment, and Heriot, Canadian Voltigeurs, as also to every other officer and to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers engaged in this brilliant affair, to whose gallant and distinguished exertions, against a force immensely superior, the successful issue of this severe contest is to be attributed. They have displayed the true spirit of British soldiers, which can never fail of asserting its superiority over the enemy whenever he has the temerity to risque a trial.

(Here follows Lieut.-Colonel Morrison's despatch and a return of his loss in the action.)

Major-General De Rottenburg has great satisfaction in adding his thanks for the very cordial, able and spirited co-operation of Capt. Mulcaster of the Royal Navy, and the officers and men of the gun-boats, throughout this severe and arduous service; the beneficial effects of which prior as well as subsequent to this affair have been displayed, not only in the rapidity of their movements and the facility with which they have carried into effect the most difficult and dangerous undertakings, but also in the recovery of a large quantity of valuable property and stores which had been captured by the enemy.

By Order.

H. N. MOORSOM, Lt.,  
Ass't D.A.G.

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New York Evening Post, 29th November, 1813.

Extract of a letter dated Fort George, 14th November, 1813.

We had a grand brigade parade. Our effective force on this side of the river is           men, independent of 300 volunteers that have arrived under the last call of General McClure by order of General Harrison. The object of calling on volunteers was for the purpose of dispossessing the enemy of Burlington Heights. I think there will be at least 200 volunteers more under the said order. General Harrison's force is not far from           effective men. I think we shall be able to start for the heights by Wednesday with a force of at least           men, besides some Indians. The information we

have received to-day by two deserters, states the force of the enemy to be 1,000 regulars and 1700 Indians, with six 6-pounders, two 9-pounders, and one 12-pounder, tolerably well fortified on the heights.

General McClure is certainly entitled to much credit in effecting the improvement in discipline of the militia. He has been indefatigable. They are equal in every respect to regulars. General Harrison has paid us several compliments. He acknowledged that our troops are equal to his in respect to discipline. I do not hesitate to say that a better disciplined body of militia have not been in service this war.

I have been broke off in my letter by hearing the long roll beat in General Harrison's camp. We are all under arms. There is a fleet in sight and we cannot ascertain whether an enemy or not.

Monday evening, November 15.

The fleet in sight last evening proved to be ours. They came to an anchor in the river about 11 o'clock this morning. Our expedition is completely knocked in the head for the present. General Harrison's troops are now embarking for Sackett's Harbor.

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**New York Evening Post, 29th November, 1813**

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Hamilton village, St. Lawrence county, to his friend in Canandaigua.

November 14, 1813.

About 2 o'clock p.m., November 9, we had certain intelligence that a large detachment of the enemy at Kingston had arrived at Prescott, and soon after we heard that they had sent a flag to Ogdensburg demanding an instant surrender of all public property, threatening in case of refusal to send an armed force to take both public and private property. As no officer of the United States was there, the magistrates negotiated the business. They left a captain to receive the property, which was trifling, consisting only of two mortars, 30 barrels of pork, 20 barrels of whiskey and a few other inconsiderable articles.

On the 10th a flag arrived in this village. The officer accompanying it demanded on behalf of His Majesty the surrender of all public property and prize goods. Of the former there was but little in the village, but there was a considerable amount of prize goods which had been taken from boats as they were going up the river, mostly belonging to merchants in Kingston. They were deposited in a store in a central part of the village. The officer at first insisted on burning the store, but being told that in burning it most of the village

would be consumed he desisted on condition that the property should be sent to the other side of the river and delivered up, which was done. A detachment from the enemy's boats landed and fired the barracks here, which were consumed.

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**Sir James Lucas Yeo to Sir John Borlase Warren.**

His Majesty's Ship *Wolfe*,  
KINGSTON, 14th November, 1813.

SIR.—I this day only received Captain Barclay's official statement of the ill-fated action on Lake Erie, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose.

The honour of the British flag seems to have been nobly upheld by Captain Barclay and the gallant officers and men under his command, but I am of the opinion that under the conviction he was under of his own weakness, and the great superiority of the enemy, that officer was not justified in seeking a contest, the results of which he almost foresaw must prove disastrous.

I had written to that officer to acquaint him that tho' the enemy's squadron were in sight, I would despatch a reinforcement of seamen the moment I received advice that the *Dover's* men had arrived at Kingston. This letter Captain Barclay received before he sailed.

Captain Barclay writes me on the 6th about his reinforcement, and sails on the 9th, giving a time of three days for men to reach him at a distance of three hundred miles.

From all these circumstances I fear that Captain Barclay acted under the impression that if successful he had everything to gain, and, if not, little to lose.

The instructions I gave Captain Barclay were a copy of part of mine from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. That there was not any flour in government stores at Amherstburg is true, but it is no less a fact that there was abundance of grain which could have been obtained, and which immediately after General Procter himself was under the necessity of destroying on his retreat from Amherstburg to prevent its falling into the enemy's hands.

I am therefore of the opinion that there was not that necessity for General Procter to urge Captain Barclay to so hazardous and unequal a contest.

**General McClure to General Harrison.**

FORT GEORGE, November 15, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—The subject of our conversation this morning has occupied my most serious reflections. The deadly blow heretofore given to the patriotism of our citizens on this frontier has prepared them for murmurs and complaints; those who are not on their march have left their homes and business under great sacrifices with the moral certainty of being brought into action.

The last address, which I issued under your directions, and which I am happy to find has met your approbation, gives them reason for indulging the expectation of service, and they are anxious to drive the enemy from their borders forever. The high character of General Harrison, combined with these circumstances, has excited strong interest in the public mind relative to our operations.

In this peculiar situation of affairs, I feel it to be due to the gallant volunteers and militia who are assembled and collecting, and to my own reputation, most respectfully to solicit that, if it is not incompatible with your instructions and your better judgment, you will not abandon our projected expedition against Burlington Heights; such is the anxious wish of the militia, and I have no doubt the soldiers under your command are equally if not more desirous of the employment.

My anxiety on the subject, I trust, will excuse the appearance of any disrespect in making this communication, which is certainly far from my feelings. My confidence in the valor, ability, and prudence of General Harrison will dispose me most cheerfully to submit to any arrangements he may be bound to make; however great may be my disappointment in their result.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, p. 485.)

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Lieut.-Colonel Henry Bostwick, 1st Regiment Oxford Militia, to Major J. B. Glegg.

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 neighborhood; 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 surprised them at the house of John Dunham, 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 Captain Daniel McCall was detached across a point of woods in order to intercept them should they attempt to escape that way. Captain Jno. 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. Capt. Bostwick in coming near the place, not observing any person about there, immediately entered the house with Lieut. Austin and was not a little surprised 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. Captain Postwick, however, not being supported as soon as he wished, they resumed 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 Capt. 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 Capt. McCall's party, who attacked them with spirit, when a few took to the woods, the remainder being either killed or wounded, and those in or 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 and 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 any more embodied between this and the Grand River, and having fully attained the object of the expedition, we returned to this place last night about 11 o'clock.

The prisoners, with two others of the party who fell into our hands the day before, (one Mabee and one Harris), I shall send from this to-morrow for Burlington under a strong escort. Should it be thought advisable 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 Buffalo. This Bonnet received a wound at Fort Erie last fall, which had crippled him.

I send with this the examinations of Mabee and 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, etc., 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, etc., etc., 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, etc., of the whole party of volunteers.

I have to regret the loss of one young man, who fell by a shot through the neck during the contest. His name is Chandler and [he] was the support of an aged mother and a blind father. He was a spirited and brave young man, and his death is much regretted.

The loss of the enemy is three killed, and wounded two or perhaps more. They were fired at in the woods upon running away.

Captain Bostwick received a slight wound in the face from the discharge of 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 Captain Bostwick which missed him.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 142-4.)

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#### Examination of Simon Mabee,

Taken on the morning of the 12th November instant, near the village of Dover :

Says that on or about the 9th day of October last, he and Samuel Green, Isaac Petitt, Elisha Green, John Shufelt and James Johnson left this place together and went to Buffalo, and there joined a party of Americans who were bound for the London district, under the command of one William Sutherland, and that their object was to take public officers and public property ; that the party consisted of Guy P. Richards, John Harvey, Fred'k Onstine, Henry Onstine, George Peacock and one of his sons, Doctor Beach, Jacob

Moma and others, to the number of thirty men; that they have been sometime between the Grand River and Dover; that he got leave from the commanding officer (Sutherland) to come to his home at Dover, where he took a horse out of Mr. Nichol's stable without leave, and that a man by the name of Harris took a horse out of Mr. Nolen Davis's field in the same way; that they have taken several prisoners, viz., Lieut. John Williams, John Bonnet, Richd. Drake, Phineas Drake, John Rickard, Col. John Warren Doctor (sic) and Hall, subjects of this Province; that William Warren, Hall, Frit, Gilman and Bonnet were sent to Buffalo as prisoners; that Guy P. Richards, Samuel Green and John Shufelt took a boat or skiff out of Patter-son's Creek; that when he got leave to come to his home [there were] three men with him, among which were John Brown [and] Samuel Green, and that their object was to get volunteers to join their party and to take away public officers; that they took William Francis prisoner, and took six head of cattle belonging to him, and took them to Buffalo; That General Harrison arrived at Buffalo with three or four thousand men, and that he understood they were destined for Burlington; that he took a greatcoat and blanket from Capt. Samuel Ryerse's house.

Taken and acknowledged } before me this 12th Nov., 1813, } Thos. Bowlby, J.P. }	his SIMON X MABEE mark
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(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 147.)

#### Examination of John G. Harris,

Who was taken on the 12th of November instant, as follows:—

Says that he has taken the oath of allegiance to His Majesty, that he was solicited by Simon Mabee on the night of the 9th instant to go with him and join a party down the lake, which he was told consisted of upwards of forty men; that a man named Taylor gave him a horse, which he believes was stolen, that they went to the house of Captn. Samuel Ryerse, where they took a greatcoat and blanket and some ammunition, which took place on the 11th instant.

Taken and acknowledged before me this } 12th day of November, 1813. }	JOHN G. HARRIS.
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Thomas Bowlby, J.P.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 148.)

Pinkney Mabee, being called as a witness, says that his brother Simon Maybee came into the fuller's shop and solicited him to join

him and go down the lake to the party that was there, and that their object was to take away the officers that the militia may be at peace and that they might go to work; that the above took place on the 11th November instant.

Sworn before me this 12th day } his  
of November, 1813. } PINKNEY x MABEE.  
Thos. Bowlby, J.P. } mark

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 148.)

**Lieut.-Colonel Henry ostwick to Major J. B. O'legg.**

WOODHOUSE, 14th Nov., 1813.

SIR,—Major Bowen has this moment arrived here, and informs me that Mallory and his party are down the Grand River as far as Nelles's, and that they have communicated with Buffalo, Blenheim, and Burford. Mallory has his instructions from Chapin, which he shows occasionally, and is endeavoring to increase the number of his party by recruits from this district. Major Bowen says that they are extremely well armed.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 145.)

**List of Volunteers.**

List of the names of the volunteers from the County of Norfolk on a late expedition down the lake:

Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick,	Benjamin Chandler, killed,
Captain Bostwick, wounded,	Walter Anderson,
Captain McCall,	Samuel Baker,
Captain Park,	Robt. Wood,
Captain McCracken,	Jos. Wood,
Captain Ryerse,	Edwin Barton,
Lieut. Gordon,	Alex. King,
Lieut. Austin,	David Pearce,
Lieut. Meade,	Daniel Berdan,
Ensign. McCall,	John Moody,
Ensign Lemon,	John Conrad,
Quartermaster Welsh,	John Misener,
Adjutant Welsh,	Samuel Berdan,
Sergeant Major Powell,	Alex. Lemon,
Daniel McQueen,	Thos. Man,
John Anderson,	Chas. Harman,
Thomas Finch,	Daniel Bowlby,
Gregory Warwick,	Peter Wooley,

David Long,  
David Collard,  
Jos. Keogh,  
John Brown,  
Hugh McCabe,

James Lemon,  
Adam Misener,  
James McQueen,  
Pinckney Mabee.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 146.)

**Lt.-Colonel Robert Nichol to Hon. Henry Goulburn.**

TAVISTOCK HOTEL, COVENT GARDEN,

6th October, 1818.

Lieut.-Colonel Henry Bostwick was a young man of very considerable abilities, who had been called to the Bar a short time previous to the late American war. He was selected by the late Sir Isaac Brock to take charge of a very turbulent and refractory district, and was appointed a Lieut.-Colonel in 1812. He displayed great prudence, talent, and energy in that command, and became conspicuous on various occasions. The enclosed original documents will, however, speak more in his favor than anything from me; the gallant achievement to which they allude was performed at a time when the King's troops had been withdrawn from the London District and were not within sixty miles of it, and when General Vincent had actually commanded a retrograde movement on Kingston. The value of the service will, however, be better appreciated when it is understood that upwards of seven thousand barrels of provisions in the London District were preserved for the army, by which it was enabled to maintain its position at Burlington, and subsequently to advance and occupy the whole of the Niagara frontier. Colonel Bostwick's house and all his moveable property were destroyed at Dover by the enemy in May, 1814. He at the time was moving with his regiment for the protection of the King's magazines at Burlington, and in the early part of 1816 he died of an inflammatory complaint brought on, I verily believe, by the hardships and privations he had undergone during the war.

(None of the documents referred to are with this letter. They were probably returned to Mrs. Anne Bostwick, the Colonel's widow.)

(Canadian Archives, Q, 324-2, pp. 416-7.)

Major-General Vincent to Major-General De Rottenburg.

HEAD QUARTERS, BEASLEY'S,  
15th November, 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 honour 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 of October and four days only previous to your departure, it appears that 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 recollection that the necessity which suggested itself 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 in 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 of procuring wagons could not be exceeded. The few batteaux that could 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 the service and were generally abandoned.

(\* Note in margin.)—

On 25th September all sick men were ordered to the rear; 40 Mile Creek, Burlington, Ancaster, 26th September; this was carried into effect by removal to the 12 and thence by batteaux 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 sick remaining present with the Division was 143, the slightest cases, the remaining 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., 389, being increased 213 by the sick sent thence by batteaux in consequence of the order of the 25th of September. Recapitulation:

October 1st, in hospitals and quarters at Burlington and Ancaster	279
At the hospital at the 12	286
Present with the Division	143
At York or on the way	389

1097

The total number of sick absent in the daily sick report of the Centre Division October 1st, was 1,112.

From the moment you communicated to me your intention of going to Kingston (I believe it was on the evening of the 3d 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 upwards 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 would have perfectly matured. I allude to the official intelligence which reached me at this instant (the 8th October) from Major-General Frocter, giving an account of the total capture or dispersion of the whole of his division by General Harrison on the 5th October. 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 Four Mile Creek, 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 the Division, and all the waggons attached to the different corps of the army were incessantly employed in moving the sick to the rear, and confidential orders were quickly circulated apprising officers in command of detached posts with my intentions. The promptitude and alacrity with which my orders on this head were executed remain fresh in my recollection and will be justly appreciated.

The few batteaux which had been transported by land some weeks before you left the 4 Mile Creek by your order from Chippawa to Queenston, with a view of distracting the attention of the enemy, were ordered to the 12 Mile Creek. Every effort was made by Lieut.-Colonel Battersby to effect that object but without ultimate success, tho' some were brought as far as St. Davids and then abandoned. A sudden impression appeared to have been created by the wide spread rumors from the westward relative to the Right Division, and the militia with their teams could not be retained in our service.

The influence of that unfavorable intelligence operated most seriously to our disadvantage, and tho' dragoons were employed for twenty-four hours previous to the march of the army, a sufficient number of waggons could 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 enterprise 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 would permit on the morning of the 9th inst.,

moved off precisely at eleven; 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 and King's Regiment, moved along the Swamp Road at one p.m.; Lieut.-Colonel Battersby with the Demi-Brigade having received directions to regulate his march from Queenston so as to join the main body at 12. Colonel Murray, having the best road to move, was directed to delay his departure (with a view of covering the picquets should the enemy offer any interruption) until sunset, at which time Major De Haren was directed to retire with the picquets to 12 Mile Creek, where they were to join their respective corps, as from that point Colonel Murray, with the light companies of the King's and 100th Regiments and a detachment of the 19th Light Dragons, 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 at Burlington the preceding day, in which he stated the rumors of Harrison's rapid advance. I considered it an imperious duty to push forward the field-pieces, Royals, and King's Regiments and the Demi-Brigade with a view of anticipating any enterprise 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 250 effective men, and 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 Procter's army, I again consider 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 event of failure to provide the necessary means of transport everything was to be destroyed rather than leave a sick or wounded soldier behind. To assist Colonel Murray in carrying my instructions into execution, I directed Major Glegg and Captain Eliot, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General, to remain with him until all the arrangements were

\* (Note in margin.)

By the weekly state of Burlington, October 1st:	
Fit for duty, deducting militia	171 R. and F.
2d Battln., 41st, under Major Frenck, arrived that day	160 do.
	<hr/>
Add detach[men]t 104th, at the Forty Mile Creek	331 R. and F.
	28
	<hr/>
	359

In the same weekly state the 5th Lincoln and 2d York militia there are reported 260 R. and F. fit for duty.

complete. The former of these officers joined me during the night and reported that notwithstanding every exertion a sufficient number of waggons could not be procured, and Colonel 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 placed in the commissariat store, and likewise that two cases containing a hundred and three stand of arms and accoutrements 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 and they were destroyed. I was informed by Major Glegg that the principal part of the goods were distributed among a party of the Six Nations who had joined the army the day preceding 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 those that were 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 the neighborhood I gave directions that, as transport could not be found, it should be distributed among the poor inhabitants of the country rather than fall into the hands of the enemy. I have since had the satisfaction to learn that my intentions were fully complied with and with the sanction of the enemy, a party of whom were detached in that neighborhood 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 Regiment to be destroyed to disembarass the men of an useless weight when extraordinary exertions were called for. Having a second time endeavored to afford all the information in my power relative to 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 Four Mile Creek to this place.

(Canadian Archives, C. 631, pp. 57-58.)

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**General Harrison to General McClure.**

HEADQUARTERS, NEWARK, November 15, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter to me of this morning has been duly received. I feel most severely the weight of the reasons which you



urge for the prosecution of the intended expedition to Burlington. The disappointment, however, to the brave and patriotic men who have turned out under the expectation of effectually serving their country in the field, at this inclement season, is the most painful circumstance attending it, *as I am well convinced from the information received this morning and last evening that the enemy are removing as fast as possible from the head of the lake to Kingston*, which has been left with a very small part of the force that was lately there, and it is more than probable that, should we advance in force, the enemy having now none but effective men at Burlington, would destroy the stores which they have remaining there, and retreat too rapidly to be overtaken. There are considerations, however, which would make extremely desirable to make an expedition of force in that quarter, but the orders I have received from the Secretary of War leave me no alternative.

*Commodore Chauncey is extremely pressing that the troops should immediately embark*, declaring that the navigation at this season to small vessels is very dangerous. The force at Sackett's Harbor is——. The troops at York are all hastening down to Kingston.

*Sackett's Harbor may be endangered by even a delay of a few days*: and should the troops that are here not get down before the lake is frozen, *our fleet may be destroyed for want of their aid*. I cannot, therefore, take upon myself the *responsibility of delaying their going down even a day*. Will you be so good, at a proper time, as to explain the above circumstances to the patriots who left their homes with the intention of assisting me to drive the enemy far from our borders, and assure them that I shall ever recollect with the warmest gratitude the partiality they have been pleased to express for me, and their preference of serving under my command.

I will direct payment to be made to the volunteers for rations and forage in coming out.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 485.)

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Major J. B. Glegg to Lieut.-Colonel Harvey.

HEADQUARTERS, BEAZELEY'S,

17th Nov., 9 p.m. [1813.]

SIR,—Major-General Vincent being very much indisposed, I have been directed to transmit for the information of His Honour Major-General De Rottenburg, an official despatch received this day from Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick, of the Oxford Militia, in which is detailed a very creditable enterprise that has been lately successfully under-

taken by a small party of volunteers from the London District against a formidable banditti who have been for some time committing depredations and carrying off to the enemy many of the loyal subjects from that neighbourhood.

I take the liberty of adding that the loyalty and firmness of Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick's character, and that of his brother, who has received two wounds this war, have been often conspicuous.

The circumstances mentioned by Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick respecting the family of Benjamin Chandler, who fell in the late affair, speak too forcibly to require comment.

I am further directed to add that Major-General Vincent has desired his approbation and thanks to be conveyed to the gentlemen who have lately come forward in defence of their King and country, and he has held out an assurance that the government stores would be open to their wants.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 153-5.)

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**Major-General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

FRENCH MILLS, November 17, 1813.

(Extract.)

After what has passed between us you can perhaps conceive my amazement and chagrin at the conduct of Major-General Hampton. The game was in view, and had he performed the junction directed would have been ours in eight or ten days. But he chose to recede in order to co-operate, and my dawning hopes and the hopes and honor of the army were blasted.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 478.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Hon. Wm. D. Powell.**

HEADQUARTERS, LA CHINE,

Nov. 18th, 1813.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the honour of your confidential letter of the 5th inst. As Lt.-Genl. Drummond is shortly to proceed to Upper Canada for the purpose of taking the military command and of assuming the civil administration in that province, I have deemed the information you have transmitted of too much importance to be withheld from him,—I have therefore not hesitated to communicate the whole of your letters to him, with directions to make enquiry when upon the spot relative to those subjects of it which require relief, and to afford it as far as circumstances will

permit. At the same time you must be sensible that some of the evils of which you complain are inseparable from a state of war, and arise in the instance to which you allude to the peculiar situation of York, from the destruction by the enemy of all the public buildings and of all the usual places of accommodation for troops. The interruption of the communication between this and the Upper Province has prevented for some time those general officers who are designed for that command from proceeding to it. That communication being now restored they will repair thither without delay and I trust you will find both in Lieut.-General Drummond and Major-General Riall every disposition to carry on the service in the manner which shall be the least burthensome or inconvenient to any class of His Majesty's subjects. I have had the less hesitation in transmitting your letter to Genl. Drummond considering that you are to be one of his constitutional and confidential advisers as an Executive Councillor, and that you might in that capacity think it your duty to make the same representation to him that you have made to myself. With many thanks for the candor and freedom with which you have favoured me with your sentiments on subjects so interesting to the public welfare, believe me, etc.

*Memo in handwriting of Hon. Wm. D. Powell:*

The enclosed received on 27th November. On the 29th I found that the magistrates had entered into a correspondence with Colonel Stewart which was likely to produce further irritation, and I thought it proper to inform them so, for the propriety of this, as I believed, upon relief as circumstances would afford on the arrival of General Drummond, and prevailed upon them to let the matter sleep until his arrival.

The communication to Lt.-Genl. Prevost was made under the apprehension that if the proposed meeting of the inhabitants of York should take place it might add to the irritation and eventually produce a lasting and perhaps serious misunderstanding with the military, which might embarrass the Com[mande]r of the F[or]ces. The President had not invited me to similar confidence as Sir G. P[revost] had, and on the few occasions when my zeal prompted suggestions they were read with silent neglect by Maj.-Genl. De R[ottenburg.] Soon after I received Sir G. P[revost]'s answer of 18th November, the magistrates had commenced a correspondence with Col. Stewart, which was not likely to be satisfactory, and to put a stop to it until Lt.-Genl. D[rummond]'s arrival I showed Sir George's letter to two or three of the most discreet and obtained their promise to wait.

(From MS. in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

## Major-General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, FRENCH MILLS,

November 18, 1813.

SIR,—I beg this may be considered as an appendage to my official communication respecting the action of the 11th instant. I, last evening, received the enclosed information, the result of the examination of sundry prisoners taken on the field of battle, which justifies the opinion of the surviving general officers who were in the engagement; this goes to prove that although the imperious obligations of duty did not allow me sufficient time to rout the enemy, they were beaten—the accidental loss of one field piece, notwithstanding, after it had been discharged fifteen or twenty times. I have also learned from what is considered good authority, but I will not vouch for the correctness of it, that the enemy's loss exceeded five hundred killed and wounded. The enclosed report will correct an error in my former communications, as it appears it was the 89th and not the 84th British Regiment which was engaged on the 11th. I beg leave to mention relative to the action of the 11th what from my extreme indisposition I have omitted, having received information late in the day that contest had become somewhat dubious, I ordered up a reserve of six hundred men which I had directed to stand by their arms, under Lieutenant-Colonel Upham, who gallantly led them into the action, which terminated a few minutes after their arrival on the ground.

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STATEMENT of the strength of the enemy in the action of the 11th November, 1813, on Keasler's field in Williamsburg in Upper Canada, founded on the separate examination of a number of British prisoners taken on the field of battle:

Of the 89th Regiment.....	760	
49th.....	450	
Voltigeurs .....	270	
Glengarrys.....	80	
Of the 100th.....	40,	a detachment from Prescott
Canadian Fencibles.....	220	
Indians .....	40	
Incorporated Militia.....	300	

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2,170

Four pieces of mounted artillery, and seven gunboats, one mounting a 24-pounder.

I certify that the above statement is correct, agreeably to the statement of the above mentioned prisoners.

J. JOHNSON,

Inspector General, 2nd Division.

Headquarters, French Mills, Nov. 16, 1813.

(From Niles's Weekly Register, 4th December, 1813, Vol. V., p. 235-6.)

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**General Harrison to General George McClure.**

HEAD QUARTERS, NEWARK, November 15, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—Being ordered to return to the westward, you will be pleased to resume the command which you received previous to my arrival at this place.

The *orders which you have heretofore received will govern you.* It will be necessary that you keep a vigilant eye over the disaffected part of the inhabitants, and I recommend that you make use of the zeal, activity, and local knowledge which Colonel Willcocks certainly possesses to counteract the machinations of our enemy, and ensure the confidence of our friends amongst the inhabitants. It will, however, I am persuaded, be your wish, as it is your duty, to guard the latter as much as possible from oppression.

The volunteers which were lately called out will be retained as long as you consider their services necessary; the draughted militia until further orders are received from the Secretary of War.

There can be little doubt of its being the intention of the enemy to send the greater part of the troops which they have at Burlington and York to Kingston, and to make York the right of their line. They may, however, have a small command at Burlington, and those may be so securely posted as to render them safe from any desultory expedition you may set on foot; but it is desirable to have any supplies which they may have collected in the neighborhood destroyed, and should the success below be not such as to promise possession of the whole of the upper province, these may be destroyed.

Captains Leonard and Reed, or either of them, are appointed to muster your troops when and where you think proper.

In closing this communication I should not do justice to my feelings if I were not to acknowledge the zeal and talents with which you have managed your command. Your conduct appears to me to have been extremely judicious and proper throughout, and your troops exhibit a state of improvement and subordination which is at once honorable to your officers and themselves.

Lt. Col. Morrison to Colonel Baynes.

MILLES ROCHES,

15th November, 1813.

SIR,—Since the action of the 11th, the enemy's 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 the whole of that night and the infantry, which had passed to their own side, effected a junction with their front division at Massena 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 Captain Mulcaster with the gunboats came down the the Longue Sault this morning.

The detachment has been increased by the light company, 103rd Regiment, and one company of Royal Marines. We are greatly in want of medical assistance, not having a medical officer with us. I requested Captain Cochrane would mention this, and again repeat it lest 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. Captain 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 any future operations. The fortifying this post had been with the superior officers a subject of conversation. The accompanying return is a correct one of the killed and 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 house plundered, and it has been impossible to discover the offenders. A sergeant of the Voltigeurs is in confinement for having some of the articles in his possession.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp 44-5.)

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Return—Action at Williamsburg.

Corrected return of the killed, wounded, and missing of a detach-

ment from the army of the Centre under Lieut.-Colonel Morrison in the action at Williamsburg on the 11th November.

CRISLER'S HOUSE, 14th November, 1813.

	KILLED						WOUNDED						MISSING											
	Total	R. & F.	Drummers	Sergts.	Staff	Sub.	Capt.	F. O.	Total	R. & F.	Drummers	Sergts.	Staff	Sub.	Capt.	F. O.	Total	R. & F.	Sergts.	Staff	Sub.	Capt.	F. O.	
Royal Artillery.....																								
do. do. Drivers																								
49th Regiment.....	7	5	1					1	2	34		3					2	1						
89th ditto.....	5	4	1						1	57		3					1	1						
Flank Companies 49th	2	2							1	11							1	1						
Canadian Regiment..	4	4							2	14							1	1						
Voligeurs.....	4	4								9							1	1						
Militia Artillery.....										1							1	1						
Militia Dragoons.....										1							1	1						
Indians.....										1							1	1						
	219	22	2				1	1	9	131		6					9	9						
							1	1	9	148		6					9	9						

## OFFICERS KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Captain Nairn, 49th Regiment, killed.  
 Lt.-Colonel Plenderleath, do., severe contusion.  
 Lieut. Jones, do., dangerously.  
 Lieut. Bartley, do., severely but not dangerously.  
 Lieut. Claus, do., left leg amputated.  
 Lieut. Morton, do., severely, not dangerously.  
 Lieut. Richmond, do., slightly.

## 89th REGIMENT.

Capt. Brown, severely, not dangerously.  
 Ensign Leadam, slightly.

## 49th FLANK COMPANIES.

Lieut. Holland, severely.

## CANADIAN REGIMENT.

Lieut. de Lorimier, since dead.  
 Ensign Armstrong, severely.

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col,  
 D.A.G.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 59.)

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 Secretary of War to General Hampton.

WAR DEPARTMENT, 15th Nov., 1813.

DEAR GENERAL,—Colonel A[tkinson]'s letter of the 11th inst. causes much solicitude, not for the issue of the battle itself, for that cannot be unfortunate, but for the interruption any partial engagement may give to the main action of the campaign. Had W[ilkinson] descended the St. Lawrence nine miles below Cornwall, he would have been secure from any force pursuing him by land, because at that point the road ends and is not again to be found short of the Coteau du Lac.

Colonel A[tkinson]'s intelligence, particularly after an interview with General W[ilkinson], will decide the character and extent of your operations. If the garrison of Prescott, moving by land with their train of artillery and means of subsistence, etc., etc., have been able to overtake and detain General Wilkinson as high up the river as Cornwall, it is evident that the movement below cannot safely be more than a feint.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix LIV.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 110.

U.S. Ship *General Pike*,  
Off Niagara, 15th Nov., 1813.

SIR,—I arrived off this place last evening, and had communication with General Harrison. I have this day ordered into the river all the vessels of the squadron, for the purpose of taking on board the troops destined for Sackett's Harbor, and have directed Captain Crane to use every exertion to embark them, and join me as soon as possible. Owing to the heavy sea on the bar I did not think it prudent to enter the river with this ship; moreover there would be so much uncertainty when I could get out again was another inducement for me to keep the lake.

I am sorry to state that in the act of wearing ship last night the *Governor Tompkins* fell on board of this ship and carried away her main mast. I have sent her in with orders to fit a jury-mast as soon as possible. I presume that she will be ready by the time the troops are embarked and will cause no detention.

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**From the "Buffalo Gazette" 16th November, 1813.**

MILITIA DRAFT.

The requisition mentioned in our last we have understood called for 600 men to be detached from General Hopkins's brigade, and that Lieut.-Colonel William Warren has been assigned to the command. The draft has been made and in some instances it exceeded the number of effective men in the companies. The men are ordered, as we learn, to rendezvous at Fort George and to continue in service for one month.

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**Extract of a Letter of the 15th of November (1813) from General Wilkinson.**

It is a fact for which I am authorized to pledge myself on the most confidential authority, that on the fourth of the present month the British garrison of Montreal consisted solely of 400 marines and 200 sailors, which had been sent up from Quebec. We have with the provisions here and that left at Chateauguay about forty days' subsistence, to which I shall add thirty more.

(From Niles' Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., December 4, 1813, Vol. V., p. 234.)

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## General Orders.

HEAD QUARTERS, LA CHINE,

15th Nov., 1813.

His Excellency the Governor General and Commander of the Forces has received from Lieut. Colonel Morrison, 89th Regiment, the official report of the action that took place on the 11th inst. at Cryster's farm, 20 miles above Cornwall, between the corps of observation, consisting of the 49th and 89th Regiments, and a detachment from the garrison of Prescott under Lieut.-Colonel Pearson, the whole amounting to about eight hundred men, and the principal division of the enemy's army, commanded by Major-General Boyd. On the day preceding the action an affair took place, in consequence of the corps of observation pressing on the enemy, which, after a short conflict, terminated in his defeat, the British division occupying that night the ground on which the affair had taken place.

On the 11th, Lieut.-Col. Morrison continued his pursuit, when the enemy, concentrating his force, made a grand effort to relieve himself from so troublesome an opponent, and advanced with his heavy columns of infantry, supported by artillery, his front covered by a numerous body of cavalry and riflemen. Lieut.-Col. Morrison fell back gradually and took up a judicious position (which he had previously made choice of) with his little band, his right on the river consisting of the flank companies of the 49th Regiment and a detachment of the Canadian Fencibles under Lieut.-Col. Pearson with a six-pounder a little advanced, supported by three companies of the 89th Regiment under Captain Barnes. The 49th and 89th Regiments formed the main body of reserve, extending across the road to a pine wood, occupying a space of seven hundred yards.

Major Heriot, with a detachment of Canadian Voltigeurs and a small band of Indian warriors under Lieut. Anderson, secured the left flank. The action commenced about 2 o'clock in the afternoon and in half an hour became general, the enemy attempting to turn the left of the British but were repulsed by the 49th and 89th Regiments, which advanced firing by wings and platoons. The enemy having failed in this attempt united their utmost efforts in an attack on the right, supported by four pieces of artillery and their cavalry, which was in like manner repulsed, the 49th and 89th Regiments having moved up in *echelon* and formed in line; a charge commenced by the 49th Regiment was not persevered in, in consequence of the enemy having charged upon the right and threatened to gain the rear, but their cavalry were so gallantly received by the three companies of the 89th Regt. under Captain Barnes, and the well directed fire of the artillery under Captain Jackson, that they were instantly repulsed

and by the rapid pursuit of Capt. Barnes's party a six-pounder was captured from the enemy, whose attention was now solely directed to cover the retreat of his beaten forces. In this last effort he was foiled by a judicious movement of the corps under Lieut.-Col. Pearson, who continued to pursue the enemy in his flight.

It is with deep regret that Lieut.-Col. Morrison transmits a list of the casualties, containing the loss of several brave soldiers, but when the unequal contest and the quadruple loss of the enemy and the importance of this splendid victory are considered the comparative British loss will appear less than might reasonably be expected.

EDWARD BAYNES, Adjt.-Gen.

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, LA CHINE,

No. 107.

15th November, 1813.

MY LORD,—Major-General Wilkinson left Grenadier Island on Lake Ontario on the 30th ulto. with ten thousand men in small craft and batteaux and proceeded down the St. Lawrence in order to cooperate with Major-General Hampton in the invasion of Lower Canada and for the avowed purpose of taking up his winter quarters at Montreal. Having on the 31st halted a few miles below Gravelly Point on the south side of the river, his position was on the following day reconnoitred and afterwards cannonaded by a division of gunboats under the command of Captain Mulcaster of the Royal Navy. By keeping close to his own shore, the enemy arrived on the 6th instant within six miles of the post of Prescott, which he endeavored to pass unobserved during the night of the 7th, but the vigilance of Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, who commands there, frustrated his attempt and the American armada was obliged to sustain a heavy and destructive cannonade during the whole of that operation.

Having anticipated the possibility of the American Government sending the whole of its concentrated force from Lake Ontario towards this part of His Majesty's territory, I had ordered a corps of observation, consisting of the remains of the 49th Regiment, 2d Battalion of the 89th Regiment, and three companies of Voltigeurs with a division of gunboats, the whole to be placed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison of the 89th Regiment, to follow the movements of Major-General Wilkinson's army as soon as they should be ascertained to point towards this quarter. I have now the satisfaction of transmitting to Your Lordship a copy of a report made by Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison to Major-General De Rottenburg, containing the details of an attack upon the corps of observation

placed under his command, by a part of the American force under Brigadier-General Boyd, amounting to near four thousand men, which terminated in the complete repulse and defeat of the enemy with very considerable loss. Upwards of one hundred prisoners, together with a field piece, remained in our possession. As I understand that more than one hundred were found dead on the field, their total loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners could not be less than eight hundred men. The consequence of this gallant affair, which reflects such high credit on all the officers and men engaged in it, and particularly on Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison, for the skill and judgment manifested by him in his choice of position and for the coolness and intrepidity with which he maintained it, has been that the enemy, disheartened by their losses and ill success, re-embarked their force on the 13th and recrossed to St. Regis and Salmon River on their own shore, not leaving a man on our shore except such as were prisoners.

It is yet uncertain whether General Wilkinson means to prosecute his original intention of proceeding in his small craft and boats from Salmon River to Montreal or to unite his troops with those under Major-General Hampton, and attempt to advance into the province by the Chateauguay or Odelltown roads. Major-General Hampton had received positive orders to resume the position which he had abandoned on the Chateauguay river when he retreated to Plattsburg, immediately after the disgraceful defeat he lately received, but the state of the weather is becoming so unfavorable to combined operations that unless General Wilkinson in a very few days succeeds in forcing the positions I have caused to be occupied on the Coteau du Lac and the Beauharnois Channel, which I have no reason to expect he will do, or that he can make his way into the province by either of the other routes I have mentioned, which I think very improbable, the American army must soon be compelled, from the severity of the season, to go into winter quarters and to abandon all thoughts of the conquest of Canada for this campaign.

I have also the honor of transmitting to Your Lordship a copy of a letter with the inclosure therein referred to, addressed to Major-General De Rottenburg by Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison, in which you will see fresh proof of the vigilance and activity of that officer in executing the duty with which he had been entrusted, and I have the further pleasure to report to Your Lordship that a 13-inch iron and a 10-inch brass mortar, with their stores and a large supply of provisions, deposited at Ogdensburg, have been brought away from thence by Captain Mulcaster of the Royal Navy and landed at Prescott.

I have again witnessed with peculiar satisfaction the loyalty and

active zeal with which all classes have been animated in their endeavors to oppose the threatened invasion of the enemy, and which I have great pleasure in reporting to Your Lordship.

I am sorry to find by the accompanying report of the 70th Regiment, made to me by the commanding officer, of how little avail this part of the reinforcement lately arrived from England will prove to me.

I beg most distinctly to state to Your Lordship for the information of His Majesty's Government that the very great exertions made for the preservation of the Canadas by its population, in conjunction with the small force under my command, may eventually degenerate into indifference for the result of the present contest, unless the support from the mother country is equal to the magnitude of the stake.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 123, p. 11-16.)

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**From Poulson's 'American Daily Advertiser,' 13th December, 1813.**

Extract from a letter in the *Albany Register*:

Nov. 20, 1813.

I left Fort George on Wednesday afternoon last. An expedition under the command of General McClure, consisting of militia, volunteers, regulars, and Indians, was to have marched next day (Thursday) against the British at Burlington Heights. From what I have heard from several persons lately from that part of Canada, the British force consists of 600 regulars in several posts. The Indians they represent to be more numerous, perhaps over 1,000. The British are fearful of an attack and have made preparations to resist, and have felled trees in the road and have formed them into *chevaux de frise* by sharpening the limbs. They have destroyed all the bridges from 18 Mile Creek to York, and thrown up breastworks on the beach and other places. Notwithstanding, should the Indians keep aloof (which is not improbable) I think our men will be successful. It is said the Indians are very shy since Harrison's victory.

(File in the Philadelphia Library.)

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**John Clark to Captain W. H. Merritt.**

KINGSTON, 16th November, 1813.

DEAR MERRITT,—I arrived here a few days since, after a very uncomfortable ride.

I have seen Mr. Alexander in respect of your goods, and they have not been sold or removed—in the first instance on account of

your advance being too high, and at present no danger to be apprehended from the Americans from a sweet drubbing they received a few days ago, the particulars of which are in the enclosed handbills. We expect to hear of their being handled more severely soon. This place is well fortified, but few troops in it at present, though I suppose there is nothing now to fear, as I expect the Americans must be thinking of ending the campaign by this time. What a pity some of the *Provincial* and 19th Dragoons were not in the engagement below. You will say, they would have been of great service and given them a fine opportunity of displaying their heroism to much advantage. I am told the President was earnestly solicited to send a troop of the 19th down, but would not comply. He will now perceive his error; however, it has proved a gallant business.

What they brought me here for God only knows unless to get rid of what little pay I have, which, be assured, I can at this time ill spare. I have nothing whatever to do, and living at a very extravagant rate, and my poor horse starving from a scarcity of forage; hay at \$30.00 per ton, and oats 7/6 per bushel, and at that much difficulty in getting. I have seen excellent horses sold at 15 and 20 dollars to the farmers. Was you here it would be a fine time to equip your troop. My horse I shall send to country quarters. General Drummond is daily expected here to take the command. It is reported the Americans are fortifying at Salmon River. I hope Sir Geo. will drive them from that.

It is not expected General Vincent will leave his position, which I trust will prove the case. This late business will change the face of affairs in your quarter.

You have heard poor Chisholm was taken with his goods coming up, though it said the goods have been recovered in this last business.

(From the Merritt M.S.S.)

#### General Harrison to the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, NEWARK, November 16, 1813.

SIR,—Commodore Chauncey with the fleet arrived here yesterday morning, and informed me that he was ready to receive the troops to convey them down the lake, and that the season was so far advanced, rendering the navigation dangerous to the smaller vessels, that it was desirable they should be embarked as expeditiously as possible. As a very small part of the militia and volunteers had arrived, and the situation of Sackett's Harbor appearing to me to

require immediate reinforcement, I did not think proper to take upon myself the responsibility of postponing the departure of the troops for the lower part of the lake, conformably to the directions contained in your letter of the third instant.

The information I received yesterday from two respectable citizens that were taken near Fort Meigs in June last, and who made their escape in an open boat from Burlington, *confirms me in the propriety of sending them off.* These men state the *troops were hurrying to Kingston from York as fast as possible. The regulars going down in boats and the militia bringing the latter back.*

The troops are now all embarked and under the command of Colonel Smith, who is an officer in whose capacity and bravery the greatest reliance may be placed.

I shall set out this evening for the seat of Government.

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Lieut.-Colonel Harvey to Colonel Baynes:

CORNWALL, 16th Nov., 1813.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—There are two most valuable men with this little army, whose services we are all most anxious to bring under the notice of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces. With this view they have been called upon to address to Lieut.-Colonel Pearson (under whom they have been principally employed) a statement of their losses by the plundering of the enemy, which statements Pearson will hand to Morrison and myself with an explanatory and recommendatory letter from himself, and the whole will be forwarded to you for the purpose of being laid before Sir George and in the hope that in remunerating the valuable and useful services of these gentlemen, their severe losses will not be lost sight of. These, however, I consider the American Government as pledged to make good by the adjutant-general's letter to me forwarded last night. It is now time to mention the names of these persons, viz.,—Captains Gilkinson and Sherwood of the militia. They have both been eminently useful by their local knowledge and unswerving exertions ever since the troops left Prescott, and the latter (Sherwood) appears of all the men I have met with in this country the best qualified for an appointment, which I would strongly recommend to His Excellency immediately to make (under whatever remuneration he may think proper) for superintending and organizing the procuring of secret intelligence. In India the quartermaster general of the army was at the head of the department (as I think should be the case here) and he had a captain of guides under him, who retained and employed such inferior agents, *narcanahs*, &c., as he thought

proper, and who were paid by and known only to him. The advantage of this establishment we often experience by invariably receiving the earliest and most correct information of every movement and plan of the enemy. Captain Sherwood, who in point of and extent of landed property is a man of princely possessions, and who must stand or fall with the country, not only as being marked by the enemy but as being inherently and hereditarily loyal, I would recommend to be employed in this way with some adequate salary, say 10s. or 15s. per diem, with his military pay, and to be accountable for other disbursements to the quartermaster and adjutant general of the army, or such other officer as Sir George might think fit to direct. Captain Sherwood is a good draftsman.

The information of this morning from the most *undoubted sources*, viz., six militia men, respectable and aged men, inhabitants of this place, who were taken across by the enemy and who left the enemy at *sunset last night*, is that the enemy, I mean the whole of Wilkinson's army, is at the French Mills (as stated in my letter of last night) when upwards of 1000 workmen were turned out last night with spades and pickaxes for the purpose, they conceive, of throwing up some entrenchments. Their craft, gunboats, &c., are all above the troops, frozen up. They give it out they are going to build more craft—2,000 men are, it is said, to remain in the new position at the Salmon River and the remainder of the army to go to Plattsburg into winter quarters. My own conviction is, from all the information we have procured and from what appears to be the general impression and opinion through the country, that whatever desire the Generals of the American armies may feel to persevere in the attempt to which they are, to be sure, most completely committed, so little disposed will they find their troops to second their and Mr. Madison's grand views, that they will find themselves deserted by the army, which will disperse if not suffered to *go home*. Their movements, I repeat, should be quickened by a forward movement from your side.

We are just moving to occupy Glengarry House, River Raisin, and Point au Baudet, the gunboats at River Raisin.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 135-3.)

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Kingston Gazette.

Wednesday, January 15, 1814.

Extract of a letter to gentleman in this town (Middlebury) dated Malone, Nov. 15, 1813:—

Our army under General Wilkinson have met with a severe drubbing from the British near Cornwall in Upper Canada. The



light dragoons, in order to make their escape had to swim their horses across the St. Lawrence to Massena Point, and the redoubtable Gen., with the remains of his shattered and dismayed army, arrived night before last at the French Mills in this country. The battle was fought last Thursday, 11th inst. Report says we have lost ten or twelve hundred men. Brig.-Gen. Covington was among the slain. He was brought off the field and was yesterday interred at the French Mills.

You must, I think, have heard (ere this) of the shameful and cowardly doings of Gen. Hampton down the Chateauguay River. At the head of five thousand effective men, including three hundred light dragoons, he left the Four Corners on the 22d ult., and with 11 pieces of field artillery and an immense quantity of heavy baggage, travelled in martial array in the direction of Montreal till he had reached about twelve or fourteen miles beyond the 45th deg. of north latitude. Here he had a piece of hemlock and beech woods to pass through and here, lo! he met with 250 Canadians and 40 Indians, and such was the perseveringly obstinate firing of the former and the horrid heart rending yelling and screaming of the latter that the most puissant General was fain to order a retrograde movement, and on the 1st inst. arrived, bag and baggage, at the Four Corners. The adjt.-gen. reports only 23 killed, 33 wounded and 29 missing.

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**Major-General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

HEAD QUARTERS, FRENCH MILLS,  
Adjoining the Province of Lower Canada,  
November 16, 1813.

SIR,—I beg leave to refer you to the journal which accompanies this letter for the particulars of the movement of the corps under my command down the St. Lawrence, and will endeavor to exert my enfeebled mind to detail to you the more striking and important incidents which have ensued my departure from Grenadier Island at the foot of Lake Ontario on the 3d instant.

The corps of the enemy from Kingston, which followed me and hung on my rear and in concert with a heavy galley and a few gun-boats seemed determined to retard my progress, I was strongly tempted to halt, turn about and put an end to his teasings, but, alas, I was confined to my bed. Major-General Lewis was too ill for any active service and, above all, I did not dare suffer myself to be diverted a single day from the prosecution of the views of the Government. I had written Major-General Hampton on the 6th instant by his adjutant-general, Colonel King, and had ordered him to form a junction with me on the St. Lawrence, which I expected would take place on

the 9th or 10th. It would have been unpardonable had I lost sight of this object a moment, as I deemed it of vital importance to the issue of the campaign.

The enemy deserve credit for their zeal and intelligence, which the active universal hostility of the male inhabitants of the country enabled them to employ to the greatest advantage. Thus, while menaced by a respectable force in rear, the coast was lined by musquetry in front at every critical pass of the river, which obliged me to march a detachment and thus impeded my progress.

On the evening of the 9th instant the army halted a few miles from the head of the Longue Saut. In the morning of the 10th the enclosed order was issued. General Brown marched agreeably to order and about noon we were apprised by the report of his artillery that he was engaged some distance below us. At the same time the enemy were observed in our rear and their galley and gunboats approached our flotilla and opened a fire on us, which obliged me to order a battery of eighteen-pounders to be planted and a shot from it compelled the vessels of the enemy to retire, together with their troops, after some firing between the advanced parties. But by this time in consequence of dis-embarking and re-embarking the heavy guns, the day was so far spent that our pilots did not dare enter the Saut, (eight miles a continued rapid,) and therefore we fell down about two miles and came to for the night. Early the next morning everything was in readiness for motion, but having received no intelligence from General Brown, I was still delayed, as sound caution prescribed I should learn the result of his affair before I committed the flotilla to the Saut. At half-past ten o'clock a.m. an officer of the dragoons arrived with a letter in which the general informed me that he had forced the enemy and would reach the foot of the Saut early in the day. Orders were immediately given for the flotilla to sail, at which instant the enemy's gunboats appeared and began to throw shot among us. Information was brought me at the same time from Brigadier-General Boyd that the enemy's troops were advancing in column. I immediately sent orders to him to attack them. This report was soon contradicted. Their gunboats, however, continued to watch us and a variety of reports of their movements and counter-movements were brought to me in succession, which convinced me of their determination to hazard an attack when it could be done to greatest advantage, and therefore I determined to anticipate them. Directions were accordingly sent by that distinguished officer, Colonel Swift, of the Engineers, to Brigadier-General Boyd to throw the detachment of his command, assigned to him in the order of the preceding day and composed of men from his own, Covington's and Swartwout's brigades, into three columns to march upon the enemy, outflank them if possi-

ble, and take their artillery. The action soon after commenced with the advanced body of the enemy, and became extremely sharp and galling, and with occasional pauses was sustained with great vivacity in open space and fair combat for upwards of two and-a-half hours, the adverse lines alternately yielding and advancing. It is impossible to say with accuracy what was our number in the field, because it consisted of indefinite detachments taken from the boats to render safer the passage of the Saut. Brigadier-Generals Covington and Swartwout voluntarily took part in the action at the head of the detachments from their respective brigades and exhibited the same courage that was displayed by Brigadier-General Boyd, who happened to be the senior officer on the ground. Our force engaged might have reached sixteen or seventeen hundred men, but certainly did exceed eighteen hundred. That of the enemy was estimated at from twelve hundred to two thousand, but probably did not amount to more than fifteen or sixteen hundred, consisting, as I am informed, of detachments from the 49th, 84th, and 104th Regiments of the line, with three companies of the Voltigeur and Glengarry corps, and the militia of the country, who are not included in the estimate.

It would be presumptuous in me to attempt to give you a detailed account of this affair, which certainly reflects high honor on the valor of the American soldier, as no example can be produced of undisciplined men with inexperienced officers braving a fire of two hours and-a-half without quitting the field or yielding to their antagonists. But, sir, the information I now give you is derived from officers of my confidence who took active parts in this conflict, for though I was enabled to order the attack it was my hard fortune not to be able to lead the troops I commanded—the disease with which I was assailed on the 2d of September on my journey to Fort George having with a few short intervals of convalescence preyed on me ever since, and at the moment of this action, I was confined to my bed and emaciated almost to a skeleton, unable to sit on my horse or to move ten paces without assistance.

I must, however, be pardoned for trespassing on your time a few remarks in relation to the affair. The objects of the British and American commanders were precisely opposed, the last being bound by the instructions of his Government and the most solemn obligations of duty to precipitate his descent of the St. Lawrence by every practicable means, because, this being effected, one of the greatest difficulties opposed to the American army would be surmounted; and the first by duties equally imperious to retard and if possible prevent such descent—he is to be accounted victorious who effected his purpose. The British commander having failed to gain either of his objects can lay no claim to the honors of the day. The battle fluctu-

ated and triumph seemed at different times inclined to the contending corps. The front of the enemy was at first forced back more than a mile, and although they never regained the ground thus lost their stand was permanent and their charges resolute. Amidst these charges and near the close of the contest we lost a field piece by the fall of the officer who was serving it with the same coolness as if he had been at a parade or review; this was Lieutenant Smith of the light artillery, who, in point of merit, stood at the head of his grade.

The enemy having halted and our troops being formed again in battalia front to front, and the firing ceased on both sides, we resumed our position on the bank of the river and the infantry being much fatigued, the whole were re-embarked and proceeded down the river without further annoyance from the enemy or their gunboats, while the dragoons with five pieces of light artillery marched down the Canada shore without molestation.

It is due to his rank, to his worth, and to his services that I should make particular mention of Brigadier-General Covington, who received a mortal wound, directly through the body, while animating his men and leading them to the charge. He fell where he fought, at the head of his men and survived but two days.

The next morning the flotilla passed through the Saut and joined that excellent officer, Brigadier-General Brown, at Barnhart's near Cornwall, where he had been instructed to take post and wait my arrival, and where I confidently expected to hear of Major-General Hampton's arrival on the opposite shore. But, immediately after I halted, Colonel Atkinson, the Inspector General of the division under Major-General Hampton, waited on me with a letter from that officer in which, to my unspeakable mortification and surprise, he declined the junction ordered and informed me he was marching towards Lake Champlain by way of co-operating in the proposed attack on Montreal.

This letter, together with a copy of that to which it is an answer, were immediately submitted to a council of war composed of my general officers and the colonel commanding the *Elite*, the chief engineer and the adjutant-general, who unanimously gave it as their opinion that "the attack on Montreal should be abandoned for the present season and the army, then near Cornwall, should be immediately crossed to the American shore for taking up winter quarters, and that this place afforded an eligible position for such quarters."

I acquiesced in those opinions, not from the shortness of the stock of provisions, (which had been reduced by the acts of God,) because that of our meat had been increased five days and our bread had been reduced only two days and because we could in case of extremity have lived on the enemy, but because the loss of the divi-

sion under Major-General Hampton weakened my force too sensibly to justify the attempt. In all measures and movements of moment I have taken the opinions of my general officers, which have been in accord with my own.

I remained on the Canada shore until the next day without seeing or hearing from the "powerful force" of the enemy in our neighborhood, and the same day reached this position with the artillery and infantry. The dragoons have been ordered to Utica and its vicinity, and I expect are fifty or sixty miles on the march.

You have under cover a summary abstract of the killed and wounded in the affair of the 11th instant, which shall soon be followed by a particular return in which a just regard will be paid to individual merits. The dead rest in honor and the wounded bled for their country and deserve its gratitude.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., pp. 475-6.)

#### **Journal Referred to in the Foregoing Letter of Major-General Wilkinson.**

October 21st—Boisterous weather, left Sackett's Harbor; at night arrived off Grenadier Island.

October 22d—Called for a return of the troops on the island; found a large body to be still in the rear, wrecked or stranded; returned in quest of them and to order from the harbor a supply of winter clothing and shoes for the troops on the island, who were nearly destitute; observed at night on our way up many fires on different points of the coast; wind so high could not call at them; reached the harbor at midnight.

October 23d—Orders given for the shipment of the clothing; many stragglers picked up and embarked for Grenadier Island; Colonel Coles arrived with two hundred men of the 12th Regiment and sailed for the same place; the *Growler* equipped, manned, and finished with a skipper and sent to Oswego for Colonels Randolph and Scott (who were expected at that place) and as many men as she could carry. We sailed for Grenadier Island; arrived about 8 o'clock at night off the island; weather blustering with frequent rain. All this time the General's sickness continued without abatement.

October 24th—Hard rains with heavy gales; still at anchor off the island.

October 25th—The General landed and measures were immediately taken to seize every pause of the prevailing storms to slip the flotilla into the St. Lawrence by small detachments. In these deceitful nomenclatory calms we found it impossible to traverse in safety the arm of the lake to Gravelly Point, though distant only nine miles. In the several attempts, many boats driven ashore and much provision and

clothing lost. French Creek, nearly opposite the point where the enemy expected we should land to attack Kingston, was made the general rendezvous of the troops, and Brigadier-General Brown ordered us to take the chief command. The expedition of the *Growler* was so far successful that on the 31st Colonel Randolph, after a perilous voyage, reached Grenadier Island with two hundred and thirty men of the 20th Regiment. On the 2d of November Commodore Chauncey by concert entered the St. Lawrence, fell down nearly to French Creek, and took a position to command the north and south channels. In the evening of the 1st November our vigilant enemy, having observed even amid the storms our movement and position at French Creek, attacked the detachment at that place under General Brown about sunset with a squadron of two brigs and two schooners with many boats loaded with infantry for landing should their cannonade make a sufficient impression. Very soon Captain McPherson of the light artillery erected a battery of three 18 pounders and returned their fire with such spirit and effect that they fell down to a harbor below, beyond its range. Next morning the attack was renewed and repelled, and one of the brigs was with great difficulty towed off by the squadron, which put into Kingston Channel behind Grand Island. We lost two killed and four wounded. The enemy were supposed to have suffered severely from the evident disabled state of their brig and the deliberate and well directed fire of the gallant Captain McPherson.

November 3d.—The rear of the army with the general, more and more sick, sailed for the general rendezvous where the chief part arrived in the evening. The General was carried on shore and lodged in a tent, his malady increasing in violence.

November 4th.—This day was devoted to final arrangements for the sailing of the flotilla. Weather moderating.

November 5th.—Charming day. The flotilla got under way and without accident fell down and landed early in the night, below Morrisville. The General, suspecting that he would be followed by the enemy, as in the morning his course had been discovered by three of their lookout gunboats and a gig and knowing that two of their armed schooners could jeopard his movement, gave orders for the flotilla to pass Prescott, then seven miles below him, in the course of the night. But some confusion occurred arising from the novelty of the movement and the order was countermanded.

November 6th.—This morning the health of the General appeared better; he ordered the flotilla to descend to a point within three miles of Prescott, and, the day being fine, got into his gig and proceeded to reconnoitre the place. In the meantime the powder and fixed ammunition were debarked and placed in carts to be transported

by land under cover of the night beyond the enemy's batteries. As soon as the General returned orders were issued for the debarkation of every man (except so many as were necessary to navigate the boats,) who were directed to march under cover of the night, to save useless exposure to the enemy's cannon, to a bay two miles below Prescott, and arrangements were made at the same time for the passage of the flotilla by that place, the superintending of which devolved on Brigadier-General Brown, the general officer of the day. About eight o'clock p.m. we had so heavy a fog that it was believed we could pass the British fortress unobserved, and orders were accordingly given for the army to march and the flotilla to get under way. The General in his gig proceeded ahead, followed by his passage-boat and family, but a sudden change of the atmosphere exposed his passage-boat to the garrison of the enemy and near fifty twenty-four pound shot were fired at her, without effect, while the column on land, discovered by the gleam of their arms, were assailed with shot and shells without injury. General Brown on hearing the firing judiciously halted the flotilla until the moon had set, when it got into motion, but was perceived by the enemy, who opened upon it and continued their fire from front to rear for the space of three hours, and yet out of more than three hundred boats not one was touched, and only one man was killed and two were wounded; and before ten next morning the whole of the flotilla (except two vessels) reached the place of rendezvous. About noon this day Colonel King, adjutant-general of the army of General Hampton, arrived and waited on the Commander-in-Chief, whom he informed that he had been to Sackett's Harbor with a despatch from General Hampton to the Secretary of War, that he had no communication, written or verbal, from Major-General Hampton to him (the Commander-in-chief) but that not finding the Secretary of War at Sackett's Harbor he had thought proper on his return to call for any communication he (General Wilkinson) might have to make to General Hampton. The General had intended in the course of this day to send an express to General Hampton with an order to him to form a junction of his division with the corps descending the St. Lawrence and availed himself of the opportunity presented by Colonel King to send the order.

November 7th.—The General having been exposed to the open air all last night, in consequence found himself ill. In passing Prescott two of our largest vessels, loaded with provisions, artillery, and ordnance stores, either through cowardice or treachery, had been run into the river near Ogdensburg and opposite Prescott. The enemy kept up so constant a cannonade on them that we found it difficult and lost half a day to get them out. We perceived the militia in arms at Johnstown, directly opposite us, and several pieces of field

artillery in motion. Understanding that the coast below was lined with posts of musketry and artillery at every narrow pass of the river, Colonel Macomb was detached, about one o'clock, with the Elite corps of about 1200 men, to remove these obstructions, and the General got under way about half-past three o'clock. Four or five miles below we entered the first rapids of the river, and soon after passing them two pieces of light artillery, which had not been observed by Colonel Macomb, opened a sharp fire upon the General's passage-boat, but without any further effect than cutting away some of the rigging. Lieutenant-Colonel Eustis with a part of our light gun-barges came within shot of the pieces of the enemy and a cannonade ensued without injury on either side. In the meantime Major Forsyth, who was in the rear of the Elite of Colonel Macomb, landed his riflemen, advanced upon the enemy's guns and had his fire drawn by a couple of videttes posted in his route, upon which his pieces were precipitately carried off. The General came to at dusk about six miles below the town of Hamilton, where he received a report from Colonel Macomb, who had routed a party at a blockhouse about two miles below and captured an officer.

November 8th.—This morning the flotilla fell down to a contraction of the river at a point called the "White House," where the dragoons were assembled to be crossed. Brigadier-General Brown was ordered this morning to reinforce Colonel Macomb with his brigade and to take the command, and the whole day and following night were devoted to transporting the dragoons. About noon this day we received advice that two armed schooners and a body of enemy in bateaux, estimated at one thousand or fifteen hundred men, had descended the river from Kingston and landed at Prescott, that they immediately sent a flag across the river to Ogdensburg and demanded the delivery of all public property there under penalty of burning the town. Not long after information was received that the enemy had re-embarked at Prescott in their bateaux and were following us with seven gunboats.

November 9th.—This morning very early the enemy menaced our rear, and a slight skirmish took place between our riflemen and a party of their militia and Indians, in which we had one man killed and the enemy were driven back. The cavalry, with four pieces of light artillery under the command of Captain McPherson, were attached to the command of Brigadier-General Brown and he was ordered to clear the coast below us as far as a point near the head of the Longue Saut. The rapidity of the current obliged us to halt the flotilla several hours to enable General Brown to make good his march in time to cover our movement. During this period the enemy frequently threatened our rear but never indicated an intention to make a serious



attack. About three o'clock p.m. the flotilla got under way and came to about five o'clock at the Yellow House, having floated nearly eleven miles in two hours, where we encamped for the night.

November 10th.—This morning the following order was issued :

“MORNING GENERAL ORDERS.

“Head Quarters, Tuttle's Bay, November 10, 1813.

“General Brown will prosecute his march with the troops yesterday under his command, excepting two pieces of artillery and the Second Dragoons, who with all the well men of the other brigades, except a sufficient number to navigate the boats, are to march under the orders of Brigadier-General Boyd. This precaution is enjoined by a regard to the safety of the men in passing the Longue Saut, and as this rapid is long and dangerous, the General earnestly requests the commanding officers of regiments and corps to examine the boats in order to avoid accidents as much as possible. Brigadier-General Boyd will take the necessary precaution to prevent the enemy, who hangs on our rear, from making an advantageous attack, and if attacked is to turn about and beat them. The boats are to resume the station assigned them in the original order respecting the flotilla and for this the commanding officers of regiments and brigades will be held responsible. The movement of yesterday was a reproach to the service. The flotilla will come to to-day at Barnhart's, near Crab Island, and two guns from the front will be the signal for landing. In case of an attack in force beyond all expectation the corps under Brigadier-Generals Boyd and Brown are to co-operate with each other promptly and with decision. The general officer of the day will strictly attend and see that the flotilla puts off and moves in the prescribed order and will arrest any officer who presumes to deviate therefrom.”

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Brigadier-General Brown marched and about noon was engaged by a party of the enemy near a blockhouse on the Saut, erected to harass our flotilla in its descent. About the same time the enemy was observed to be advancing on our rear, and their galley and gunboats hove in sight, approached our flotilla, then at shore, and began to cannonade it. The slender structure of our gun-barges made it impossible for them to resist the long twenty-four pounder of the enemy's galley ; this obliged the General to order two eighteen pounders to be run on shore and formed in battery, a single shot from which gave such alarm to the enemy's vessels that they retired up the river accompanied by their troops. But these slight operations so far wasted the day that our pilots were afraid to enter the Saut, (a continued rapid of eight miles,) with the flotilla ; we therefore fell down within two or

three miles of the head of it and came to for the night. By this time the General had become so extremely ill as to be unable to sit up and was confined to his bed in a small berth under the quarter-deck of his passage-boat.

November 11th.—Having heard the firing of cannon yesterday between General Brown and the enemy and being still unapprised of the result, it became necessary that we should hear from him before we committed ourselves to the Saut, which allows no retreat, no landing, no turning to the right or left but where the impetuosity of the current impels. About ten or eleven o'clock a.m. the Commander-in-Chief received advice from General Brown that he had forced the enemy to retire before him and had arrived near the foot of the Saut. Orders were immediately given for the flotilla to prepare to sail and for General Boyd and his command to commence their march, when some firing took place from the gun-boats and a report was brought to the Commander-in-Chief that the enemy was advancing in column. On this he ordered General Boyd to attack them and the flotilla was directed not to leave the shore. But the report was soon after contradicted. A variety of reports respecting their movements and counter-movements were after this successively brought to the General, which impressed him with the conviction that the enemy had determined to attack his rear as soon as the flotilla should put off and the troops commence their march. He resolved to anticipate them; he therefore sent Colonel Swift of the Engineers with instructions to Brigadier-General Boyd, who had been directed by the order of the preceding day to take command of the detachment on shore, to form that detachment into three columns, to advance upon the enemy, to endeavor to outflank them, and to take their artillery. Soon after this the action commenced and for the numbers engaged was extremely warm and bloody for upwards of two hours, during which time in open space and fair combat, the said undisciplined troops of the United States braved and frequently drove the best troops of the British army. Descriptions of battles have become too subservient to the gratification of personal vanity and the acquisition of popular applause; yet every man who has taken part in a great action must know that there is nothing more difficult than to do justice to the merits of a battle in all its parts, where it is hard to find two officers, unless fighting side by side, who agree in opinion as to the propriety of measures and the conduct of men. The fortunes of this day were various, sometimes one line, sometimes the other, giving way. Unfortunately, during the shiftings of the action, by the death of Lieutenant Smith, a young officer of the highest promise, the enemy got possession of a field piece, the only trophy they obtained. It is difficult to speak of the precise numbers engaged on either side because the detachment under

General Boyd consisted of an indefinite number of his own, Covington's, and Swartwout's brigades, ordered from the boats to lighten them and save the hazard of the men's lives in descending the Saut. Neither Covington nor Swartwout were obliged to take part in the action with this detachment, yet they both entered the field, taking command of that part of it which belonged to their respective brigades, where they exhibited the same courageous conduct which distinguished General Boyd on the field; and to the great loss of the service Brigadier-General Covington received a mortal wound when encouraging and leading on his detachment. The numbers engaged on our side could not have exceeded sixteen or seventeen hundred men, while those of the enemy are reckoned by spectators at from one to two thousand; but 'tis probable did not exceed fifteen hundred, consisting, as we are informed, of detachments of the 49th, 84th, 104th, the Voltigeurs and Glengarry Regiment.

With respect to the courage displayed by our officers, it would be useless to enter into details since they all manifested in their respective stations equal intrepidity. The names of the meritorious dead and wounded will be recorded in another place. The firing ceased by common consent about four o'clock p.m.; our troops were formed in battalia in front of the enemy, who were also in line, and they separated, the enemy to their camp and we to our boats. The troops being much exhausted it was considered most convenient that they should embark, and that the dragoons, with the artillery, should proceed by land. The embarkation took place without the smallest molestation from the enemy and the flotilla made a harbor near the head of the Saut on the opposite shore. The views of the American and British commanders were on this occasion precisely opposed. The first being bound by the instructions of his Government and the most solemn obligations of duty to precipitate his descent of the St. Lawrence by every practicable means, and the last by duties equally imperious to retard and if possible to prevent such descent. If, then, he found himself victorious on this day, it was certainly in his power to have effected the one or the other object; and as he made no attempt to effect either, it follows incontestably that he had no fair ground on which to claim a victory.

November 12th.—The flotilla sailed early this morning and passed down the Saut without discovering either the boats or troops of the enemy, and arrived in the course of the forenoon at Barnhart's, where the commanding general received a letter from Major-General Hampton by the hands of Colonel Atkinson, his Inspector-General, which blasted all his hopes and destroyed every prospect of the campaign. A council of war was called upon the receipt of this communication, which was submitted to their consideration, whereupon the council

determined that the conduct of Major-General Hampton in refusing to join his division to the troops descending the St. Lawrence to carry an attack against Montreal rendered it expedient to leave the left bank of the St. Lawrence and to remove the troops to French Mills on Salmon River, and on the thirteenth of November this recommendation was accordingly carried into effect, ample time having been given to the enemy to have tried a second action, if they had dared to run the hazard.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., pp. 476-8.)

**General Wilkinson's Army Journal, Appended to His Despatch of 16th November, 1813.**

GRENADIER ISLAND, October 30.

This day the advance corps of the army left this island under General Brown on a most important expedition to Canada. The concentration of the expedition has been long delayed by events which none but He who holds the winds and waves in control could have averted.

Nov. 2.—This day the rear division of the expedition sailed in a flotilla of boats which have covered the river for nearly five miles. The dragoons have been sent down by land on the American side of the river. They amounted to about 500—the infantry and other arms are estimated at from 7,000 to 10,000. From this island, which is situated at the east end of Lake Ontario, to Montreal, following the course of the river, is estimated at 180 miles.

St. Lawrence River, Nov. 2.—The van of the expedition has arrived at French Creek, about 18 miles from Grenadier Island. Here it was attacked yesterday and to-day by a flotilla from Kingston. These attacks were returned and repulsed. Our loss, 10 killed and wounded. The flotilla returned to Kingston.

Nov. 3.—The whole expedition concentrates at French Creek.

Nov. 4.—The whole expedition is passing down the river—has cleared the Thousand Islands and is approaching Augusta (or Prescott), where the British have a strong fort and garrison, but where the river is nearly two miles wide. The army can pass far out of point-blank shot.

Nov. 7.—Last night the army passed Fort Prescott. The General resorted to the expedient of sending some old boats first, on which the British artillerists exhausted their long shot, and the army passed harmless excepting from one shot, which killed two men and wounded three others. The expedition this day reached Hamilton, which is

about 20 miles below Prescott and Ogdensburg and about 95 miles from Montreal.

Nov. 9.—The expedition has halted at Hamilton. The dragoons, which had marched down the river on the American side, were this day embarked on board boats and scows and landed near Williamsburg. At the same time about 1500 men of Gen. Boyd's brigade were also landed with a view to cover the boats through the rapids, where the defiles are narrow and where the enemy have erected blockhouses. The dragoons could not conveniently be transported down the rapid part of the river in the boats. The expedition will move down *pari passu* with the troops and cavalry landed. Heavy cannonade was heard this day at and near Cornwall on the Canada side, situated about 5 miles above the Indian village of St. Regis, on the boundary line between the United States and Lower Canada.

Nov. 10.—The expedition passed to opposite St. Regis. It is stated to be the intention of General Wilkinson to re-embark the infantry here and take them down Lake St. Francis (a part where the river expands into an extensive lake), and that the dragoons should pass round the head of the lake on the Canada side.

(From Niles' Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., 4th December, 1813, Vol. V., p. 236.)

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#### General McClure to the Secretary of War.

FORT GEORGE, November 17, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—Major-General Harrison embarked with his troops yesterday on board the fleet destined for Sackett's Harbor, leaving the command once more in my hands. Owing to continued opposing winds the fleet has not yet gotten out of sight.

A correspondence which took place between the General and myself, copies of which are herewith sent, will at once explain to you my views and feelings relative to the operations proposed to have been effected on this frontier. I am confident that the expressions of regret made by General Harrison are equally sincere with mine, though we both acquiesce in the necessity which dictated *his* abandonment of the projected expedition against Burlington.

About 400 volunteers have repaired to this post under my late call, made in conformity with General Harrison's wishes and request. A few are still coming in. I shall take care that they shall not be unemployed. I am this moment sending out a detachment of 200 mounted volunteers with directions to penetrate the enemy's lines as far as practicable with safety. In the meantime, I am making preparations for moving in force against them unless the intelligence expected from this excursion should be such as to make it improper.

Accounts of the enemy's force still vary much. A deserter came

in to-day who represents their force to be 1500 regulars and 800 Indians at Burlington and Stoney Creek. The former, I think, is magnified.

It is impossible to form a correct opinion of their intended movements. At one time they appear to be sending down their stores and detachments of troops to York. At this time they are said to be reinforcing, fortifying, and building barracks.

The term of service of my troops will expire on the 9th December. It can hardly be expected that many will willingly continue in service a longer time. Your Excellency will at once see the necessity of prompt arrangements being made to supply their place if it be contemplated to retain this garrison.

I enclose herein my late address, made under the sanction of General Harrison.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, p. 484.)

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### Kingston Gazette.

Saturday, November 20, 1813.

We are assured on good authority that the loss of the enemy in the late action at Williamsburg exceeded 1000 in killed, wounded, prisoners and deserters. Their flight was precipitate during the remainder of the day and night after the action; on the morning of the 12th they regained their own shore in the greatest confusion and in momentary expectation of being attackcd. Several officers of distinction were killed and wounded, Major-General Covender (sic) was dangerously wounded and is since dead; Lt.-Col. Preston, noted for his ridiculous and insulting proclamation at Fort Erie inviting the inhabitants of Upper Canada to place themselves under his protection, was dangerously wounded. One six-pounder field piece was taken on the charge and about 120 prisoners—350 or 400 stand of arms were collected on and near the field of action.

The militia of Cornwall and the neighboring townships have come forward in the most spirited and loyal manner and are daily joining the troops, showing a spirit worthy of their ancestors and setting a noble example to their countrymen. We sincerely hope it will be followed and if the inhabitants of Upper Canada are true to themselves they can have no reason to fear all the efforts of the enemy.

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**The Secretary of War to Major-General Wilkinson.**

ALBANY, November 18, 1813.

My last advices from you are of the 3d inst. Report says that the garrisons of Kingston and Prescott have found means to overtake your rear, to bring it to action, to handle it roughly and to compel it to retreat to the main body. To this I give no credit.

1st. Because, moving with the celerity necessary to your objects, it is highly improbable that they could by any exertion have been able to overtake you, and,

2d. Because it is quite incredible that finding in your rear a heavy corps capable of disturbing the main action of the campaign, you should not have taken effectual measures to beat and destroy it. If 1,600 men were not sufficient for this purpose 6000 were so, and the garrisons of Kingston and Prescott destroyed (though we failed of getting to Montreal) the Upper Province was won.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 480.)

**General McClure to the Secretary of War.**

(Extract.)

FORT GEORGE, Nov. 21, 1813.

My mounted men have returned from the head of the lake, having progressed within sight of the enemy's pickets at Stoney Creek. Colonel Willcocks, who commanded, reports that from the best information he could collect, the enemy's force consists of from twelve to fifteen hundred regulars and nine hundred Indian warriors. They have discharged their teams, and apparently intend wintering there and at Burlington.

It would be very desirable to dislodge them from their position, but I fear my force is insufficient for that object. At this inclement season it might be attended with serious consequences to attempt any more than desultory excursions. The volunteers who have lately come in must, however, be actively employed or they will return to their homes. The draughted militia on this side the Niagara are perhaps equal to any troops in the United States. I regret that their term of service will expire so soon. Permit me to suggest the propriety of offering a small bounty to such of them as will volunteer to serve a longer time after their present term of service expires, say for one or two months or until other troops can be sent on to supply their places.

Should I move with my troops towards the head of the lake the greatest advantage I can promise myself will be to destroy some contiguous mills and to bring off a quantity of flour, which is becoming scarce with us.

## General McClure to Governor Tompkins.

FORT GEORGE, 21st November, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—Should it be determined on to make another draft to supply the places of the men now under my command, I would beg leave to suggest to Your Excellency the propriety of calling on the counties of Genesee, Tyoga, Cortlandt, and Broome, as their militia have not been called into service.

The militia now under my command on this side of the river are equal to any troops in the United States. The volunteers, of whom about 400 have repaired to our standard, are anxious to distinguish themselves. I am determined that none shall be unemployed. With this view and to attain other objects which I deem important. I have concluded to make a movement towards the enemy. There is a great quantity of flour at some mills on the Twenty which at least can be secured. An opportunity of treating with the hostile Indians may possibly present itself, as I am confident they will not seek safety in the enemy's works, and may consequently be cut off from them. I have ascertained certainly that the Caughnawaga chief whom I sent some time since was caught and confined, by the British before he had an opportunity of an interview with their Indians.

Our fleet, which sailed in the direction of Sackett's Harbor on the 16th, after proceeding probably twenty miles was separated by a tremendous storm and driven back by violent head winds. The *Madison*, *Oneida* and five schooners managed safely to get into this harbor. I am told that the other vessels have been discovered by the naval officers, except the *Sylph*, concerning whose fate they have serious apprehensions. The vessels which came in have again all weighed anchor except the *Fair American*, which grounded and, I fear, will find much difficulty in getting off.

I have mentioned to the Secretary of War the necessity of continuing in service those officers who compose the Court Martial, for the trial of delinquents who failed to comply with the late draft, as it will be impossible to complete it by the time our present term of service expires. Be pleased to give me your opinion on this subject.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 571-3, New York State Library.)

## John F. Bacon to Governor Tompkins.

FORT GEORGE, November 21st, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—I think it my duty to inform you of the situation of this frontier and what it probably will be at the time of our discharge. It is now less than three weeks before we are discharged, and the men are very anxious for their time of service to expire, so that I do



not think it at all probable that any of them will be inclined to stay after their term of service expires. You have undoubtedly heard that General Harrison was here. He had contemplated an expedition to the head of the lake, and had not his orders from headquarters prevented we should have started in a day or two after he left this. The force of the enemy at the time he was there was well ascertained to be between 1500 and 2000 regulars and a 1000 Indians. Since which, we have been informed from various sources, that they have received a small reinforcement from York. We have not a force sufficient to attack them and if we had to do it effectively we ought to be able to follow them to York and dispossess them of that place and thus clear the frontier of them. The fleet have encountered a terrible storm since they sailed. They sailed on Wednesday last, had got down but about 20 miles when the storm commenced. Friday evening the *Fair American* in attempting to get in was drove on shore. The *Governor Tompkins* in getting in struck the bar and carried away her rudder. One schooner got in safe. The other vessels were seen scattered about in all directions. They fired guns through the night. We kept a light on shore and did what we could for them. Saturday the *Madison* and *Oneida* got in. Previous to their coming in they run over to York for the purpose of getting a harbor, but found it strongly fortified, much more so than it has been since the war. This, I think, is good evidence of their intention of continuing in this quarter. Indeed the supplies they obtain from Burlington and the neighborhood are immense. There are many valuable mills also, without which they would be greatly distressed. The moment we leave this place it will be subject to the ravages of the Indians. Not only this, but the Niagara side, for there is no regular force on either side, and from what I can learn I understand it is supposed none is required or will be.

By incorrect representations an impression has gone abroad that the enemy had left the Heights or were about leaving them. General Harrison expressed as his opinion when he was here. But I do not hesitate to say it is not so. A party of about 200 mounted men, with Colonels Wilcox and Hopkins, day before yesterday, went as far as Stoney Creek, where their first picket is placed, 7 miles this side of the Heights. They ascertained they had a considerable [force] there as an advance, and a field piece, and that the road was filled with trees, &c., sufficient to retard the movements of the army very considerably.

I believe General McClure has some idea of attacking the enemy. If he does and gets defeated, of which I have no doubt, the consequences would be most disastrous. I do not mean to doubt General McClure's competency or courage, and he has a fine body of troops, but

I cannot think he has a force sufficient to warrant an attack on the enemy without regulars, situated as strongly as they are.

The fleet have re-embarked their troops, such of them as got in and sailed last evening and this morning with a fair wind, except the *Fair American*. The fleet have all been heard of since the storm except two, the *Sylph* and a small schooner.

Will the Governor be good enough to excuse this scrawl—haste, extreme haste, is my apology. I thought the subject a serious one and what I have stated you may rely upon.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 574-7, New York State Library.)

Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

No. 111.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 21 November, 1813.

SIR,—I had the honor of addressing you on the 15th instant from off Niagara. On the 16th I received on board of the fleet General Harrison and suite and about 1100 troops, and got the whole of the fleet out of the river. The wind, however, continued from the eastward, and on the 17th increased to a gale, and continued to blow with increasing violence, attended with snow and heavy rain, until the night of the 19th, when it changed to the westward, which enabled me to arrive here last evening with this ship.

The fleet was separated the first night of the gale, and as the weather continued thick, I was not able to collect them afterwards. I was drove by the violence of the gale to nearly the head of the lake, and as I knew that this ship was a much better sailer than the rest of the fleet I was extremely anxious for their safety. I was, however, somewhat relieved on the 19th when in stretching towards Niagara I found that the *Madison* was at anchor in that river. At 12 o'clock that night the wind changed to the westward and blew with some violence. I shaped my course for this place, as I had ordered the vessels in case of separation to run for Sackett's Harbor, and as it was in my power to amuse the enemy (in case he was out) and give the small vessels an opportunity to get in. I arrived last evening, and the *Sylph* in about one hour after me. The *Oneida*, *Lady of the Lake*, *Conquest*, *Pert* and *Ontario* arrived this morning,—the four former from Niagara, where they put in during the gale without any material injury. They left at that place the *Madison*, *Fair American* and *Governor Tompkins*,—the *Madison* with but little injury, the *Governor Tompkins* with the loss of her rudder, and the *Fair American* on shore, but expected to be got off this day. I am sorry, however, to inform you that the *Julia* is missing. She has not been

seen by any of the squadron since the first night of our separation, and I am apprehensive that she has either foundered or gone on shore.

The troops and seamen suffered extremely, as they were wet from the commencement of the gale until their arrival here. The water was so deep on the berth deck that we were obliged to scuttle it to let the water off, yet the men arrived in better health than could have been expected.

I am in great hopes that the *Madison* and *Governor Tompkins* will be in this evening, as the wind is fair. If they should not I shall proceed tomorrow off the Ducks, to watch the movements of the enemy until the arrival of all our vessels, or until I am satisfactorily informed of their situation.

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From the Buffalo "Gazette," 23rd November, 1813.

Our fleet on Lake Ontario arrived at Niagara on Sunday week (November 14.)

On Tuesday last (16th Nov.) our fleet left the river for Sackett's Harbor, with General Harrison and all his troops on board.

#### EVENTS IN CANADA.

Application having been made a short time since to Colonel Chapin by a Mr. Enstine (Onstine,) Mr. Southerland and others, late emigrants from Canada, to go to Long Point to look after property which they had left behind in their flight, it was granted upon conditions that some of Colonel Chapin's men should accompany them. The party were ordered to obtain what information they could with safety, and return immediately. The command having been given to Mr. Southerland they proceeded safely up the lake to the place of destination and were successful in capturing a number of prisoners, among whom was Col. John Warren. The information wished for was obtained and six of the party sent back; the rest remaining, contrary to orders, at the expiration of seven days were attacked by a party of men under the command of Colonel Bostwick. The American-Canadians immediately fled, after firing once. Three of the British-Canadians were killed, viz., Colonel Bostwick, Captain Bostwick and another person not known. Two of the American-Canadians were killed, seven taken prisoners and five made their escape, among whom was Mr. John Harvey, who had behaved with much bravery.

(File in the Buffalo Public Library.)

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*By Major-General Francis De Rottenburg, Commanding His Majesty's Forces in the Province of Upper Canada.*

**A PROCLAMATION.**

Whereas it is necessary for the public safety that the most efficacious means should be used for supplying the post at Prescott with provisions; and whereas it has been represented to me by the officer commanding the post that though the Johnstown and Eastern Districts abound with every article of provisions and forage there is the greatest reluctance on the part of the inhabitants thereof in furnishing the necessary supplies:

I do hereby declare, as far as relates to procuring forage and provisions, Martial Law shall be in force throughout the said Johnstown and Eastern Districts, and the same is hereby declared to be in force and acted upon accordingly.

*Given under my hand and seal at District Head Quarters at Kingston, this 22 November, 1813.*

FRANCIS DE ROTTENBURG,  
Maj.-Genl. Commanding.

*By His Honour Gordon Drummond, President, administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada and Lieutenant-General of His Majesty's forces within the same.*

**A PROCLAMATION.**

Whereas by Proclamation issued by the late President, Major-General F. De Rottenburg, bearing date the twenty-second day of November, Martial Law, so far as related to the procuring of provisions and forage, was thereby declared to be in force in the Eastern and Johnstown Districts, and whereas that measure being no longer necessary, I do hereby, by virtue of the power in me vested, declare the said proclamation to be no longer in force.

Given under my hand and seal at arms at Kingston, the 25th day of Jan'y, 1814.

GORDON DRUMMOND,  
Lt.-Genl. and President.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,  
Upper Canada, 19th Feby, 1814.

Resolved:—That the Proclamation issued by Major-General De Rottenburg, as the officer commanding His Majesty's forces in the

Province, dated at District Head Quarters the 22d day of November last, at Kingston, declaring Martial Law to be in force throughout the Johnstown and Eastern Districts so far as relates to the procuring of provisions and forage was and is arbitrary and unconstitutional and contrary to and subversive of the established laws of the land.

(With the proclamation of Genl De Rottenburg and Drummond.)

Lt.-Gov. Gore:—

You will judge, my dear Sir, of the unpleasant predicament in which the judges are placed by this order of things. Would it not be possible through some channel less formal than the President to procure the opinion of the Crown Lawyers in England on this point? It seems to me that Mr. Gordon might suggest such an appeal from the office on the correspondence already had with the Secretary of State. The laws of England are in full force in this Province under the operation of the 31 Geo. 3d.

The Grand Charter, the Bill of Rights, the Habeas Corpus, are considered to have the same weight here as in England.

The English Lawyers hold commissions to execute Martial Law independent of the Mutiny Act to be illegal since the Bill of Rights, even to the Government of an armed force, unless perhaps in so great a state of anarchy as to impede the ordinary course of justice universally. The limited operation of Martial Law granted by a late statute in Ireland whilst the Courts of Common Law were open is affected by the statute itself to be considered to be a relaxation of the prerogative to execute Martial Law in times of rebellion and invasion, and the act contains a saving clause for that prerogative here. Yet the extent of it is undefined. Does it extend to substitute the will of the General in the absence of other justice in all cases in respect of all subjects, or is it limited to the armed force and its followers, and as substitute for penal law only? Perhaps it may conduce to sound judgment on the effect of this clause in the Governor's Commission to know that by the Provincial Law every man from 16 to 60 is a soldier, not excepting legislative councillors, judges, or the magistrates, and in case of invasion are liable to be called out and subjected to Martial Law. In such a state of things, all magistrates and ministers of the law and ordinary administrators of justice, being subordinate to military command, that property and persons not immediately connected with the armed force must be kept in a state of anarchy, without resort to any justice, unless the Government by his dictatorial power can constitute councils of military affairs or courts martial to hear complaints and afford remedy, either by advice to him or by

themselves as commissioners. It is obvious that such was assumed to be the effect of proclaiming Martial Law the only time it had been heretofore executed in Canada, as Sir Guy Carleton, immediately after proclaiming Martial Law on the invasion by the rebels in 1775, supplied in his own person as Governor the functions of magistrate and issued his own warrant for the apprehension of a person charged with suspicion of High Treason, which he could only have done in contemplation of all other civil authority being suspended by the operation of Martial Law as well in regard of persons not in arms as those engaged in arms, for the government of whom only by fair construction of the clause in the commission he was authorized to execute Martial Law.

The Proclamation of Martial Law for limited and specific purposes, as by Major-Genl De Rottenburg's proclamation, being erroneously supposed by the Secretary of State to have been issued as President, is declared by Earl Bathurst as a power indubitably sanctioned by the King's Commission. The Judges cannot bring themselves to be of that opinion or to consider a justification of trespass under such a proclamation an excuse, therefore it is important that the fullest consideration should be given to the subject at home and the Judges be enlightened by legal opinions, or that their actual opinions should be communicated to the Commander of the Forces by His Majesty's Secretary of State, and it would be more expedient to do this without an appeal to the Court of the King in Council.

.. (From MS. in handwriting of Hon. Wm. D. Powell, in possession of G. M. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

Major-General De Rottenburg:—

Having heard that a vote of censure on the subject of your proclamation respecting the supply of provisions in the Johnstown and Eastern Districts had passed the House of Assembly, I thought it might be advisable for you to notice it, and took the liberty to desire Mr. Livius Sherwood, the mover, to obtain permission of the House to transmit to you an official copy of this resolution. This decency was rejected and I now enclose a true but unofficial copy received from Mr. Boyers, who promises that if the next motion to address the Prince Regent on the subject should be carried he will solicit from the House such a notification to you as may enable you to meet it. The peculiar injustice of having any censure upon your conduct in this matter led me to reflect on what had passed on the subject within my own knowledge and this recollection so angered (?) my mind that I could not refrain from putting upon paper what I thought might fairly be attributed to you in your peculiar situation. The

censure of this body can only affect you as it may become the subject of animadversion in another popular assembly, when it might be agreeable to you to show that the constitutional rights of His Majesty's people were at least as much respected by you as by his natural born subjects. To explain:—Immediately after the retreat from York, Sir Geo. Prevost commanded Sir R. H. Sheaffe, as President, to authorize Major-Genl. Vincent to exercise Martial Law within his district as far as related to subsistence of the troops and protection of the Province from disaffection. This Sir R[oger] declined to do as President, upon the ground that he had not constitutional authority to exercise Martial Law partially and had manifested that conviction by soliciting his Legislature to enable him to do so. The result was an absolute military command from the Commander of the Forces to the Major-General to authorize M[ajor]-G[eneral] Vincent, at his discretion on the ground of necessity, to exercise Martial Law as limited. It is upon this fact and a rumour that the same Commander of the Forces reprobated your proclamation and directed it to be recalled that the enclosed suggestion of a communication from you to the House of Assembly was framed by

A LOVER OF JUSTICE.

(From MS. in handwriting of Hon. Wm. D. Powell, in possession of G. N. Jarvis, Esq., Ottawa.)

Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

No. 112.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 23d November, 1813.

SIR,—I have been duly honored with your letters of the 3d, 4th, and 6th instant, and, agreeably to your instructions of the 3d, I this day dispatched the *Lady of the Lake* to Kingston (as a flag of truce) with a letter to Commodore Yeo, announcing that a British prisoner of war had been placed in close confinement as a hostage for Thomas Goldsmith and to share his fate. A copy of my letter to Commodore Yeo is herewith enclosed.

Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

No. 113.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 24th November, 1813.

SIR,—I am happy to inform you that since I had the honor of writing you last the *Madison*, *Governor Tompkins*, and *Julia* have arrived safe. The *Fair American* was still on shore when Captain

Craie left Niagara, but expected to be got off the next day (22d) and I hope to see her tomorrow if the wind should change; it is now blowing from the eastward. The *Julia* suffered extremely in the gale, and drifted within a mile of the head of the lake, where she anchored with both anchors, and fortunately rode out the gale in sight of the enemy's camp at Burlington Bay.

If the *Fair American* should not arrive tomorrow, I shall send the *Sylph* out to look for her. When she arrives I shall lay all the small vessels up for the winter.

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**Major-General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

FRENCH MILLS, November 24, 1813.

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 18th instant from Albany and hope my despatches have reached you which left this on the 17th. With respect to the unfortunate issue of the campaign, I disclaim the shadow of blame because I know I have done my duty and more than my duty and so do those with whom I have acted. *To General Hampton's outrage of every principle of subordination and discipline may be ascribed the failure of the expedition*, and that I have not yet arrested him must be ascribed to my respect for you and my desire that the arrest should proceed from the highest authority, for if this act be suffered to pass unnoticed and unpunished it will establish a precedent to justify disobedience and subvert those obligations of blind obedience on which the efficiency of military institutions exclusively depends.

After our losses by deaths, desertions, and discharges since we left Sackett's Harbor, I think we shall not be able to show you more than six thousand men at this point exclusive of the dragoons, who have been ordered to Greenbush and Pittsfield for convenience and economy.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 480.)

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,

November 24, 1813.

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 of 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 battle 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 Matchedash, as he stated, gallantly maintained the conflict under their brave chief Tecumseth and in their turn harassed 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 Sept. and in the affair of the 5th Octr. In the latter but very few appear to have been rescued by an honorable death from the ignominy of passing under the American yoke, nor are there many whose wounds plead in mitigation of this reproach.

The Right Division appears to have been encumbered 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 regret. The Right Division had quitted Sandwich in its retreat on the 26th September, having had ample time for every previous arrangement to facilitate and secure that movement. On the 2d 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 call 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 enterprise, 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 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 forces of the enemy and to maintain an arduous and long continued action under circumstances of accumulating ill fortune.

Captain Barclay represents that the wind which was favorable 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 intelligent 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 service than might be expected.

The action commenced at about a quarter before 12 o'clock and continued with great fury until half-past 2 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 our 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. 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, 1st 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 Majesty's 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 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 judgment of the officer and skillful 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 force 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 rescued its honor and their own even in defeat.

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#### 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.

Commodore Comanney to the Secretary of the Navy.

No. 114.

U. S. Ship, *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 25th Nov., 1813.

SIR,—Reasons of a public and private nature induce me to ask your permission to visit Washington in the course of next month.

The army having gone into winter quarters and all further operations against Montreal or Kingston appear to be abandoned for the winter. It will become absolutely necessary to increase our naval force upon this lake, so as to be ready to meet the enemy upon equal terms in the spring.

I have positive information from Kingston, from a person who left there on Sunday last, that the enemy have two vessels with all their ribs up, and in a state for planking. One of these vessels is said to be 150 feet keel; the other about 123. They have the materials for a third in a state of preparation. Situated as our army is at present they cannot prevent the enemy from sending from Montreal to Kingston all the ordnance and stores that will be required to fit these vessels for service, and no doubt but they will profit by the opportunity.

The season is too far advanced for any further operations upon the lake, and as the ice will not be sufficiently firm to bear any body of men before the latter part of January, I can leave this station without any fear of the fleet's being attacked before my return. I have no wish to remain more than one day at Washington, for I think in two hours' conversation with you, sir, I could give you a better idea of our real force and resources, and that of the enemy, than I could by writing a volume.

If you should grant my request it would be desirable that I should be favored with your permission as early as possible, to enable me to leave here in the early part of next month.

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 115.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 25 November, 1813.

SIR,—I have this moment received the enclosed paper from Kingston. \*

\* Clipping from "Kingston Gazette."

**The Secretary of War to General McClure.**

ALBANY, 25th November, 1813.

SIR,—Your letter of the 17th instant has been received and I hasten to inform you that a requisition for one thousand militia to take the places of those now with you has been made, and will be complied with as promptly as possible by the Governor.

You say nothing of the volunteer corps which General Porter engaged to raise and which was long since authorized by me. If in this effort he has failed what are you to expect from militia draughts with their constitutional scruples? On the other hand should he have succeeded, and should General Harrison's opinion of the intentions and movements of the enemy be well founded, your force will be competent to somewhat more than defence.

The General was not under orders to quit the Niagara frontier at any particular time. His movement in this respect was a matter of arrangement with Commodore Chauncey and this was necessarily subject to considerations arising from weather and season.

In the application of your present force and in the means you take to enlarge and continue it throughout the winter you will be guided by the orders received from the Commanding General at the time he left you and by such others as he may give to you hereafter.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 485.)

**Mr. Parker Chief Clerk War Department to General McClure.**

WAR OFFICE, November 27, 1813.

(Extract.)

In the absence of the Secretary of War, I have had the honor to lay before the President your letters of the 19th and 21st instant with their enclosures. The measures which you have adopted to increase your command on the Niagara frontier are approved by the President.

Should the men whose term of service expires in December withdraw from the frontier there can be no impropriety in continuing

the officers who compose the court-martial, until they discharge their duty.

Although there is no law authorizing the President to give a bounty to such militia as will remain in service after their time expires, still as it would render your force more efficient than a new draught, even if the men could be obtained, I have no hesitation in recommending that you adopt such further measures as will insure the protection of Fort George and the Niagara frontier, until other means of defence can be provided.

For this service the paymasters serving with your troops may be required to make such payments or advances as you shall think proper to order.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 486.)

W. W. Baldwin to Thomas Merritt.

YORK, 26th Nov., 1813.

DEAR SIR,—In several instances the process of the King's Bench have returned from your district unexecuted and no specific cause assigned for it. Some say you are a prisoner others deny it, all seem to say you may attend to your duty if you please. This is best known to yourself and I beg you will let me know the cause of the denial of justice by reason of your present situation. If it is at all in your power to come near the head of the lake there can be no reason with you not to execute all such process as come to your hands in that part of the district not occupied by the enemy or indeed in any other part of [it] whatsoever unless the enemy prevent you. If it is not convenient to you to do the duty of sheriff you should appoint a deputy immediately who could do your business for you in those parts of the district where you cannot yourself attend. I beg of you to do something towards the execution of your office or application must be made to the President to appoint another at least *pro tempore* while you are unable to act. Your immediate appointment of a deputy would remove the difficulty.

Major-General De Rottenburg to Colonel Baynes.

KINGSTON, Nov. 26th, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces two letters from Major-General Procter of the 16th instant (written in obedience to His Excellency's commands as signified to him by me) which I must beg

have to observe appear to me quite as obscure and unsatisfactory as his previous letters. He has also neglected to transmit returns of the public property abandoned or destroyed for which he was called on so long ago as the 10th. I have repeated my request that these should be sent in immediately.

I also enclose copies of extracts of letters which have been received by Major-General Procter from the officer commanding at Michilimackinac by which His Excellency will perceive that the post with the supply with Mr. Dickson will be sufficiently provisioned until the opening of the navigation.

Mr. Commissary General Crookshank has been written to devise means for conveying money to Michilimackinac but as there is very little prospect of effecting it from York at this late season of the year I am of opinion that it may be done with greater facility by means of the Northwest Company from Montreal.

His Excellency will decide respecting the corps of Michigan Fencibles which Captain Bullock mentions in his letter.

I also transmit an explanatory letter from Major-General Vincent which you will be pleased to lay before His Excellency. To this letter I have added marginal notes on some points in which it appears to me the Major-General is mistaken owing probably to his not being possessed of correct sources from which to collect his observations. The whole business of this unfortunate retreat I think hinges on the exaggerated information given by Mr. Reiffenstein to Colonel Young and by him conveyed to Major-General Vincent.

That this erroneous intelligence perhaps too hastily given credit to was the cause of the destruction of stores, &c., there cannot be a doubt as on receipt of it confirmed by rumors through the country General Vincent was led to believe that his depot and line of communication were in immediate danger. Hence arose the precipitation with which he retreated from the 12 Mile Creek; to that point all had been conducted with perfect regularity and good order.

His Excellency will observe that Major-General Vincent has not as yet transmitted any return of the articles of public property destroyed, he has been again called on for it.

How far Colonel Murray may have acted with too great precipitation in carrying Major-General Vincent's orders into execution as he was not immediately pressed by the enemy I leave to His Excellency to determine.

The commanding officer of the Royals shall be ordered to explain the circumstance of the cases of arms belonging to that regiment being at the 12 Mile Creek in which there appears to me some extraordinary neglect, repeated orders having been given before my departure

from the division for the immediate removal of heavy baggage of all kinds to the rear.

I also send papers enclosed relating to a very praiseworthy affair of the militia of the London District and an order which I have issued respecting it. I have written to Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick and also to Major-General Vincent on the subject requesting him to give every possible assistance and encouragement to persons who have so readily and effectually come forward to suppress an evil which threatened the most alarming consequences.

I have given orders for a special commission at York for the trial of the offenders.

I am inclined to believe from a report I have received from Major-General Vincent that the enemy intended to attack the post of York. The Major-General informs me under date of the 20th that Major-General Harrison embarked on the *Pike* on the 17th inst. and on the evening of that day their fleet (10 sail) anchored off the 12 Mile Creek with a considerable number of batteaux, the troops from which remained that night and part of the next day encamped on shore when the whole got under weigh and proceeded in the direction of York. They were nearly half way over when night came on with stormy weather which continued until the 19th. Nothing more was seen of them.

I have received information from sources which may be relied on that their squadron has arrived at Sackett's Harbor bringing General Harrison and 1000 of his army. They have lost one schooner and otherwise suffered much by the bad weather, the *Madison* having been on shore and with difficulty got off.

General Vincent also informs me that rumors had reached him of the Lake Erie fleet having been on shore near Long Point. He has sent proper persons to ascertain the truth of these reports.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 103-115.)

#### The Secretary of War to Governor Tompkins.

ALBANY, 26th November, 1813.

SIR,—Let me request you to authorize General McClure to garrison Forts George and Niagara in the event of General Harrison leaving the Niagara frontier for Sackett's Harbor.

Should the enemy abandon Burlington Heights as appears to be their intention the garrisons need not be large. Much will depend on the character of the officers left in command. To Colonel Fleming it might be safely committed. His experience and other valuable qualities fit him well for it. The garrisons may be composed either



of volunteers or drafted militia. But of whatever description it is advisable that their term of service should be more than one month.

Let me request the favor of hearing from you on this subject so soon as General McClure shall inform you of his arrangements.

(Tompkins' Papers, Vol. VIII, pp. 570-1, New York State Library.)

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**Sir Sidney Beckwith, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel Hercules Scott,  
103d Regiment, Commanding at Coteau du Lac.**

MONTREAL, Nov. 27th, 1813.

Confidential.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—You will receive by this express an official letter from His Excellency on the subject of yours of yesterday. His answer *could only be such as you have*; but if you think the plan will answer, try the experiment by having the offer whispered amongst the American troops that the arrears due to them will be paid on their arrival at our posts and the cash will be furnished to you. This will be considered an offer which *you as an officer commanding an outpost* feel justified in making.

(From MSS of Colonel Scott.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Colonel Hercules Scott, Commanding at Coteau  
du Lac.**

HEAD QUARTERS,

MONTREAL, 27th Nov., 1813.

SIR,—I have weighed with attention the plan you have submitted to me in your letter of the 26th inst. and altho' I am not so sanguine with regard to the consequences of its adoption as you appear to be, I have no objection to your making the experiment you propose provided that whatever steps you take on this occasion appear to originate altogether with yourself and that care is taken that His Majesty's Government is in no shape committed in a transaction which it would not be creditable for them openly to countenance. With regard to the disposal of the men who may be induced to desert, it will be the subject of future consideration but I much doubt whether many of them would enlist in the British army or if they did whether it would be politic so to employ them.

I cannot too strongly recommend to you to use great caution in

the prosecution of your plan and in the offers you may hold out and particularly to avoid anything that may implicate myself or the Government which I represent.

(From MSS of Colonel Scott.)

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**NOTICE.**

All American soldiers who may wish to quit the unnatural war in which they are at present engaged will receive the arrears due to them by the American Government to the extent of five month's pay on their arrival at the British outposts. No man shall be required to serve against his own country.

(From B. J. Lossing's Field Book of the War of 1812, p. 658.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 117

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 28 November, 1813.

SIR,—I am happy to inform you that the *Fair American* arrived here yesterday, but with some injury; in fact all the small vessels have sustained more or less during their last cruise to Niagara, which circumstance, together with the advanced season of the year, has determined me to lay them up for the winter. I shall keep the *Sylph* and *Lady of the Lake* employed as long as the weather will admit, for the purpose of occasionally looking into Kingston and watching the movements of the enemy.

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**Governor Tompkins to Major-General Hall.**

ALBANY, Nov. 28, 1813.

SIR,—Having been informed recently that the regulars are about to leave Forts George and Niagara and believing that there is imminent danger of invasion and distress of our fellow citizens on the Niagara Frontier I have to request in pursuance of a requisition for that purpose made through the Secretary of the War Department of the United States that you will detach from your division of the militia of this State and organize and order to that frontier on or before the 10th day of December now next \* men with the requisite number of officers, non commissioned officers and musicians

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\* This order was enclosed to General McClure with authority to fill the blank with such a number of men as he might deem sufficient in his State and report themselves to and obey the orders of the commanding officer of militia on that frontier.

who are to march to Fort Niagara. Your known zeal in protecting the inhabitants of the frontier of your division and the emergency of the occasion will I trust call forth your utmost exertions to comply with this order.

(From Nile's Weekly Register, Baltimore, Md., February 12, 1814, Vol. V., p. 395.)

**Major J. B. Glegg to Captain W. H. Merritt.**

BEASLEY'S, 29th Nov., [1813.]

8 p.m.

DEAR MERRITT,—A letter has reached me from Stoney Creek written about two hours since which mentions that Colonel Murray with his whole force had moved forwards in consequence of intelligence that Joe Willcocks was on his route to the 40 with a foraging party. Eliot is just gone off to share in the fun. The General is well aware that your local knowledge would be of the greatest advantage to Col. Murray. I therefore give you the hint and am very sincerely yrs.

(From the Merrit MSS.)

**Major Frennd to Lieut. Richard Bullock, 41st Regiment.**

BARTON HEIGHTS, 30th Nov., 1813.

SIR,—I request you will with as little delay as the nature of the report will admit, furnish me with every circumstance within your knowledge, and that you may have heard from undoubted authority relative to the late unfortunate affair that took place between General Harrison's army and the 1st Battalion, 41st Regiment, at Moravian-town on the 5th of October last for the purpose of transmitting it to Lieut.-Gen. Champagne. As you are the senior and only officer of the Regiment who has escaped from the field that was in the ranks it is highly incumbent on you to state most minutely the nature of the ground on which the regiment were formed for action, the manner in which it was formed, the number then of the regiment actually in the field, the number of the enemy opposed to you and of what they consisted, and what resistance was made by the regiment previous to its defeat—if it had received provisions regularly, was complete in ammunition, and could have got supplies when required, and in short every circumstance that happened from the commencement of the retreat from Amherstburg relative to the regiment. You cannot be too particular in your statement as I am sorry to say there are reports afloat disgraceful in the extreme to the regiment and every individual

with it that day I think it but proper to inform you that I saw Major-General Procter's official report which highly censures the conduct of the regiment and in which he says that he never went into action more confident of success.

(From The War of 1812 by Major Richardson, K. S. F., 1842.)

From the "Buffalo Gazette," 30th November, 1813.

Cyrenius Chapin to the Editor of the Buffalo Gazette.

BUFFALO, Nov. 30th, 1813.

SIR,—On the morning of the 6th October last agreeably to the directions and instructions of General Wilkinson before he left Fort George and with the approbation of Colonel Scott who then commanded the fort I paraded Captains Sackrider's and Crosby's companies of volunteers with about twelve of the militia who volunteered from different companies and about 20 Indians marched up through the town near the lakeshore until we alarmed the British camp near the 4 Mile Creek. I then filed off to the left and marched directly towards the camp near the Cross Roads, till we alarmed that camp which we passed leaving on the night. I now fell in with 20 or 30 men commanded by Adjutant Chesebro who left the fort a short time after I did. They fired upon a few soldiers who were picking apples in an orchard which drew out a reinforcement from the camp about 100 rods from the British pickets at or near the Cross Roads. I halted my men and went myself about 100 rods in front to reconnoitre the enemy's force and position, returned and advanced my men in the following order:—Captains Sackrider and Crosby's companies in the centre directly in front of that of the enemy (Crosby's company being commanded by Lieut. Freeman owing to the indisposition of Captain Crosby,) the Indians on the left and Adjutant Chesebro on the right flank. The enemy retired and took refuge in a house and barn. I advanced with a quick step entered the house and barn, drove him out and pursued him across the fields into the woods. The enemy then brought some field-pieces into the edge of the woods and opened upon us. I then gave orders to retreat to the fort which was done in good order, and without further molestation. We killed seven of the enemy and took two prisoners. I had two wounded and one lost. These are the facts respecting the action of the forenoon in which Captain Noble's company took no part to my knowledge.

In the afternoon and while I was dining in the Fort Colonel Scott informed me that the enemy was in the town and proposed opening his batteries upon them to which I objected as it must inevitably destroy the small remains of that once flourishing village and distress the inhabitants and proposed driving him back with the

volunteers and such of the militia as were willing to volunteer on the occasion. I immediately stepped into the outer fort and proposed the plan to several of the principal officers who appeared to be rather unwilling to embark in the project. I paraded Captains Sackrider's and Crosby's companies and a small company commanded by a captain whose name I forbear to mention at present and marched with all possible expedition under cover of the houses about half a mile from the fort, filed off to the right and ran to the second street when the enemy poured in upon us a heavy shower of shot which was returned with spirit. The captain whose name I have forborne with his handful of men turned like base cowards as they were and ran for the fort but their place was more than supplied by Adjutant Chesebro who fortunately came up at that moment with a party of men by whose aid I was enabled to keep up a brisk fire. The enemy now attempted to outflank me but receiving a reinforcement from the fort of about 100 men from different companies of militia and about 60 Indians I was enabled to push his centre back and gain the woods where the enemy was in a measure concealed and by a steady perseverance at his centre and a total neglect of his flanks, I crowded him out of the bushes into a place called Butler's Farm when with a sudden dash on the right I succeeded in cutting off the enemy's left flank and pursued him across the farm into the woods on the other side. This is a distance of more than a mile from the place where the action first commenced. The enemy was here much annoyed and his lines were frequently broken. Colonel Caleb Hopkins now came up for the first time during the day with a reinforcement of sixty or seventy men. I ordered him to take a position on the left, which order he obeyed and I presume behaved well. We continued to pursue the enemy through the woods. I desired Adjutant Chesebro to break the enemy's right flank which was far extended. This order was gallantly executed. The enemy attempted my centre which had become much weakened. From this he was discouraged by my sending forward a small party of sharpshooters. I think I never saw men behave better or more determined bravery on any occasion. The action was kept up till after sunset and even till night rendered it inconvenient to fight any longer. Concluding our day's work was done, we retired in good order and with the slow march of a funeral procession. Before we arrived at the fort we met several small parties who said they were coming out to relieve us. In this affair 18 of the enemy were killed and 2 taken prisoners. We lost 3 killed and 6 or 8 wounded.

**General Order.**

HEAD QUARTERS, NEWARK, U. C.

30th November, 1813.

The General commanding feels it to be due to himself and to his patriotic troops to unfold to them his views and feelings as regards their late excursion.

Those who joined in the expedition with the characteristic zeal and promptitude of Americans and pursued the march in the same spirit at a season so inclement as the present till it was deemed necessary to return are justly entitled to the thanks of the General and of the country.

It would have been rashness in the extreme to have attempted with a thousand men to dislodge twice our numbers from a strong fortified position which nature has rendered still more impregnable. Such was not the expectation of the General nor of his principal officers. He never intended to expose the brave troops who went with him to certain disaster, to have endangered the security of our frontier inhabitants, and most probably lost possession of Fort George by attempting an exploit which under the circumstances was deemed impracticable.

There were other objects in view worthy of the expedition and which the General trusts have been fully accomplished. The inhabitants of this province who look to us for protection have once more seen that you are not afraid to march into the interior of their country. Upwards of 400 barrels public flour have been found and secured at the Twenty and on this side. We have reason to believe that the enemy were drawing up all their force from York to receive us and consequently left Kingston more liable to capture should it have been designed by the army under General Wilkinson.

There was a prospect that the Grand River Indians under Vincent would lay down their arms and sue for peace. To further this object it was thought auxiliary to make a show of force in their vicinity and it may not also at this time be improper to state that General Porter designed a simultaneous expedition from Buffalo to Long Point. It was therefore important to divert the attention of the enemy from that quarter.

The General has no doubt but the troops might have proceeded further with perfect safety and it would have been his pride to have advanced with them had there been any probable advantage to be gained by it but there was none.

The roads beyond the Forty were cut up and obstructed by fallen timber in such a manner that our cannon could not have been gotten along. The enemy's force was increasing every day while ours was

decreasing. The undisguised opinion and advice of every field officer in the brigade were reasons which imperatively bound the General to acquiesce in the necessity of retiring.

The militia will be discharged in a few days. In the meantime they may yet have an opportunity of meeting the enemy on equal grounds. Be always watchful, prepared and ready to receive them like soldiers. In doing this you will strengthen your claim upon the gratitude of your country for having defended a post which but for your patriotic zeal would been given up to the British without a struggle.

The General cannot conclude this order without addressing a few words to the independent and enterprising volunteers who form so respectable a portion of his command. Their promptitude in obeying his late call, their willingness to be engaged in enterprises of the most dangerous description, the sacrifices they have made on the altar of patriotism are characteristic of freemen and Americans.

The General invites those whose calls at home are not too pressing to remain on this frontier for a further term of service. The situation of Fort George will be truly precarious if left to be defended by but a small force. He flatters himself that many will volunteer to co-operate in a cause which involves the security of our citizens the protection of our rights and the honor of our country.

By order of General McClure.

WM. B. ROCHESTER.

(Tompkin's Papers, Vol. IX., pp. 45, New York State Library.)

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 118

U. S. Ship *General Pike*.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 30th November, 1813.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, advising me of a remittance of thirty-six thousand dollars, with which I am charged and held to account.

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 119

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 30th November, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose the copy of a letter received from Captain Crane, reporting the *desertion* of Midshipman Charles

Cox Stockton, late of the Madison. He has added to the crime of desertion that of abusing his superior officer in a most shameful and scandalous manner.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 120

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 30th November, 1813.

SIR,—In answer to your communication of the 6th instant, respecting the demand of Ferguson and Bowles, I think their demand high and unreasonable. All the mechanics that were sent from New York, of every description, received the New York wages and were found. The quartermen in this yard received \$2.50 per day; the head block-makers \$1.75 per day. If those at Erie were allowed the same, I think they ought to be satisfied.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 121

U. S. Ship *General Pike*  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 30th November, 1813.

SIR,—I have to request that you will be pleased to authorize a court-martial for the trial of Midshipman Charlton, Midshipman James Bliss, and Sailing Master Thomas C. Almy, upon charges exhibited against them by Captain Perry and Captain Elliot copies of which are herewith inclosed.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 122

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, 30th Nov., 1813.

SIR,—I have to request that you will be pleased to authorize a court-martial for the trial of Thomas Wilson, upon charges exhibited against him by Captain Sinclair, a copy of which is enclosed.

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Abstract from the report of the Adjutant General of General Wilkinson's army, showing the whole number of non-commissioned officers, musicians and artificers of the several corps on December 1, 1813.

Light Artillery.....472



2d Regiment Artillery.....	117
3d do .....	675
5th do Infantry.....	495
6th do do .....	549
11th do do .....	454
12th do do .....	500
13th do do .....	591
14th do do .....	295
15th do do .....	848
20th do do .....	336
21st do do .....	841
22d do do .....	455
25th do do .....	578
Riflemen.....	263
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	8143
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Adjutant and Inspector General's office, Jan. 27, 1814.

A. Y. NICOLL Insp.-Gen.

NOTE.—The two regiments of light dragoons which had made part of General Wilkinson's force in descending the St. Lawrence are not included in this return, these corps having been detached to Utica.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix VII.)

To the Right Honorable Earl Bathurst, His Majesty's Principal Secretary  
for War and Colonies. &c , &c., &c., &c., &c , &c.

The Memorial of Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Quartermaster General of the Militia Forces of Upper Canada, during the late war with the United States of America

Most respectfully sheweth:

That Your Memorialist previous to the late war with the United States was established in a very profitable and extensive business in the London District of Upper Canada.

That immediately after the declaration of war by the enemy (information of which was conveyed to the late Major-General Brock in seven days from Washington through arrangements made by the mercantile connections of Your Memorialist, the Government despatches announcing that fact not arriving till fourteen days afterwards.) Your Memorialist was sent for by Major-General Brock and called upon to take upon himself the arduous and important office of Quartermaster General of Militia.

That Your Memorialist at first declined complying with the

Major-General's wishes assigning as reasons the state of his private concerns, which would be involved in ruin should he undertake any permanent employ and his inability to do justice to so important a trust. Your Memorialist at the same time expressing his readiness to perform any and every duty of which he was capable for the time he was by law to serve (*viz.* six months) but the Major-General would take no refusal. He was pleased to say that Your Memorialist was the only inhabitant of the Upper Province that he knew of that was at all adequate to the situation and insisted on Your Memorialist's immediate compliance with his request, adding that he knew Your Memorialist must sacrifice a great deal but that the British Government was never backward in rewarding faithful and meritorious services and that it should be his care to bring the just claims of Your Memorialist to the favorable notice of the Government. Your Memorialist according on the 27th June, 1812, undertook to perform the duties of Quartermaster General of Militia in which situation he served and with reputation till the close of the war and had General Brock survived, Your Memorialist feels confident his promise would have been fulfilled.

That at the time Your Memorialist entered upon the duties of his office there was no office of the Quartermaster General's Department of the line on the Niagara Frontier and that the whole of the duties of that department were in addition to those of the militia performed and satisfactorily by Your Memorialist until the arrival of Colonel Myers, Deputy Quartermaster General of the King's Forces about the middle of the Month of July following.

That on the 28th July, Your Memorialist being with the Major-General at York received his orders to make arrangements for moving *by water* a force of five hundred men to Amherstburg together with their baggage and stores, Colonel Myers whose immediate duty it was to do this being from the exigency of the service appointed to the important command of the Niagara Frontier during the Major-General's necessary absence.

That Your Memorialist although (from the poverty of the King's magazines at the time) he could get no assistance in boats or stores by extraordinary exertions and by the impressment of private vessels and boats was enabled to meet by the time appointed by the Major-General all the exigencies of the service and actually conducted as Quartermaster General, pilot, and guide, for he acted in all these situations, the whole force from Long Point to Amherstburg a distance of upwards of two hundred miles along a most difficult and dangerous coast without loss or accident in the short space of four days for which service he received the Major-General's warm thanks.

That the expedition against Detroit was undertaken on the local

knowledge of Your Memorialist who not only designed the point of disembarkation but actually superintended the landing of the troops which was effected without accident, Your Memorialist landing from the first boat.

That after the surrender of Detroit Your Memorialist was left by the Major-General in consequence of his local knowledge of the country to assist Major-General, then Colonel Procter in making the necessary arrangements for the defence of that command which service he performed to the acknowledged satisfaction of both those officers.

That on his return to the headquarters of Major-General Brock Your Memorialist was ordered to make a confidential report on the state of the western command which he performed to the perfect satisfaction of the Major-General who then ordered Your Memorialist to Lower Canada ostensibly to purchase stores and clothing for the militia, but in reality to communicate confidentially to the late Sir George Prevost the very critical situation in which General Brock found himself placed restrained from acting offensively and expecting to be attacked by an overwhelming force of the enemy at some one point of his very extensive line while the zeal and enthusiasm of the militia were subsiding from the state of inactivity in which they were kept.

That Your Memorialist on his return to Upper Canada was personally engaged in the repulse of the American General Smyth near Fort Erie and in the several affairs which took place on the Niagara Frontier during the months of November and December, 1812, and that he was principally instrumental in preventing the evacuation of Fort Erie and the abandonment of the lines in the neighborhood at a time when the moral effect of such a measure would have accelerated the ruin of the King's affairs in Upper Canada.

That in the affair at Fort George on the 27th May, 1813, Your Memorialist then acting in the *military situation* of aide de camp to Colonel Myers who commanded a division of the force stationed for the defence of the Niagara Frontier was warmly engaged and had a horse killed under him in the action.

That Colonel Myers being in this affair severely wounded was removed to his own house where he afterwards fell into the enemy's hands—that the command then devolved on Colonel Ogilvy of the King's Regt. whom Your Memorialist assisted to rally and afterwards to bring off the troops who had suffered severely but which was effected in good order.

That having been joined by the second or right division under Lt.-Col. Harvey, Major-General, then Brigadier, Vincent proposed falling back on Fort Erie taking with him the different detachments

stationed along the line of the Niagara towards Fort Erie, adding that he would order Brigadier Procter to destroy Detroit and Amherstburg and to join him with the force under his command at that place. Your Memorialist, however, represented to the Brigadier that by this movement he would abandon all communication with Sir George Prevost then at Kingston, would put it out of Sir George's power to relieve or reinforce him, that Fort Erie contained no magazines and the country in the neighborhood furnished no supplies. That in fact he would go into a *trou de loup* from which no talent or bravery could extricate him and that the effect of this movement would be to compromise the safety of the whole division as well as the whole of the province above Kingston. Your Memorialist having stated these circumstances recommended an immediate movement on Burlington Heights to which place he assured the Brigadier he could conduct the whole division (although the principal roads were at the time occupied by the enemy) provided he without delay decided on making it. Lt.-Col. Harvey and the late Captain Milnes, aide-de-camp at the time to the late Sir George Prevost pressed the Brigadier to follow Your Memorialist's advice to which he assented and Your Memorialist by his arrangements concentrated by nine o'clock that same evening the whole of the division consisting of about fourteen hundred men without the loss of guns or stores of any kind at the *Beaver Dam twelve miles in advance of the enemy* towards Burlington Heights at which latter place the whole force arrived without loss or accident by easy marches on the first day of June, having halted two days at the Forty Mile Creek. By this movement the Centre Division was placed in a strong and eligible position, its supplies were secured and its communications with the right and left were completely re-established.

That after the action of Stoney Creek fought on the morning of the 6th of June, 1813, Brigadier Vincent being at the time missing, Lt.-Col. then Capt. McDouall an aide-de-camp to Sir George Prevost produced a letter which had been in his possession for some time from that officer directing an immediate retreat on Kingston.

Lieut.-Colonel Bishopp being at the time the senior officer was upon the point of complying with the order when Your Memorialist represented to him that Capt. McDouall having had the order some days in his possession without producing it, it could only be considered as a discretionary order. That he (Col. Bishopp) was evidently as much entitled to exercise his discretion as was Capt. McDouall. That our situation from our recent success was materially changed for the better, that the enemy had retreated to the Forty Mile Creek and that it would be a proper measure as respected his own military reputation to take the opinion of the field and staff officers of the

division before he came to the determination of abandoning the Niagara District. A meeting of these officers was ordered by General Vincent coming in at the time, he determined on remaining till he heard again from Sir George Prevost.

That two days afterwards Sir James Yeo arrived with reinforcements which proved the correctness of Your Memorialist's reasoning, the enemy retired to Fort George, the division advanced, several partial successes were obtained over the enemy and the supply and subsistence of the King's troops from the resources of the country were thereby secured.

That from the 27th of May, 1813, until the 24th September of the same year Your Memorialist in *addition to his militia duty* had the sole charge of the Quartermaster General's Department of the Centre Division which at one time consisted of upwards of three thousand *regular troops* after which time Capt. Barclay having been defeated and captured on Lake Erie, Your Memorialist was detached on a most important service viz., to embody a militia force and keep open the communication between the right and left centre divisions which service he effectually performed till the retreat and subsequent defeat of Major-General Procter induced Major-General Vincent to order Your Memorialist to disembody the force under his command when he immediately joined the headquarters.

That early in November Major-General Vincent having communicated to Your Memorialist his intention of retiring with his division on Kingston, Your Memorialist strongly remonstrated against the measure, stated a variety of reasons against it among others the impossibility of transporting in the then state of the roads the guns and baggage to Kingston, which must therefore be abandoned or destroyed; the want of subsistence on the route, the possibility of the enemy then uncontrolled masters of the lake occupying a position by which the small columns in which the division must march would fall into their hands in succession; the actual situation of Kingston at the time threatened with a siege and with only seven days flour in the stores; the situation of the Niagara District when deserted by the King's troops, abandoned to the ravages of the enemy, exposed to the fury of the Indians who seeing themselves abandoned after all our protestations would in all probability purchase peace of the enemy by the massacre of the population. On these suggestions a council of officers was assembled consisting of Major-General Procter, Col. Young, Col. Stewart, Col. Murray and Lt.-Col. Gordon who decided that the army ought not to retire. The correctness of this opinion was verified by subsequent events, the army without being reinforced having advanced on Fort George which was retaken, having taken

the American Fort Niagara by storm and having captured and destroyed every fort and settlement on the American side of the Niagara within little better than a month after it was proposed to retire.

That under the several General officers who at various times commanded the forces and administered the civil government of Upper Canada, Your Memorialist was confidentially consulted on both civil and military subjects, when on such occasions he invariably gave such advice or opinions as he thought most conducive to the interests of His Majesty's service, and he is aware that his opinions on some occasions have been acted upon and been the means of preventing the useless expenditure of many thousands of pounds.

That Your Memorialist was employed during the whole of the operations before Fort Erie and led one of the columns to the assault of that place. That he advised the mode of attack on the schooners cut out of the harbor of Fort Erie by Capt. Dobbs of the Royal Navy and furnished and transported seven miles by land, the boats employed on that service.

That while laying before Fort Erie he was on the 19th of August, 1814, sent for by Lieut.-General, Sir Gordon Drummond and informed that the Deputy Commissary General (Turquand) had just reported to him that he had only ten days' flour for the whole force on the Niagara and knew not where to get a supply till the arrival of Sir James Yeo who was not expected before the middle of October. Your Memorialist told the Lieut.-General that if he would give him full powers he would ensure a supply. The Lieut.-General assented. Your Memorialist by his desire wrote the authority which he required which was signed by the Lt.-General and in less than fourteen days, all fears of want were removed and the King's magazines were amply supplied by the local knowledge and exertions of Your Memorialist.

That in the month of March following Your Memorialist was by the annexed general order struck off pay and allowances and was thereby thrown upon the world with his business lost, his fortune ruined and the means he *had possessed* of supporting his family on the restoration of peace destroyed in consequence of having been found by the enemy in possession of the King's troops.

Wherefore Your Memorialist humbly hopes that Your Lordship taking into consideration his zealous and useful *military services*, his losses and sufferings brought upon him principally through his connection with the King's armies and government in Upper Canada will see cause to bring his case to the knowledge of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and to recommend it to his princely consider-

ation for such relief as in his royal beneficence may be thought meet.  
And Your Memorialist as in duty bound will ever pray.

ROBT. NICHOL,

Lt.-Col., Q. M. Genl. of Militia, Upper Canada.

Tavistock Hotel, September 24, 1817.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 323, p. 227.)

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**Kingston Gazette.**

Saturday, December 4, 1813.

We are happy to announce the safe arrival at this place last evening of Gen. Drummond and suite.

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**General McClure to Governor Tompkins.**

NEWARK, U. C., Dec. 6th, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—Deeming it necessary that I should make an excursion into the interior of this part of the province with a view of giving confidence to the inhabitants that we have possession of the country and the power to protect the well disposed and overawe those who are inimical, I proceeded from this post on the 26th November last with a column of about twelve or thirteen hundred well mounted volunteers and Indians together with a detachment of regular artillery under the command of Captain Leonard and marched as far as the 20 Mile Creek from thence I sent 200 dragoons and mounted men as far as the enemy's picket near Stoney Creek to obtain information with regard to his force which I ascertained from the best authority that the enemy at Burlington consisted of about 1,000 regulars, seven hundred Indian warriors and some few militia. Their regular force consists of the 100th Regiment under Colonel Murray, the Royal Scots and the remnants of the 8th and 41st under Generals Vincent and Procter.

I have made every effort to draw the British Indians to a council with ours; one of the former came in by whom I transmitted a letter of which a copy is enclosed. I have as yet received no answer but expect them daily to join me or remain neutral provided a force can be kept in this frontier sufficiently strong to give them confidence.

Herewith I send you a copy of a General Order issued on my return which details my views on the subject. One object of the expedition adverted to in the order was defeated by causes yet unknown but I presume that General Porter found it more difficult to raise volunteers than he had imagined. I am placed at present in a

delicate situation. The period for which the militia were drafted will expire in three days. There is not more than 200 regular troops here. The Indian force is fluctuating. I have at present about 100. They behave extremely well, commit no depredations on the inhabitants and are under perfect subordination. I have written to the Secretary of War for instructions, unless troops are sent here this side of the strait will probably fall into the hands of the enemy. Some two or three hundred men will volunteer to stay a short time. I have offered them a bounty of two dollars per month for two months, 1000 men would probably be sufficient to enable me to retain Forts George and Niagara during the winter.

I feel much indebted to Colonel Dobbins who with my mounted men scouted the country in advance of the army. He is a very vigilant officer. The Judge Advocate, J. C. Spencer has gone to attend the trial of delinquents in the different counties.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. IX, p. 3, New York State Library.)

Lieut. Richard Bullock, 41st Regiment, to Major Richard Friend.

CROSS ROADS, BARTON HEIGHTS,

6th Dec., 1813.

SIR,—The following report is made in compliance with your orders to me in a letter dated 30th Nov. last in which you request that I would furnish you with every circumstance within my knowledge, and what I may have heard from undoubted authority relative to the late unfortunate affair which took place between the American army under Gen. Harrison and the 1st Battn., 41st Regt. near Moravian town on the 5th October last, the nature of the ground on which it was formed, the number of the men of the Regt. actually in the field, the number of the enemy in the field opposed to it, of what they consisted and what resistance was made by the regiment previous to its defeat, if it had received provisions regularly, was complete in ammunition, and could have got supplies when required and in short every circumstance that happened from the commencement of the retreat from Amherstburg relative to the regiment.

As a platoon officer, I cannot positively say whether the whole regiment was complete with ammunition nor not, but this I can say, a number of men who escaped from the enemy that day were not complete before the action commenced, and this I am inclined to think was the case with many of those killed or taken and in the event of expending the ammunition in their pouches they could not have received a fresh supply, the whole of the spare ammunition being taken by the enemy some hours before the action, which circumstance



was known to many of the regiment. I now proceed to give every other information required in your letter as correctly as my rank and situation on various occasions enabled me to observe.

The force under Major-General Procter consisting of the 1st Battn., 41st Regiment, a few of the 10th Veterans, (about 18 or 20) some artillery and a body of Indians retreated from Amherstburg on Sept. last to Sandwich from whence we retired on the 27th of the same month to the River Thames the banks of which at a place called Chatham (54 miles from Sandwich and 70 from Amherstburg) Gen. Procter had promised the Indians to fortify with a view to await the enemy. On this retreat I commanded the grenadier company. We arrived within three miles of Chatham at a place called Dolson's on the 1st Oct. On the 3d Gen. Procter was at Moravian town 26 miles from us on the road leading to the head of Lake Ontario when information was received that the enemy were within 4 or 5 miles of us, and we retired  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles by order of Lieut.-Col. Warburton and formed on the bank of the river in expectation of an attack. At the expiration of half an hour we retired to Chatham. The Indians were encamped on the opposite bank of the river, and on our arrival sent to me to say that we should not proceed beyond the ground we then occupied—that Gen. Procter had promised them to await the enemy on that ground and fight them and had also promised to erect fortifications there. After endeavoring to reason with them, Lieut.-Col. Warburton was compelled to remain there for the night and informed the Indians through Col. Elliott of the Indian Department that whatever had been promised by Gen. Procter should be fulfilled as far as he (Lieut.-Col. Warburton) had it in his power. I was then ordered on picquet with the grenadier company and at the same time received such particular instructions from Lieut.-Cols. Warburton and Evans that I have no doubt they expected the enemy that night. Captain Chambers of the Qr. Mr. Gen[eral's] Department accompanied me and pointed out the ground my picquet was to occupy which was one mile and a half in advance towards the enemy. Early next morning the picquet was called in. On arriving at Chatham where the rest of the regiment had passed the night, provisions were issued; the meat was raw and before it could be divided we were ordered to march in consequence of the approach of the enemy. We retired about 6 miles when we were joined by Gen. Procter on his return from Moravian town. We marched all day, the roads were excessively bad. About eight o'clock in the evening Capt. Muir's company was halted at Richardson's 6 miles from Moravian town and the grenadier company was left with it to support it in the event of an attack; the remainder proceeded on, the advance being at a house called Shearman's one mile from where the rear guard had halted. At

daybreak next morning (the 5th) the rear guard and grenadier company moved to Shearman's where the whole regiment collected. At this place, after having halted some time a few head of cattle were shot but before the meat could be divided, the enemy were reported to be close at hand and we were ordered to march. We proceeded to Moravian town and when within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of it were ordered to halt. After halting about 5 minutes, we were ordered to face to the right about and advance toward the enemy in files at which the men were in great spirits. Having advanced about 50 or 60 paces we were halted a second time at which the men appeared dissatisfied and over-hearing some of those nearest me express themselves to the following effect "that they were ready and willing to fight for their knap-sacks, wished to meet the enemy, but did not like to be knocked about in that manner doing neither one thing nor the other," I immediately checked them and they were silent. About this time several of the regiment came up without arms or accoutrements, who had escaped from boats cut off by the enemy's cavalry. From these men we learnt that the enemy was within a mile of us and had a large force of cavalry. We had halted about half an hour when the Indian alarm was given that the enemy was advancing; most of our men were sitting on the logs and fallen trees by the side of the road. On the alarm being given we were suddenly ordered to form across the road. From the suddenness of the order, apparently without any previous arrangement, the manner in which it was given, the way in which it was given, which was to "form up across the road," and from the nature of the ground, the formation was made in the greatest confusion, so much so that the grenadier company was nearly in the centre of the line and the light company on the right. A second order as sudden as the first was given for the grenadiers and No. 1 to march to the rear and form a reserve. The grenadiers and part of Capt. Muir's company accordingly formed a second line about 200 yards in rear of the first under command of Lieut.-Col. Warburton, the left of it about 8 or 10 yards to the left of the road extending to the right into the woods formed at extended order, the men placing themselves behind trees and consequently much separated. The 1st line I could not distinguished but from what I have been informed by Lt. Gardiner, 41st Regt., commanding a six pounder, it was formed in the following manner—a six pounder was placed in the road having a range of 50 yards, the 41st Regt. drawn up on its right extending in the wood; on each side of the limber of the 6-pounder were some of the Canadian Light Dragoons. From the men of the regiment who escaped from that line, I understand they were not formed at regular extended order but in clusters and in confusion. To the left of the road in which the 6-pounder was placed and parallel to it, ran the River Thames. To the right and left of the

road was a remarkable thick forest and on the right where we were formed free from brush wood for several hundred yards and where cavalry could act to advantage. My position at this time, (being on the right of the 2d line) and the thickness of the forest precluded me from noticing the manner in which the enemy attacked the 1st line. The attack commenced about two hours after the order was given to form up across the road. I heard a heavy firing of musquetry and shortly after saw our dragoons retreating together with the limber of the 6-pounder placed on the left of the 1st line. About a minute afterwards I observed that line retreating in confusion, followed closely by the enemy's cavalry who were galloping down the road. That portion of the 1st line which had escaped the enemy's cavalry retreated behind the 2d line which stood fast and fired an irregular volley obliquing to the right and left which appeared to check the enemy. The line having commenced firing my attention was directed to that part of the enemy moving down directly in my front. Hearing the fire slackening I turned towards the line and found myself remaining with 3 non-commissioned officers of the grenadier company. The enemy's cavalry had advanced so close before the reserve could commence firing from the number of trees that before a third round could be fired they broke through the left and the rest not being formed in a manner to repel cavalry were compelled to retreat. The number of the regiment actually in the field were 1 lieut.-col., 6 captains, 9 lieutenants, 3 ensigns, 3 staff, 26 sergeants, 18 corporals, 4 drummers 297 rank and file. In what manner the rest of the regiment was distributed, you will be made acquainted with by the enclosed state signed by the adjutant of the regiment. The number of Indians we had in the field was 800. The number of the enemy, I cannot positively affirm but from the information obtained from individuals of the regiment taken prisoners on that day and who afterwards escaped; could not have been less than 6,000 of which 1200 or 1500 were cavalry and mounted riflemen. The number of our dragoons did not exceed 20. Our loss on this occasion was 3 sergeants and 9 rank and file killed and 36 wounded, that of the enemy 15 killed and from 40 to 50 wounded. Having been thus far particular in stating everything to which I was an eyewitness and which has come to my knowledge, I beg leave to remark that from the well known character of the regiment any observations emanating from those whose interest it is to cast a direct or indirect reflection upon its conduct cannot be received with too much distrust.

(From Major Richardson's War of 1812 pp. 137-140.)

## (From the Journal of an Officer of the 41st Regiment.)

3d Oct., [1813], Dolson's. A report of the Americans being within two or three miles of us. Our dragoons fell in with their advanced guard. The General at Moravian town 26 miles from Dolson's or Dover. Marched from this place  $2\frac{1}{2}$  half miles; halted and formed on the bank of the river in expectation of the enemy every instant. Marched a few miles further and halted for the night. Col. Warburton did not appear to know how to act, the General not having left any directions but he decided on falling in with the wishes of the Indians.

4th Oct.—This morning the Indians thought it advisable to proceed at once to Moravian town. We accordingly marched; at dusk the rear guard halted at Richardson's; the remainder proceeded about a mile farther, within five miles of Moravian town.

5th Oct.—This day we proceeded towards Moravian town and when within a mile and a half of it were halted and marched back a few paces. No person appeared to have any idea of what was going to be done. A report came in of the Americans being within a very short distance of us, and that they had taken all our boats in which was most of our baggage and the whole of the ammunition except what the men had in their pouches. After having halted for nearly an hour, we were suddenly ordered to form in the midst of a very thick wood apparently without any previous arrangement and in such a manner that the grenadiers were nearly in the centre of the line and the light company towards the right—a second order came for the grenadiers and No. 1 company to march to the rear as a reserve, which was done. The men were formed at extended order and the enemy it was said, were strong in cavalry and mounted riflemen. N.B. No brush wood to prevent the cavalry acting. About four o'clock the enemy attacked us and succeeded in driving us from our ground. The company I commanded had not received their provisions for the two last days, until the very moment before we received the order to march; the consequence was that those men who had time to do so cut off a slice of the raw beef and ate it uncooked. The rest had none at all.

Mem. While at Dolson's was told by G[eal]e that a council of war was going to assemble immediately in order to decide whether or not the command should be taken from the G[eneral]. The day before the action Captain Muir remarked to me that the G[eneral] ought to be hanged for being away and that Col. W[arburton] ought to be hanged for not assuming the command. A few moments before the action Captain D[erenzy] said it was downright murder if we attempted to make a stand where we were. Colonel Elliott told me

that the day the G[eneral] went to the Moravian town the Prophet (Tecumseh's brother) asked him (Col. Elliott) where the G[eneral] was going and on being informed remarked that he had a great mind to take the epaulettes off his shoulders for he was not worthy to wear them.

(From Major Richardson's War of 1812 pp. 134-5.)

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**Lieut.-General Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, 6th December, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that since my arrival here, I have been occupied in visiting the works established for the defence of this place and in communication with Major-General De Rottenburg on the various subjects connected with the civil administration and the military command of this Province. On these latter points finding it impossible during the short space of time I have judged it right to remain here to obtain information to the extent I conceive it necessary and as the command of this garrison would devolve upon Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer of De Watteville's Regiment whom I do not consider altogether calculated for the situation particularly from the constant intercourse it is requisite to keep up between the naval and military departments I have directed Major-General De Rottenburg to remain here until my return from Burlington for which place I propose setting out to-morrow. Major-General Riall will accompany me.

By a General District Order I have put in train the arrangements for bringing together the several corps of the Right and Centre Divisions which are at present so much dispersed.

I find that the order relative to the march of the 8th, 41st and Glengarry Regiments to the Lower Province had been already in part acted upon prior to my arrival by the movement of the latter corps from York. Should the counter order since forwarded to them not have reached them in sufficient time I propose detaining them at Kingston until they have procured as far as can be such articles of equipment as I understand they are much in want of.

Major-General Vincent has detached a small force for the re-occupation of Turkey Point. The Major-General also reports that a considerable number of disaffected are in arms under the command of Colonels Wilcox and Cheshire. Colonel Murray has proceeded in pursuit of them but as they received information of his movement they dispersed without affording him an opportunity of coming up with any of them.

As a sudden and vigorous movement may very probably be required from Burlington in the course of the winter I have deemed it advisable to concentrate the entire of the 1st Battn. of Royals in conjunction with the 100th Regiment in advance of that place and conceiving that in the event of such circumstances Major-General Riall's immediate presence would be attended with essential service I have directed him to repair thither also. The garrison of York will then consist of the King's Regiment and a wing of the Glengarry Light Infantry a force fully competent I think for its protection at least during the winter.

Commodore Sir James Yeo has represented to me his extreme desire and anxious hope that the Battalion of Marines could be spared from Cornwall as early as possible as there is no description of troops so well calculated to restrain the irregularity and licentiousness of seamen during a long period of inactivity.

Sir James Yeo is likewise of opinion that the marines would prevent much desertion which he is apprehensive will exist to a considerable extent among his people.

I have the honor to enclose an extract of a letter from York. But as Sackett's Harbor was reconnoitred by a naval officer on the 23d ultimo and the whole of the enemy's squadron ascertained to have been at anchor there with the exception of the *Madison* little credit can be given to the report except as far as relates to that vessel. Mr. MacKenzie of the North West Company has just arrived here who joins in the report of the *Madison* being wrecked and adds that they have taken her guns out.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 211-214.)

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**General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War.**

HEAD QUARTERS, MALONE,

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 9, 7th Dec., 1813.

SIR,—I send with our positions at the French Mills, a plan of the Isle Aux Noix with the fortifications projected from the information of a deserter who left that post last July, where he had been employed 18 months as an artificer. The fellow appears intelligent and if to be relied on, the capture of the place might be easily accomplished in the course of the winter from Plattsburg. The operation would require but a few days and we should have only to guard against the attempts of the enemy to recover it from St. Johns, Chamblee, and the neighboring posts. Colonel Swift is all alive on this subject; I submit it to you for consideration. Repose and retirement from the incessant avocations of duty has become absolutely necessary to the

restoration of my health and the re-establishment of my constitution. I am willing to die at my post but not when unable to draw my sword. I will therefore beg leave to remove my quarters to Albany as soon as our posts are secured and order, subordination, and responsibility are established in the various branches of the service, leaving Brigadier-General Izard in the chief command and giving him the Four Corners for his station.

Albany, independent of personal considerations, is the proper point for winter quarters of the officer commanding this district to superintend and press the recruiting service, to embody the recruits, to have them clothed, armed, organized, and instructed in the essential duties of police and personal cleanliness and in the use of their firelocks and legs; to collect and transmit to the War Department returns and reports from the wide extended posts from Burlington to Fort George, to see the clothing, tools, implements, and munitions of war properly distributed and sent forward to their respective destinations in season. In short to have whatever may be deemed necessary to the ensuing campaign in readiness for operation on the opening of the spring at the point or points of proposed operation. I beg to hear from you as soon as possible.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix XLIII.)

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**Return of Transports belonging to the Quartermaster's Department at Sackett's Harbor, August 25th, 1813.**

Complete with sails, &c.			
* <i>Gold Hunter</i> ,	a small schooner	will carry	150 men.
* <i>Neptune</i> ,	do	do	80 men.
Union sloop		do	70 men.
2 large Durham boats,	75 each		150 men.
2 small	do 60 each		120 men.
3 large Batteaux,	50 each		150 men,
5 small	do 25 each		125 men.
30 public horse, one fourth unserviceable.			
7 waggons, good.			
41 sets of harness.			

\* Not now in port.

(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. III., Appendix LXVII.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 123

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 8th December, 1813.

SIR,—The public service in my estimation would suffer by granting to Captain Elliott permission to leave his station without his being relieved, and I have written to him to that effect. A copy of my letter to him is herewith enclosed. Captain Elliott has no right to complain. He spent the whole of last winter with his family and did not join his station until about the first of April. Moreover it would create dissatisfaction with the officers on this station to grant an indulgence to those at Erie, which has been refused to officers here.

**Commodore Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 124

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 8th December, 1813.

SIR,—I am sorry to inform you that the vessels mentioned in the margin belonging to the Erie Squadron are now on shore at Buffalo, and by the best accounts cannot be got off before the spring, but hope that they will not be materially injured. I have directed Captain Elliott to have them dismantled and their stores put in a place of safety.

Schooner Ariel,  
do Chippeway,  
Sloop Trippe,  
do Little Belt.

**General McClure to the Secretary of War.**

(Extract.)

NIAGARA, December 10, 1813.

This day found Fort George left to be defended by only sixty effective regular troops under Captains Rogers and Hampton of the 24th Regiment of United States Infantry and probably forty volunteers. Within the last three days the term of service of the militia has been expiring and they have re-crossed the river almost to a man. Foreseeing the defenceless situation in which the fort was left, I had authorized some of my most active subalterns to raise volunteer companies for two months and offered a bounty in addition to the month's pay. It is with regret I have to say that this



expedient failed of producing the desired effect. A very inconsiderable number were willing to engage for a further term of service on any conditions.

From the most indubitable information I learn that the enemy are advancing in force. This day a scouting party of Colonel Willcocks's volunteers came in contact with their advance at the Twelve Mile Creek, lost four prisoners and one killed; one of the former they gave up to the savages. This movement determined me in calling a council of the principal regular and militia officers left at Fort George this morning. They all accorded in opinion that the fort was not tenable with the remnant of force left in it. In consequence gave orders for evacuating the fort since dusk and with but three boats have brought over all the light artillery and most of the arms equipage, ammunition &c., and shall doubtless have time to dispose of the heavy cannon before the enemy makes his appearance. The village of Newark is now in flames; the few remaining inhabitants in it having been notified of our intention were enabled to remove their property. The houses were generally vacant long before. This step has not been taken without counsel and is in conformity with the views of Your Excellency disclosed to me in a former communication.

The enemy are now completely shut out from any hopes or means of wintering in the vicinity of Fort George. It is truly mortifying to me that a part of the militia at least could not have been prevailed on to continue in service for a longer term, but the circumstance of their having to live in tents at this inclement season, added to that of the pay-master coming on only prepared to furnish them with *one* out of *three* month's pay has had all the bad effects that can be imagined. The best and most subordinate militia that have yet been on this frontier, finding that their wages were not ready for them, became with some meritorious exceptions, a disaffected and ungovernable multitude.

December 11th.—I have this moment received a communication from the Governor of this State, covering a requisition on Major General Hall for one thousand men. It is probable than not more than six or seven hundred will rendezvous on this frontier which will in my humble opinion be not more than competent to its proper protection as some will have to be stationed at Black Rock, Schlosser and Lewiston.

I have written to General P. B. Porter desiring him to employ the Indians for the protection of Buffalo until the detachment arrives. Our shipping is in danger. No exertion will be wanting within the pale of our limited means to afford the protection contemplated.

**General McClure to Governor Tompkins.**

FORT NIAGARA, 10th December, 1813.

SIR,—This day found Fort George to be defended by only sixty effective regular troops and probably forty volunteer militia. Within the last three days the term of the militia has been expiring and they have recrossed the river almost to a man.

I had authorized some of my most active subalterns to raise companies for two months service in addition and offered a bounty of four dollars and it is with regret I have to say that but few would volunteer for a longer time probably thirty out of my brigade.

This day a scouting party of Canadian volunteers came in contact with a party of the enemy at the 12 Mile Creek who advanced in sleighs of which vehicles there were rising of thirty in numbers. They took five of our men prisoners and afterwards wantonly shot one and delivered another to the fury of their savages. I have the most correct intelligence that the enemy are advancing in force. Their movements determined me this morning in calling a council of the principle militia and regular officers remaining with me. They all accorded in opinion that the fort was not tenable with the remnant of force left in it. In consequence I gave orders for evacuating the fort immediately after night set in and have already brought over all the light cannon and most of the ammunition, arms, camp equipage, &c. I have notified the few scattered inhabitants who yet resided in Newark to remove their persons and property. They have seasonably improved the time and notice and before morning the village will be reduced to ashes. This step has not been resorted to without counsel and is in conformity with the views of the Secretary of War made known to me in a former communication. The enemy are now completely shut out from any hopes or means of wintering in the vicinity of Fort George.

It is truly mortifying to me that a part of the militia could not have been prevailed on to continue in service for a longer time but the circumstance of their having to live in tents at this inclement season added to that of the paymaster's coming on prepared to furnish them with one out of three month's pay has produced all the bad effects that can be imagined. The best and most subordinate militia that has yet been on this frontier finding they were to be discharged without receiving their pay became with some honorable exceptions a disaffected and ungovernable multitude.

I am much surprised at not having received any answer to my frequent communications on the subject of my future conduct respecting the frontier having received no instructions to govern me. The militia all returning to their homes and no troops to supply

their places I am compelled to adopt the only alternative left me. I shall remain at this garrison myself until I can hear from you or the Secretary at War.

December 11th.—I have this moment received your communication of the 26th November covering the Secretary at War's requisition and your orders to General Hall. The latter I have filled up and sent by express to him. I have filled up the blanks with 1000 men, knowing that not more than 6 or 7 hundred will rendezvous on the frontier which number will be requisite to guard this frontier. Lieut.-Colonel Grieves and men have volunteered to stay three weeks. I have stationed them at Lewiston and Schlosser, have written to General Porter to employ the Indians at Black Rock until the detachments arrive. Our shipping is in imminent danger and no exertion will be wanting to protect and defend them.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. IX., pp. 11-12, New York State Library.)

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**New York Evening Post, 29th December, 1813.**

(From the *Maulius Times*.)

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of this village now on the Niagara, dated Lewiston December 11th.

Last evening General McClure ordered Fort George and Newark to be set on fire which was done. The fort was totally destroyed and the village shared the same fate excepting one or two houses which were spared for the night on the condition that the owners would fire them next day. The destruction and misery which this dastardly conduct has occasioned is scarcely to be described, women and children being the principal inhabitants have nowhere to place their heads.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 127.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 11th December, 1813.

SIR,—On the 9th instant I hauled all the vessels of the fleet into their moorings for the winter. The same night the harbor and bay froze over so that our people walked on shore from the ships, but on the 6th in consequence of a heavy rain the bay broke up again, and on the 8th a flag arrived from Kingston, with a Mr. Shoemaker of this place, who was taken in June last and has been detained on board of the enemy's fleet ever since.

Mr. Shoemaker informed me that the fleet at Kingston is hauled in and moored for the winter; that two ships are nearly planked; a third with her keel laid, and a great many workmen employed in the Yard. The length of the keel of the three vessels building corresponds with the information already received and transmitted to the Department,—to wit: 150, 123 and 113 feet. He says that neither guns or stores have yet arrived for the new vessels; that there is at Kingston 1500 regular troops, and that General Drummond commands; that from the 10th to the 20th November Kingston was left with only a few militia to defend it; that he understood that it had been determined before our army moved down the St. Lawrence that if we attacked Kingston with our whole force to abandon it and retreat below. No other news of importance.

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**Erastus Granger to Brig.-Gen. McClure.**

Buffalo Creek, Dec. 11th, 1813.

Gen. George McClure,

SIR,—I have had a conversation with Farmer's Brother and other Chiefs. They say they are ready to turn out and defend this place, as their wives and children are here, but they are unwilling to go to Canada. It is a fact that the Indians are of no consequence in doing garrison duty, nor can they be compelled to be shut up in forts. I think they would form a part of an efficient force at this place, and at less expense to government than the same number of militia. If you think proper to direct the raising of two hundred Indian Volunteers to be stationed at this place and Black Rock at the same pay and rations as the infantry of the United States, I think I shall be able to procure that number shortly.

I feel devoted to my country, and, having received a military appointment I shall impatiently await further orders from you.

(Note.—Mr. Granger has been appointed Lieut.-Col. of N. Y. Volunteers 11. Nov. 1813.)

(MS. in possession of Colonel James N. Granger.)

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**Adjutant General's Office, Montreal, December 11, 1813.**

General Order.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief and Commander of the Forces has received a report from Capt. Pring of the Royal Navy informing His Excellency that he had with the flotilla of gunboats under his command with a small detachment of troops proceeded on

the 2d inst. off Cumberland Head and succeeded in burning an extensive building lately erected for a depot—magazine for the stores of General Hampton's army—a number of batteaux, ammunition and stores found there were either brought away or destroyed. The severity of the weather obliged Capt. Pring to return on the 5th instant—in affecting which he was obliged to cut through several miles of ice. The enemy's troops were in considerable force in the vicinity of Plattsburg but no attempt was made to molest the force under Capt. Pring.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
A. G. N. U.

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**From the Diary of Mr. Thos. Macrae, Sr.**

Raleigh, Saturday, 11th Dec. 1813.

Lieut. Fisk of the Am. army came up here with 6 of his men.

Sunday, 12th Dec.

Very cold in the evening. Some more troops came here this evening.

Monday, 13th Dec.

Froze very hard last night. Lieut. Larwill administered the oath of neutrality to a number of the inhabitants hereabout.

Tuesday, 14th Dec.

An ensign with some men came here this evening to join the rest.

Wednesday, 15th Dec.

This morning clear and very cold. A party of British militia and four or five dragoons in all 32 under the command of a militia officer name unknown attacked the American detachment of about 40 men and three officers, vizt. Lts. Larwill and Fisk and Ensign Davis and took them all prisoners, wounded three and killed one. They were shot through the new house window and door. They left the wounded here and returned with their prisoners to the head of the lake.

Thursday, 16th December.

In the afternoon Trudelle and Delisle digging a grave for the American soldier who died yesterday, buried him this afternoon.

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From the Ontario Repository at Canandaigua, New York, 21st December, 1813.

We mention with regret the death of Mr. Orrin Merrils at Black Rock on Sunday the 12th inst, a young man of much merit and who promised to become one of its most respectable citizens. The circumstances of his death were as follows. After the evacuation of Fort George parties of the enemy were scouring the country adjacent to the Niagara, committing great outrages on the persons and property of such citizens as had shown themselves friendly to our cause. While Mr. Merrils who owned the ferry at Black Rock was engaged in the humane work of assisting the flying inhabitants across the river a party of about 40 British militia and Indians headed by some regular officers appeared on the British shore at Erie while the ferry-boats were on that side. They were discovered at some distance by Merrils and a party of citizens who were assisting him but being in sleighs with their arms concealed and appearing in the disguise of families moving no means was taken to avoid them until they arrived at the boats. The enemy who appeared extremely alarmed fired into Mr. Merril's boat although the men were unarmed and no resistance was made. Mr. Merrils was killed and another man wounded and the whole of the residue 8 or 10 in number made prisoners. The boats were recovered by a party who immediately collected at Black Rock and crossed the river not in time however to retake the prisoners, who were immediately taken off in the sleighs.

(File in the Wood Library, Canandaigua.)

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#### Militia General Orders.

KINGSTON, 11th Dec., 1813.

At a General Court Martial held at Kingston on the 6th day of December and continued by adjournment until the 11th instant, by order of His Honor Major General DeRottenburg, President administering the Government of Upper Canada, was arraigned Private Amos McIntyre of the Incorporated Militia on the following charges, viz.:—For deserting from Prescott to the enemy on or about the fourth day of July, 1813, and not returning until brought back a prisoner from Ogdensburg on or about the seventeenth day of September, 1813.

The Court having duly weighed and considered the evidence against Amos McIntyre, private in the Incorporated Militia, and the matter urged in his defence, do find him, the said Amos McIntyre, private in the Incorporated Militia, guilty of the crime laid to his charge, that is to say, for deserting to the enemy on or about the

fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, and not returning until brought back from Ogdensburg, on or about the seventeenth day of September following. Therefore the Court do adjudge and sentence him, the said Amos McIntyre, private in the Incorporated Militia, to be shot to death at such time and place as His Honor the President or person administering the Government of Upper Canada shall please to direct.

At the same Court Martial was also arraigned Joseph Seely, private in the Incorporated Militia, on the following charges:—First, for deserting to the enemy on or about the twenty-eighth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, and not returning until brought back a prisoner on or about the twentieth day of November following; Second, for aiding and assisting in piloting one of the enemy's boats down the river St. Lawrence on or about the twentieth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen.

The Court having duly weighed and considered the evidence against Joseph Seely, private in the Incorporated Militia, and the matter urged in his defence, do find him, the said Joseph Seely, private in the Incorporated Militia, guilty of the 1st charge, that is to say, of "deserting from Prescott to the enemy on or about the twenty-eighth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, and not returning until brought back a prisoner on or about the twentieth day of November following."

Therefore the Court do adjudge and sentence him, the said Joseph Seely, private in the Incorporated Militia, to be transported for the term and space of seven years as a felon, to such place as His Honor the President or person administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada shall be pleased to direct. The Court having weighed and considered the second charge against the prisoner Joseph Seely, private in the Incorporated Militia, for aiding and assisting in piloting one of the enemy's boats down the river St. Lawrence on or about the twentieth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, do acquit him the said Joseph Seely, private in the Incorporated Militia, of the said second charge for want of evidence to support that charge.

His Honor the President approves and confirms the finding of the above sentences and directs that the awful sentence of death awarded against private Amos McIntyre of the Incorporated Militia be carried into execution on Monday, the twentieth day of the present month, at eight o'clock in the morning, in the presence of the garrison of Kingston. The President further directs that Joseph Seely of the Incorporated Militia be transported as a felon for the term of years for which he has been sentenced. This order to be entered in the

orderly books and read at the head of every corps of Incorporated or Embodied Militia in this Province of Upper Canada.

By order of His Honor the President.

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
A. G. M.

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**Colonel John Murray to Major-General Vincent.**

FORT GEORGE, Dec. 12, 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 laid 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 McClure (the commanding officer) to have maintained a regular siege, but such was his apparent panic that he left the whole of his tents standing.

I trust the indefatigable exertions of this handful of men have rendered an essential service to the country by rescuing from a merciless enemy the inhabitants of an extensive and 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 organized under the direct influence of the American Government, who carried terror and dismay into every family.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681.)

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**General Order.**

HEAD QUARTERS, FORT NIAGARA,

December 12, 1813.

Captain Leonard will as soon as possible have a proportion of hand grenades in the different blockhouses and give instructions to the officers of infantry where they should be posted with their men in case of an attack, and, should they not be able to maintain the out-



works, to repair to the block and mess houses, and have everything arranged in such a manner as though he expected an immediate attack.

Much is expected from Captain Leonard from his long experience and knowledge of duty, and the General feels confident he will be well supported by Captain Lomas of the artillery as well as the officers of the infantry.

By order of Brig.-Gen. McClure.

DONALD FRASER.

Lieutenant 15 U.S. Inf., and Vol. Aid-deCamp.

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**General McClure to the Secretary of War.**

HEAD QUARTERS, NIAGARA,

December 12, 1813.

SIR,—Since I last had the honor of writing to you the enemy has appeared in force on the opposite shore, but, having deprived them of a shelter, they are marching up to Queenston, and appear to be fortifying on the Heights. Some hundred Indians have appeared. I have prevailed on Lieut.-Colonel Grieves and about 100 of his regiment of artillery to remain in the service one month longer, until the detachment of militia which I have ordered arrives here. I have detached the Colonel, with two pieces of artillery, to Lewiston to open a fire of hot shot on Queenston and deprive them of quarters there also; you will observe from my despatch of yesterday that every building in Newark is reduced to ashes. The enemy is much exasperated, and will make a descent on this frontier if possible, but I shall watch them close with my handful of men until a reinforcement of militia and volunteers arrives, when I shall endeavor to repossess myself of Fort George and drive them back to Burlington. I am not a little apprehensive that the enemy will take advantage of the exposed situation of Buffalo and our shipping there. My whole force on this frontier, including the garrison at Niagara, does not exceed two hundred and fifty men. I have sent an express to Mr. Granger, the Indian agent, to call out the Indians. An exhibition of two or three hundred of them will strike terror to the British more than one thousand of militia. Permit me to observe to you, sir, that it is all important that pay should be punctually made to the Indians every month or at the expiration of the term they may volunteer for. They are a people that cannot be made to understand the difficulty of having funds here at all times for that purpose. I would beg leave to mention here that Mr. Granger has interested himself

warmly in support of the Government by his endeavors to have the Indians join us on every occasion, and accompanied me on my late expedition to the Twenty. This day I start to Buffalo, which place I shall make my headquarters. I will reinforce this garrison as soon as possible. In the meantime nothing shall be omitted on my part to promote the views of Government and protect the defenceless inhabitants of this frontier.

I have ordered Colonel Willcox to Buffalo with his corps. They are reduced to about 60 men. Two were killed and several taken prisoners on evacuating Fort George. He was among the last to leave the place, and from his vigilance and attachment to our cause I think he deserves your notice.

P. S.—Lieut. Fraser, late aid to General Pike, is now one of my family. I will at some future day give you an account of Colonel Bloom's demerits. Major Bacon has been very attentive to the duties of his department.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. IX., pp. 6-7, New York State Library.)

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**Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

YORK, 12th December, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to Your Excellency my arrival at this place and my having assumed the administration of the civil affairs of the Province, having this morning taken the customary oath as President of the Council.

I am concerned to say that the defences of this place are still incomplete, neither of the two blockhouses already begun being as yet roofed in, and as the site upon which they have been erected is much exposed to be battered from shipping I have given directions that the third be placed in a more retired position and built of much more substantial materials, the timber of the other two being too slight to admit of guns, except of small calibre, being placed in them.

The westernmost battery has been finished and the two 24 pounders mounted upon it. As I do not, however, conceive this position so advantageous for those guns as at the ravine battery, I have given directions for one of them to be removed to the latter place. I have given directions for 50 men of the Sedentary Militia to be employed during the winter in clearing away the woods in the immediate neighborhood of the works.

Lieutenant Kitson of the Royal Engineers appears, as far as his limited means have permitted, to have used every exertion in fitting up the several barracks here and carrying on the different works under his superintendence, and the house formerly used for the meet-

ing of the Assembly having been occupied this day, the inhabitants will be considerably relieved from the inconvenience of billeting men.

The Glengarry Regiment had proceeded too far on the route to Kingston for it to be advisable to send them back to York for the present.

The sickness in the general hospitals here is decreasing daily.

I propose proceeding to-morrow to Burlington and will not fail in endeavours to ascertain the distribution of the enemy's naval force on Lake Erie.

Your Excellency's letter to Sir James Yeo shall be forwarded this day.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 221-3.)

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**Captain Rodgers to Colonel Erastus Granger.**

HEADQUARTERS, Dec. 12th, 1813.

SIR,—You will please have the Indians called out immediately, and send fifty to Lewiston for to assist in the protection of that place, the remainder will remain at Black Rock.

The enemy is at this time in considerable numbers at Queens-town and Fort George; the probability is they will proceed up the river and attempt crossing at Black Rock or elsewhere.

By order George McClure, B. G.

JOHN A. RODGERS, Capt.,

A. D. C.

(MS. in possession of Colonel James N. Granger.)

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**Return of the Troops Comprising the Advance of the Right Division of the Army under Colonel Murray.**

FORT GEORGE, 12th December, 1813.

Corps.	Commanders.
Royal Artillery, 1 6-pdr.	Lieut. Charlton,
1 5½ inch howitzer	Royal Artillery.
	R. & F.
19th Light Dragoons, 25,	Cornet Horton.
Provincial Dragoons, 14,	Captain Merritt,
100th Regiment, 340,	Lieut.-Col. Hamilton.
Total	379

With about 20 volunteers and 70 Western Indians under the direction of Colonel Elliott, Captains Wilson, Caldwell, and Kerby.

J. MURRAY, Colonel, Com'd'g.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 231.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 128.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 12th December, 1813.

SIR,—Mr. Eckford arrived here three days since, with a memorandum from Doctor Bullus, directing him to consult with me about building three vessels at this place. I have given Mr. Eckford every information in my power *unofficially*, as I had not received any instructions from the department, but expected them by this day's mail. The mail has arrived without bringing a letter from the Navy Department, and no other mail comes in before the 17th. Of course I cannot be made acquainted with your commands before that day. I shall, however, in the meantime, do everything in my power to anticipate your wishes without incurring a great deal of actual expense. Mr. Eckford has made his contracts for timber, and provided quarters for his men, and leaves here this evening for New York, in order to send on his first draft of men, and to hurry on the iron and materials that will be first wanted. I shall, in the meantime, do everything in my power (with the force here) to prepare the sites for laying the keels, and preparing the timber so that there will be no detention when the carpenters arrive.

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**Major-General Vincent to Major-General De Rotteburg.**

BURLINGTON, December 13, 1813.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward the enclosed copy of a despatch I received yesterday from Colonel Murray, commanding the advance of this division of the army. It will give you the satisfactory information of the enemy having withdrawn the whole of his force from Fort George and having restored us to the possession of that fortress and the most plentiful district of the Upper Province.

The precipitate retreat of the enemy is to be attributed to the very spirited advance of Colonel Murray, whose zeal and activity, which I have so often witnessed, have on this occasion been of the highest advantage and importance to this country.

Notwithstanding the rapid march of Colonel Murray, on learning that the enemy intended evacuating Fort George, he did not arrive

there until some time after that movement had been carried into effect. Had he been so fortunate as to have come up with the enemy previous to his embarkation I feel confident that the result of their meeting would have reflected the greatest credit on Colonel Murray and the officers and men under his command, and the highest honor on the British arms.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 235-6.)

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**Colonel John Murray to Major-General Vincent.**

FORT GEORGE, 13th December, 1813.

SIR,—I beg leave to correct that part of my despatch of the 12th inst. 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 fortification. The darkness of the night and the severity of the snow storm prevented their being discovered until this morning, nor can a correct return of the capture of ordnance and 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 and the principal magazine blown up, in which were contained a quantity of arms and ammunition. Some temporary magazines containing fixed ammunition have been saved.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, pp. 232-3.)

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**District General Orders.**

YORK, 13th December, 1813.

Lieutenant-General Drummond has been pleased to direct that the detachment of the Royal Sappers and Miners shall be concentrated at Kingston, under the direction and superintendence of Captain Marlow of the Royal Engineers.

Officers commanding will be pleased to forward accordingly such men of that corps as may be within their respective commands by the first convenient opportunity.

By order,

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col.,

D. A. G.

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**District General Order.**

HEAD QUARTERS, UPPER CANADA,  
YORK, 13th December, 1813.

The Lieutenant-General Commanding and President has been pleased to appoint Christopher A. Hagerman, Esq., to be Provincial Aid-de-Camp to His Honor and to confer the provincial rank of Lt.-Colonel on Mr. Hagerman.

J. HARVEY,  
Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

**President's Office.**

YORK, 13th December, 1813.

His Honor the President has been pleased this day to appoint Capt. Foster to be his private secretary.

**Province of Upper Canada.****PROCLAMATION.**

Gordon Drummond,  
President.

GEORGE THE THIRD, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith.

To all whom it may concern, Greeting :—

Whereas the Civil Administration of the affairs of our Province of Upper Canada has devolved upon Gordon Drummond, Esquire, Lieutenant-General, commanding our forces within the same, We have thought proper, by and with the advice of our Executive Council, to issue this Proclamation, that all persons having due notice thereof may govern themselves accordingly :

In Testimony Whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made patent and the Great Seal of our said Province to be hereunto fixed. Witness our trusty and well beloved Gordon Drummond, Esquire, our President Administering the Government of our said Province and Lieutenant-General commanding our forces within our said Province of York, this thirteenth day of December in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirteen and in the fifty-fourth year of our reign.

WM. JARVIS, Sec'y.

GORDON DRUMMOND.

HEAD QUARTERS, YORK, UPPER CANADA,

14th December, 1813.

Lieut.-Gen. Drummond has the satisfaction of announcing to the troops that he has just received a despatch from Major-General Vincent acquainting him that the advanced corps of the Right Division, under Col. Murray, had taken possession of Fort George on the morning of the 12th inst, which place, as well as the whole of the Niagara frontier, had been precipitately abandoned by the American troops on the advance of the force under Col. Murray.

The Colonel states that the enemy retreated across the river with such precipitation that he neither effected the destruction of the magazine nor did any injury to the works of the place.

Maj.-Gen. Vincent reports that the recovery of this valuable portion of the province from the hands of a rapacious and merciless banditti is in a great degree to be attributed to the very spirited advance of Col. Murray, whose zeal and activity so often displayed, have on this occasion rendered a most important service to this country.

The troops under Col. Murray consisted of the 100th Regiment under Lt.-Col. Hamilton, a detachment of the Royal Artillery under Lt. Charleton, a detachment of the 19th Light Dragoons and Provincial Dragoons under Cornet Horton and Capt. Merritt, together with about 20 volunteer militia and about 70 Western Indians. The Colonel speaks in terms of the highest approbation of the good conduct of the whole of the troops and their unwearied exertions to come in contact with the enemy, whose rapid flight deprived them of the opportunity of proving that they are possessed of the true spirit and discipline of British troops.

The conduct of the enemy in having wantonly set fire to and destroyed the town of Fort George, previous to his retreating to his own shore, must excite the universal execration which such a barbarous and unjustifiable proceeding merits.

J. HARVEY, Lt.-Col.,

D. A. G.

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Major J. B Glegg to Major T. G. Simons, Incorporated Militia.

HEAD QUARTERS, BEASLEY'S,

14th December, 1813, 9 o'clock.

DEAR SIR,—I am particularly anxious to see you as soon as you can make it convenient to come here.

The General wishes to consult with you on some points of considerable moment. You will please come prepared for a trip to Fort George.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 341, p. 211.)

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**Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey to Brig.-General McClure, Commanding the American Forces in Fort Niagara.**

YORK, 14th December, 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 unauthorized act of any individual. It is essential that not a moment should be lost in returning a specific answer to this communication.

(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 261.)

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

No. 129.

U. S. Ship *General Pike*,

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 14th December, 1813.

SIR,—From the reiterated requests of Captain Sinclair I have been induced to allow him to proceed to Kingston and report himself to the Navy Department.

I have been somewhat influenced in my determination by your letter to that gentleman of the 10th September, and one to me of the \_\_\_\_\_, wherein you intimate your determination to permit him to leave the station as soon as the season closed.

Moreover, Captain Sinclair being dissatisfied with his present command, to detain him contrary to his wishes and what he deems his rights would make the service irksome to him and unpleasant to me. Under all these circumstances I have thought that you would not be displeased at the course that I have adopted.

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**Abstract of the Morning Report of the Garrison of Fort Niagara, Com-  
manded by Captain Leonard.**

December 15, 1813.

Captain Leonard's company, total present	74,	absent	19
Captain Hampton's do do do	88,	do	17
Lieutenant Peck's do do do	118,	do	9
Lieutenant Frederick's do do do	44,	do	—

Total present.....	324	absent	45
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Aggregate .....	369
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LOOMIS,  
Lieutenant and Acting Adjutant,  
JOHN WILSON,  
Brigade Major.

(American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I., p. 467.)

**General McClure to Governor Tompkins.**

HEAD QUARTERS, BUFFALO, Dec. 15, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—It being a matter of the first moment to the interest of our Government that the Upper Province should be speedily wrested from the enemy, I am induced to take the liberty of calling Your Excellency's attention to that all important purpose.

Permit me, Sir, therefore to observe that the whole of the enemy's force from Fort Erie to York does not exceed at this period two thousand five hundred effective men, including regular troops, incorporated militia and Indians, and the information I daily receive induces me to believe that least five hundred of them are stationed at York. This statement I know to be correct, therefore I have no hesitation to say that if the Government thinks fit to furnish me with two thousand five hundred effective militia or volunteers and one thousand regular troops, with a sufficient number of sleighs to transport them to such places as I shall deem necessary, I will not leave a British soldier west of York by the last of February.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that General Harrison's army was ordered to Sackett's Harbor. Had we marched at that time against the enemy the key to the upper country would now have been in our possession. It is also equally unfortunate that a detachment of the militia was not made and ordered to Fort George before the term of service of the late detachment expired.

It is impossible for me to describe the melancholy situation in which our friends in Canada are placed. They are arrested by the British soldiery and Indians and no sooner arrested than inhumanly butchered. Many instances of this kind have lately occurred, which evinces the necessity of establishing some measure or other for their immediate relief. Lieut.-Colonel Willcox will probably hand you this letter, and as he is acquainted with its substance, and indeed my arrangements generally, I beg you will make inquiries of him as you may deem expedient. Permit me to introduce to you Lieut.-Colonel Willcox. He has been very serviceable to me and I believe firmly attached to the cause in which he has embarked, and is worthy of notice; to whom I refer you for the particulars of my unpleasant situation at this time and all things in relation to the evacuation of Fort George.

P. S.—The foregoing is the copy of a letter written to the Secretary at War. Should it accord with your views, your co-operation in the measure will be indispensably necessary.

(Tompkins Papers, Vol. IX., pp. 7, 8, New York State Library.)

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