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# HISTORY OF THE CAMPAIGN

— UPON THE —

## Niagara Frontier

IN THE YEAR 1812.

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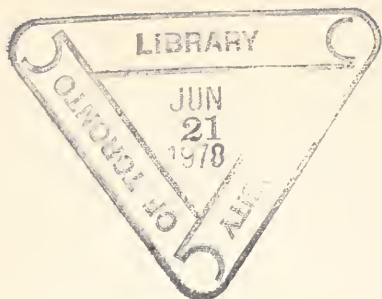
THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By LIEUT.-COLONEL E. CRUIKSHANK,

*Author of the "Story of Butler's Rangers," &c., &c.*

PART II. (1812.)

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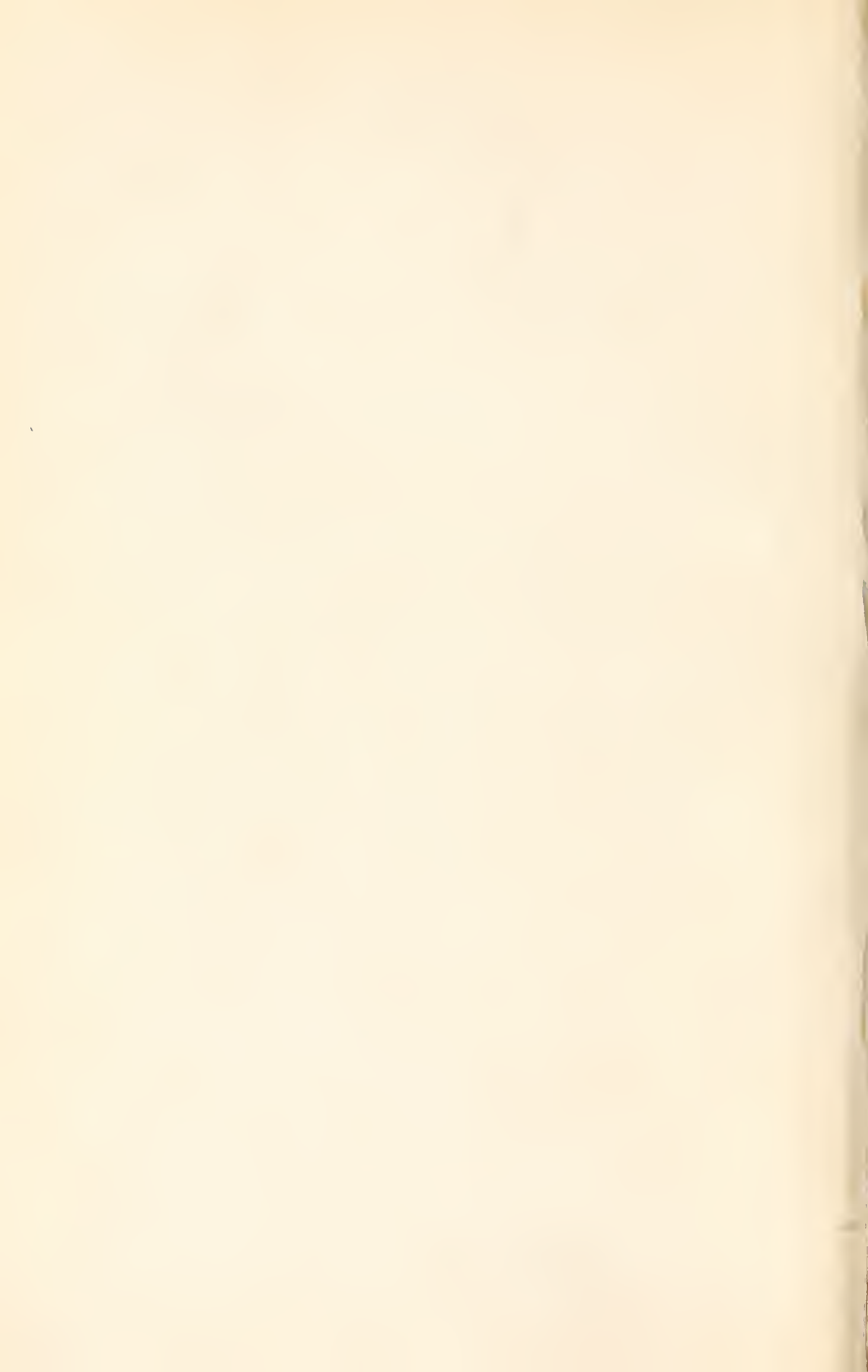
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# The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier in 1812.

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## PART II.

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### CIRCULAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 15th, 1811.

SIR,—It is possible (indeed it has been intimated) that in consequence of the operation of the late law prohibiting the importation into the United States of British goods the British agents and traders with the Indians may attempt to excite in their minds prejudices and hostile dispositions towards the United States, insinuating that as the British goods, intended for their trade, will not be permitted to enter and pass the American posts on the Western Frontier, this act, which has been dictated as a measure of general policy in relation to Great Britain, was intended as an act of hostility against the Indians. You will be on your guard, and use all proper measures to anticipate and frustrate any such attempts, explaining to the chiefs of the several tribes, as occasion may offer, that the Government of the United States has been compelled by long-continued injuries and violation of their rights, on the part of Great Britain, for which no satisfaction or redress has been had, to interdict their trade, rather than make war against them. That as the white people have, it is expected the red people will submit to an inconvenience, which it is in the power of Great Britain to terminate by returning to a sense of right and pursuing a course of justice.

In resisting such endeavoring and conciliating the disposition of the Indians, your vigilance and exertions are expected, and in case it should become necessary to extend indulgencies and to make presents exceeding the usual allowance, your discretion is confided in to act as circumstances may require.

The agents at the several factories will receive instructions on the subject from the superintendent of Indian trade.

Respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. EUSTIS.

Gen. Erastus Granger,  
Indian agent, Six Nations.

(From Ketchum's *History of Buffalo*, Vol. II., pp. 248-9.)

James Brock, Secretary to General Brock, to Colonel Talbot.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,  
YORK, 27th February, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you by command of the President, a commission empowering you to carry into effect an act passed in the fourth session of the 7th Parliament of this Province, entitled, “An act for the better securing this Province against all seditious attempts or designs to disturb the tranquillity thereof,” which His Honor makes no doubt you will readily undertake to enforce. A copy of the act is herewith transmitted.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

{SEAL} By Isaac Brock, Esquire, President, administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major-General Commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c., &c., &c.

To Thomas Talbot of Port Talbot in the District of London, Esquire:

Whereas by an act of the Parliament of this Province, passed in the forty-fourth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled, “An Act for the better securing this Province against all seditious attempts or designs to disturb the tranquillity thereof,” it is among other things provided “that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government for the time being to appoint such person or persons as may appear to him proper for the purpose of arresting such person or persons not having been an inhabitant or inhabitants of this Province for the space of six months preceding the date of his warrant, or not having taken the oath of allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, who by words or actions or other behavior or conduct, hath or have endeavored, or hath or have given just cause to suspect that he, she or they, is or are about to endeavor to alienate the minds of His Majesty's subjects of this Province from his person or Government, or in any wise with a seditious intent to disturb the tranquillity thereof.”

NOW KNOW YE that I, ISAAC BROCK, Esquire, President and Major-General commanding His Majesty's forces within the said Province, by virtue of the powers so vested in me, under the authority of the before recited act, have appointed and deputed and do by these presents appoint and depute you, the said Thomas Talbot, of Port Talbot, in the district of London, Esquire, to carry

into execution the several provisions in the said before recited act contained, strictly conforming yourself in every particular thereto.

Given under my hand and seal at the Government House at York this twenty-seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve, and of His Majesty's reign the fifty-second.

By His Honor's command.

JAMES BROCK,  
Secretary.

ISAAC BROCK,  
President.

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### AN ACT TO AMEND THE MILITIA ACT.

An Act to extend the provisions of an act passed in the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled, "An act to explain, amend and reduce to one act of parliament the several laws now in being for the raising and training the militia in this Province."

(Passed 6th March, 1812.)

Whereas an Act passed in the forty-eighth year of His present Majesty's reign, entitled, "An Act to explain, amend and reduce to one Act of parliament the several laws now in being for the raising and training the militia of this Province is found insufficient for the purposes thereby intended: Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada constituted and assembled by virtue of and under authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, entitled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled, 'An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America, and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province,' and by the authority of the same, that there shall be to every Battalion of Militia, now or hereafter to be formed in this Province, (the strength of which will admit thereof), two flank companies, to consist of not more than one hundred men each, nor in any case to compose more than one-third of the strength of such Battalion, and also all independent companies belonging to any county, riding or place shall provide their quota, to compose one or more flank company or companies, but in no case to exceed one-third of such independent company or companies, to be selected and formed from among such Militia men as shall at any meeting or meetings of any such battalion or independent companies volunteer for that purpose. And if it should happen that a sufficient number of persons shall not at any such meeting or meetings volunteer for the purpose



aforesaid, then and in such case the deficiency shall be made up by ballot from the Militia men of such battalion or independent company or companies who shall be under the age of forty years.

II. *Provided always nevertheless* that when it shall happen that two or more persons shall be called upon service from one family that one of them shall be excused for that time, unless it shall appear to the officer commanding such company of Militia that there is another person living in the same house capable of taking care of said family, who is not then called into actual service, and also that when a widow or aged person shall at the time of making the said ballot depend for her or his maintenance on a son, grandson or apprentice, such son, grandson or apprentice shall be excused from service, while supporting such widow or aged person.

III. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that when any such flank company shall be formed it shall and may be lawful for the captain or officer commanding the same to call out such company, and he is hereby required so to do six days in each month, for the purpose of being trained and exercised as may be directed by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government, and such company shall continue its training, not exceeding the said six days in every month, until the men composing the same are duly instructed in their exercise; *Provided always* that the officer commanding such company shall always after the said company shall be pronounced duly instructed, have it in his power to call out such company one day in each month to be exercised and reviewed, and oftener if he shall be so directed by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government. *Provided also* that such flank company or companies, being called out for the purpose of training, it shall not be lawful for any field officer, except such as may be specially appointed for that purpose by the Governor or person administering the Government, to command or otherwise interfere in the said training or exercising.

IV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government from time to time, as occasion may require, to appoint such and so many staff officers to the Militia of this Province as he may think necessary, and also from time to time to remove any Militia officer now or hereafter to be appointed and appoint another in his stead.

V. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government, as often as occasion shall require, to order any and every of the said companies



to march to any part of this Province upon any such duty as he shall think necessary.

VI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that it shall be lawful for the captain or other officer commanding any company of Militia, if he shall think necessary, to divide his company into squads of such number as to him shall seem proper and the convenience of such company shall require, and that the captain or other officer commanding any such company as aforesaid shall always appoint some fit and proper person to exercise and instruct in military discipline the men to be assembled at each of the said squad meetings, and that if any non-commissioned officer or private shall refuse to obey the orders of his superior officer when employed on Militia duty, or shall quarrel with or insult by abusive words, or otherwise, any officer or non-commissioned officer being in the execution of his duty, or otherwise misbehave himself while on duty as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the commanding officer then and there present to order every such offender or offenders to be taken into custody and forthwith tried by a court martial, to be composed of three or more officers of the said Militia, who upon proof of the offence by one or more credible witness or witnesses, (which oath the president of the said court martial is hereby authorized to administer), shall and may order and sentence every such offender to pay a fine not exceeding five pounds nor less than five shillings, at the discretion of the court and according to the nature of the offence, and in default of payment commit such offender to the common gaol of the district for a term not exceeding one month nor less than three days, or until the amount of such fine shall be paid, any law to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

VII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that in all trials by any court martial, other than general courts martial, the person appointed to be president thereof shall administer to each of the other members, the following oath: *You, A. B., do swear that you will administer justice to the best of your understanding in the matter now before you, according to the Militia laws of this Province and the evidence which shall be produced before you, without partiality, favor or affection..* So help you, God. And as soon as the said oath shall have been administered by the president to the other members, any one of the said members shall administer the said oath to the president.

VIII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that whenever it shall so happen that there shall not be a sufficient number of officers present to compose a court as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the commanding officer to detain such

offender in custody until a court can be assembled for the trial of such offender: provided such court can be obtained within twelve hours from the time of such confinement, and in case a court as herein before directed cannot be assembled within twelve hours, such offender shall be released from such confinement and tried under the provisions of the Act of the forty-eighth of the King, entitled: "An Act to explain, amend and reduce to one act of Parliament the several laws now in being for the raising and training the Militia of this Province."

IX. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that if any person or persons shall presume to disturb, interrupt or molest any party of Militia whilst on duty, it shall and may be lawful to and for the commanding officer of such party to order any such person or persons to be carried before any one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace who shall be next to the place where the offence may be committed, who, upon proof of the offence by the oath of one or more witness or witnesses, shall and may order and adjudge every such offender to pay a fine not exceeding five pounds nor less than ten shillings, and in default of payment to commit him to the common gaol of the district for a term not exceeding one month nor less than ten days, unless the fine is sooner paid by him.

X. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person administering the Government, from time to time and as often as occasion shall require, to make such regulations as he may think necessary for the care and custody of any arms and accoutrements provided and supplied in order to the instruction of the Militia men to be trained and exercised; and also from time to time, as occasion may require, by any order or orders to be made and issued for that purpose, to declare and establish the dress and uniform to be worn by any and every part of the Militia of this Province; *Provided always* that nothing herein contained shall be construed to oblige any Militia man to provide any uniform at his own expense.

XI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that so much of the said Act passed in the forty-eighth year of the King entitled, "An Act to explain, amend and reduce to one Act of Parliament the several laws now in being for the raising and training the Militia of this Province," as directs that no company of Militia shall consist of more than fifty men, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed, and that every company shall and may consist of a number not exceeding one hundred men.

XII. And whereas it may be convenient to form one or more

company or companies of riflemen in this Province, *be it enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government of this Province, to form and embody such company or companies, and employ the same on such duties as the necessity of the service may require.

XIII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that every officer of the Militia of this Province shall, on or before the fourth day of June next, and every officer who may after that day be appointed within eight days after he shall have received his commission, before one or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the district to which his regiment, battalion or company shall belong, take and subscribe the following oath, to wit:

*I, A. B., do sincerely promise and swear, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty, King George the Third, as lawful Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of this Province as dependent thereon, and that I will defend him to the utmost of my power against all traitorous conspiracies and attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against his person, crown and dignity, and particularly his dominions in North America, and that I will do my utmost endeavor to disclose and make known to His Majesty, his heirs or successors, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies and attempts which I shall know to be against him, or any of them, and to all this I do swear without any equivocation, mental evasion or secret reservation, and renouncing all pardons and dispensations from any person or power whatsoever to the contrary. So help me, God.*

XIV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or person administering the Government, to order and direct that the non-commissioned officers and privates of any and every regiment, battalion, company or body of Militia in this Province, shall be called upon to take and subscribe the said oath of allegiance, and that upon receiving any orders for that purpose it shall and may be lawful to and for the commanding officer of such regiment, battalion or company, and he is hereby required to call upon every non-commissioned officer or private of his regiment, battalion or company to take and subscribe the said oath before one or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the district to which such regiment, battalion or company shall belong, which oath shall be administered free of expense, and that every Justice of the Peace administering such oath shall forward a certificate thereof to the Clerk of the Peace of the District, to be enrolled, which such Clerk of the Peace is hereby required to do free of expense; and if any officer, non-commissioned officer, or private (having been

required so to do) shall refuse or neglect to take and subscribe the said oath in manner hereby directed, upon conviction before any General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or in time of actual invasion or insurrection before any Court Martial, every such person or persons shall be deemed and taken to be an alien, and shall be liable and subject to any law or laws now in force, or hereafter to be made respecting or against aliens.

XV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that so much of the said act as directs that any body or detachment of Militia, which may be called out by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government, shall and may be detained on such service for and during the space of six months at one time and no longer—shall be—and the same is hereby repealed.

XVI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that at the expiration of six months from the time of any such detachment being called out as aforesaid, one-third of the men from such detachment shall be selected by ballot, and if relieved by an equal number shall be discharged, and at the expiration of seven months from the time of calling out such detachment, another third shall be selected, and if relieved discharged in like manner; and at the expiration of eight months the remaining third, if relieved, shall be discharged.

XVII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that it shall and may be lawful to and for any Colonel or other officer commanding any regiment, battalion or company, and he is hereby required to call out his regiment, battalion or company, whenever he shall be directed so to do, for the purpose of being inspected or reviewed by any inspecting field officer of Militia or other field officers of the line, who may be sent for that purpose; and that Lieutenant-Colonels in His Majesty's army, serving with any part of the Militia in this Province, shall command all Militia officers, whatever anything in said in part recited act to the contrary notwithstanding.

XVIII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that every Militia man whose services may be accepted of in any volunteer corps, now or hereafter to be raised, shall be exempted from serving as a Militia man under this or the before mentioned act whilst he shall belong to any such corps as aforesaid: and also that every person serving in any flank company shall not be liable to any personal arrest on any civil process, or to serve as a juror, or to perform duty as a town or parish officer or statute laborer on the highways during the time he shall continue in such flank companies: any law to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

XIX. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that any non-commissioned officer or private Militia man, who in any engagement with an enemy, or by an accident or casualty which may occur while on or performing any duty in actual service, shall be killed and shall leave a widow or child or children lawfully begotten, his said widow shall be entitled to receive during her widowhood, and in case of the death of such widow then the eldest child or guardian, for the use of the child or children of such non-commissioned officer or private Militia man until the youngest thereof shall have attained the age of sixteen years, an annuity of five pounds lawful money of this Province, and also that every non-commissioned officer or private of Militia, who in any engagement with an enemy, or by any accident or casualty which may occur while on or performing any duty in actual service, shall be wounded or disabled so as to be rendered incapable of earning his livelihood, shall be allowed an annuity of nine pounds lawful money of this Province during the time he shall continue under such incapacity.

XX. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that so much of an act passed in the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled: "An act to explain, amend and reduce to one act of Parliament the several laws now in being for the raising and training of the Militia of this Province," as directs how Militia fines are to be disposed of; be and the same is hereby repealed.

XXI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* that all sums of money arising from fines, forfeitures and penalties, shall as soon after the thirty-first day of December in every year as practicable, be transmitted by the magistrate or officer respectively receiving the same, to the Receiver General of this Province, to be disposed of as the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or person administering the Government shall direct to purposes only that shall respect the said Militia, and which shall be accounted for to the Crown, through the commissioners of His Majesty's treasury for the time being, as the Crown shall direct.

XXII. *Provided always* that this present Act shall continue and be in force until the first day of January next, and from thereon to the end of the then next ensuing session of the Legislature of this Province and no longer.

*(From a printed copy of the Act in the Talbot papers.)*

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Captain J. B. Glegg to Colonel Thomas Talbot.

YORK. 12th March, 1812.

(Private.)

MY DEAR SIR,—I was favored with your letter a few days ago and availed myself of the first opportunity that Mr. Burwell gave me for presenting him to the General, who has in consequence of your introduction afforded him every facility in the accomplishment of his business. Agreeably to your request I send you a few of the supplementary Militia bills, which have just come from the press this morning. A circular letter will be immediately addressed to the officers commanding corps, calling upon them to explain distinctly to their officers and men its provisions. The General (Brock) received a letter from Nichol this morning, written, I believe, from the head of the lake, and he reports that in consequence of efforts made by Willcocks, Mallory and others to create apprehensions respecting the intended operation of the Militia bill, the young men of the country appear much alarmed, and *emigration* is already in their contemplation. This must surely either be a false alarm or intended merely as an electioneering trick by those notorious characters. The General's head is at present too much occupied with preparing the required official report of his parliamentary proceedings to think scarcely of anything else.

In a few days *l'abrégé d'un code d'instruction Militaire* will be thought of as applicable to the Provincial Militia. The moment it is completed you shall again hear from me. The last mail from below brought us His Excellency's speech to his House of Assembly, which, like all other compositions of that description, contains nothing but what we have all of us heard before. I fear Sir George will not be so fortunate in carrying his measures as his family expect—the (French) Canadians are not partial to innovations of any kind. They are stubborn dogs and are only to be moved by *la force majeure*. The Glengarry company seems to engross the whole of their attention, and is now commenced in good earnest. Colonel Baynes, the Adjutant General, is to be the Colonel, and to ensure its success in the Holy Wars a priest is already appointed. As they look to *our acres* as inducements for enlistments, the patronage of two companies is given to General Brock, who has offered these companies to some of his young friends. Instructions are received for putting all the forts and defences in the Province in the best order. Captain Vigoreux is to have charge of the projected works from York to Fort Erie, and assistant engineers are already named for each post. Captain Dixon is gone to Amherstburg to superintend the works at that post and St. Joseph's. In a few weeks we

shall commence our grand plan of fortification for this post, and the marine department will not be idle. Mr. Fish being just returned from Albany with a master-builder and party of shipwrights, we are promised one of the finest schooners that has ever appeared on this lake. I send you a Montreal paper which contains a well written reply or rather commentary on the flowery speech of Governor Gerry. It is estimated by our *Peripatetic Philosopher* a production of considerable merit. I rather think it was brought very lately from the States by one of Sir George's family, and it is not improbable but it came from some person near our minister.

The very communicative temper of our friend Nichol will, there is no doubt, ere this arrives, have put you in full possession of the éclat that his name or rather his imprisonment has created. The Burdett business is a mere farce when compared to it. *Baldinage a part* he has been most infamously treated, and I sincerely hope redress may be obtained for him. He may with truth exclaim, in the words of the celebrated Lord Chatham, (affair of Wilkes in 1770,) "that an outrage has been committed which struck at everything dear and sacred to the liberty of Englishmen." I can make every allowance for his indignant feelings, tho' I sincerely regret his having made such a personal attack upon Goff and Rogers the day before he left York, as it has produced an address which subjects his *best friend* (i. e., General Brock), to trouble which he ought to have been avoided.

The General enters warmly into his hard case, and was not to be dictated to by such gentry, nor was he to be humbugged by the representations of the attack having taken place in the "Speaker's apartments." He was well aware that it happened *at Jordan's*, and declined interfering in the squabbles of a tavern. I think it is probable that we shall pay you an early visit; allow me, in the meantime, to make an unconditional offer of my services. Mr. Burwell will be the bearer of a few cuttings of our best gooseberry trees, tho' I fear, from Mr. Hunter's\* report, that the season is not favorable to them. He says a month hence some good might be expected from them. The General and Mr. Secretary Brock desire to be remembered.

P. S.—The Nichol cause has given a terrible shock to your learned friend,† who, I understand, declares he has done more harm by discussing the *question* than he *can do good* if he lives 100 years!!!

(From the Talbot Papers.)

\*Talbot's confidential servant. †Probably Chief Justice Scott.



**Colonel Robert Nichol to Colonel Thomas Talbot.**

(Undated, probably written early in March, 1812.)

MY DEAR COLONEL,—Ostrander, one of the Davis party, has just called and paid his fees. I have told him that he must positively go to you before he takes up his lot. He will deliver you this letter, which encloses extracts of my letters to the Adjutant General and to Captain Glegg. I have exhibited seven charges against Rapalje, one of which for asserting and persisting in it that I had said no American could be a loyal subject: another for attempting to call out his company after he had been informed that he was no longer to command it, in direct and open defiance of his commanding officer: another for propagating a story that I had been the cause of turning him and Anderson out of the Militia. You know how foul a lie that is! And another for telling me a downright falsehood.

I shall, by next opportunity, send you a correct copy of the charges. Mr. Joe Ryerson is a sly old fox, but I have now taken the right method to unkennel him. I am determined to ferret him out, and that the exposure of this band of backbiters and slanderers shall be complete.

I send you the last papers I received. I expect Steele back this evening, and if an opportunity offers afterwards I shall send all the news.

God bless you, my dear Colonel.

N. B.—The Henry mentioned in the paper\* is the Irish renegade that McGillivray and the Furr Gentry in Montreal wanted to thrust upon us here as a judge. I have no doubt the correspondence is genuine, but I am not disposed to think that either the Government or Sir James (Craig) can be fairly blamed.

R. N.

*(From the Talbot Papers.)*

\*The well-known John Henry.

**Extract of a Letter from Colonel Nichol to the Adjutant General,  
Enclosed in the Foregoing Letter.**

While, however, I am using the utmost exertions and discretion to carry into full effect the instructions of His Honor Major-General Brock, I shall require the countenance and support of the Executive Government to enable me to check those habits of insubordination, which I am sorry to say have been prevalent in this part of the Province.

I do not mean to attach the smallest blame to the men—on the

contrary they are well disposed—but some of the ancient officers have conducted themselves in such a manner as to render it imperative on me to exhibit charges against them, which are enclosed, and which will I trust appear to His Honor, Major-General Brock, of sufficient consequence to induce him to order a court of enquiry to investigate the conduct of Lieut.-Colonel Ryerson, Capt. Rapelje and myself.

I assure you it is with the greatest reluctance that I trouble the Government on this occasion, but the circumstances are such as to leave me no option. His Honor Major-General Brock, having been pleased to confer on me an office of high trust and responsibility, requiring both prudence, zeal and sound discretion in the exercise of it, and great integrity of character and conduct, I feel I should be wanting, both in duty to the Government and respect to myself, should I suffer my authority to be invaded and my character to be aspersed without a prompt endeavor on my part to vindicate and defend both.

Whenever it shall please His Honor to think that my remaining in my present situation will be prejudicial to the public interest, I shall, without a murmur, obey his order to retire from it; but while I retain an office of such high trust and responsibility I am determined to perform without shrinking and to the best of my abilities all the duties which are attached to it, so that when I yield up my command to a successor I may deliver over to him a well regulated regiment and not an unruly mob.

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**Extract of a Letter from Colonel Nichol to Captain J. B. Glegg.**

It is my wish that the General may perfectly understand the motives which have induced me to prefer these charges, and I beg leave to assure him through you that they are entirely of a public nature. Public considerations alone have been my motives, for I feel that while these reports are circulated by Rapalje and Ryerson uncontradicted they will be believed, and consequently will render it impossible for me to be of the smallest service to the Government or country at the head of the Second Regiment of Norfolk Militia.

It is a well known fact that almost ever since the first establishment of a Militia in this country, it has been little better than a legalized mob: the officers without respectability, without intelligence and without authority, and the men without any idea of subordination. Now, Sir, I am desirous of putting an end to such a state of things in my part of the country. My wish is to *command a regiment and not to be the leader of a mob.* To enable me

to reform abuses and to bring both officers and men into those habits of regularity and subordination so necessary in all military service, I shall have occasion for all the popularity and influence over public opinion that I possess, and had I ten times more it would not be too much, and therefore I do conceive it my duty to resist and punish on the threshold every attempt of my immediate officers to weaken or destroy these. You know well, Sir, that in a Militia, composed as ours is of independent yeomanry, it would be both impolitic and useless to attempt to introduce the strict discipline of the line. They must in a great measure be governed by opinion: just and fair conduct and a conciliatory disposition on the part of their commanding officer will do much, and this was the line of conduct I had marked out for myself, but if before the regiment is organized, which is composed almost entirely of native Americans, and before I assume any command, the officers appointed to serve under me circulate such reports and assertions are not immediately investigated and *proved to be unfounded*, I feel that I cannot, with justice to the Government and respect to myself, remain in the command.

I have no hesitation in denying most unequivocally the truth of all and every one of the reports circulated, and my only wish is to have a *public* opportunity of vindicating my character from such infamous and foul aspersions.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

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#### H. Bostwick to R. Nichol.

SIR,—Having heard that it is currently reported that you have made use of the following expression in my presence, that is:—“That no American could be a loyal subject;” and conceiving that the report is circulated for the purpose of influencing the Minds of the Electors in this riding at the approaching election to your prejudice, I think it but justice to you, positively and unequivocally, to declare that I never heard you express yourself to that effect; nor did I ever hear any language made use of by you which could possibly bear that construction or anything like it: and I may further add that I have frequently heard you deprecate every system of exclusion as it respects official situations in this Province, and your conviction that it would be sound policy in the Government to permit emigrants from the United States to participate in the different offices of honor and emolument in this Province, as it

would in your opinion effectually tend to rivet their attachment to this Government and dispel any ill-grounded jealousies. You are at liberty to give what publicity you may think proper to this letter.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient, humble servant,  
H. BOSTWICK.

Woodhouse, 31st March, 1812.

To R. Nichol, Esq.

*(From a printed handbill in the Talbot Papers.)*

**(Prideaux Selby?) to Colonel Talbot. (Signature Torn off.)**

YORK, 4th April, 1812.

**(An Extract.)**

We have nothing new in politics but what you will see in the newspapers I herewith send. Mr. Henry\* was a particular acquaintance of mine and the last person I would have suspected of such a villainous act—but alas, poor human nature!

*(From the Talbot Papers.)*

\*John Henry, who had recently sold copies of his correspondence with Mr. Ryland to the American Government.

**Major-General Brock to Colonel Talbot.**

YORK, April 20, 1812.

**(An Extract.)**

It is impossible to say how the Government will view the embargo. I imagine they will allow it to operate quietly, to the ruin of the sorry politicians who gave it birth. The Duke of Northumberland writes to Selby\* that strong reinforcements are ordered to this country. The public papers mention the same thing, but I hear nothing on the subject officially. Governor Gore has been actively and successfully employed in the service of his friends. Claus and Givins have both an increase to their salaries: Cartwright 3,000 additional acres, &c., &c. Mrs. Gore was very ill; Halton thought in imminent danger. The Prince Regent has surprised the world and disgusted his old friends. I hope Lord Wellington will not be sacrificed. He cannot expect the unbounded support he was wont to receive from the Marquis†.

*(From the Talbot Papers.)*

\*Prideaux Selby, Receiver General of Upper Canada. †The Marquis of Wellesley, his brother.

Colonel Robert Nichol to Major George C. Salmon, 2nd Norfolk Militia.

NIAGARA, June 28, 1812.  
2 P. M.

DEAR SALMON,—We have at last received the printed intelligence of the declaration of war, and are now at work throwing up batteries to attack the fort at Niagara. Our fire will commence tomorrow morning early, and I hope that before dinner-time we shall give a good account of it. Exert yourself, therefore, to carry into effect the General's instructions, for your assistance may be required on very short notice.

Send this, after showing it to Lieut.-Colonel Ryerson, to Colonel Talbot, and at the same time enclose copies of the General Orders enclosed to you by this opportunity\*.

EXTRACT FROM A GENERAL ORDER ISSUED JUNE 28th.

Colonel Talbot is appointed to the command of the Militia in the London District, and will be pointed in his directions to the Militia of Oxford and Middlesex.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

\*Vide General Order in part I., pp. 85-6.

**Return of Fifth Lincoln Militia, 3rd July, 1812.**

5th Lincoln Militia.	Cpts.	Lieuts.	Ensigns.	Sergts.	Rank and File.
Captain Samuel Hatt's flank company.....	1	1	1	2	72
Captain James Durand's flank company.....	1	1	1	2	72
Captain Jacob A. Ball's company.	1	1		3	22
Captain John D. Servos's company	1	1	1	3	25

**State of the Fourth Division,**

UNDER COLONEL WM. CLAUS, STATIONED AT FORT GEORGE, 7th JULY, 1812.

Company or Corps.	Cpts.	Lieuts.	Ensigns.	Sergts.	Rank and File.
Captain James Crooks's flank company.....	1	1	2	3	62
Captain John McEwen's flank company.....	1	1	2	3	67
Captain Lyon's rifle company....	1	1	1	2	24
Captain A. Nelles's flank company	1	1	1	3	77
Captain W. Crooks's flank company.....	1	1	2	3	72

**State of the Third Division,**

CAPTAIN P. L. CHAMBERS, 41st REGT., STATIONED AT QUEENSTON, 7th  
JULY, 1812.

	Capts.	Lieuts.	Ensigns.	Sergts.	Rank and File.
41st Regiment.....	1	1	2	3	100
Militia Dragoons.....	1			1	3
Lincoln Artillery.....	1			1	12
Hatt's flank company.....	1	1	1	3	63
Applegarth's flank company.....	1	1		3	45
Chisholm's flank company.....	1	1	1	2	34
Durand's flank company.....	1		1	2	66

**Major-General Brock to Colonel Talbot.**

MONDAY, 7th September, (1812.)

I returned yesterday from Kingston. At twelve to-morrow hostilities are to re-commence. Madison must be mad, or so deeply involved in Bonaparte politics that he cannot recede. I have a letter from Isaac Todd from New York, dated the 21st August: a determination to compel Government to make peace prevails.

The enemy is most active on his line opposite. An attack with his artillery will probably commence in a few days. He is strong in numbers. The prodigious quantity of ammunition and provisions, which the cessation of hostilities have enabled him to collect, give him an advantage he would not easily have acquired otherwise. I wish at this moment to assemble as large a force as possible. Lieut. Bird encourages me to expect two or three hundred men from the district under your command. Do what you are able in that respect, sending to let me know the number who are likely to volunteer their services, that arrangements may be made for their reception.

You cannot send a better captain than Bostwick. I cannot think a force at Long Point at this time necessary. We have arms in tolerable plenty.

*(From the Talbot Papers.)*

**Minutes of Council Held at Buffalo.**

September 8th, 1812.

Council opened and the War-Chief Little Billy spoke: First a compliment to the agent: thanks to the Great Spirit for health and for bringing them together: is glad that the chiefs from a distance are present: prepared to attend a protracted council, &c.



BROTHER (addressing himself to the agent),—You recollect after we were collected as a body you made a communication to us upon which we then deliberated: you sent us a letter from the President. This gave us a new subject for our deliberation, and now we come forward to reply to that communication:

BROTHER,—At that council at the village you told us you should have further to say. We considered this council important. We, the Senecas, took up the business separately. \* \* \* \* We are now prepared to give an answer.

BROTHER,—You must be sensible: we have been for a number of years in the path of peace. Our exertions have been great to keep in this path. We tried to keep peace. We thought the Western Indians would listen to our voice, but they would not. Perhaps you are to blame. Your commander gave up Detroit before the Western Indians had time to decide.

BROTHER,—I have spoken of the pains we have taken to preserve peace. Your agents have done the same, but in vain. We went to Grand River (in Canada) lately to keep peace, but in vain. The path of peace is broken in every part. We find no place to flee to where there is peace now. Upon this subject we have been deliberating.

BROTHER,—I have said we have come with all the others to seek the path of peace. We find there is no path left for us but between us and the United States. It is cut off in every other direction. Agreeably to your communication we, the Senecas, shall now prepare to defend ourselves against the common enemy. It is true we have friends on the other side, but we are exposed to the blow as well as you are, and must prepare to meet it. We know of no other way to preserve peace but to rise from our seats and defend our own firesides, our wives and our children. We hope you will not ask us to cross over. Those that go over must go at their own risk. If our men go they must go voluntarily. We wish to act only on the defensive. Part of the Onondagas and Cayugas, who live amongst us, agree with us. We volunteer: we must act under our own chiefs: according to our own customs: be at liberty to take our own course in fighting: we cannot conform to your discipline in camp. So far as we can we will conform to your customs. When you see a boat with a white flag, you do not fire; we shall do the same: but when a boat comes over without one, we shall then begin the attack.

BROTHERS,—We have no secrets: let the enemy know what we have done. Our council on the other side began privately: we are willing our position should be known. The deputation we sent over after war was declared were not permitted to go up the



country. We did not have an interview with our Canada friends; we were told that friendship was at an end. We hope if you take Canada we should enjoy our land on that side.

BROTHER,—If the British should come over and make a stand, we, that are on the lines, want you to point out a place where our women and children can retreat to, as you own the country to the eastward; for it will be necessary that our women and children should have refuge, and what provision will be made for the women and children of those who fall?

BROTHER,—You have told us you were strong and could conquer them. You have said they would not fight you: that you had friends among them, &c. How shall we distinguish between friends and enemies?

BROTHER,—We volunteer for this service. We do not wish you to place us in forts where we cannot act. You know what took place at Detroit; an army was sold. We wish not to be sold.

*(From the History of Buffalo by William Ketchum, Vol. II., pp. 422-4)*

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### Address of Six Nations, Resident in New York, to the President of the United States.

BROTHER,—The undersigned chiefs and warriors of the Oneida, Onondaga, Stockbridge and Tuscarora tribes of Indians, as far west as Tonawanda, regularly deputed by our respective tribes, have this day lighted up a council fire at Onondaga, the ancient council ground of the Six Confederate Nations of Indians, and have invited our white brothers of Onondaga to meet with us and hear what we have to say.

BROTHER,—We see that the tomahawk is lifted up between you and the British. We are uneasy about it, and therefore we have met and determined to tell you our minds about it:

BROTHER,—At the close of the late war Gen. Washington told us to be sober and attend to agriculture and to refrain from shedding blood: this advice was good. Our good prophet of the Seneca tribe, who is now with us in this council, has given us the same advice, and our tribe have entered into a league to follow that advice. We wish to hold fast to it and not take any part in the contest between your people and the British.

We have been repeatedly told by your agents that it was your wish that we should remain neutral, and therefore we are much surprised and disappointed in the council, lately held at Buffalo Creek, at being invited to take up the tomahawk.

BROTHER,—You must not suppose from what we have now

told you that we are unfriendly to you or your people. We are your decided friends. We reside among your people. Your friends are our friends, and your enemies are our enemies.

In the former war between your people and the British, some of us took up the tomahawk on their side. When the peace took place we buried it deep, and it shall never be raised against you and your people.

BROTHER,—We are few in number and can do but little, but our hearts are good and we are willing to do what we can, and if you want our assistance say so and we will go with your people to battle.

We are anxious to know your wishes respecting us as soon as possible, because some of our young men are uneasy, and we fear they may disperse among different tribes and be hostile to you. Pray direct your communication to the chiefs and warriors of the respective tribes, to be left at Onondaga Postoffice.

Onondaga, Sept. 28th, 1812.

Signed by sixteen chiefs and warriors.

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We, the subscribers, do certify that we were present at the council hereinbefore mentioned: that the same is as interpreted, and that the same was subscribed in our presence.

Onondaga, Sept. 29th, 1812.

EPHRAIM WEBSTER,  
Interpreter and agent  
for the Onondagas.

JOSEPH HOPPER,  
Clerk of Onondaga County.

THADDEUS PATCHIN,  
Captain of Artillery.

PULASKI KING,  
Justice of the Peace.

(From Ketchum's *History of Buffalo*. Vol. II., p. 424.)

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**Lieut.-Colonel Henry Bostwick, Oxford Militia, to Colonel Talbot.**

OXFORD, 10th Sept., 1812.

SIR,—Mr. Bird arrived at this place last evening from Fort George, and informed me that he is taking instructions to you to send to Niagara all the Militia of the district without delay. Should that be the case I should be glad to receive the orders from you as

soon as possible, and shall hold myself in readiness, and shall prepare the Militia of this regiment also to be in readiness in the meantime.

I sent Major Tewsley on with a detachment of Militia day before yesterday. I understood he was joined in Burford by more than I had reason to expect, so that his force will consist of about 100 men. I shall send Mr. Brigham on tomorrow with his riflemen. His company will consist of about thirty men. I think most of them will be furnished with good rifles.

I have not heard whether the Norfolk Militia have moved towards Niagara or not. I sent but one captain and three subalterns with Major Tewsley. My directions to him were to take eighty rank and file. I am, however, very glad to hear it is more.

*(From the Talbot Papers.)*

**Captain Daniel Springer, 1st Middlesex Militia, to Colonel Talbot.**

DELAWARE, 10th Sept., 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Agreeable to your request, I delivered your letter to Colonel Nichol at Detroit, and he was much engaged with public business and did not write, but told me he would set off for Niagara on the eighth instant. I found persons in Detroit of respectability, who were willing to give the depositions respecting Andrew Westbrook while at Detroit. The purport is that he requested fifty men from General Hull to return back to Delaware and take his property, and that Simon Z. Watson was to be one of the number. General Hull doubted his integrity: asked the opinion of those persons, as they were acquainted with him, what kind of a man he was, whether or not he could be entrusted, and he was in Detroit at the time of the capitulation, and as there were no magistrates appointed to take depositions I could not get them, but Colonel Nichol promised that they would be taken, and would get them forwarded on to Niagara.

The day before I returned to Delaware Mr. B. Brewster Brigham had assembled my company of militia and told the men that he had orders from Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick to take a certain number from among them to fill up his rifle company, and if not that he should select a certain number of musquet men. I asked him by what authority he interfered with my company. He made answer, by orders of Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick. I told him if such measures were legal that I was not acquainted with it, and that I would acquaint Your Honor with the proceedings, and yesterday he marched them off, and likewise told the men if they did not go

that Colonel Bostwick would fetch them with a file of men. What number he took I cannot say. Mr. Dingman can perhaps give you some account, as he saw the men.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

**Chief Justice Thomas Scott to Colonel Talbot.**

YORK, September 12th, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—I return you my sincere thanks for your letter of the 29th of August. The loss which you have sustained I most truly regret. It is certainly no reasonable consolation, yet we all take some degree of comfort to ourselves when we find we are not the only sufferers, and that others share with us in our misfortune. The rains here have done great mischief where we have no enemy but the season to contend with.

I consider myself equally interested with you in the return of our worthy friend, the Governor. I have not heard from him since I wrote to you last. He was then in great hopes of returning soon amongst us; but, alas, in this world what are hopes? Mrs. G. (ore) was much better. They both have found every attention from common friends, but they both wish to return. The Prince Regent, in the most familiar manner, acknowledged Mr. Gore as an old acquaintance, and put him in mind of their having served together.

I had yesterday a letter from General Brock, who seems to expect that matters would be soon brought to a crisis at Niagara. Since the beginning of the troubles (for so I must call them) the General never was so strong. We expect a few—and but a few—regular troops to this place, under, it is said, Colonel Shortt. Major Fuller has been perfectly deranged. Allan, your old acquaintance as major, has, in effect, the command of the garrison, and has acted with much judgment and discretion. There is an ugly report of a frigate, *La Guerriere*, having been taken by the *Constitution*, an American ship. Our vessel, it is said, was so much battered that she sank the moment she was taken; but this is American news conveyed to Niagara. It may be a lie, but I am somewhat apprehensive of its truth.

They (the Americans) have taken off the roof from their fort at Niagara, and have erected a battery on the stone works which remain. Numbers are leaving the American camp, but whether from a feint or by desertion we do not know. It is said they are sickly, &c., &c., but we ought not to be too credulous. An American vessel was taken in the lake near us but, alas, our men of war were not good calculators, for upon examination it was found that hostilities had ceased and were not to be renewed till two days later.

It is strongly reported that part of the militia at Albany have refused to march out of their State, and that blood has been spilt on the occasion. The repeal of the Orders in Council by Great Britain ought to satisfy the American Government, but the leaders will not be satisfied; but it is said that the Federalists exclaim much against the Government for under such circumstances continuing the war, and that this was the way at Albany. But enough, and more than enough. Should a defeat on the part of our enemies take place at Niagara, we have much to hope for: if otherwise, much to fear. Farewell.

*(From the Talbot Papers.)*

**(James Brock ?) To Colonel Talbot.**

FORT GEORGE, 12th Sept., 1812.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—In obedience to the commands of His Honor the President, I have to announce to you his desire that you will be pleased to recall the companies of militia which you may have detached in consequence of his recent orders to that effect, and it is further his intentions to send back the flank companies of Oxford lately arrived in the vicinity, the information which he has received making it unnecessary, in his opinion, to add to the number of militia before called out for the defence of this frontier.

The General visited Fort Erie yesterday, and returned to-day, having obtained from a source on which he relies the following information:

That the force on the opposite side between the Rock and Fort Niagara amounted to about 3,000; that they were much in fear of an attack from us: the militia in a bad state of health and much discontented. Five of the Eastern States and one Southern had refused to support the general Government. That there remained no doubt in the minds of the Federalists that Mr. Madison would be ousted out and peace restored. It was the opinion of the Federalists opposite that we ought not to make any attack. General Dearborn had only 1,500 men at Albany. DeWitt Clinton would be brought in as President, and that a second attempt to raise funds by an issue of paper having failed, the troops were not paid, and were becoming clamorous, &c., &c., &c. I believe that I have not omitted anything that I was charged to communicate to you from His Honor the President. I may now therefore add a word or two from myself, and first let me congratulate you on not having been torn or driven away from your household gods, (and goddesses, if any you have,) and I assure you that I feel a friendly and anxious

desire that you should all remain quietly under the same roof, undisturbed by Hulls or Watsons\* or any of their wicked works.

The General wished to send some English newspapers he brought up from Kingston a few days ago, but they cannot be found. The account of your brother's capture of the *Rivoli*† was in one of them, but *that* you must have seen long since, therefore there is the less to regret in their not being forthcoming.

(From the *Talbot Papers*.)

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\*The Deputy Provincial Land Surveyor, Simon Zelotes Watson, who joined General Hull, a personal enemy of Colonel Talbot. *Vide* part I. p. 146. †A French ship of the line taken by the *Victorious*, Captain John Talbot, 23rd February, 1812.

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HUNTINGTON, PA., Sept. 17.

On Monday, the 7th inst., the *Huntington Volunteers*, commanded by Captain *R. Allison*, marched from this place for Niagara. They were escorted out of town by Captain Rham's cavalry and the largest collection of citizens that has ever been assembled on any occasion in this place.

Captain Canan's and Vandeventer's companies marched from Alexandria for Meadville on Friday last.

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GREENSBURG, PA., Sept. 17.

Arrived here on the 13th inst. four companies of volunteer infantry and riflemen from Franklin county. On the morning of the 14th they proceeded on their march for Meadville. On Wednesday, the 16th, three companies of volunteer infantry and riflemen from Somerset county and a company of riflemen from Cambria county marched through this place. They are also destined for Meadville.

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#### EDITOR'S NOTE.

Copies of the foregoing documents were not obtained in time to be included in their proper chronological order in Part I. of this Series. The majority of them are derived from the papers of the late Colonel Talbot, for permission to use which the best thanks of the Society are due to James H. Coyne, Esq., of St. Thomas, President of the Ontario Historical Society.

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**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE,<sup>s</sup> 1st October, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

The Major-General commanding forbids the practice of individuals firing in the Swamp or any other place within the limits and neighborhood of the Garrison.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,

Brigade Major.

**Earl Bathurst to Sir George Prevost (No. 10.)**

DOWNING STREET, 1st October, 1812.

SIR,—I have had the honor of laying before the Prince Regent your despatches of the dates and numbers specified in the margin, detailing the operations to which the declaration of war against this country on the part of the United States and subsequent invasion of Upper Canada by an American army had given rise, and the measures to which M. General Brock had resorted for the protection of that Province. The judicious endeavors of that officer to awaken the Legislature of the Province to a sense of their duty and their interest, the promptitude with which he dissolved that assembly upon finding it so criminally indifferent to the fate of Upper Canada as not to invest him with the authority necessary for its preservation, and his determination under such circumstances to proclaim and enforce martial law, are proofs at once of his judgment and decision, which have not escaped the observation of His Royal Highness, and I have it in command to desire that you will convey to M. General Brock His Royal Highness's entire approbation as well of the measures to which I have more particularly referred, as of the general zeal and ability which he has uniformly displayed since the commencement of the war in a situation which from peculiar circumstances had become one of considerable embarrassment. Although His Royal Highness deeply regrets that any of His Majesty's subjects should have been capable of being influenced by the delusive promises held out in the proclamation of an invading enemy, yet it is no inconsiderable satisfaction to His Royal Highness to observe that that unworthy feeling is confined to a part of Upper Canada alone.

It is impossible not to be aware of the restraint which such a disposition must necessarily impose upon General Brock's military operations, but His Royal Highness trusts that the decisive measures



which General Brock has taken will curb the efforts of the disaffected, and that the success of His Majesty's arms in the capture of Michilimackinae, the determined defence of Amherstburg, and above all the successful result of those exertions which you state yourself and General Brock to be making for the relief of the fort, will counteract any effort which the unrestricted advance of General Hull may have at first had upon the timid and disaffected.

(Canadian Archives, Q. 118. p. 207.)

### District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 2nd October, 1812.

D. G. Order.

Major-General Sheaffe having noticed in the reports frequent inattentions of the visiting rounds, in not visiting the different batteries established along the lake, he trusts that in future they will be more exact in their performance of this essential part of their duty.

No. 2.—Until further orders one-third of the troops off duty will sleep in their clothes, fully accoutred and ready to turn out at a moment's warning.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,

Brigade Major.

### Brigadier-General Smyth to Major-General Van Rensselaer.

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, Oct. 2nd, 1812.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 30th Sept., dated at Lewiston. The detachments of Colonel Winder and Colonel Parker have arrived. They are recruits without clothing and with little instruction. Neither of them have medicine chests. Colonel Winder's detachment is already encamped on an excellent piece of ground for exercise, where Colonel Parker's will join it to-day. Colonel Milton's detachment will also arrive to-day, and within a week I expect the other detachments. I have taken quarters at this place, and propose to devote six hours daily to their instruction in discipline and evolutions. The delay of a part until the whole arrive cannot possibly be injurious, and any order I may receive will be obeyed with alacrity.

There has been a mutiny in the 5th, and a general court martial has become necessary. Should you deem it proper to order one to be held at this camp, Colonel Parker might preside and the other members be detached by my Brigade Major.

(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 69.)

**Captain Jesse D. Elliott to Mr. Daniel Dobbins.**

BLACK ROCK, Oct. 2nd, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of the 13th ultimo, directed to Commodore Chauncey or the commanding officer on Lake Erie, I have received, together with its enclosure, a copy of your instructions from the Honorable the Secretary of the Navy, each of which, together with a copy of this letter, I have enclosed to him for his consideration.

It appears to me utterly impossible to build gunboats at Presqu' Isle. There is not a sufficient depth of water on the bar to get them into the lake. Should there be water the place is at all times open to the attacks of the enemy, and in all probability when ready for action ultimately will fall into the hands of the enemy and be a great annoyance to our forces building and repairing at this place. From a slight acquaintance I have with our side of the lake, and with what information I have obtained from persons who have long navigated it, I am under the impression Lake Erie has not a single harbor calculated to fit out a naval expedition: and the only one convenient I am at present at, which is between Squaw Island and the main immediately in the mouth of Niagara River. I have no further communication to make. Probably in a few days I shall be in possession of Commodore Chauncey's impressions, when you shall again hear from me.

(From History of the Battle of Lake Erie, by W. W. Dobbins, Erie, Pa., 1876, pp. 8-9.)

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(From "The War," New York, 17th October, 1812.)

PLATTSBURG, Oct. 2.

Two chiefs of the Cognawaga Indians arrived at the headquarters of General Bloomfield on Tuesday last. On Wednesday, attended by Colonel Clark of the 11th Regiment, they proceeded on to Greenbush. The *professed* object of their mission is pacific. They were with General Brock at the capture of Detroit.

General Louis of the St. Regis Indians, a firm and undeviating friend of the United States, and his son, have been in this village for several weeks. The St. Regis Indians are disposed to remain neutral in the present contest, but what effect the British influence and British success may have upon them we know not. Indians generally endeavor to keep on the strongest side, but in estimating the strength of the contending parties and their relative ability to harm them, they do not refer to our census as a criterion by which to estimate our strength, the most forcible argument, and the one

most sure to carry conviction to their minds is a force sufficient to win the day, and they repair to the standard of the victor as a shelter from danger, without looking to future consequences.

(File in Buffalo Historical Society Library.)

**General Dearborn to General Van Rensselaer.**

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Oct. 4, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of the 27th by Captain Dox, has been received. Before this reaches you, I trust the reinforcements will generally have arrived. I have made every effort in my power to have sufficient quantities of ammunition, medicine, arms, &c., forwarded, but not with all the success I could have wished. I shall continue to send on until I am satisfied there will be an ample supply. It rests with you to determine the proper time for acting offensively. You will, however, perceive the expediency of consulting the principal officers.

I am apprehensive that the enemy might attempt a stroke at the naval armament preparing at Sackett's Harbor, and it being of the first importance that no interruption should retard the progress of those operations. I doubt the expediency of withdrawing any part of the force from that place at present. When the troops destined for your post shall have arrived, your total force must exceed 7000 men, which I presume will be sufficient for all contemplated purposes.

I confidently calculate on a co-operation by way of Detroit, and on important aid from the naval department. It will be advisable to strike at Kingston from Sackett's Harbor or its vicinity, or at least to attract the attention of the enemy in that direction, by such movement as will threaten a blow. If we should be so fortunate as to obtain the command of the lake, Kingston and the country about it may be taken possession of and all supplies in that direction may be cut off. You should have as many flat bottomed boats (and scows if possible) as will be sufficient to transport 5,000 men with field pieces and artillery horses at once, with the aid of such other vessels as can be readily procured.

The contractor should be reminded of the necessity of having a sufficient stock of provisions on hand for two months, exclusive of the current issues.

It will be proper that a correspondence by expresses be kept up between you and General Harrison, which will enable you to ascertain his movements: but if we should be fortunate enough to

command Lake Ontario we ought to possess ourselves of that part of Canada bordering on the lake, including the vicinity of Niagara, whether Harrison succeeds or not.

I enclose to you a copy of General Amherst's order at Fort Edward, on the 12th July, 1759. The authority must be respected by every British officer. It will be expedient for you to have such an order published, with such alterations only as the change in circumstances in a national view has rendered necessary, and it might be well to quote the authority referred to.

I have considered it fortunate to find such an order from so respectable a source. It is contained in the "Historical Journal of the Campaigns in North America in the years 1757, '58, '59 and '60, by Captain John Knox," published in England in 1769.

P. S.—I am just informed that General Harrison will be at Detroit by the 15th of this month by the farthest. Forts Harrison and Wayne have been relieved and the Indians dispersed.

NOTE.

The only General Order by General Amherst that seems likely to be referred to here is dated 12th June, 1759, and reads as follows:

"It is the General's orders that no scouting party or others in the army under his command shall (whatsoever opportunities they may have) scalp any women or children belonging to the enemy: they are to bring them away if they can; if not they are to leave them unhurt, and he is determined if the enemy should murder or scalp any women or children, who are subjects of the King of Great Britain, he will revenge it by the death of two men of the enemy for every woman or child murdered or scalped by them, whenever he has occasion."

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**Oliver L. Phelps and Others to Governor Tompkins.**

SIR,—The last Buffalo *Gazette*, of the 29th ult., informs that General Harrison was on his way from Fort Wayne to Detroit on or about the 20th ult. with about 8,000 men, and that he had sent an express for General Wadsworth at Gayhoga, with about 3,000 Ohio volunteers, to join him at the river Rezin.

We are also informed that from the movements opposite Lewiston it was readily concluded that *General Brock had proceeded to the westward again to receive and sustain the attack on Canada in that quarter.*

This is a natural and a very military movement in him, for thus he hopes to keep open the communication to the west and thereby sustain the North West Company. It is the interest and

the immense profit (being from 120 to 140 per cent. per annum) which the North West Company derives from their establishment that give the chief and indeed the vast value of the Canadas to the British, and which they will make their utmost efforts to retain. Therefore the conquest of the Canadas will not be found that easy acquisition as at first supposed. The natural counterpart of General Brock's movement is that our troops on the Niagara River cross and follow him, and thus sustain General Harrison. We can't be so sluggish as to leave these troops inactive a second time with impunity. Indeed *we have not* the first time.

We conceive the fate and fortune of our country depends chiefly on the active employment of these troops from this to the first of November next. They are already restless for employment. But then they want a commander in whom they can confide. They have not confidence in the two Major-Generals now there. Your presence is essentially necessary, both to inspire confidence and to prevent the dissensions which may otherwise arise between the officers in the regular service and those of the militia. We presume that the able officers, the many military characters in and near New York, and the numerous militia in and within its vicinity, will conveniently spare you for a month or two from that section of the State.

We write you from motives of affection to our country and from our respect to you personally.

OLIVER L. PHELPS,  
FREEMAN ATWATER,  
J. HOWLEY.

To His Excellency Daniel D. Tompkins, or in his absence to His Excellency Henry Dearborn.

Canandaigua, 4th October, 1812.

P. S.—We are informed that a British armed vessel entered the mouth of the Genesee River on the 2nd inst. and cut out a sloop, (the *Lady Murray*) and the United States revenue cutter: that they landed about 80 men and demanded the warehouse to be opened to take out her sails and rigging, of which she was dismantled, as we suppose, by the collector of the port having been seized last fall for smuggling and afterwards bonded.

They destroyed no property and took none, but what was of use to them for marine purposes.

They appear to be determined to command the lakes. It is conjectured by some that Captain Wm. McKinstry of Penfield, the owner, was privy to it because the vessel was seized from him and was likely to be condemned, and because he was ordered out to

Niagara when he hesitated to go, wishing to have a force posted at the river.

There were three or four vessels taken four miles up the river to the upper landing a week or two before and dismantled, which the British did not offer to take. It is said the inhabitants had not a charge of powder to defend themselves.

(*Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 216-8, New York State Library.*)

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(From the *National Intelligencer of Washington, D. C., 20th October, 1812.*)

Letter from an officer of the 13th Regiment to the Editors of the *New York Gazette*:

BATAVIA, October 4, 1812.

The day before yesterday the British sloop of war *Royal George* entered the mouth of the Genesee and landed about fifty men, under the pretence of searching for deserters. They plundered the inhabitants of every valuable article they could find and departed before the people could collect to resist them, taking with them two American vessels.

On the 29th ulto. a detachment of the 13th Regiment embarked in forty boats at Salt Point, Onondaga Lake, under command of Colonel Chrystie. It is presumed their place of destination is Niagara.

Letter to the Philadelphia *Aurora*:

PLATTSBURG, 11th October, 1812.

During the armistice the light troops attached to the 49th were detached to Upper Canada. I believe they have not returned. The British 41st is in the Upper Country altogether. The Canadian militia will not be so quiet as in the Revolution, as the British Government has gained over all the priests, who are very active in the cause of Church and King, and the impression made on the ignorant Canadians is very strong and full of prejudice against us.

Sir J. Johnson, whose family has been renowned as a leader of the Indians, has the charge of the whole of the Indian tribes of Lower Canada, and notwithstanding his advanced age has been active among the savages, and expeditions may be expected from these quarters now winter has set in.

(*From file in the New York Society Library.*)

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**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier General Smyth.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 5th October, 1812.

SIR,—Believing that an early consultation of general officers, commandants of corps and regiments on this frontier will promote the interest of the service, I have to request that you will be pleased to confer with Major-General Hall on the subject, and agree with him upon the earliest day possible, consistent with the business of the court martial and other indispensable duties, when I can have the pleasure of seeing you at Fort Niagara for the purpose above proposed.

Of the day agreed you will please to give me early notice.

P. S.—I have written to Major-General Hall to the same purpose.

*(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 70.)*

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**Lieut. Totten, U. S. Engineers, to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

FORT NIAGARA, October 5th, 1812.

SIR,—I beg leave to lay before you the following observations on the works of this place:

The form of Fort Niagara, with the exception of east front, is irregular, being adapted to the brow of the banks, and all its faces, with the same exception, are only musket proof. Lying as it does, under the command of the English Fort George, no defence can be expected from it against a cannonade, and it might even be prudent for the greater security of the garrison, if such an event is to be apprehended, to cut down the pickets on the sides exposed. It will certainly be unwise to attempt making ourselves equal to the enemy in batteries, for we have but few pieces of ordnance and I believe no means of procuring any more. Such works would only cause a useless expense of time and labor. But if this post should be conceived (as I apprehend it will,) important to cover a landing on the English shore, to protect a retreat and to command the entrance of the river, we cannot too soon make the commencement of a considerable battery. I will make the necessary plans and a particular representation if you consider the object of sufficient importance and will honor me with a requisition.

*(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 60.)*

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(From the New York Evening Post, Wednesday, 14th October, 1812.)

CANANDAIGUA, October 6.

On Thursday night last a boat with forty men and a barge with thirty men, from the British brig *Royal George*, which lay off, came into the mouth of the Genesee River and cut away the fastenings of two vessels and towed them out without any opposition. One of them was a schooner, the *Lady Murray*, owned by Captain Wm. McKinstry of Penfield in this county, the other a small vessel used as a United States revenue cutter. The next evening the British boat returned to the store house of Mr. Spalding and required the sails and rigging belonging to the schooner, which had been dismantled. Finding they were in the store house they entered and took them. They were also about taking a barrel of whiskey, but on Mr. Spalding telling them it was private property and that he would give them two gallons to drink, they departed declaring that they wished to take nothing but vessels or such other property as would lessen our means of operating against them.

According to the information given by a man who deserted from the British boat on Thursday night, the *Royal George* left Newark four days previous with a view of taking out the above vessels, well knowing, it would seem, that we had no force there to prevent it.

On the preceding evening the *Royal George* had sent her boats into Irondequoit Bay, mistaking it for the river, and discovering some men fishing, hailed them. The fishermen, understanding they were British and in want of a pilot, extinguished their lights and made for the shore, whereupon the British fired on them and wounded one man in the arm. They pursued the fishermen a short distance in the woods and one of their sailors, finding himself on *terra firma*, deserted from them. He states that the captain of the *Royal George* intended to make another visit and endeavor to cut out some boats laying higher up the river. Some apprehensions are entertained for the boats lately sent from Oswego with arms and ammunition for our troops at Niagara.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

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**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 5th October, 1812.

D. G. Order.

Quartermaster Sergeant Pointer of the 49th Regiment is appointed to act as Barrack Master at Fort Erie, with an allowance of 1s. 6d. per day.

By order,  
 THOMAS EVANS,  
 Brigade Major.

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 5th October, 1812.

(No. 11.)

MY LORD,—I beg leave to call Your Lordship's attention to a subject of considerable importance, as connected with the safety of Upper Canada in our future contests with the United States of America.

In the correspondence which has passed between Major-General Brock and myself since the invasion of that Province, he has repeatedly represented to me, in the strongest terms, the great assistance he has derived from the services of the different Indian tribes settled in and near the Michigan Territory, and of the necessity of conciliating their future friendship as a barrier against any further attacks of the enemy in that quarter.

There is certainly great reason to believe, from the present animosity that appears to subsist amongst the various tribes of Indians inhabiting the country lying between the Ohio and the Mississippi against the Americans, that the Government of the United States have not been actuated by that spirit of justice and liberality towards them which it was their obvious policy to manifest. The Indians complain, and apparently not without reason, of continual encroachments upon their territory, which, by forcing them further into the western country diminish their means of subsistence, and by separating them from each other make it more difficult for them to unite in their common defence.

Without entering into the merits of these complaints on the part of the Indians, or the justice or policy of the American Government towards them, it must be obvious to Your Lordship from an inspection of the map of the country bordering upon the western territories of the United States how extremely important it is to the future security of Upper Canada that the Indians should retain

possession of the lands they now occupy, and thereby form, as long as we remain in friendship with them, a formidable barrier to any future attempts of America against His Majesty's possessions in that neighborhood.

The number of Indian warriors spread over the Michigan and adjoining territories cannot amount to less than from eight to ten thousand. Your Lordship will therefore immediately perceive the obstacles which a force of that amount and description would present to an enemy attempting to invade Upper Canada through Michigan, the only route they can take (whilst we retain command of the lakes) to penetrate into its western frontier, and the incalculable advantages that army would possess over us were those Indians to become our enemies.

The conduct which has been invariably pursued towards them and the treatment they have met with from America have, during the present contest, made them our friends and allies, and it remains for the consideration of His Majesty's Government how far it will be politic and prudent to keep them as such, by those stipulations in their behalf in our future negotiations with America which shall convince them that we have not been insensible of their services or unmindful to consult their interests.

There is reason to believe in consequence of the late transactions in the Upper Province, as well as of the predisposed state of the minds of the Indians for such an event, that a general war on their part has been kindled along the whole extent of the western frontier of the United States, which will greatly embarrass the American Government until a peace shall take place between the United States and Great Britain. In that event we might engage to make use of our influence to quiet and restrain the Indians, provided the Government of America will agree to such a boundary between the two territories as shall be thought reasonable, and will at the same time engage sacredly to respect it.

In throwing out these suggestions for Your Lordship's consideration, I may probably have been anticipated by General Brock's despatches to you upon the same subject. He appears to be deeply impressed with a sense of his obligations to the Indians for the services they have rendered him in the defence of Upper Canada, and of the necessity of conciliating their future friendship by the means I have pointed out. I shall therefore not intrude further upon Your Lordship's time, except to assure you that in my instructions to General Brock for repelling the attack upon Upper Canada I have invariably directed him cautiously to abstain from availing himself of the services of the Indians for any other purpose but that of the defence of the Province: to restrain and con-

trol their excesses by every means in his power, and to discourage whatever measures they might have in contemplation which might create irritation in the United States. Under these circumstances, which cannot but be known to the Government of the United States, I trust there will be the less difficulty in making these arrangements in behalf of the Indians whenever our former relations of amity with America shall be restored, which shall secure them to us as our allies in case their services should become necessary for the future defence of the Canadas.

P. S.—With the letter, a copy of which is enclosed, a copy of this despatch has been transmitted to Sir John Warren at Halifax, as I am informed by the public prints he has been appointed by His Majesty's Government to negotiate a peace with America.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 265.*)

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**Garrison Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 6th October, 1812.

Parole.—Argo. C. S.—Jason.

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No. 2. Until further orders the regular troops and militia force in this command will be under arms in their quarters at first break of day, and are not to be dismissed till broad daylight and distant objects can be distinctly seen. The guards are to turn out and mount as usual, and the strictest attention is enjoined to the order, requiring one-third of the men in quarters to be clothed and accoutred during the night, with their arms at hand in readiness to turn out at a moment's warning, which commanders of corps and detachments are directed to regulate in such a manner as to avoid, as much as may be practicable including men for guard in that number.

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By order,

THOMAS EVANS,

B. M.

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**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier General Smyth.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 6th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Apprehending that my letter of yesterday, on the subject of the proposed conference at Niagara, may not have been sufficiently explicit, I deem it necessary to add that my intention was

that Major-General Hall, yourself and the *Commandants of the several regiments of the United States troops* should attend the conference. You will please to make the necessary communications to the gentlemen intended.

(From *S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 71.*)

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**John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Oct. 6, 1812.

Brock is now probably watching Harrison, and I fear our neighbors have got some good news. The broad flag was flying all the day before yesterday at Fort Erie—that's all I know. Four days ago the *Royal George* cut out a vessel, the *Lady Murray*, from the mouth of the Genesee River; of this we have official information. Don't start if within three mails I date "Canada." I tell you, we are going to work.

(From *Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 243.*)

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**From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 6th October, 1812.**

MORE TROOPS ARRIVED.

Since our last there have been constantly arriving at different points on these frontiers regular troops, volunteer companies, horse, artillery and infantry. They make a fine appearance. As to their force or destination we deem it improper *at this time* to publish either. Should any event of importance transpire on these frontiers previous to our next paper we shall issue an extra sheet.

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**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 8th October, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

The undermentioned gentlemen are appointed as volunteers in His Majesty's regular forces, from the periods specified opposite their respective names. They will continue to do duty with the 41st Regiment until further orders.

Henry Procter, Gent., 1st July, 1812.

Alex. Wilkinson, 1 do, 1812.

——— Richardson, 9 do, 1812.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,

Brigade Major.

**Memorandum for District Orders.**

At the several posts where hospitals are established surgeons will receive from the commissariat stores as much fresh meat as they may consider necessary for the use of the sick. The remainder of the rations due to the sick will be left in store and paid for to the surgeons at the contract prices. For the future a half ounce of salt will be added to rations of fresh meat.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,

Brigade Major.

(*About 8th October, 1812.*)

**General Van Rensselaer to General Dearborn.**

H. Q. LEWISTON, Oct. 8th, 1812.

SIR,—It is now nearly three months since, in obedience to the call of my country, I took the field to form and discipline an army and to shape and direct a campaign on the very extensive frontiers of this State. This service, even in prospect, presented innumerable difficulties and embarrassments. Thus far I have met them in that manner which my own mind justifies and I trust my country will approve. After a general review of our frontiers my own judgment did not suffer me to doubt that the Niagara River must be the scene of our decisive operations, and I selected this neighborhood as the place best adapted to our measures, and here encamped.

Well knowing that the duties of the station which you hold were complicated and embarrassing, I have patiently endured much that the affairs of my department might embarrass you the less. The crisis through which I have passed for the last month has been trying indeed: particulars upon this occasion are unnecessary, but the result has justified my measures and I am satisfied. Yet I am well aware that any merit which may be attached to this negative service will not satisfy the expectations of my country: to have barely escaped disaster will not be thought enough. The object of the war remains unaccomplished, a new crisis is opening, and as in it you, Sir, as well as I, have a deep stake of responsibility, I shall with great freedom state to you a number of facts, submitting my opinions connected with them, and with deference leave the general conclusion to your own judgment, and as the honor and interest of the United States, your own character and mine are most intimately connected in the subject of deliberation, I hope and trust it may receive all the attention which its importance merits.



The United States declared the war. One army has surrendered in disgrace and another has but little more than escaped the reiteration of the blow. The national character is degraded, and the disgrace will remain, corroding the public feeling and spirit until another campaign, unless it be instantly wiped away by a brilliant close of this. A detail of particulars is needless. You, Sir, know service. Our best troops are raw, many of them dejected by the distress their families suffer by their absence, and many have not necessary clothing. We are in a cold country, the season is far advanced and unusually inclement; we are half the time deluged by rain. The blow must be struck soon or all the toil and expense of the campaign will go for nothing, and worse than nothing, for the whole will be tinged with dishonor. With my present force it would be rash to attempt offensive operations. I have only 1,700 effective men of the militia on the whole line. The regular troops have nearly all arrived in the vicinity of Buffalo except Schuyler's regiment. The batteaux have not arrived, and I learn that they very narrowly escaped the *Royal George* at the mouth of the Genesee River, where she had just cut out the schooner *Lady Murray* and a revenue cutter. But two or three companies of the Pennsylvania troops had a bow 1 at Buffalo when I received my last advice from there.

Under these circumstances and the impressions necessarily resulting from them, I am adopting decisive measures for closing the fall campaign, but shall wait your approbation of the plan and the arrival of a competent force to execute it. I have summoned Major-General Hall, Brigadier-General Smyth and the commandants of the United States regiments to meet me on a consultation, and I am well aware that some opinions, entitled to great respect, will be offered for crossing the Niagara a little below Fort Erie and pursuing the march down the river. I think this plan liable to many objections. The enemy have works at almost every point, and even an inferior force might hold us in check and render our march very slow; by taking up the bridges at Chippawa they might greatly embarrass us: the cleared country is but a mile or two wide; one flank would be constantly liable to be galled by the Indians from the swamps; for a considerable distance the rapidity of the current and the height of the banks render transportation across the river impracticable; of course our supplies must follow the line of march, with the trouble and hazard of them every day increasing, and should the enemy retreat from General Harrison, they would have a double object in intercepting our supplies, and by falling on our rear and cutting off our communication we might experience the fate of Hull's army. Besides these and many other objections,

there is no object on that side until we should arrive at the commanding heights of Queenston, which are opposite my camp.

The proposal which I shall submit to the council will be that we immediately concentrate the regular force in the neighborhood of Niagara, and the militia here, make the best possible dispositions, and at the same time the regulars shall pass from the Four Mile Creek to a point in the rear of the works of Fort George and take it by storm; I will pass the river here and carry the heights of Queenston. Should we succeed we shall effect a great discomfiture of the enemy by breaking their line of communication, driving their shipping from the mouth of the river, leaving them no rallying point in this part of the country, appalling the minds of the Canadians and opening a wide and safe communication for our supplies; we shall save our own land, wipe away part of the score of our past disgrace, get excellent barracks and winter quarters, and at least be prepared for an early campaign another year. As soon as the result of the council shall be known I shall advise you of it. I have received your letter of the 29th ultimo, and shall acquaint Mr. Harrison with your direction. I regret the slowness of the mail. I have furnished an escort for it from this to Buffalo.

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John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

HEADQUARTERS, Oct. 8, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—On the night of the 5th the General procured a man to cross the river. He returned with information which fully warranted an attack. Orders were actually issued to put the troops in motion. But during some discussions upon a question which I am not at liberty to mention, the reinforcements of the enemy, with six pieces of ordnance, passed into the very work we were that night (night before last) to storm. The design was abandoned to the infinite mortification of some brave fellows, and none more than Solomon (Van Rensselaer), who swore that dead or alive he would go in the first boat.

(From Bonney's *Historical Gleanings*, p. 243.)

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**Brigadier-General Smyth to Lieut. J. D. Elliott, U. S. A.**

October 8th (1812.)

SIR,—Mr. Prestman will bring you the aid we can give: he is a gallant young man, and I request he may be allowed to accompany you. The God who protects the brave guard you and give you success.

*(From Correspondence in Relation to the Capture of the British Brigs, Detroit and Caledonia, Phil., 1843, p. 28.*

**Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.**

FORT GEORGE, October, 9th, 1812.

SIR,—I have been honored with Your Excellency's despatch, dated the 25th ultimo, and have to thank Your Excellency for ordering a company of the Glengarry Regiment to strengthen Colonel Lethbridge at Prescott, whose force Your Excellency has been led to believe had been weakened in consequence of my interference, but which, I beg leave to state, was done without my knowledge and contrary to my intention.

The enclosed copies of letters will inform Your Excellency of the state of affairs to the westward. It appears evident that the enemy meditates a second attempt on Amherstburg. The greater part of the troops which are advancing marched from Kentucky with an intention of joining General Hull. How they are to subsist even for a short period in that already exhausted country is no easy matter to conceive. This difficulty will probably decide them on some bold measure, in the hope of shortening the campaign. If successfully resisted, their fate is unavoidable.

The Indians it appears, by the accompanying documents, were adverse to retreating without first making trial of their strength. Taking, however, every circumstance into consideration, I incline to think Captain Muir acted judiciously. Should the Indians continue to afford a willing co-operation, I entertain not the smallest doubt of the event that awaits this second attempt to turn my right. But Your Excellency will easily perceive that doubts and jealousies have already seized their minds. The officers of the Indian department will, I trust, be able to remove all such impressions.

Altho' from the daily observations of what is passing on the opposite shore a single man can ill be spared from this line, I have, notwithstanding, determined to send the two flank companies of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment to Amherstburg.

Fresh troops are daily arriving, supposed to belong to the

Pennsylvanian quota of two thousand, known to be intended for this frontier. After the whole arrive an attack, I imagine, cannot be long delayed. The wretched state of their quarters and the raggedness of the troops will not allow them to brave the rain and cold, which during the past week have been so severely felt. Between two and three hundred Indians have joined and augmented the force on the other side. Their brethren here feel certain they will not act with any spirit against us: so I imagine if we show a bold front, but in the event of a disaster the love of plunder will prevail and they will then act in a manner most to be dreaded by the inhabitants of this country.

I beg leave to recommend to Your Excellency's indulgent consideration, Colonel Procter's application for the increase of pay, as commanding a district, which I request may commence from the 15th of August last.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 677, p. 123.*)

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### District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 9th October, 1812.

D. G. Orders.

The flank companies of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment will march at 2 o'clock to-morrow morning for Fort Erie, and on their arrival there they will receive further orders from Major-General Shaw. The Deputy-Quartermaster General will have the requisite conveyance ready for the carriage of their baggage. The 41st Regiment will relieve the men of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on duty after the men have dined to-day.

Officers in command of the several divisions will call for, from officers in command of corps and detachments under their orders, a return of armourers belonging to the same, which will be transmitted to the Brigade Major's office without delay.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,

Brigade Major.

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**Colonel P. P. Schuyler to General Smyth.**

October 9, 1812, 11 o'clock p. m.

SIR,—The brig *Adams* has been on fire about twenty minutes, and will soon be consumed. We have saved some property that was on board and taken three prisoners. Milton is now crossing to our shore. Brock has arrived opposite with a very superior force. I wait your orders.

## Lieut. Jesse D. Elliott to the Secretary of the Navy.

BLACK ROCK, 9th October, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that on the morning of the 8th instant two British vessels, which I was informed was His Britannic Majesty's brig *Detroit*, late the United States brig *Adams*, and the brig *Hunter*, mounting fourteen guns, but which afterwards proved to be the brig *Caledonia*, both said to be well armed and manned, came down the lake and anchored under protection of Fort Erie. Having been on the lines for some time, and in a measure inactively employed, I determined to make an attack and if possible get possession of them. A strong inducement to this attempt arose from a conviction that with these two vessels, added to those which I have purchased and am fitting out, I should be able to meet the remainder of the British force on the upper lakes and to save an incalculable expense and labor to the Government. On the morning of their arrival I heard that our seamen were but a short distance from this place, and immediately despatched an express to the officers, directing them to use all possible despatch in getting the men to this place, as I had important service to perform. On their arrival, which was about 12 o'clock, I discovered that they had only about twenty pistols, and neither cutlasses nor battle axes, but on application to Generals Smyth and Hall, of the regulars and militia, I was supplied with a few arms, and General Smyth was so good on my request as immediately to detach fifty men from the regulars, armed with muskets. By four o'clock in the afternoon I had my men selected and stationed in two boats, which I had previously prepared for the purpose. With those boats, fifty men in each, and under circumstances very disadvantageous, my men having had scarcely time to refresh themselves after a fatiguing march of five hundred miles, I put off from the mouth of Buffalo Creek at one o'clock the following morning and at three I was alongside the vessels. In about ten minutes I had the prisoners all secured, the topsails sheeted home and the vessels under way. Unfortunately the wind was not sufficiently strong to get me up against a rapid current into the lake, where I understood another armed vessel lay at anchor, and I was obliged to run down the river by the forts under a heavy fire of round, grape, and canister from a number of pieces of heavy ordnance, and several pieces of flying artillery, and was compelled to anchor at a distance of about four hundred yards from two of their batteries. After the discharge of the first gun, which was from the flying artillery, I hailed the shore and observed to the officer that if another gun was fired I would bring the prisoners on deck and expose them to the same fate we should all



share, but, notwithstanding, they disregarded the caution. They continued a constant and destructive fire. One single moment's reflection determined me not to commit an act that would subject me to the imputation of barbarity. The *Caledonia* had been beached in as safe a position as the circumstances would admit of, under one of our batteries at Black Rock. I now brought all the guns of the *Detroit* on one side next the enemy, stationed the men at them and directed a fire, which was continued as long as our ammunition lasted and circumstances permitted. During the contest I endeavored to get the *Detroit* on our side by sending a boat (there being no wind) on shore with all the line I could muster, but the current being so strong the boat could not reach the shore. I then hailed our shore, and requested that warps should be made fast on the land and sent on board: the attempt was made to haul which again proved useless, as the fire was such as would in all probability sink the vessel in a short time. I determined to drop down the river out of the reach of the batteries and make a stand against the flying artillery. I accordingly cut the cable and made sail with very light airs, and at that instant discovered that the pilot had abandoned me. I dropped astern for about ten minutes, when I was brought up on our shore on Squaw Island: got the boarding boat made ready, had all the prisoners put in and sent on shore, with directions for the officer to return for me and what property we could get from the brig. He did not return, owing to the difficulty of the boat getting on shore. Discovering a skiff under the counter, I sent the four remaining prisoners in the boat, and with my officer I went on shore to bring the boat off. I asked assistance for protection of the brig of Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, who readily gave it. At this moment I discovered a boat with about forty soldiers from the British side making for the brig: they got on board but were soon compelled to abandon her with the loss of nearly all their men. During the whole of this morning both sides of the river kept up alternately a constant fire on the brig, and so much injured her that it was impossible to have floated her. Before I left her she had received twelve shot of large calibre in her bends, her sails in ribbons and her rigging all cut to pieces.

To my officers and men I feel under great obligations. To Captain Towson and Lieutenant Roach of the 2nd Regiment of Artillery, Ensign Prestman of the infantry, to Cyrenius Chapin, Mr. John McComb, Messrs. John Tower, Thomas Davis, Peter Orenstock (Coinstock ?) and James Sloan, resident gentlemen of Buffalo, for their soldier and sailor-like conduct: in a word, every man fought with their hearts animated only by the interest and honor of their country. The prisoners I have turned over to the military.



The *Detroit* mounted six six-pound long guns, a commanding lieutenant, lieutenant of marines, a boatswain, a gunner and fifty-six men, about thirty American prisoners on board, muskets, pistols and battleaxes. In boarding her, I lost one man, one officer wounded, Mr. John C. Cummings, acting midshipman, a bayonet through the leg: his conduct was correct and deserves the notice of the department. The *Caledonia* mounted two small guns, blunderbusses, pistols, muskets, cutlasses and boarding pistols, 12 men, including officers, ten prisoners on board; the boat boarding her, commanded by Sailing-Master George Watts, performed his duty in a masterly style. But one man killed and four badly wounded, I am afraid mortally. I enclose you a list of the officers and men engaged in the enterprise, and also a view of the lake and river in the different situations of attack. In a day or two I shall forward the names of the prisoners. The *Caledonia* belongs to the N. W. Company, laden with furs worth, I understand, two hundred thousand dollars.

(From *The Historical Register of the United States, Vol. II., Washington, 1814, pp. 99-101.*)

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**Lieutenant Jesse D. Elliott to the Secretary of the Navy.**

BLACK ROCK, October 10, 1812.

SIR,—In my letter of yesterday's date, I stated my intention to enclose to you a list of the officers and men engaged with me in capturing His Britannic Majesty's brig the *Detroit* and the brig *Caledonia*. From the incessant fire of the enemy and my own constant engagements for the protection of the vessel, compel me to postpone sending that list till another opportunity. Last evening, having observed an intention on the part of the enemy to remove the ordnance and military stores with which the *Detroit* was charged, I determined at once to set her on fire, thereby to prevent them having the aid of masts and yards in getting her guns into boats, she having five 12-pound guns in her hold and six 6-pounders on deck: that I could prepare them and with my sailors remove the ordnance during the night when unobserved by the enemy. These preparations I am now making, and shall, with as much expedition as possible, continue to get the ordnance and place it in our battery, as we are much in want—not one piece at Black Rock. The *Caledonia* I have perfectly recovered from the enemy.

(From *The Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 102-3.*)

**Lieutenant Jesse D. Elliott to Commodore Chauncey.**

BLACK ROCK, October 10, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that on the morning of the eighth instant, two vessels, under British colors, came down Lake Erie and anchored under the protection of Fort Erie: that on the same day a detachment of men arrived from New York, accompanied by Sailing Masters Watts and Sisson, with some masters' mates and midshipmen: that on the morning following, I, with two boats previously prepared for the purpose, boarded and took possession of them, with the loss of two men killed, Samuel Fortune and Daniel Martin, and four wounded, Acting Midshipman John C. Cummings, John Garling, Nathan Armstrong, Jerome Sardic and John Yocum. As there is not a probability of receiving this shortly, I have made communication to the department upon the subject, a copy of which I enclose for your perusal. I beg you will not have conceived me hasty in making this attack. I acted as if the action came directly from yourself. Let me recommend to your particular attention the officers and men who performed this service: each and all did their duty. The ensign of the *Adams* I will send to you by an early opportunity: it is at your disposal. The particulars as it regards the vessels I will forward you in a day or two: at present I am much engaged.

P. S.—I have neglected mentioning to you the names of the vessels captured. One, His Britannic Majesty's brig *Detroit*, formerly the United States brig *Adams*; the other a brig belonging to the N. W. Company, loaded with skins, called the *Caledonia*.

(From *The Historical Register of the United States*, Vol. II. p. 102.)

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

SACKETT'S HARBOR, October, 16, 1812.

SIR,—I have great pleasure in informing you that by a gentleman who arrived here yesterday afternoon from Buffalo, I learn that Lieutenant Elliott, with about sixty sailors and a number of volunteer militia, cut out from under the guns of Fort Erie, on the night of the 8th instant, the brig *Adams* (lately surrendered at Detroit) and the brig *Caledonia*, laden with peltry, said to be very valuable: but in running these vessels for Black Rock, they both grounded in such a situation that the British fort was firing on them when my informant left there on Friday morning last. It was, however, believed that if they could not be got off they could be destroyed. I, however, hope that Lieutenant Elliott will be able

to save both vessels, for such an addition to our little force on Lake Erie at this time would be invaluable. Lieutenant Elliott deserves much praise for the promptness with which he executed this service, as the sailors had only arrived at Black Rock on the 8th, and he had no particular orders from me except to have boats built and prepared for cutting out the British vessels, which I knew rendezvoused near Fort Erie. If Lieutenant Elliott succeeds in saving the *Adams* and *Caledonia*, I think that we shall obtain the command of Lake Erie before December, but as to this lake I hardly know what to say, as there has not a single pound of powder nor a gun arrived yet, and I can make no calculation when any will arrive. I feel quite discouraged and shall be tempted to seek the enemy with the *Oneida* alone if the guns do not arrive soon.

The sailors have all arrived at their places of destination, but the marines have not arrived. I, however, hope to see them to-day or to-morrow.

(From the *Historical Register of the United States*, Vol. II., p. 103.)

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

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 27th October, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of enclosing you copies of two letters from Lieutenant Elliott, giving an account of his having cut out from under Fort Erie on Lake Erie, in a most gallant manner, two British brigs, the *Detroit* (late *Adams*) and the *Caledonia*. The *Detroit* was manned and armed as a man-of-war; the *Caledonia* belonged to the N. W. company, and loaded with peltry.

Nothing that I can say more than I have already said in a former communication upon this subject will add to the credit of Lieutenant Elliott and the gallant officers and men who accompanied him. The thing speaks for itself and will, I am sure, be duly appreciated by all who have any idea of the difficulties that he had to encounter after getting possession of the vessels.

(From the *Historical Register of the United States*, Vol. II., pp. 103-4.)

#### Captain Harris H. Hickman to Lieut. J. D. Elliott.

WASHINGTON, January 8, 1813.

SIR,—In answer to your note requesting of me "a general description of the armament and stores on board at the time of the capture of the *Adams*, and the probable number of men," I can state that I sailed from Malden on the *Adams* and arrived at Fort Erie on the morning preceding the night in which you captured that vessel. I left her in the afternoon and crossed in her boat to

Buffalo with a flag. When I left the *Adams* she had on board five guns mounted (six and four pounders) and six long twelves in her hold. She had also on board a quantity of powder and ball and a number of boxes of muskets. I am not able to state of my own knowledge the number of stands of arms, but I have been informed that nearly all the arms taken at Detroit were on board; if that was the fact the number must have exceeded two thousand. The number of the crew that I left on board could not vary much from sixty, and the number of American prisoners about thirty, including three officers.

(From the *Historical Register of the United States*, Vol. II., p. 104.)

**General Nathan Towson to Commodore J. D. Elliott.**

WASHINGTON CITY, July 6, 1843.

SIR,—

Your official report, dated October 9th, 1812, the day on which the capture was made, gives but an imperfect account of the boarding of the *Caledonia*, and says nothing about the subsequent preservation of that vessel under circumstances similar to those which induced you to cause the *Detroit* to be burnt. Your report says:

“By four o'clock in the afternoon I had my men in two boats which I had previously prepared for the purpose. With these boats, fifty men in each, and under circumstances very disadvantageous, my men having scarcely had time to refresh themselves after a fatiguing march of five hundred miles, I put off from the mouth of Buffalo Creek at one o'clock the following morning, and at three o'clock I was alongside the vessels. In the space of ten minutes I had the prisoners secured, the topsails sheeted home and the vessels under way.”

From this as well as from the statement in the *Courier*, it would appear that the vessels must have been anchored close together; that they were boarded at the same time under your superintendence and immediate orders, and that the part performed by the volunteers from the army was not sufficiently important to be particularly noticed. Whereas, you will recollect that the night was dark and that the boats separated immediately after leaving Buffalo Creek and did not see nor communicate with each other after that time: and you will also recollect that the *Caledonia* lay nearest the fort, and to approach her the boat commanded by Mr. Watts must pass the *Detroit*. As we passed we were hailed and questioned, but not otherwise interrupted. At this time we indis-

tinely saw the *Caledonia*, and Mr. Watts expressed strong doubts about our being able to reach her on account of the current, and censured the pilot for having brought the boat nearer in shore. The pilot insisted on the practicability of reaching the brig, notwithstanding the current and the time lost in hesitating about making the attempt. It then became necessary, to prevent the abandonment of the enterprise, so far as we were concerned, that I should take the responsibility and command. We reached the brig with difficulty, and under disadvantageous circumstances. After a sharp conflict we succeeded in carrying her, with a loss on our part of two killed and thirteen wounded. Your official report mentions but one killed and four wounded, but that was confined to seamen. You had no return of my command, which consisted of twenty-nine artillerymen, of whom one was killed and nine wounded, making the aggregate as stated.

After mentioning the circumstances which compelled you to anchor the *Detroit* under the fire of the enemy and the impracticability of getting her into harbor, you give the particulars of your landing and of the enemy's boarding with forty soldiers, and then being compelled to leave her "with the loss of nearly all his men;" but you do not mention burning the brig to prevent subsequent recapture.

In speaking of the other vessel you say "the *Caledonia* had been beached in as safe a position as the circumstances would admit of, under one of our batteries at Black Rock." There was no selection of place in beaching the *Caledonia*; she grounded in the Niagara river opposite two of the enemy's batteries, which kept up a fire on her at intervals throughout the day. About the time you left the *Detroit* Mr. Watts left the *Caledonia* with the prisoners taken in her, and did not return. I remained on board with my command, and notwithstanding the fire of the enemy succeeded in getting the brig afloat by landing part of her cargo. If Mr. Watts or the seamen had remained or returned after the cargo was landed we should have been able to have brought the vessel into port, but for want of nautical skill I could only succeed in bringing her nearer the shore and into a safer position before she again got aground.

About dusk a seaman came on board with combustibles, and stated that you had sent him with instructions to burn the brig: that you were informed the enemy had crossed the river below and was marching to attack Black Rock: that the troops were leaving the Rock to join the main body under General Smyth, and that unless the brigs were burnt they would be recaptured. At this time the *Detroit* was on fire. As I did not believe the enemy in-



tended to attack, and that if he did it would be soon enough to burn the brig when it was found he could not be repulsed, I would not permit your order to be executed. The report of the enemy's movements proved to be incorrect and the *Caledonia* was saved.

You are unquestionably entitled to all the credit due for planning the enterprise, and for commanding in person the party that boarded the *Detroit*; but in everything relating to the *Caledonia*, the brig first captured, you had no other agency than that of suggesting the plan and furnishing the boat and seamen that boarded her. Although but a merchant vessel she made a gallant and desperate resistance, and it was not until we had two men killed and thirteen wounded (two mortally) that she was captured, while the *Detroit* permitted you to get alongside before you were discovered and to board her almost without resistance.

I have always thought it strange that the *Detroit*, a British vessel of war lying near an enemy, should have been captured by surprise, more especially as she must have known from the firing of the *Caledonia* the hostile character of the boat she had just hailed. It was certainly fortunate for us that the person in command was a *provincial* and not a regular officer of the British navy as I had until lately believed.

(From Correspondence in Relation to the Capture of the British brigs *Detroit* and *Caledonia* on the night of October 8, 1812. *Philadelphian*, 1843, pp. 5-7.)

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**Major-General Hall to General Van Rensselaer.**

BUFFALO, October 10, 1812.

SIR,—Yesterday morning about three o'clock Lieut. Elliott, with two boats cut out of the harbor at Erie, two brigs, *Adams* and *Caledonia*. But unfortunately they both grounded, the *Adams* on the west side of Squaw Island and the other directly opposite Swift's Barracks. Our first and great misfortune was from a cannon ball fired from the enemy, which struck Major Cuyler and tore one hand and went thro' his body: he fell dead from his horse instantly. It was the first shot that was fired: he was riding on the beach, a number of gentlemen near him.

A number of American prisoners and some citizens were on board and released, all of which got safe on shore unhurt. Our loss was very trifling, three or four men were killed and seven



wounded, two or three badly. The enemy kept up a brisk cannonading for some time and continued firing thro' the day occasionally. The *Adams* changed owners three times in the course of the day; our troops went on board just at evening, took three prisoners and burnt the vessel. She was much shot to pieces, and it is said she had six twenty-four and eighteen pounders in her hold and some smaller ones. The *Caledonia* was loaded principally with pork, about one-half of which was unloaded yesterday. The twenty-four and eighteen pounders, however, prevented our men from working; several balls were fired through the vessel in the course of the day—one man was killed. No officer except Major Cuyler has even been wounded. I have not yet had time, having no ready assistance, to get an exact return and list of the prisoners named: the whole will exceed forty: two captains were taken. Will you give directions respecting the prisoners? We have but few troops here, and Buffalo, too, is an unsafe place. If the officers are to be paroled, will you give the necessary directions. I find that our brave militia do not like cannon ball much. I saw General Smyth yesterday: he could not tell the day when he would attend at Niagara.

(From *Bonney's Historical Gleanings*, pp. 246-7.)

**From the Quebec Mercury, 27th October, 1812.**

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Fort George to his friend in this city, dated the 11th and 18th of October, 1812.

On the 9th a most unfortunate event took place at Fort Erie. The *Detroit* (formerly the *Adams*) and *Caledonia* merchant sloop, with near 600 packs of deerskins belonging to the Mackinac Company, arrived the previous evening, having very few men on board and encumbered with prisoners, were attacked the following morning by a number of boats containing about 200 of the enemy, who succeeded in cutting the cables of both vessels. The contest now became warm and the vessels drifted toward the American shore, and in a short time the *Caledonia* grounded below Black Rock and the *Detroit* on Squaw Island, about 200 yards from their shore. The fire was now animated betwixt the troops on the opposite shores. A party of ours succeeded in boarding the *Detroit* and dismantled her under a shower of balls; the crew of the vessel had been obliged to abandon her and give themselves prisoners of war. She was blown up at ten in the evening. The loss of the enemy, or that of ours previous to the vessels grounding, has not yet been ascertained, but in the latter business the Americans acknowledge to have sustained considerable loss—many valuable lives—amongst them, I regret to have to number, Major Cuyler.

(From file in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

### Inquiry Respecting Loss of the *Detroit*.

Report of a Court of Inquiry held by order of Major-General Shaw commanding at Fort Erie to make an investigation of the conduct of Lieut. Rolette of the Marine Department, respecting the loss of His Majesty's brig *Detroit*, of which he was commander, Fort Erie, October 27th, 1812.

MAJOR ORMSBY, 49th Regiment,  
President.

CAPTAIN FITZGERALD, } 49th Regiment. }	Members.	} CAPTAIN HALL, } Marine Department.
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Lieut. Rolette, lately of His Majesty's brig *Detroit*, informs the court that on the 8th instant he came to an anchor with His Majesty's brig *Detroit* under his command off Fort Erie and reported the vessel and cargo on board to the commanding officer at the post, also that there were some American officers on board on their parole and received orders to land them on the American shore at Buffalo with a flag of truce, which, being done, the boats returned to the vessel at seven o'clock P. M., at which time the watch was set, consisting of six men with arms and accoutrements. Having no petty officer on board but one sergeant of marines fit for duty, the boatswain and carpenter being ill, I gave particular orders to the watch to keep the match lighted, and also if the watch perceived or heard the approach of a boat or sound of an oar to call all hands and myself on deck. At twelve o'clock I left the deck, the weather being dark and cloudy, wind from the southwest. At three o'clock a. m. one of the watch came down into the cabin and said that he saw a boat going on board the *Caledonia*, which lay inshore of the *Detroit*. On my coming up on deck with Ensign Kerr of the Newfoundland Fencibles I perceived the *Detroit* adrift and a boat alongside, consisting of four naval officers and eighty-eight seamen, belonging to the United States frigate *Adams*, also another boat with two officers and thirty soldiers of the United States army. Being asked to surrender I refused, on which the soldiers immediately commenced a fire of musketry, and the seamen, armed with a pair of pistols and cutlasses each, boarded the *Detroit*. I resisted and defended the vessel with nine men and Ensign Kerr for about fifteen minutes, when, being knocked down and Ensign Kerr wounded and one marine killed and four wounded, the remainder being knocked down the hatchways, the enemy got possession of the vessel, which was during this time drifting down the river towards Black Rock. The crew of the *Detroit* consisted of one officer, two petty officers, one able seaman, seven landsmen, one ensign, one sergeant, one drummer and seven privates of the Royal

Newfoundland Fencibles. The vessel had no quarters or bulwarks for the crew, no boarding nettings or boarding pikes, and was much encumbered with the baggage of the American officers and prisoners of war, several of whom were sick or wounded.

Witness William Woodlands, Sergeant of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, being called into court, states that about half-past three o'clock on the morning of the 9th instant he heard an alarm on the deck of the *Detroit*, at which time all hands were called to quarters. On his getting on deck he saw several men belonging to the enemy on the forecastle. Private James Howle came on deck with him, who was immediately shot, and the evidence was struck by a cutlass and seized by the enemy and thrown down the hatchway. He further states that at eight o'clock on the evening of the 8th instant he was directed by Lieutenant Rolette to post six sentries, two at the head of the vessel, two at the gangway and two on the quarter-deck, and he remained on deck until a quarter after ten o'clock, when his watch ceased. The orders he gave the sentries were that they should not allow any boat to approach the vessel without acquainting Lieutenant Rolette.

Witness Louis Fervet, private soldier in the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, being called into court states: That about half-past three o'clock on the morning of the 9th instant he was on board the *Detroit*, when he heard all hands called on deck, and on his going to the arm chest he was seized by some man of the enemy then on board and knocked down the hatchway. He further states that on his getting on deck he saw Lieutenant Rolette and Ensign Kerr engaged with the enemy, who was then crowded on deck, but it being dark he could not state their numbers.

Witness Jonathan Boden, private soldier in the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, being called into court states: That he was sentry on the larboard side of the quarter-deck about half-past three o'clock on the morning of the 9th instant; that he perceived something at a distance which he at first took for a rock, in consequence of the night being foggy, but it appearing to approach without any noise he instantly went to the cabin door and called Lieut. Rolette, on which the sentry at the head of the vessel called "Boat Ahoy," to which there was no answer. This boat was then near the *Caledonia*, and fired a volley of musketry into her. During this another boat came alongside the *Detroit*, when he endeavored to get a gun to bear upon it, but the boat being close to the larboard side of the *Detroit* the gun could not be brought to bear upon it. He then went down into the cabin and brought up two muskets, which were taken from him by one of the officers of the vessel. He then went down for another musket, and on his coming up he saw

some of the enemy on deck and some going aloft to loose the top-sails, when he perceived the vessel drifting down the river and Lieut. Rolette and Ensign Kerr engaged with the enemy.

Witness Alexander McCrae being called into court states: That he was one of the seamen belonging to the *Detroit* on the morning of the 9th instant when she was attacked by the enemy, at which time he was sentry on the forecastle, when he saw a boat approach the *Caledonia*. He hailed the boat but no answer was given, when a volley of musketry was fired into the *Caledonia*, at which time Lieut. Rolette was called on deck, as well as all hands. He observed another boat on the larboard side of the *Detroit*, which he hailed, and no answer being given he fired a musket at it, and was immediately boarded by the enemy, several of whom went aloft and loosened the sails. At this time, being at the head of the vessel, he saw Mr. Jesse Burbanks (who formerly was master of the *Caledonia*) cut the cable with an axe, when he heard some person ask Lieut. Rolette if he had surrendered, to which he heard Lieutenant Rolette reply he had not surrendered. He remained at the head of the vessel for some time, and on hearing the captain had surrendered, he was drove down the hatchway, the vessel drifting down the river. He further states that there were six sentries on deck at the time the vessel was boarded and five men of the crew had come on deck, but that the remainder were prevented from coming on deck by the *voyageurs* who were passengers on board and thirty-three in number, most of whom slept on deck and were crowding down the hatchway at the time the enemy were boarding.

Witness Alexander Buchanan being called into court states: That he was boatswain on board the *Detroit* on the morning of the 9th instant when she was attacked by the enemy, at which time he was lying in his berth, but on the first alarm he got up and seized a loaded pistol and was going on deck but was prevented by the crowd of *voyageurs*, who were rushing down the hatchways. On attempting to get on deck again the enemy had possession of the hatchways and a blow of a cutlass being made at him, and the remainder of the crew were prevented from getting on deck as the enemy had possession of the hatchways.

Witness Baptiste Napp being called into court states: That he was a sentry on the starboard side of the *Detroit* on the morning of the 9th instant, when she was attacked by the enemy, that he saw a boat approaching the *Caledonia* which he hailed, but receiving no answer he fired a musket shot at it and hailed the *Caledonia*, at which time a volley of musketry was fired from the boat at the *Caledonia*. He then went forward and called all hands to quarters, when two of the *voyageurs*, who had fusees in their possession,

threw them down and ran down the hatchways, followed by several others who were lying on deck during the night; that he fired two shots into the boat that was alongside at which time the enemy was boarding, when he saw one of the American officers fire a pistol at Lieut. Rolette when he asked him if he had surrendered, on which he heard Lieut. Rolette say that he had not surrendered, and that Mr. Kerr was also engaged with another American officer, and that he was himself knocked down the hatchways shortly after.

Question from the Court to Sergeant Woodlands :

Did you hear any of the American officers ask Lieut. Rolette if he had surrendered the vessel ?

ANSWER—I heard some person ask Lieut. Rolette if he would surrender the vessel, when Lieut. Rolette replied he would not.

Question from the Court to Jonathan Boden :

Did you hear any of the enemy ask Lieut. Rolette if he would surrender the vessel ?

ANSWER—I heard some person ask if he would surrender, and I heard Lieut. Rolette say he would not. Some time after being overpowered he heard Lieut. Rolette say he must surrender.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 728, pp. 151-8.*)

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### Biographical Note.

Born in Quebec in 1783, Frederic Rolette, at an early age, went on board a man-of-war and enlisted in the British navy. As will be noticed, he put into effect the design his elder brother (Joseph Rolette, the well-known Indian trader,) vainly cherished in his youth, being unable to overcome paternal opposition.

He soon had an opportunity of displaying his courage, by being present in several famous battles. He was engaged among others in the battle of the Nile, where he received five wounds, and in that of Trafalgar, in which the illustrious Horatio Nelson was killed after having gained a decisive victory over the combined French and Spanish fleets. The sentiment of duty thus compelled him to fight against the flag his ancestors had nobly defended.

After seven years service on the ocean Rolette returned home, and on the fourth of October, 1807, was appointed a second lieutenant in the Provincial Marine. He was promoted on 25th April, 1812, to the rank of first lieutenant and commander of the brig *Hunter* cruising on Lake Erie. The American war, which began some weeks later, afforded an opportunity of exerting his courage and military experience in the defence of his country.



“ Let us briefly sketch his exploits: On the third July, 1812, Rolette took by surprise and by an act of astonishing daring, with only six men in a row boat, the American schooner *Cayuga Packet*, which had on board five officers and thirty-three soldiers, besides the crew. The capture of this vessel was the more important as it was loaded with stores for General Hull’s army.

“ At the battle of the River Raisin on the 22nd of January, 1813, Rolette acted as an artillery officer. The Americans were defeated after a severe struggle, in which the victors had about two hundred men killed or wounded. Rolette fought like a lion and was badly wounded in the head by a musket ball.

“ This brave Canadian officer took part in several other engagements, notably the disastrous battle of the tenth September, 1813, on Lake Erie, when the British squadron, overpowered by superior numbers, was obliged to surrender. The captain of the schooner *Lady Prevost* having been wounded at the beginning of the action, Rolette took command, and it was only after being badly contused in the left side and severely burned by an explosion of powder that he surrendered his vessel, quite disabled and on the point of sinking. Had it not been for the repeated remonstrances of his cousin Morin he would have blown it up.

“ Rolette took eighteen prizes during the war. He displayed on every occasion a courage and audacity which has never been surpassed.

“ At the capture of Detroit the British General Brock praised his conduct in the highest terms. ‘ I have watched you during the action ’ said the general, ‘ you behaved like a lion and I will remember you.’ The untimely death of that gallant general unfortunately prevented him from rewarding such distinguished services.

“ When wounded at the battle of the River Raisin Rolette obstinately refused to leave the field. ‘ I have been selected to work this gun ’ he replied ‘ and it would be a lasting disgrace for me to leave it.’

“ Commodore Barclay, who commanded the British squadron on Lake Erie, said that ‘ as long as he served under me his excellent conduct deserved my greatest approbation, and I was fortunate in having so good a seaman.’

“ After the war a sword of honor, which cost fifty guineas, was presented to Rolette by the citizens of Quebec as a mark of recognition of his heroic conduct in so many battles.

“ Frederic Rolette died at Quebec on the 17th of March, 1831, at the age of forty-eight, from the effects of his honorable wounds,



which had never entirely healed. He had married Miss Bouchette, whom he left in poor circumstances, with several children. A pension of three hundred crowns was afterwards granted his widow.

(Translated from *Les Canadiens de l'Ouest*, par Joseph Tasse, Vol. I., pp. 160-3.)

Coffin, on the authority of James Reynolds, relates that Rolette's life was saved at the River Raisin by a handkerchief, which he had tied around his head to alleviate a headache, p. 205.

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#### Note.

"The *Caledonia* had her own captain, Mr. Irvine, a young Scotchman of a peculiarly retiring and amiable disposition and gentlemanly manners, yet endowed with great firmness and resolution of character.

The *Detroit* was almost immediately taken, but the young captain of the *Caledonia*, which lay a little below her, aroused from his bed by the confusion on board his consort, prepared for a vigorous although almost entirely personal resistance. Hastily arming himself, and calling on his little and inexperienced crew (scarcely exceeding a dozen men) to do the same, he threw himself in the gangway, and discharged a loaded blunderbuss into the first advancing boat now dropping from the recaptured *Detroit* to board the *Caledonia*. The enemy were staggered, but still they pursued their object, and Mr. Irvine had barely time to discharge a second blunderbuss into the same boat when he was felled to the deck by a cutlass stroke from one of the crew of the second party, which had boarded him on the opposite gangway.

The intrepidity and self-devotion of Mr. Irvine, whose single arm it appeared had killed and wounded no less than seven of his assailants, met with that reward it so richly merited. The heads of the naval department, anxious to secure so gallant an officer to the service, tendered him, on his exchange, which took place shortly after, the commission of a lieutenant in the Provincial navy."

*Richardson's War of 1812*, pp. 50-1.

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#### Major-General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier General Smyth.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 10th October, 1812.

SIR,—In consequence of some intelligence recently received relative to the force of the enemy on the opposite shore, I shall this night attack the enemies' batteries on the heights of Queenston. Should we succeed, I shall to-morrow morning cross over and in-trench.

Immediately on the receipt of this you will please to give orders to all the United States troops under your command to strike their tents and march with every possible despatch to this place.

(From *S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 72.*)

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**Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

(Undated) October 10, 1812.

SIR,—Lieut.-Colonel Christie is of opinion after the ammunition and ordnance stores are removed that a subaltern's guard will be sufficient for the protection of the boats and the remaining stores, and that his officers and men, full of ardor and anxious to give their country a proof of their patriotism by being engaged in the first expedition, induces me to solicit as a favor that you will allow him and his detachment to accompany me this night. I think it essential that if a blow be struck it should place us upon such ground as will prevent the enemy from giving us a check. Colonel Christie, after placing a strong guard and invalids, can march with three hundred effectives. As silence will be necessary on our march to Lewiston, would you permit two cavalry men to attend me, that the sentries on the road may be acquainted with our movements?

(From *S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 61.*)

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(From the *Buffalo Gazette*, Tuesday 13th October, 1812.)

GALLANT AND DARING EXPLOIT.

About one o'clock on Friday morning last, three armed boats with 102 men crossed from this shore to Fort Erie on the opposite side for the purpose of attacking two British armed vessels, the brig *Adams* of six guns and the schooner *Caledonia* of two guns, at anchor near that place, one boat containing about fifty men, another between forty and fifty, and the third six men. The first under the immediate direction of Lieut. Jesse D. Elliott of the United States navy, the second under that of Lieut. Watts, sailing-master, and the third commanded by Captain Cyrenius Chapin of this village. Owing to delay, caused by the darkness of the night, the attack did not commence until about three o'clock: both vessels were boarded at nearly the same time and captured after a resistance of a few minutes. The cables were immediately cut and the vessels taken down the river. The *Caledonia* anchored near the Rock. The brig was carried by the current to the west side of Squaw Island (about half a mile from Black Rock) and ran aground at a short

distance from the shore. When opposite the Rock a heavy cannonading commenced from the batteries and flying artillery on the other shore, which was soon followed by a return from the vessels. The brig, from her situation, was much exposed. Those on board were notwithstanding safely landed on our own shore. The *Adams* was soon after retaken by the British, but the destructive fire of musketry from the island and our artillery on shore soon compelled them to abandon her. There is good reason to believe they lost a number of their men before they got off. About evening of the same day she was taken possession of by some soldiers belonging to one of the United States regiments, who found on board three men whom their comrades in their hurry to get home again had forgotten to take along with them. It being thought impracticable to keep possession of the brig (a very hasty conclusion, we fear,) she was set on fire and burnt to the water's edge.

This achievement does equal honor to both officers and men engaged in the expedition.

Return of the prisoners of war captured from the British on board of the *Adams*:

Lient. Charles Larrabee, Hosea Blood, acting surgeon's mate; Nath. Heaton, Jos. Kinsly, corporals; Abijah Bradley, musician; Alfred Cobourn, John St. Clair, Robt. Arbuckler, Adw. Carr, Lem'l. Parker, Job Winslow, Ichabod Farrar, John D. Jones, Zenas Clark, Joseph Hunt, Jon'n Colby, Chester Wilcox, Wm. D. Ausment, Alva Brewin, Ed. Tuck, John Glover, privates, all of the 4th Regiment, U. S. M., who fought at Tippecanoe and Brownstown and were on their way to Quebec.

In addition to the above were taken on board the *Adams*, Dr. Sylvester Day, surgeon's mate, U. S. army; J. Cannon, 1st Regiment artillery, and four others, volunteers. Four of the wounded which were left on board the brig were carried by the British to Fort Erie.

There were captured on board the *Adams*, Frederic Rolette, 1st Lieut., Commandant, Thomas Kerr, ensign of marines, ten marines, thirty-four Canadian voyagers (French), and on board the *Caledonia*, Robt. Erwin, master, eight seamen and four voyagers.

The boarding party had one killed and eight or ten wounded. A marine was killed a few hours afterwards, while unloading the *Caledonia*, by a cannon shot. The first shot from the British batteries killed Major Cuyler, whose death is published in the succeeding columns.

A 24-pound ball passed through the house of Orange Dean. Another of 6-pounds passed through the store of N. Sill & Co. Above 300 shot were fired from the British batteries.

## COMMENDABLE JUSTICE IN THE ENEMY.

In our paper of September 29 we gave an account of the *plunder* of several families at Sturgeon Point by the crew of a British boat.

A proper representation of the same having been made to the British commander at Fort Erie last week a flag arrived and brought over all the *plundered articles* they could find about the boat or ship and 300 dollars in British gold to repair the damage. We understand that a letter accompanied the money and goods, disavowing the unwarrantable act and apologizing in a very handsome manner for the outrage. The evils of war would be much diminished should this principle be acted upon at all places on the frontier.

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**The Lady Murray and a Revenue Cutter Cut Out.**

On the 1st inst. the *Royal George*, late from Newark, anchored off the Genesee river, sent in her boats and *cut out* without *opposition* the schooner *Lady Murray* and a revenue cutter and towed them out. They afterwards went unmolested to the store-house and took out sufficient shipping apparel to rig them and *cleared out*.

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**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Lieut.-Col. Fenwick.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Oct. 10th, 1812.

SIR,—I have received your letter of this evening, acquainting me that Lieut.-Colonel Christie is desirous of marching with his men to this place to share in the contemplated movement. Upon Colonel Christie's leaving a sufficient guard for the ordnance stores, I most cheerfully grant his request. But it will be necessary for him to march by 11 o'clock this night to be here in season.

(From *S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 62.*)

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**Daniel Dobbins to Captain J. D. Elliott.**

ERIE, October 11th, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Yours, of the second inst. is received. In regard to the idea entertained by you that this place is not a suitable one to build gun boats in, allow me to differ from you. There is a sufficiency of water on the bar to let them into the lake, but not a sufficiency to let heavy armed vessels of the enemy into the bay to destroy them. The bay is large and spacious and completely land-locked except at the entrance. I have made my arrangements, in

accordance with my own convictions, for the purpose of procuring the timber and other material for their construction. I believe I have as perfect a knowledge of this lake as any other man on it, and I believe you would agree with me were you here, viz.: That this is the place for a naval station.

(From Dobbins's *History of the Battle of Lake Erie*, pp. 9-10.)

### Major-General Brock to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, October 11th, 1812.

SIR,—I had scarcely closed my dispatch to Your Excellency of the 9th, when I was suddenly called away to Fort Erie in consequence of a bold, and, I regret to say, successful attack by the enemy on His Majesty's brig *Detroit* and the private brig *Caledonia*, which had both arrived the preceding day from Amherstburg. It appears by every account that I have been able to collect that a little before day a number of boats full of men dropped down the current unobserved, boarded both vessels at the same moment, and cutting their cables were proceeding with them to the American shore when Major Ormsby, who witnessed the transaction, directed the batteries to open on them, and soon compelled the enemy to abandon the *Detroit*, which grounded about the centre of Squaw Island, a little more than a mile below Black Rock. She was then boarded by a party of the 49th Regiment, but as no anchor remained, and being otherwise unprovided with every means by which she could be hauled off, the officer, after throwing the guns overboard and sustaining a smart fire of musketry, decided to quit her. A private, who is accused of getting drunk, and a prisoner of war who was unable from his wounds to escape, with about twenty brought by the *Detroit* from Amherstburg, remained, however, behind, whom it was necessary to remove before the vessel could be destroyed, and Cornet Pell Major of the Provincial cavalry, offered his services. Being unfortunately wounded as he was getting on board, and falling back in the boat, a confusion arose, during which the boats drifted from the vessel, leaving two of the 41st, who had previously ascended, on board. In the meantime, the *Caledonia* was secured by the enemy and a cargo of furs belonging to the South West Company landed.

The batteries on both sides were warmly engaged the whole of the day, but I am happy to say no mischief was sustained by the enemy's fire.

I reached the spot soon after sunset, and intended to have renewed the attempt to recover the *Detroit* which, assisted by the



crew of the *Lady Prevost* which had anchored a short time before, I had every prospect of accomplishing, but before the necessary arrangements could be made the enemy boarded her, and in a few minutes she was seen in flames.

This event is peculiarly unfortunate and may reduce us to incalculable distress. The enemy is making every effort to gain a naval superiority on both lakes, which, if they accomplish, I do not see how we can retain the country. Three vessels are fitting out for war on the other side of Squaw Island, which I would have attempted to destroy but for Your Excellency's instructions to forbear. Now such a force is collected for their protection as would render any operation against them very hazardous.

The manner our guns were served yesterday point out the necessity of an increase if possible of artillery men to our present small number of regulars. The militia evinced a good spirit, but fired without much effect. The enemy, however, must have lost some men, and it is only wonderful that in a contest of a whole day no life was lost on our side. The fire of the enemy was incessant, but badly directed, till the close of the day, when it began to improve. Lieut. Rolette, who commanded the *Detroit*, had, and I believe deservedly, the character of a brave, attentive officer. His vessel must, however, have been surprised, an easy operation where she lay at anchor, and I have reason to suspect that this consideration was not sufficiently attended to by the officers on board and on shore.

We have not only sustained a heavy loss in the vessel, but likewise in the cargo, which consisted of four twelves, a large quantity of shot and about two hundred muskets, all of which were intended for Kingston and Prescott. The only consolation remaining is that she escaped the enemy, whose conduct after his first essay did not entitle him to so rich a prize.

The enemy has brought some boats overland from Slusher to the Niagara River and made an attempt last night to carry off the guard at Queenston. I shall refrain as long as possible, under Your Excellency's positive injunctions, from every hostile act, although sensible that each day's delay gives him an advantage.

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12th October, 1812.

The vast number of troops which have been added this day to the strong force previously collected on the opposite side convinces me, with other indications, that an attack is not far distant. I have in consequence directed every exertion to be made to complete the militia to two thousand men, but fear I shall not be able to effect



my object with willing, well-disposed characters. | Were it not for  
 the number of Americans in our ranks we might defy all their  
 efforts against this part of the Province. I. B. *at 11 2 11*

**Sir Isaac Brock to Colonel Procter.**

(Undated, probably Oct. 11 or 12, 1812.)

SIR,—The unfortunate disaster which has befallen the *Detroit* and *Caledonia* will reduce us to great distress. They were boarded whilst at anchor at Fort Erie and carried off; you will learn the particulars from others. A quantity of flour and a little pork were ready to be shipped for Amherstburg, but as I send you the flank companies of the Newfoundland no part of the provisions can go this trip in the *Lady Prevost*. It will be necessary to direct her to return with all possible speed, bringing the *Mary* under her convoy. You will husband your pork, for, I am sorry to say, there is but little in the country.

An active interesting scene is going to commence with you. I am perfectly at ease as to the result, provided we can manage the Indians and keep them attached to your cause, which is in fact theirs.

The fate of the Province is in your hands. Judging by every appearance we are not to remain long idle in this quarter. Were it not for the positive injunctions of the commander of the forces, I should have acted with greater decision. This forbearance may be productive of ultimate good, but I doubt its policy—but perhaps we have not the means of judging correctly. You will, of course, adopt a very different line of conduct. The enemy must be kept in a state of constant ferment. If the Indians act as they did under Tecumseh, who probably might be induced to return to Amherstburg, that army will very soon dwindle to nothing. Your artillery must be more numerous, and effective than any the enemy can bring, and your store of ammunition will enable you to harass him continually without leaving much to chance.

I trust you will have destroyed every barrack and public building and removed the pickets and other defences around the fort at Detroit.

You will have the goodness to state the expedients you possess to enable us to replace as far as possible the heavy loss we have sustained in the *Detroit*. Should I hear of reinforcements coming up, you may rely upon receiving your due proportion. Nothing new at Montreal on the 25th ult. Lord Wellington has totally defeated Marmont near Salamanca. I consider the game nearly up in Spain. May every possible success attend you.

(From Tupper's *Life of Brock*, pp. 326-7.)

**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier-General Smyth.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 11th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—The object of my order to you yesterday, to march your troops to this place, was to support the militia in an attack upon the enemy's batteries in Queenston, warranted by information which I had received, too direct to be doubted and too favorable to be passed by without an effort. But the expedition has failed, and the failure is owing to some circumstances vitally connected with the highest interest of the service; but the particulars are more proper for the subject of personal conference than for this mode of communication. I shall therefore reserve them until I shall have the pleasure of seeing you here. In the interim the United States troops under your command will remain at their encampment near Buffalo.

(From *S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 72.*)

**Major-General Brock to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

HEADQUARTERS,\* FORT GEORGE, 11th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Recent events have placed a few British officers and soldiers at your disposal as prisoners of war. I have the honor to propose for your consideration an immediate exchange. Should there exist any difficulty in acceding to this arrangement, I entertain a well grounded hope that you will make no objection to allow the officers and men to return immediately on their parole.

Major Evans, the bearer of this communication, is authorized to enter into any arrangement that you may feel disposed to make on the above subject.

(From *Bonney's Historical Gleavings, p. 250.*)

**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Hall.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON.

(Undated.)

SIR,—I have received your letter of the 10th inst., but have not leisure to answer it in detail. Most sincerely do I lament the death of Major Cuyler.

One division of Captain Hanes' troops will remain at Buffalo, the other will come on here.

For the present you had better send the prisoners into the interior.

(From *Bonney's Historical Gleavings, p. 247.*)

**Lieut.-Colonel John Macdonell to Colonel Talbot.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, 12th Oct., 1812.

DEAR COLONEL,—From the movements of the enemy on the opposite shore, and other circumstances, the General is strongly induced to believe he will very soon be attacked on this here. He has therefore commanded me to say that he wishes you to send him, without further delay, a reinforcement of two hundred men from the militia under your command. They will in the first instance march to Fort Erie, and as it is desirable that they should arrive without loss of time, the General wishes that as many of them as you can procure boats for should come by water, should you think that by so doing they will sooner arrive. As it may be found difficult to procure comforts for the number of troops that will probably be assembled, the General wishes you to impress strongly upon the men the necessity of bringing with them a blanket and such articles of clothing as the season requires. At the same time he wishes it to be understood that he thinks their service will only be required for a short period. Volunteers will, of course, be preferred, and such as have or can procure private arms the General trusts will bring them with them.

On the night of the 9th instant the enemy succeeded in boarding and carrying two vessels off Fort Erie, the *Detroit* and *Caledonia*, and, notwithstanding the exertions made to recover them, the former was burnt by them and the other secured by them.

By accounts received we learn that Lord Wellington on the 22nd July, near Salamanca, defeated the enemy under Marmont, taking, killing and wounding from 10 to 12,000 men, and all his artillery. The enemy was in full retreat and His Lordship in close pursuit. We have not the official letter, but there is no doubt of the fact.

Sir John B. Warren has arrived with part of his fleet, which consists of six sail of the line and ten frigates.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

**Major-General A. Hall to General Smyth.**

BUFFALO, October 12, 1812.

SIR,—Will you have the goodness to inform me at what time you will meet General Van Rensselaer, agreeably to his request at Niagara?

N. B.—I was at the Rock this morning and there was a good deal of firing from the British shore. It was said that some troops were marching up on the other side of the river. Lieut. Elliott was

apprehensive they might get artillery on the island and destroy his vessels unless men were placed on the island to prevent a landing. You will be able to judge the necessary force.

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**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier-General Smyth.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 12th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—I have this moment received your letter of yesterday. To-night I shall again attack the enemy's batteries on the heights of Queenston. Should circumstances render it necessary to march your brigade, I will advise you tomorrow.

(From *S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 73.*)

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**Brigadier-General Smyth to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, 12th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter at ten o'clock p. m.

The badness of the weather and roads harassed the troops yesterday more than can well be conceived. To-morrow I expect their clothing, and they will wash. Next day they might march, to the number of 1200 effective men, but imperfectly disciplined. It is said the enemy are in considerable force opposite to Black Rock, and as Lieut.-Colonels Scott and Christie have arrived with you, the time for your attack is favorable; and may you conquer, is my prayer.

(From *S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 72.*)

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**Troops under Major-Gen. S. Van Rensselaer.**

Return of the troops under the command of Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer of the New York Militia, Headquarters Lewiston, October 12th, 1812:

Brigades.	Where Stationed.	Total Present for Duty.	Remarks.
Brig.-Gen. Miller's . . . . .	Lewiston	588	Militia
Lt.-Col. John R. Fenwick's	Lewiston	550	Regulars
Lt.-Col. P. Swift's and Lt.- Col. S. Hopkins' . . . . .	Black Rock and Buffalo	386	Militia
Brig.-Gen. Wadsworth's . .	Lewiston	1682	Militia
Brig.-Gen. Smyth's . . . . .	Black Rock	1650	Regulars
Lt.-Col. Christie's . . . . .	Lewiston	350	Regulars

(From *Solomon Van Rensselaer's Narrative, New York, 1836, Appendix, p. 19.*)

**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 12th October, 1812.

**D. G. Orders.**

Major-General Brock directs that no communication be held with the enemy by flag of truce or otherwise than by his special permission, unless such an occurrence should arise as to render delay prejudicial to the service, of which officers in the command of posts are to be the sole judges.

It is understood that on the boat captured on the morning of the 9th from the enemy, arms of various descriptions were found which have not been accounted for. Major-General Shaw will make the necessary inquiry and return them to the Major-General's disposal, and it must be clearly understood by every officer and soldier that property taken from the enemy must be reported to the Major-General before it can be applied to any purpose, and that arms in particular are to be at all times reserved for the public service.

Major-General Brock has received Major-General Shaw's report of the spirited conduct of the troops and militia on the morning of the 9th with the utmost satisfaction. Cornet Pell Major was particularly conspicuous, and he has much pleasure to find that the wounds he received on that occasion are not likely to deprive the service very long of his gallant exertions.

A District Court Martial to assemble at Queenston at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before it.

41st Regiment—One subaltern.

49th Regiment—One captain and one subaltern.

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**The Secretary of War to Ephraim Webster.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, Oct. 12th, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of the 30th September, addressed to the President, has been received and transmitted with the enclosed talk to Erastus Granger, Esq., agent for the Six Nations, with directions to enquire into the facts therein stated, and instructions to keep the Indians quiet if possible. Should this be impracticable he is authorized to organize and report them to the commanding officer at Niagara.

(From Ketchum's *History of Buffalo*, p. 425.)

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**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Brock.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 13th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Humanity induces me to request your permission to send to Queenston some surgeons to attend the officers and men who have had the misfortune to be wounded this day, and are prisoners at Queenston. Agreeably to the proposition which I had this afternoon the honor to receive as coming from you, I have agreed to a cessation of firing for three days.

(*From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 76.*)

**Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

FORT GEORGE, 13th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—I lose not a moment in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of this date, and am pleased to learn at the same time that the officer commanding at Queenston, having opened it, had acceded to your proposal of sending surgeons to aid the wounded prisoners without incurring the delay which would have been occasioned by a reference to me, but as our means of affording assistance to them, as well as to our own wounded, may be inadequate, I beg leave to propose that the wounded prisoners whose cases may admit of removal should be sent over to you, on condition of not serving again until regularly exchanged.

Though the proposition which I had the honor of making to you to-day did not go to the extent which by some mistake you were led to suppose, yet I readily concur with you in agreeing to a cessation of firing for three days, and I transmit orders to that effect to the officers commanding at the several posts on this line.

(*From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 76.*)

**Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

FORT GEORGE, 13th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Having delayed sending my accompanying letter to give General Wadsworth and the other officers, who are prisoners, an opportunity of sending for some necessary articles, I have the honor at the same time to propose an exchange of prisoners, including those who were taken some days ago in the two vessels cut out from Fort Erie harbor. I have further to propose, Sir, that the militia taken prisoners, exceeding the number that may be exchanged, shall be restored to their homes and families under an engagement not to serve against Great Britain or her allies during the war, or until regularly exchanged.

(*From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 264.*)



**Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

FORT GEORGE, Oct. 13th, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of informing Your Excellency that the enemy made an attack with considerable force this morning before daylight on the position of Queenston. On receiving intelligence of it Major-General Brock immediately proceeded to that post, and I am excessively grieved in having to add that he fell whilst gallantly cheering his troops to an exertion for maintaining it. With him the position was lost, but the enemy was not allowed to retain it long, reinforcements having been sent up from this post, composed of regular troops, militia, and Indians. A movement was made to turn his left, while some artillery, under the able direction of Captain Holcroft, supported by a body of infantry, engaged his attention in front. This operation was aided, too, by the judicious position which Norton and the Indians with him had taken on the woody brow of the high ground above Queenston. A communication being thus opened with Chippawa, a junction was formed with succours that had been ordered from that post. The enemy was then attacked, and after a short but spirited conflict was completely defeated. I had the satisfaction of receiving the sword of their commander, Brigadier General Wadsworth, on the field of battle, and many officers, with upwards of 900 men were made prisoners, and more may yet be expected. A stand of colors and a 6-pounder were also taken. The action did not terminate till nearly three o'clock in the afternoon, and their loss in killed and wounded must have been considerable. Ours I believe to have been comparatively small in numbers. No officer was killed besides Major-General Brock, one of the most gallant and zealous officers in His Majesty's service, whose loss cannot be too much deplored, and Lieut.-Colonel Macdonnell, Provincial aide-de-camp, whose gallantry and merit render him worthy of his chief.

Captains Dennis and Williams, commanding the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, who were stationed at Queenston, were wounded, bravely contending at the head of their men against superior numbers, but I am glad to have it in my power to add that Captain Dennis fortunately was able to keep the field, though it was with pain and difficulty, and Captain Williams's wound is not likely long to deprive me of his services.

I am particularly indebted to Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery for his judicious and skilful co-operation with the guns and howitzers under his immediate superintendence. Their well-directed fire contributed materially to the fortunate result of the day.

Captain Derenzy of the 41st Regiment brought up the reinforcement of that corps from Fort George, and Captain Bullock led that of the same regiment from Chippawa, and under their commands those detachments acquitted themselves in such a manner as to sustain the reputation which the 41st Regiment had already acquired in the vicinity of Detroit.

Major-General Brock soon after his arrival at Queenston had sent down orders for battering the American Fort Niagara. Brigade Major Evans, who was left in charge of Fort George, directed the operations against it with so much effect as to silence its fire and to force the troops to abandon it, and by his prudent precautions he prevented mischief of a most serious nature, which otherwise might have been effected, the enemy having used heated shot in firing at Fort George. In these services he was most effectually aided by Colonel Claus (who remained in the fort at my desire) and by Captain Vigoreux of the Royal Engineers. Brigade-Major Evans also mentions the conduct of Captains Powell and Cameron of the militia artillery in terms of commendation.

Lieutenant Crowther of the 41st Regiment had charge of two 3-pounders that had accompanied the movement of our little corps, and they were employed with good effect.

Captain Glegg of the 49th Regiment, aide-de-camp to our lamented friend and general, afforded me most essential assistance, and I found the services of Lieut. Fowler of the 41st Regiment, Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General, very useful. I derived much aid, too, from the activity and intelligence of Lieutenant Kerr of the Glengarry Fencibles, whom I employed in communicating with the Indians and other flanking parties.

I was unfortunately deprived of the aid of the experience and ability of Lieut.-Colonel Myers, Deputy Quartermaster General, who had been sent up to Fort Erie a few days before on duty, which detained him there.

Lieutenant-Colonels Butler and Clark of the militia, and Captains Hatt, Durand, Rowe, Applegarth, James Crooks, Cooper, Robert Hamilton, McEwen and Duncan Cameron, and Lieutenants Richardson and Thomas Butler, commanding the flank companies of the Lincoln and York Militia, led their men into action with great spirit. Major Merritt, commanding the Niagara Dragoons, accompanied me and gave much assistance with part of his corps. Capt. A. Hamilton, belonging to it, was disabled from riding, and attached himself to the guns under Captain Holcroft, who speaks highly of his activity and usefulness. I beg leave to add that Volunteers Shaw, Thomson and Jarvis, attached to the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, conducted themselves with great spirit, the first

having been wounded and the last having been taken prisoner. I beg leave to recommend these young men to Your Excellency's notice. Norton is wounded but not badly; he and the Indians particularly distinguished themselves, and I have very great satisfaction in assuring Your Excellency that the spirit and good conduct of His Majesty's troops of the militia and of the other provincial corps were eminently conspicuous on this occasion.

I have not been able to ascertain yet the number of our troops or of those of the enemy engaged: ours I believe did not exceed the number of prisoners we have taken, and their advance which effected a landing probably amounted to thirteen or fourteen hundred men.

I shall do myself the honor of transmitting to Your Excellency further details when I shall have received the several reports of the occurrences which did not pass under my own observation, with the return of the casualties and those of the killed and wounded and of the ordnance taken.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 381.)*

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#### Return of British Casualties at Queenston.

Return of killed, wounded and missing of the army under the command of Major-General Isaac Brock, in an action at Queenstown, Niagara, on the 13th October, 1812:

General Staff—2 killed.

Royal Artillery—2 rank and file wounded.

Detachment 41st Regiment—1 sergeant, 1 rank and file killed: 1 sergeant, 9 rank and file wounded.

Flank Companies, 49th Regiment—8 rank and file killed; 2 captains, 3 sergeants, 27 rank and file, 1 volunteer wounded: 5 rank and file, 1 volunteer missing.

Lincoln Artillery—1 rank and file wounded.

Lincoln Militia—1 adjutant, 1 sergeant, 12 rank and file wounded; 10 rank and file missing.

York Militia—2 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 15 rank and file wounded; 5 rank and file missing.

Total loss—1 Major-General, 1 aide-de-camp, 1 sergeant, 9 rank and file, line, 2 rank and file, militia, killed; 2 captains, line; 1 adjutant, 1 lieutenant, militia: 4 sergeants, line; 2 sergeants, militia: 2 rank and file, artillery; 1 do., militia artillery; 36 rank and file, 1 volunteer, line: 27 rank and file, militia, wounded; 5 rank and file, 1 volunteer, line: 15 rank and file, militia, missing.

General Total—2 general staff, 1 sergeant, 11 rank and file killed; 2 captains, 1 lieutenant, 1 adjutant, 6 sergeants, 66 rank and file, 1 volunteer wounded: 20 rank and file, 1 volunteer missing.

Officers Killed—Major-General Isaac Brock, commanding; Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell, Provincial Aide-de-Camp.

Wounded—Captains Dennis and Williams, 49th Regiment, volunteer Shaw, do: Lieut. McLean, York Light Infantry; Adjutant McIntyre, Lincoln Militia.

Fort George, 15th October, 1812.

THOMAS EVANS, Major of Brigade.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 14. Enclosed in Sir George Prevost's despatch of 5th November, 1812.)*

Return of killed, wounded and prisoners of war in the action at Queenstown, Niagara, on the 13th October, 1812:

Prisoners of War—1 Brigadier-General, 1 major, aide-de-camp, 5 lieutenant-colonels, 3 majors, 19 captains, 32 lieutenants, 10 ensigns, 1 adjutant, 1 surgeon, 852 non-commissioned officers and privates. Total, 925.

Regulars—Officers, 19; non-commissioned officers and privates, 417.

Militia—Officers, 54; non-commissioned officers and privates, 435. Total, 925.

Estimated loss of the enemy in officers and men killed and wounded, and in wounded sent over during the engagement, 500; supposed total loss, 1,425; acknowledged force engaged, 1,600.

Total British force engaged—Regular and militia, 800; Indians, 200—1,000.

Fort George, 15th October, 1812.

THOMAS EVANS, Major of Brigade.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 16. Enclosed in Sir George Prevost's despatch of 5th November, 1812.)*

### Return of Ordnance, etc., Captured.

QUEBEC, 1st Dec., 1813.

Return of ordnance and stores captured from the enemy at Queenstown in Upper Canada by the army under the command of Major-General Brock, on the 13th October, 1812, agreeably to Mr. Assistant Commissary Gordon's return of that date:

## SPECIES OF STORES.

Ordnance iron, six-pounder, light.....	1
Carriage, travelling, with limber complete.....	1
Elevating screw.....	1
Hand spikes, traversing.....	2
Sponges, with staves and rammer heads.....	2
Shot, fixed, round.....	4
do, do, case.....	14
Portfires.....	12
Waggon, ammunition, tumbril complete.....	1
Horse harness, trace-sets, wheel.....	2
do., do., do., leader.....	2
Muskets, French carbine.....	435
Bayonets.....	380
Scabbards for bayonets.....	141
Pouches, with belts.....	245
do., without belts.....	80
Cartridges, musket, with ball and buckshot.....	2810
do., do., with buckshot only....	3140

The above is the most satisfactory account I have been able to procure of the ordnance and stores captured on the 13th October, 1812. It appears by what I can learn from Mr. Assistant-Commissary Gordon, that in the hurry of action he had merely time to ascertain the numbers of the different articles before they were distributed to the artillery and troops for immediate service, which made it impracticable for him afterwards to ascertain with any precision the state thereof.

LARRATT SMITH,

Commissary and Paymaster.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 123, p. 131.*)

Return of ordnance and stores, etc., captured at Queenstown, Niagara, on 13th October, 1812:

One six-pounder with tumbril with harness complete.

One stand of colors.

WILLIAM HOLCROFT,

Capt. Royal Artillery.

Fort George, 15th October, 1812.

THOMAS EVANS,

Major of Brigade.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 17. Enclosed in Sir George Prevost's despatch of 5th November, 1812.*)



### Casualties at Queenston.

Names of Indians killed at Queenston :

Ayanete,	} Cayuga Chiefs.
Kayentatirhon,	
Ta Kanentye, an Onondaga warrior.	
Kayarawagor,	} Oneida warriors.
Sakangonguquate,	

(From a Memorandum by Colonel Wm. Claus, Deputy Superintendent.)

List of American officers killed, wounded or taken prisoners at Queenston, 13th October, 1812:

Killed—Captain Nelson, 6th United States Infantry; Lieut. Valleau and Ensign Morris, 13th Infantry; Lieut. Rathbone, Light Artillery; Captains S. Clarke and E. Saunders, New York Volunteers.

Wounded—Captains Armstrong, Malcolm, Lawrence and Wool, Lieut. Wendell and Ensign Lent, 13th Infantry; Lieut.-Colonels Bloom and Van Rensselaer, Lieuts. Gillett and Sweeney, and Adjutant Stafford, New York Volunteers.

Wounded and Prisoners—Lieut.-Colonels Chrystie, 13th Infantry, and Fenwick, Light Artillery; Lieuts. Clark, 23rd Infantry, and Phelps, 13th Infantry.

Prisoners, Regular Officers—Lieut.-Colonel Scott, Major Mulony, Capts. Gibson, McChesney and Ogilvie; Lieuts. Bailey, Carr, Fink, Huguin, Kearney, Randolph, Totten, Turner and Ensign Kent.

Militia and Volunteers—Brig.-General Wadsworth, Lieutenant-Colonels Allen, Mead and Stranahan, Majors Holland and Smith, Capts. Barker, Boem, Brinkerhoof, Brown, Clark, Cronk, Eldridge, Ellis, Howland, Patengal, Root, Spencer and Stanley; Lieuts. Cully, Daniels, Field, Gray, Hocomb, Houghton, Kishler, Phillips, Price, Randall, Richmond, Robinson, Shepard, Smith, Smith and Wilson; Ensigns Broughton, Cobb, Denton, Hoyton, Ireland, Peck Sperry, Waldron and White.

Extract of a letter from George Heriot to F. Freeling, dated at Quebec, 24th October, 1812:

In the last attempt (at Queenston) between two and three hundred men were drowned in crossing the river, and at the conclusion of the combat many precipitated themselves into the river to avoid the bayonet.



*(From the Federal Republican of Baltimore, Md., of 3rd November, 1812.)*

Extract from a letter from Captain Thomas Gist to a friend in Baltimore, dated at Camp Niagara, 16th October, 1812 :

On the 13th we landed 700 regulars and 500 militia. Colonel Scott of the artillery was wounded and taken prisoner early in the day, when Captain Nathan Towson of Baltimore took command. I had but 17 men left out of 100. They are prisoners. I ran to a boat, full of wounded ; we pushed off and crossed under a shower of grape. I escaped with one cut in the head from a British officer, whom my servant shot dead. They have killed 400 of our men.

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### District General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, Oct. 13th, 1812.

A cessation of firing having been agreed upon by Major-General Sheaffe and Major-General Van Rensselaer, commanding the American troops at Lewiston, &c., for three days, ending on Friday, the 16th inst., at four o'clock P. M., the officers commanding the several posts on the line will regulate their conduct accordingly.

By order of Major-General Sheaffe.

J. B. GLEGG,  
A. D. C.

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### Battle of Queenston Heights.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM WOODRUFF.

Copy of a letter in the possession of the late David Thorburn of Niagara, found among his papers by his daughter. The writer, William Woodruff, was father of the late Sheriff Woodruff of St. Catharines.

ST. DAVIDS, July 29, 1840.

DEAR SIR,—As you may be in want of some historical knowledge respecting the battle of Queenston Heights—

On the morning of the 13th October, 1812, a little before daylight, the American army commenced crossing the river. Our force consisted of the grenadier and light company of the 49th Regiment, (the whole before General Brock arrived was commanded by Capt. Dennis of the 49th Regiment) two companies of the York flanks, two from the head of the lake. The two flank companies of the 1st Lincoln Militia, also two from the Forty Mile Creek lay at Niagara.

We were put under arms about daylight. I saw the late Gen.

Brock start from the Government House at Niagara, followed by his aid, the late Colonel Maedonnell.

He left orders that as soon as the troops and militia could be got into line to march up to Queenston. We left Niagara about sunrise and arrived at Durham's soon after. We made a small halt and then marched up the hill to about where Mr. Stevens now lives. But before we got there we saw a smart firing on the hill about the place where the hustings are now erected, where we were informed that after the death of General Brock the gallant Colonel Maedonnell had led up a small force to oppose the Americans, when he received his death-wound.

We there met our small force on the retreat. General Sheaffe arrived about this time and assumed the command. We then deployed through S. Vroman's fields, and Mr. Hamilton's and Philip Meddeau's, and gained the hill without any opposition, through the fields where James Williams now lives. We marched by old Chisholm's house and formed a line in where are now Dr. Hamilton's fields, the Americans occupying the point of the mountain with a front of about a quarter of a mile, it being all covered with brush and timber, we being wholly without any covering of any kind. We here waited eyeing each other about an hour, waiting for the two flank companies of the 2nd Regiment Militia and the Grenadier company of the 41st Regiment. The former arrived. We was then ordered to advance: our little field pieces commenced firing. It was returned by the Americans with a six-pounder masked in the brush. A rapid advance was ordered, without firing a musket shot on our part, until within a small distance of the enemy under cover of the woods and underbrush. We was then ordered to halt and fire, which was done. About this time the company of 41st joined us on the extreme right. We stood but a short time until, I suppose, we was ordered to advance with double quick time. The musketry made such a noise I heard no order, but as others moved we all followed. The object I suppose was to dislodge them from their cover, and, if possible, to take the field-pieces, for without knowing or seeing (for the smoke was very dense) we, our company, came smack upon their field-piece which, when we advanced, I suppose they had abandoned. The General and his aid, no doubt, as they ought to do, had a position that all was clear to them, but as the wind blew from the enemy we had their smoke and ours in our faces.

To be more brief the Americans, not being under discipline, would not be brought up again after they broke and sought concealment under the bank. Our regular and militia forces was about 800, and perhaps 80 to 100 Indians.

I must observe that the most severe and destructive part of the engagement to our people was in the morning, before and a little after the death of General Brock.

The prisoners after the engagement numbered about 900, exclusive of the dead and wounded.

Sir, all this is from personal observation by myself. I may err in some minutiae, but it is correct in the main features.

I have wrote a great deal without conveying much intelligence.

Yours,

W. WOODRUFF.

DAVID THORBURN, Esq.,

Queenston.

(From MSS. in Toronto Public Library.)

**Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer to Hon. Wm. Eustis, Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Oct. 14th, 1812.

SIR,—As the movements of the army under my command, since I last had the honor to address you on the 8th, have been of a very important character, producing consequences serious to many individuals, establishing facts actually connected with the interest of the service and the safety of the army, and as I stand prominently responsible for some of these consequences, I beg leave to explain to you, Sir, and through you to my country, the situation and circumstances in which I have had to act, and the reasons and motives which governed me, and if the result is not all that might have been wished, it is such that when the whole ground shall be viewed I shall cheerfully submit myself to the judgment of my country.

In my letter of the 8th instant, I apprised you that the crisis in this campaign was rapidly advancing and that (to repeat the same) “the blow must soon be struck or all the toil and expense of the campaign will go for nothing, for the whole will be tinged with dishonor.”

Under such impressions, I had on the 5th instant written to Brigadier General Smyth of the United States forces, requesting an interview with him, Major-General Hall and the commandants of regiments, for the purpose of conferring upon the subject of future operations. I wrote Major-General Hall to the same purport. On the 11th [I] had received no answer from General Smyth, but in a note to me General Hall mentioned that General Smyth had not yet then agreed upon any day for the consultation.

In the meantime the partial success of Lieutenant Elliott at

Black Rock (of which, however, I have received no official information) began to excite a strong disposition in the troops to act. This was expressed to me through various channels, in the shape of an alternative, that they must have orders to act or at all hazards they would go home. I forbear here commenting upon the obvious consequences to me personally of longer withholding my orders under such circumstances.

I had a conference with————as to the possibility of getting some person to pass over into Canada and obtain correct information. On the morning of the 4th he wrote to me that he had procured his man, who bore his letter to go over. Instructions were given him: he passed over and obtained such information as warranted an immediate attack. This was communicated to several of my first officers and produced great zeal to act; more especially as it might have a controlling influence upon the movement at Detroit, where it was supposed General Brock had gone with all the force he dared spare from the Niagara frontier. The best preparations in my power were therefore made to dislodge the enemy from the heights of Queenston and possess ourselves of the village, where the troops might be sheltered from the distressing inclemency of the weather.

Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick's flying artillery and a detachment of regular troops, under his command were ordered to be up in season from Fort Niagara. Orders were also sent to General Smyth to send down from Buffalo such detachment of his brigade as existing circumstances in that vicinity might warrant. The attack was to be made at 3 o'clock on the evening of the 11th by crossing over in boats from the old ferry opposite the heights. To avoid any embarrassment in crossing the river (which is here a sheet of violent eddies) experienced boatmen were procured to take the boats from the landing below to the place of embarkation. Lieutenant Sim was considered the man of the greatest skill for this service: he went ahead and in the extreme darkness passed the intended place far up the river, fastened his boat to the shore, and abandoned the detachment. In this front boat he had carried nearly all the oars which were prepared for the boats. In this agonizing dilemma stood officers and men, whose ardor had not been cooled by exposure through the night to one of the most tremendous north-east storms, which continued unabated for 28 hours and deluged the whole camp. Colonel Van Rensselaer was to have commanded the detachment.

After this result I had hoped that the patience of the troops would have continued until I could submit the plan suggested in my letter of the 8th, that I might act under and in conformity to

the opinion which might be then expressed. But my hope was idle; the previously excited ardor seemed to have gained new heat from the recent miscarriage; the brave men were mortified to stop short of their object, and the timid thought laurels half-won by the attempt.

On the morning of the 12th, such was the pressure upon me from all quarters that I became satisfied that my refusal to act might involve me in suspicion and the service in disgrace.

Lieut.-Colonel Christie, who had just arrived at the Four Mile Creek and had late in the night of the 1st [11th ?] contemplated an attack, gallantly offered me his own and his men's services, but he got my permission too late. He now again came forward, had a conference with Colonel Van Rensselaer and begged that he might have the honor of a command in the expedition. The arrangement was made. Colonel Van Rensselaer was to command one column of 300 militia, and Lieut.-Colonel Christie a column of the same number of regular troops.

Every precaution was now adopted as to boats and the most confidential and experienced men to manage them. At an early hour in the night Lieut.-Colonel Christie marched his detachment by the rear road from Niagara to the camp. At 7 in the evening Lieut.-Colonel Stranahan's regiment moved from Niagara Falls; at 8 o'clock Mead's, and at 9 Lieut.-Colonel Bloom's marched from the same place. All were in camp in good season. Agreeably to my orders issued upon this occasion, the two columns were to pass over together. As soon as the heights should be carried Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick's flying artillery was to pass over, then Major Mullany's detachment of regulars and the other troops to follow in order.

Colonel Van Rensselaer with great presence of mind ordered his officers to proceed with rapidity and storm the fort. This service was gallantly performed and the enemy driven down the hill in every direction. Soon after this both parties were considerably reinforced, and the conflict was renewed in various places. Many of the enemy took shelter behind a stone guard-house, where a piece of artillery was now briskly served. I ordered the fire of our battery to be directed upon the guard-house, and it was so effectually done that with eight or ten shot the fire was silenced. The enemy then retreated behind a large stone house, but in a short time the rout became general and the enemy's fire was silenced except from a one-gun battery so far down the river as to be out of the reach of our heavy ordnance, and our light pieces could not silence it. A number of boats now passed over unannoyed, except by the one unsilenced gun. For some time after I had passed over the victory seemed complete, but in expectation of further attacks I was taking



measures for fortifying my camp immediately. The direction of this service I committed to Lieutenant Totten of the Engineers. But very soon the enemy were reinforced by a detachment of several hundred Indians from Chippawa. They commenced a furious attack, but were promptly met and routed by the rifle and bayonet. By this time I perceived my troops were embarking very slowly. I passed immediately over to accelerate their movements, but to my utter astonishment I found that at the very moment when complete victory was in our hands the ardor of the unengaged troops had entirely subsided. I rode in all directions; urged the men by every consideration to pass over, but in vain. Lieut.-Colonel Bloom, who had been wounded in action, returned, mounted his horse and rode through the camp, as did also Judge Peck, who happened to be here, exhorting the companies to proceed, but all in vain.

At this time a large reinforcement from Fort George was discovered coming up the river. As the battery on the hill was considered an important check against their ascending the heights, measures were immediately taken to send them a fresh supply of ammunition as I learnt there were only left twenty shot for the 18-pounders. The reinforcements, however, obliqued from the road and formed a junction with the Indians in the rear of the heights. Finding, to my infinite mortification, that no reinforcement would pass over; seeing that another severe conflict must soon commence, and knowing that the brave men at the heights were quite exhausted and nearly out of ammunition, all I could do was to send them a fresh supply of cartridges. At this critical moment I despatched a note to General Wadsworth, acquainting him with our situation, leaving the course to be pursued much to his own judgment, with the assurance that if he thought best to retreat I would endeavor to send as many boats as I could command, and cover his retreat by every fire I could safely make. But the boats were dispersed: many of the boatmen had fled panic-struck, and but few got off. My note, however, could but little more than have reached General W[adsworth] about 4 o'clock, when a most severe and obstinate conflict commenced and continued for about half an hour, with a tremendous fire of cannon, flying artillery and musketry. The enemy succeeded in repossessing their battery and gaining advantage on every side. The brave men who had gained the victory, being exhausted of strength and ammunition, and grieved at the unpardonable neglect of their fellow soldiers, gave up the conflict.

I can only add that the victory was really won, but lost for the want of a small reinforcement; one-third part of the idle men might have saved all.

*(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 63.)*



**Major J. B. Glegg to Mr. William Brock.**

FORT GEORGE, UPPER CANADA, 14th Oct., 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—With a heart agonized with the most painful sorrow, I am compelled by duty and affection to announce to you the death of my most valuable and ever to be lamented friend, your brother, Major-General Brock.

He fell yesterday morning at an early hour, when at the head of a small body of regular troops, consisting of the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, disputing every inch of ground with a very superior body of the enemy's troops in the town of Queenston. The ball entered his right breast and passed through on his left side. His sufferings, I am happy to add, were of very short duration, and were terminated in a few minutes, when he uttered in a feeble voice:

“My fall must not be noticed or impede my brave companions from advancing to victory.”

His lifeless corpse was immediately conveyed into a house at Queenston, unperceived by the enemy, and although we were obliged, by overwhelming numbers, to leave it there for some hours it was not observed by the enemy, and upon victory declaring in our favor I hastened to the spot, and finding my lamented friend in the same concealed place where we had left it in the morning, the body was immediately conveyed to Fort George, where it now lies in state in the Government House, and has already been bedewed by the tears of many affectionate friends.

His loss at any time would have been great to his relations and friends, but at this moment I consider the melancholy event as a public calamity. He was beloved and esteemed by all who had the happiness to know him, and was adored by his army and by the inhabitants of this Province.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 317, pp. 203-4.*)

**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Brock.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 14th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Agreeably to your permission, verbally communicated last night to Captain Dox, I send surgeons for the purpose proposed. And I have now to request that an officer and a detachment of men, sufficient for the purpose, may be permitted to bring the dead bodies over the river in boats. Also to send the officers who are prisoners, their baggage and cash.

(*From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 264.*)

**Captain J. Dennis, 49th Regt., to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

QUEENSTON, 14th October, 1812.

SIR,—I am directed to inform you, by Major-General Sheaffe, that the service of burying the dead was ordered at an early hour yesterday evening, and in consequence I proceeded with the duty to the fallen brave at an early hour this morning, which was completed as far as they could be discovered in the wood when your letter of this day arrived this forenoon. Had I known of your wishes yesterday evening I should have given every assistance within my power toward their satisfaction.

*(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 265.)*

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**Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

FORT GEORGE, 14th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of receiving your letter of this date, respecting the employing an officer and a sufficient number of men to collect and convey over the bodies of the dead for the purpose of burial. This service is reported to me to have been nearly completed, in consequence of orders I gave yesterday. But should any body or bodies still remain uninterred that you may particularly desire to have possession of, the officer commanding at Queenston shall be directed to afford every facility for recognizing and removing them.

*(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 265.)*

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**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Sheaffe.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 14th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, relative to the bodies of the dead. I know of no particular case in which, under existing circumstances, I ought to avail myself of your humane permission. To the general proposition contained in your letter of yesterday, respecting the general exchange of prisoners, I readily accede, and now send Captain Dox, who will immediately meet such agent as you may please to appoint to confer on the subject, and make such arrangements as may most speedily carry the agreement into effect.

*(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 265.)*

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**Brigadier-General William Wadsworth to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

NEWARK, UPPER CANADA, Oct. 14, 1812.

SIR,—It falls to my lot to observe that myself and upwards of forty officers are prisoners at this place. Many officers and soldiers fell yesterday. I am not yet made acquainted with what the situation of my officers and soldiers is to be. We are yet in much confusion. Much difficulty arises this morning for want of specie (among) the officers generally; the State Bank bills will not be received at all. If the officers could be relieved by an exchange of bills for silver it would be much for their comfort. Excuse me from saying anything further at this moment. I hope soon to have the liberty of writing you again. I cannot conclude without expressing my satisfaction of the treatment received from General Sheaffe and his officers since we fell into his possession.

*(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 265.)*

**John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.**

Evening of 14th October, 1812.

DEAR ALEXANDER,—I told you the dreadful day of battle was at hand. Yesterday was that day in good earnest. I lament that I am not in a situation to detail all particulars; I can only sketch the outline. But first let me tell you that General Van Rensselaer was placed in a situation in which he had only the alternative of eternal disgrace upon his own character and the army or to give the enemy battle; this I can demonstrate to the world. Thus situated he decided for battle. At four o'clock yesterday morning our column of 300 militia, under the command of Col. Van Rensselaer, and one column of 300 regulars, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Christie, embarked in boats to dislodge the enemy from the Heights of Queenston, opposite the camp. They were to land under cover of a battery of two eighteen-pounders and two sixes. As the fire from this battery was all important, and to be directed by a very scant light, and if illy directed would be fatal to ourselves, General Van Rensselaer did me the very great honor to direct. The river is rapid and full of whirlpools and eddies. The movement was instantly discovered: the shore was one incessant blaze of musketry; three batteries pelted upon the boats. My battery pelted alternately upon the batteries and upon musketry on shore, while a snug little mortar near by complimented my battery liberally with shells.

In a word, the scene was tremendous. The boats were a little embarrassed, but Colonel Van Rensselaer made good his landing in a perfect sheet of fire. He had advanced but a few steps when he received a shot in his right thigh, entering just back of the hip-bone. He still advanced with his van—received another shot, through the same thigh. He still advanced and received the third shot, through the calf of his left leg; he still advanced, then a fourth shot contused his heel badly: he still advanced till he was really riddled by other balls through his legs and thigh. Thus bleeding at six holes and very lame in his heel he halted in fire, and with perfect presence of mind directed his officers, of whom *Stephen Lush* was one, who is now with us unhurt, to rush forward and storm the first battery. It was gallantly done. Both parties reinforced fast; every battery played its best. The conflict spread wide and became general over the heights. The enemy gave way and fled in every direction. A large body of them got behind a stone guard-house, in which was mounted a piece of heavy ordnance. I directed both 18-pounders against it. We raked them severely, and at the eighth shot tumbled up a heap of men, and I believe dismantled the gun. At any rate we silenced it. The squad then fled behind Judge Hamilton's stone house: our eighteens raked them from there, and what could, fled. With our sixes we used grape, as opportunity offered. By this time, about ten o'clock, the enemy's fire, except one gun out of reach down the river, was silenced. Victory seemed complete.

The battle was long and severe. Many are killed and many wounded on both sides. The General had passed over to the Heights, but sent me back to urge on the troops which were passing over to support the two columns. Soon after the General got over and was taking a bite of bread and cheese in John Bull's barracks (for he had eaten no breakfast) a detachment of some hundreds of Indians from Chippawa arrived and commenced their attack with great fury, but the rifle and the bayonet scattered the sons of Belial and drove them to the woods. Still the reinforcements moved over very slowly and, in short, stopped. The General returned to accelerate them. He mounted a borrowed horse and I rode with him, everywhere urging on the troops, for not half of them had passed over. But the name of Indian, or the sight of the wounded, or the devil, or *something else* petrified them. Not a regiment, not a company, scarcely a man would go. Lieut.-Colonel Bloom, who had returned wounded from the Heights, mounted his horse, exhorted, swore, prayed the troops, who were standing paraded with arms in their hands, to advance. Next (but from whence he came I know not,) old Judge Peck appeared with a large cocked hat and long sword,

with a broad white belt. He preached and prayed, but in vain. By this time General Brock had got a large reinforcement of regulars on their way from Fort George. Knowing that our grand battery was the best check on their ascending the Heights, I ran my horse there, about one mile, to put our round and grape shot in motion. The four pieces were shotted, but to my mortification before the reinforcements came within our reach they obliqued to the right, went in the rear of the woods, formed a junction with the Indians and prepared to renew the attack. The ammunition of the men on the Heights was nearly exhausted, for they had now fought with little intermission for eleven hours. The General sent them some supplies, which I think could scarcely have reached them when, at about half-past, four, commenced a furious, obstinate and tremendous conflict. On both sides fixed cannon, flying artillery and roll of musketry. The mountains seemed to shake beneath the stride of death. It continued about half an hour, when the brave fellows, who had waded through blood to victory, exhausted of strength and ammunition, yielded the day. I cannot say how many have fallen, how many wounded and how many may have taken to the woods to escape the fury of the Indians and swim or otherwise cross the river as they can. The British have suffered much. Brock is slain, his Aide-de-Camp, Colonel Macdonnell, mortally wounded. General Van Rensselaer is perfectly well, and his conduct through the whole action would do credit to an old soldier.

This day has been spent in burying the dead, dressing wounded on both sides of the river, collecting together again the public property, negotiating an exchange of prisoners, and all the duties consequent on such an obstinate and bloody battle. Both parties have suffered severely, but which the most in slain I cannot tell. We took but few prisoners. They have taken a very considerable number, among whom is General Wadsworth. Reports are so various that I might injure more than I should console by details. Lush is well; Gansevoort is well: both here. Sweeney, late of Albany, is wounded and a prisoner, but the surgeon who dressed him tells me he will recover. Rathbun, I have *heard*, is pretty severely wounded and a prisoner. Capt. John E. Wool, of Troy, got over. I have seen him: shot through the buttocks, but he behaved very well in action. Now, mind *this*, young *Smith*, nephew of Walter Van Vechten, behaved well in action; is prisoner at Fort George. He wrote me today: he will be exchanged on parole in a few days, as I expect all the militia. General Sheaffe has made that proposition today. Major Mullany is prisoner, unhurt. Col. Stranahan is prisoner, I believe wounded but not badly. Grosvenor (brother of Tom) had his rifle cap shot through and all round, but he is unhurt



here. Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick of the Light Artillery has severe wounds; he may recover. He was taken. Grosvenor retook him and then he was taken again. We have lost a number of brave officers.

*(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, pp. 266-8.)*

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**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Sheaffe.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, 15th Oct., 1812.

SIR,—Captain Dox, whom I yesterday sent to Fort George to make the necessary arrangements for an exchange of prisoners, being assigned for other duty this day, I now send Col. Winder to complete the business, and I flatter myself there will be no objection to this substitution. Col. Winder is further instructed to communicate to you my wishes upon several subjects (a continuation of the armistice) and by any stipulation he may enter into respecting them I shall be governed.

*(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 268.)*

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**Major J. B. Glegg to Justice W. D. Powell.**

FORT GEORGE,  
Wednesday Morning, Oct. 14, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,—With heartrending sorrow I assume the painful duty of announcing to you the death of my most valuable and much lamented friend, Major-General Brock. He fell yesterday morning at an early hour, when at the head of a small body of regular troops, disputing every inch of ground with a very superior body of the enemy's troops in the town of Queenston. The ball entered his right breast and passed through his left side. His sufferings, I am happy to add, were of short duration, and were terminated with a fervent exhortation that his fall should not impede his brave followers from advancing to victory. His body was immediately carried into a house at Queenston, and though we were obliged by a great superiority of numbers to leave it for some hours, it was recovered during the day when our victorious troops regained the place.

I am grieved to inform you that our gallant and much esteemed friend, Macdonnell, received a severe wound much about the same time, and, having fortunately been carried to the rear of our army, he immediately received medical assistance. The wound, my dear Sir, is very serious, a musket ball having passed through his body



near the navel, but it is supposed not to have injured his bladder. He was removed last night to the Government House, where he received every aid and attention. I never quit his bed for more than a few minutes, and Mr. Macdonnell, (your late sheriff,) who arrived here on the 12th from Kingston, is unremitting in his kindness. Captains Dennis, Williams and several other officers were wounded much about the same time, but are all doing well. Young, Shaw and McLean received slight wounds. Our victory, though sadly clouded by the loss of our dear chief, has been most complete. All did their duty. General Wadsworth, a large body of officers, nearly 800 prisoners, the only piece of artillery which the enemy carried over, and one stand of colors, are now in our possession.

The enemy's attack was confined to Queenston. Our batteries at this place and Fort Erie have done great execution in their defences and barracks.

The jail here was burnt down yesterday, but whether from the enemy's fire or an act of some of the prisoners has not been ascertained.

Their cannonading, though continued for some hours upon this place, I am happy to say committed no injury, except upon a few houses. Their fire was effectually silenced by our batteries, and the fort was abandoned.

Our magazine was set on fire by red-hot shot, but was soon extinguished by the heroic presence of mind of our troops.

The enemy commenced landing their troops a couple of hours before daylight yesterday morning, and after twelve hours hard fighting were compelled to lay down their arms.

Not having any ships of war here General Sheaffe, I believe, intends sending off this day about 170 American regular troops to York in the *Simcoe*.

Half-past one o'clock.

My poor friend Macdonnell has just expired.

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#### Agreement for the Exchange of Prisoners.

The militia to be crossed over to Fort Niagara, on their parole not to serve during the war or until regularly exchanged. Take Capt. Leonard's receipt for the number crossed over. The officers to be exchanged from the line to be drawn by lot or by the direction of Major-General Van Rensselaer. A medical person will be sent over to-morrow to select from the wounded those individuals to be crossed over. This medical officer will also determine the case of any wounded officer that it may be advisable to have paroled. The

British prisoners at Black Rock to be set at liberty as soon as possible, and those at Lewiston to-morrow morning. The commanding officers at Fort Erie and Queenston respectively to give receipts for those who may be crossed over to those places.

James Molloy, conductor of King's stores, to be exchanged for a subaltern of the line. The thirty-seven *voyageurs* to be considered exchanged as militia.

Signed at Newark.

WM. H. WINDER, Col. 14th Regt.,  
U. S. Army.  
THOS. EVANS, Brigade-Major,  
King's Regiment.

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### Colonel Mead's Statement.

Our reasons for publishing the following are two: 1, to show the qualifications for military command of the Federal candidate for the chief magistracy, and, 2d, to preserve it as a matter of historical record.

*To the Citizens of Chenango, Tioga and Broome Counties, from which the 17th Regiment of Militia were detached, under Lieut.-Colonel Mead:*

FELLOW-CITIZENS,—Deeming it a duty I owe to the regiment under my command, to my own feelings, as also to put at rest the various and erroneous remarks which have gone abroad respecting the conduct of those under me in the late engagement at Queenston, the following is submitted to the public:

The regiment having been detached and rendezvoused, pursuant to general orders, on the 19th of September last, we took up our line of march from the town of Norwich: on the 26th arrived at Canandaigua, and on the 30th arrived at Batavia, where we lay in camp six days, to draw deficient arms. On the 7th October resumed our march: on the 9th arrived at Black Rock; lay by one day to draw provisions: on the 11th arrived at Schlosser through a tedious storm of rain. On the 12th, in the afternoon, Adj. Noyes, in company, rode to Lewiston to report myself and regiment to General Van Rensselaer. On my arrival he informed me he had given orders for my regiment to march from Schlosser to Lewiston at 8 o'clock of that night, Col. Stranahan's at 7 o'clock and Col. Bloom's at 9, in order to cross the river at four in the morning of the 13th, in order to take possession of Queenston Heights—on which I informed the General my troops were quite beat out with marching through the mud and rain; that we were destitute of ammunition, and but

about one-half of my soldiers provided with cartridge-boxes, and that Colonel Stranahan and myself had marched in company, and that his troops were much in the same situation: that the riflemen of my regiment had neither powder or lead to run their balls: that under such circumstances I did not see that any great reliance could be placed on either of our regiments, with so short a notice: that if a day or two could be given for the soldiers to recruit, be furnished with ammunition and regain their spirits, I had no doubt but they would volunteer to a man, but that I must remonstrate against going over that night. To this Gen. Van Rensselaer replied, with some warmth, that the troops should cross that night if ever: that he did not know what would be done: that out of the two regiments stationed at Lewiston, viz., Cols. Allen's and Dobbins', not more than 75 or 80 men would volunteer.

Finding all remonstrance failed to gain us the necessary time, I made enquiry where we should obtain ammunition and the deficient cartridge boxes. The General replied if I would call on him at his marquee at 12 o'clock at night we should be furnished. Accordingly, we arrived at Lewiston between 11 and 12 o'clock from Schlosser, a distance of seven miles, and an excessive bad road. I immediately repaired to Gen. Van Rensselaer's marquee to receive orders for drawing ammunition, but it was in vain I sought the General or any person to act in his room. After patrolling the encampment for an hour, I found a Major Wells appointed to take charge of the ammunition, but to my surprise he informed me there was none nearer than one mile and-a-half, at the arsenal on the mountain. We then received a second assurance that we should be supplied by daylight. At four o'clock about 300 regulars of the 13th Regiment and an equal number of militia, under Cols. Christie and Van Rensselaer, crossed and stormed and took possession of the Heights at Queenston. All was now bustle and confusion. At daylight I again applied for the ammunition and cartridge-boxes, and found at that moment a wagon had been sent to the arsenal for the same, which arrived not until one hour's sun. As fast as the soldiers were provided they were ordered to march to the river. At our arrival at the bank there were but three boats to convey us across, which would conveniently carry about twenty men each; in these we commenced crossing, until 100 of my men had reached the British side, under fire of one of the enemy's batteries about 80 rods distance down the river. As soon as we ascended the Heights on the opposite side, Col. Stranahan and myself were taking measures to dispatch a detachment of men to take possession of the enemy's battery that was annoying our boats while crossing. At this instant we were attacked on the left by the

Indians. Our number was now about 200, under Colonel Stranahan and myself.

It was with deep regret that we saw many brave officers and soldiers fall by the savage band concealed in a thick brush or wood, which prevented our making a due impression in return. At this disastrous moment there seemed no prospect of driving them from their fatal cover but by an immediate charge, which was accordingly ordered and executed with bravery by our soldiers, when the Indians fled with great precipitancy from the field. Finding that we received no reinforcement, I returned to the top of the bank that overlooks the river to give signal for more men to cross, but could discover only about twelve or fifteen on the American side; these instantly crossed over to our assistance. It was now about two o'clock p. m., when General Wadsworth received orders from General Van Rensselaer to retreat, on which a council of war was called, and held in sight of the British and their Indian allies while on the advance towards us. My advice at this council was to make a vigorous effort to maintain the ground for which so many of our brave men had bled. This advice perhaps was imprudent, as the British and Indians numbered about 900, while ours at this period did not exceed 500: besides, the enemy had four or five pieces of artillery loaded with grape shot; our army had but one, and that with only three remaining cartridges. At this moment, about three o'clock, a retreat was ordered by General Wadsworth—the enemy about fifteen rods in the advance of our body. The retreat was continued about 60 rods to the river bank, under fire of the cannon and musketry of the enemy. The fire of the enemy continued for about fifteen minutes after we arrived at the river bank, when we surrendered ourselves prisoners of war. The number of prisoners, including those who had not been in the action, amounted to 900. Our loss during the day was about 100 killed, including regulars and militia, and about 200 wounded.

#### OBSERVATIONS.

The causes conducing to the disastrous event of the attack on Queenston Heights are many. The first and principal one, that the plan was not sufficiently matured before the operation commenced. After the first body of six hundred of regulars and militia crossed at four in the morning, the soldiers of my regiment and that of Col. Stranahan were retarded four hours for want of ammunition. This occasioned an undue haste and confusion. This delay was a great loss in the operations of the day. When we were prepared for crossing, instead of a sufficient number of boats to convey a large body at a time there were only three: this prevented the security

soldiers would feel in their own protection when in a considerable body, and also delayed the others by obliging them to stand on the bank after their arrival, and seeing the wounded in the return boats added very little to their inducement to go over. After the first body the crossing was continued in a scattering, irregular manner, without plan or preconcert or co-operation, many going to the river and returning for want of means to get over.

This misfortune could have been remedied by providing a sufficient number of boats and appointing proper officers to take command of the same and regulate the crossing of the men. Thirteen only were employed in the first instance: this number was soon reduced to three, either by the enemy or being suffered to drift; while at the Four Mile Creek, ten miles from Lewiston, there were 40 boats, and 40 or 50 at Schlosser, only seven miles distance. If ammunition had been seasonably procured and means provided for crossing, my regiment and that of Colonel Stranahan would have crossed almost to a man.

The place selected for the attack was perhaps the most difficult for effecting a landing of any on the station, our troops having to ascend a difficult steep of about twelve rods, exposed to a destructive fire.

The plan was not conducted with sufficient secrecy and caution. The enemy being apprised of our movements and intended attack, were completely prepared for our reception, which proved a great loss to our brave troops.

The number that crossed was doubtless sufficient to have maintained the ground for 48 hours, during which time measures could have been taken to have secured our return, but there were about 200 who had crossed, including regulars and militia, who during the action left the main body and skulked under the bank on the British side. On my coming to the height to make signals for more to cross, discovering them I made use of arguments which I thought calculated to raise their humanity if not their courage, but without effect: these cowards neither saw nor felt for their country or fellow-soldiers engaged with a superior number of the enemy. These, with many others, fled to the American side in the boats destined for carrying the wounded.

To me it is mysterious and unaccountable that General Smyth's brigade, stationed at Buffalo, thirty miles from Lewiston, should have been ordered back by Gen. Van Rensselaer when on their march to aid us in the attack, and only ten miles in our rear on the night before it was made. Their co-operation would have given us a glorious victory. The motives or views of Gen. Van Rensselaer



in the conduct of the expedition throughout, are to me as unaccountable as the expedition itself is unfortunate.

I cannot forbear expressing my commendation and acknowledgments in behalf of the officers and soldiers who acted under me during the day. The officers who signalized themselves for courage and prompt obedience to orders are :

Captain Daniel Root, of Chenango county.

Captain Eli Bacon, of Tioga county.

Lieutenant John Fields, of Tioga county.

Lieut. Charles Randall, of Chenango county.

Ensign John Height, of Chenango county.

Sergt.-Major Washington Windsor, of Chenango county.

Lieut. Daniel Chase, wounded and brought off the field.

To both officers and soldiers equal merit is due for their bravery and good conduct. To their country, whenever exchanged, they will be a valuable and tried band.

Those who crossed and shamefully abandoned their brethren-in-arms, either by re-crossing or skulking under the shore, are deserving more censure than such as did not attempt to cross. Motives of delicacy alone prevent my giving their names to the public, especially the officers, whose epaulettes blush for their cowardice and are disgraced by the wearer. Of those who re-crossed, some were commanded to return by their superiors on business of arrangement, and were constantly engaged in situations equally exposed with those in the field, particularly Major John Randall of my regiment, whose duties were arduous and promptly executed.

Although our loss was great and the issue truly unfortunate, the enemy have no reason to boast of their advantage. To them it is a victory which will be remembered with pain. Major-General Brock, an experienced and brave leader, with one of his aids, was slain in the early part of the action. The British acknowledged that his death was more serious than would have been the loss of a thousand of the rank. They have no commander in the Canadas who can fill his place. It is an observation which has been made by experienced men, that republics in war, like an elastic ball, rise and resist in proportion to their pressure: that defeat is a necessary discipline to call forth their physical energy and mutual co-operation. It is certainly true that something is wanting to unite and bring into action the interest and strength of the country, whether it is defeat and disgrace, or whether the patriotism of the subject should not be a more safe and noble substitute, is left to time and their own feelings to determine. For one, I do not hesitate to say



that no consideration but the rights and honor of my country, which are now at stake, shall ever be necessary to urge me to their defence, and shame on the man who, with an indifferent heart and supine hand, inclines to shrink from the glorious contest. If the interest, the honor of his country, his name as an American cannot command his ardor to act, in worth he is below the savage, in blood or example I hope allied to few. Let those who can leave their homes enroll themselves as volunteers under their country's banner: any partial deprivation ought not to deter. This will be ten times repaid in benefits to their posterity; union and mutual co-operation will save rivers of blood, speedily close the war, secure an honorable peace, prevent the burthen of a great war debt, and protect us against internal distraction and future insult and attack. Whenever it is my fortune to be exchanged I shall lose no time in advancing to their standard, and evince that I am as willing to act as to speak.

THOMPSON MEAD, Lieut.-Col.,  
17th Regt., Detached Militia.

Nov. 18, 1812.

*(From the Albany Argus, 30th March, 1813.)*

**John Chrystie, Lieut.-Colonel 13th United States Infantry, to  
General Thomas H. Cushing.**

ALBANY, February 22nd, 1813.

SIR,—In obedience to orders of the 8th instant, requiring from me "a particular statement in relation to the affair at Queenston," I have the honor to transmit a journal of the incidents connected with that affair which fell under my observation.

On the 10th of October, 1812, I waited on Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick, commanding at Fort Niagara, to report my arrival on the evening of the 9th instant with a detachment of nearly 400 of the Thirteenth at the Four Mile Creek, in charge of military stores, and thirty-nine boats capable of carrying conveniently each thirty men. He informed me of an intended attack that night at Queenston, and I requested orders to join the corps designated for it. Such orders he was not authorized to give, but sent off an express that evening to procure them. They arrived (I have since learned) at Niagara about nine at night, but I was prevented by an accident from receiving them and my detachment was saved a night's march in a storm, and exposure and march the next day by which all the other regulars in that quarter were very considerably harassed, as, being without tents or camp equipage, they were obliged to keep on foot until they returned to their quarters. This intended attack,

in which my detachment was not originally included, was to have been conducted by Colonel Van Rensselaer and Captain Machesney at the head of a party of regulars, but was defeated by some mistake or treachery of a man in charge of the boats.

On the 11th (the storm still continued with unabated violence and the road still covered with stragglers from the different detachments of regulars which had marched the night before from Fort Niagara and its vicinity to Lewiston on the proposed expedition) I rode to General Van Rensselaer's encampment in order to report more particularly the detachment under my command, and to request a place in the next attempt, mentioning that I should like forty-eight hours for preparation, being myself an entire stranger to the country and the detachment being just off a long march expedition from Oswego, requiring some time for the issue of several articles of petit equipment and for putting themselves in the best condition. It was intimated to me that I should have a part in the first attack and that it would take place in a few days. On the 12th, about twelve o'clock, Colonel Van Rensselaer rode into my camp and informed me that I must march immediately to Lewiston, that he intended to attack at Queenston that night. The weather had cleared away early and at this time my tents were struck, every musket and lock taken to pieces and everything in the camp going through the process of police usual on such occasions. I was also informed that the provisions for that day had not yet been received from Fort Niagara and could not be before evening. Colonel Van Rensselaer stated, however, that we should be able to march to Lewiston early and that he would have rations ready for them there. We conversed about my waiving rank with him, which I told him was impossible, but as it was equally impossible for me to command in a night attack on a place that I had never seen, as I was informed it was a critical moment which must be used, and as I was not disinclined to yield as much as possible to an officer of established reputation, and as I was and knew my whole detachment to be anxious for an opportunity of seeing some actual service on any terms, I consented to take a part without interfering with his arrangements for it, and requested for myself only good guides and a landing in good order at the proper point. The detachment accordingly moved a little before five o'clock in the afternoon, and marched, or rather waded, to Lewiston, where we arrived some time before ten, and most of the men and some of the officers had their first meal for that day.

October 13th—At half-past three Colonel Van Rensselaer woke me and informed me that it was time to move. I formed the detachment, read to the officers General Van Rensselaer's orders for

the battle, and, conducted partly by a guide and by Colonel Van Rensselaer, marched to the river. On the way Colonel Van Rensselaer introduced my guide for the battle to me. Between four and five o'clock we embarked our first parties. The number of boats was eleven or twelve, I understood, averaging about twenty-five men each, being calculated to carry just half of our respective detachments at a time. The boats assigned to the detachment under my command were on the right, i. e., down the stream. Having embarked the first party and given orders to Captain Ogilvie to take charge of the embarkation of the next on the return of the boats, I chose the boat in which was my principal guide, one Hopkins, and a party selected agreeably to General Van Rensselaer's orders for the advanced guard of my detachment in the attack. The first that reached the Canada shore was the boat in which Captain Armstrong commanded: Captain Malcolm and Lieutenant Hugunin being also on board, and the pilot being skilful returned immediately and gave Captain Ogilvie an opportunity of executing his orders in part. The boat to which I had committed myself (if the circumstances under which I embarked are appreciated, that phrase will not be deemed improper,) unhappily lost a rowlock on the right, which gave it a direction down stream, and although an officer, Lieut. Fink, remedied that evil in a great measure so far as the oar was concerned by holding it, the pilot wanted skill or presence of mind to alter his course, and, no one else knowing anything of the stream or point of landing, we were obliged to confide in him. Having in this manner gone farther down the stream than across it we soon fell below the others, and the fire of the left of the village was directed against this boat. The pilot, panic-struck, turned about, but, being ordered with severity to make the Canada shore at any point, he made another effort, *literally* groaning with fear. Hopkins, who was called on to assist him, was useless. The situation of a boat thus managed on a rapid stream when descending, not only subjected to the severest fire on the boats, which was decidedly from the left of the village (where they seemed prepared for accidents of this kind, or perhaps expected the principal debarkation below,) but also separated from the corps, may easily be imagined. It became necessary to take the steering oar from the boatman and return to the American shore. Here my guide, Hopkins, disappeared. Being several hundred yards below the point of embarkation, I returned on foot by the edge of the river, thinking I could more immediately procure a proper pilot and cross from that place. In the meantime the troops landed and formed immediately on the bank, about twenty paces or less from the river, under Colonel Van Rensselaer. Here a severe fire continued for a

few minutes, but having himself received several wounds, and no other person being acquainted with the forces or defences of the enemy or the topography of the village and its environs, he ordered the troops to fall below the bank, by which they were in a great degree covered. In this scene Lieut. Valleau and Ensign Morris of the Thirteenth, both men of the most estimable character, the latter quite a youth and of extraordinary promise, were killed: Lieut. Rathbone of the First Artillery, severely wounded, (since dead): Captains Armstrong and Malcolm of the Thirteenth and Ensign Lent of the Thirteenth severely wounded, and Captain Wool of the Thirteenth also wounded.

On my return to the upper ferry, I found there a scene of confusion hardly to be described. The enemy concentrated their fire upon our embarking place: no person being charged with directing the boats and embarkation or with the government of the boatmen, they forsook their duty. Persons unacquainted with the river (which was indeed the case with most of the militia who had been encamped at Lewiston several weeks, whereas *all* the regulars had been marched there that night,) would occasionally hurry into a boat as they could find one, cross and leave it on the shore, perhaps to go adrift or else to be brought back by the wounded and their attendants and others returning without order or permission, and these would land where they found it convenient and leave the boats where they landed. During this state of things (the day just beginning to break) Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick arrived with a party, consisting of Major Mullany's detachments of the 13th and 23rd and Captain Machesney's of the 6th. He found me at the river's side, anxiously endeavoring to procure boatmen, and was himself bitterly disappointed by the impossibility of crossing his detachment. Deeming it improper to expose his troops in such a situation without use, he counter-marched in the best order possible, but not without confusion owing to the narrowness of the ravine which led down to the river, and the severe fire of grape, canister and shells which was directed on it. It was about this period and from this fire that Captain Nelson of the 6th, a gentleman equally respected and esteemed in his official character and private life, was mortally wounded.

While things were in this state on the American shore, and partial and generally unsuccessful and ruinous attempts to cross were made by different officers, the troops that had crossed ascended, by order of Colonel Van R., the east side of the hill of Queenston. Captain Ogilvie has the merit with his companions of having led on this occasion. It was a few minutes after daylight when this movement, which was altogether unobserved by the enemy, was

made. Finding no work nor even a sentinel on the hill, they marched to the north side half-way down, which was a one-gun battery open in the rear. Near it were paraded their principal force, which our best intelligence makes to consist of two flank companies of the 49th, commanded by Captains Williams and Dennis. These fled on a single fire from the party in the rear on the height, but soon rallied and did not finally retreat until they had made two unsuccessful attempts to get possession of the hill. In this affair Captain Wool of the 13th, a gallant officer, commanded and displayed a firmness and activity in the highest degree honorable to him. Captain Ogilvie and 1st Lieut. Kearney of the 13th, 2nd Lieuts. Randolph of the Light Artillery and Carr and Huguin of the 13th, and Ensign Reeb, were also highly distinguished. On the part of the British, General Brock and his aid, Col. McDonald, fell, both of the officers commanding the companies of the 49th were wounded, and they lost about twenty or thirty taken prisoners, most of them wounded. The affair ended in a few minutes after sunrise, and of the American party few men, and not an officer, was killed or wounded.

But it is necessary to state further particulars of the disasters attending the embarkation and crossing of the regulars at this period, as they were the great cause of the destruction and confusion of the regulars that day and of so small a number of them being engaged in the subsequent scenes.

It appears, then, that of four regular officers commanding corps who actually attempted to cross before this affair of the morning (all of them in different boats) not one succeeded. They were; Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick, Major Mullany, Captain Machesney and myself.

It appears also that five regular officers were taken prisoners immediately on landing, on the left of the village, their parties being almost entirely cut to pieces in their boats. These were: Lieut.-Colonel Fenwick, Lieuts. Phelps (13th) and Clark (23rd), which three were severely wounded, and Lieuts. Bailey (3rd Artillery) and Turner (13th Infantry.)

The names of several other officers might be mentioned who were defeated in their attempts to land at the proper point and were obliged to return.

Our best intelligence on this subject authorizes me to state that *at least* one hundred regulars were killed, wounded and taken prisoners on the left of the village, before or about sunrise.

About seven or a few minutes past seven o'clock I crossed, having for some time previous, as soon as crossing became practicable, collected different detachments and sent them over. I found



the senior officer there to be Captain Machesney of the 6th, who had, however, crossed but a few minutes before, under my orders. Being in expectation of an immediate attack of the enemy in force, I employed myself in disposing of the prisoners, which were still brought in, checking the disorders, to which some of the troops seemed inclined, and arranging the fragments of the different detachments of regulars in their proper order. The gun in the battery which has been mentioned, I found had been spiked by one of our own artillerists. In the course of an hour, in which I was momentarily expecting the approach of our main force with its artillery and equipage and supplies, a dragoon, who I suspect threw himself into our hands, was brought to me with a despatch addressed to the commanding officer at Fort George. It was from the commanding officer at Chippawa, stating that the corps (Colonel Scott's), which had laid opposite the day preceding, had moved, that everything was quiet there and that he was ready to move. After interrogating the bearer, I sent him in charge of an officer with the despatch to General Van Rensselaer. He was a native of the United States, personally known to one of our officers, and stated with great readiness and even interest that the enemy were already in motion from that quarter, consisting of regulars and Indians, principally the latter. This gave a favorable occasion for a movement in the direction of Chippawa and attacking this party on their march and preventing their junction with the main force from Fort George. But at Queenston everything was stagnant. No considerable or regular embarkation appeared to be making on the opposite shore. A large stone house on the left of the village remained still in possession of the enemy, with two light pieces of artillery, and as not a piece of artillery had yet been brought over it appeared impossible to attack it advantageously. After some time General Wadsworth appeared on the hill, thinking, as he told me, that his example might have a better effect than his orders in making the militia cross. He had seen the despatch above mentioned and was aware of the state of things on the hill. After some consultation he agreed that I should recross and represent it to General Van Rensselaer: this I did on meeting the General on the road, about half a mile from the river. He informed me that he had ordered Colonel Scott across and that he would himself cross in a short time. He ordered Captain Totten of the Engineers to repair to the opposite bank and lay out a fortified encampment, and caused the entrenching tools to be brought down with a view to be sent over, which, however, was neglected to be done. In the course of an hour, while the General was giving his directions to his staff and preparing for the passage of the river, a small and distant fire of musketry was heard. It



was evident that this attack was from the forces from Chippawa and that it was in fact the commencement of an action which must perhaps decide the fate of the campaign in that quarter. At least half the boats we had in the morning were lost or damaged; not half the troops had crossed, although it was by this time about eleven o'clock in the morning. Lieut.-Colonel Scott had not received orders to take his artillery across. Captain Gibson had taken but one piece—a circumstance attributable to the small size of the only boat calculated for the service—and on marching to the embarking place we found there a company of men very handsomely equipped, which was just on the point of entering the boats when this firing was heard, but had thereupon halted and now absolutely refused to cross, regarding neither the orders nor threats nor remonstrances of the General. Finding it useless to urge them further he crossed, Major Mullany joining us just as we went on board the boat. The instant we ascended the hill, seeing the regulars engaged three or four hundred yards from the river, near a wood, I hastened to that point, and urging my way directly to the front found there Lieut.-Colonel Scott, with a gallantry I cannot too much extol, leading and animating the troops. This officer had a few minutes before checked the first charge of the Indians and saved his troops from the disorder they had nearly been thrown into by the precipitate retreat of a party of militia. We soon reached the wood and penetrated some distance into it, but after some time it was represented to Colonel Scott that the Indians here presented no object for a charge, that while their fire was bloody ours produced a comparatively small effect; that the wood was not so desirable a position as one about two hundred yards nearer the river, and, the intervening space being cleared, the attacks of the Indians must be made in the open field and would of course be easily repelled, and we might take the order and position intended in the expected engagement. This change of position being approved by him was made gradually and with care, small detachments being ordered to move to different points in rear, as with a view to meet other attacks, Colonel Scott and myself remaining to the last. After this movement had been accomplished, the fire of the Indians was of course less general and fatal, but it was never intermitted during the remainder of the day. About the time of this movement the first detachments of the British army were seen at a great distance on the plain on their march from Fort George. Meanwhile our numbers instead of increasing were diminishing. The boat in which General Van Rensselaer came over returned immediately full of men, who had concealed themselves under the bank for the purpose of seizing opportunities to recross, and had

embarked in his presence, and I understand they even crowded into the very boat in which he afterwards returned with a view to bring over his principal force, which was still on the American shore. At about a quarter of an hour after two o'clock in the afternoon the British troops paraded in front of us, we being forced on the edge of the hill—the village in our rear, the river on our left and a bush cantonment on our right. In this were disposed a number of regulars and a small party of volunteer riflemen, under Lieutenant Smith of the militia, who was highly distinguished by his activity and courage. These served to keep the Indians in check, though they still maintained a galling fire on the right flank. My opinion of the British force, founded on my own observation and subsequent information, is that they had from four to five hundred regulars, with four pieces of artillery, from five to six hundred militia and three hundred Indians. Our whole force under arms at this time was less than three hundred, with but one piece of artillery and not a dozen rounds for it, yet I am well persuaded a retreat, much less a surrender, was not thought of, and that the troops were in fact in as high spirits as if we had been superior. Such was the state of things when a note from General Van Rensselaer to General Wadsworth arrived, commanding him to save his troops, informing him that not a regiment or company would move to reinforce us, that he had himself seen the movements of the enemy and knew we were overpowered, and that he would endeavor to furnish boats and cover our retreat. He added in a postscript that General Wadsworth might nevertheless govern himself according to circumstances under his more immediate view. General Wadsworth called together the senior officers of corps, read this letter and asked their opinions. Nothing was decided on. Meanwhile the enemy, manœuvring with great caution if not with some hesitation, moved in force by their right towards the river in such a way as to reconnoitre our whole front and left in part, always skirting the woods and presenting themselves in line on our right flank. During these marches and countermarches of the enemy we were consulting and at last determined to avail ourselves of the possibility of retreating suggested in General Van Rensselaer's letter. It was designed accordingly to throw our right on the road leading from the hill to the village, and form with the river in our rear. To do this it was necessary to march by the left, which brought the militia in front of the column. They soon broke on the commencement of the enemy's fire, and a perfect rout ensued. Not a boat being ready nor any appearance of an attempt to bring them, we surrendered: were taken to the village of Queenston and treated with the greatest delicacy and humanity by General Sheaffe.

The wounded were attended to here, the prisoners, private soldiers, were collected and marched to Newark, and after being about an hour in the village we marched with a guard, which was necessary to protect us from the Indians, to Fort George. We arrived there just at dark.

(From *Armstrong's Notices of the War of 1812*, Vol. I., pp. 207-219.)

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BROWN'S POINT, October 14th, 1812.

About half an hour before daylight yesterday morning, Tuesday, the 13th October, being stationed at one of the batteries between Fort George and Queenston, I heard a heavy cannonading from Fort Gray, situate on the height of the mountain on the American side and commanding the town of Queenston.

The lines had been watched with all the care and attention which the extent of our force rendered possible, and such was the fatigue which our men underwent from want of rest and exposure that they welcomed with joy the prospect of a field action that they thought would be decisive. Their spirits were high and their confidence in the General unbounded.

From our battery at Brown's Point, about two miles from Queenston, we had the whole scene most completely in our view.

Day was just glimmering.

The cannon from both sides of the river roared incessantly.

Queenston was illuminated by the continual discharge of small arms.

This last circumstance convinced us that some of the enemy had landed, and in a few moments, as the day advanced and objects became more visible, we saw a number of Americans in boats attempting to land upon our shore, amidst a tremendous shower of shot of all descriptions which was skilfully and unceasingly levelled at them.

No orders had been given to Captain Cameron, who commanded our detachment of York militia, what conduct to pursue in case of an attack at Queenston, and as it had been suggested to him that in the event of a landing being attempted there the enemy would probably endeavor by various attacks to distract our force, he hesitated at first as to the propriety of withdrawing his men from the station assigned them to defend.

He soon saw, however, that every exertion was required in aid of the troops engaged above us, and without further delay marched to the scene of action. On our road General Brock passed us. He had galloped from Niagara unaccompanied by his aide-de-camp or a single attendant.

He waved his hand to us, desired us to follow with expedition, and proceeded with all speed to the mountain. Lieut.-Colonel Macdonnell and Captain Glegg passed immediately after. At the time the enemy began to cross there were but two companies of the 49th Regiment, the grenadiers and the light company, and I believe three small companies of militia, to oppose them.

Their reception was such as did honor to the courage and management of our troops.

The grape shot and musket balls poured upon them at close quarters as they approached the shore and made incredible havoc.

A single discharge of grape from a brass six-pounder, directed by Captain Dennis of the 49th grenadiers, destroyed fifteen in a boat.

Three of the batteaux landed at the hollow below Mr. Hamilton's garden in Queenston, and were met by a party of militia and a few regulars, who slaughtered almost the whole of them, taking the rest prisoners.

Several other boats were so shattered and disabled that the men in them threw down their arms and came on shore merely to deliver themselves up as prisoners of war.

Thus far things had proceeded successfully, and the General on his approach to the mountain was greeted with the intelligence that all our villainous aggressors were destroyed or taken.

As we advanced with our company we met troops of Americans on their way to Fort George under guard, and the road was lined with miserable wretches, suffering under wounds of all descriptions and crawling to our houses for protection and comfort. The spectacle struck us, who were unused to such scenes, with horror, but we hurried to the mountain, impressed with the idea that the enemy's attempt was already frustrated and the business of the day nearly completed.

Another brigade of four boats was just then crossing and the 49th light company, who had been stationed on the mountain, were ordered down to assist in preventing their landing. No sooner had they descended than the enemy appeared in force above them. They had probably landed before the rest, while it was yet dark, and remained concealed by the rough crags of the mountain.

They possessed themselves of our battery on the height.

General Brock rushed up the mountain on foot with some troops to dislodge them, but they were so advantageously posted and kept up so tremendous a fire that the small number ascending were driven back.

The General then rallied [his troops] and was proceeding up the right of the mountain to attack them in flank when he received

a ball in his breast. Several of the 49th assembled around him. One poor fellow was severely wounded by a cannon ball and fell across the General.

They succeeded, however, in conveying his body to Queenston.

We were halted a few minutes in Mr. Hamilton's garden, where we were exposed to the shot from the American battery at Fort Gray and from several field-pieces directly opposite to us, besides an incessant and disorderly fire of musketry from the sides of the mountain.

In a few minutes we were directed to advance on the mountain. The nature of the ground and the galling fire prevented any kind of order in ascending. We soon scrambled to the top at the right of the battery which they had gained and were in some measure covered by the woods. There we stood and gathered the men as they advanced and formed them in a line.

The fire was too hot to admit of delay. Scarcely more than fifty men were collected, about thirty of whom were of our company, headed by Captain Cameron, and the remainder of the 49th light company, commanded by Captain Williams.

Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell was there, mounted, and animating the men to charge. He was seconded with great spirit and valor by Captain Williams, who exclaimed: "Feel firmly to the right, advance steadily, charge them home and they cannot stand you."

But the attempt was unsuccessful.

The enemy were just in front, covered by bushes and logs. They were in no kind of order and were three or four hundred in number. They perceived us forming, and at about thirty yards distance fired. Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonell, who was on the left of our party most heroically calling upon us to advance, received a shot in his body and fell. His horse was at the same instant killed.

Captain Williams, who was at the other extremity of our little band, fell apparently dead.

The remainder of our men advanced a few paces, discharged their pieces and retired down the mountain.

Lieutenant McLean was wounded in the thigh and Captain Cameron, in his attempt to save Colonel Macdonell, exposed himself to a shower of musketry which he almost miraculously escaped.

He succeeded in bearing off his friend, and Captain Williams recovered from the momentary effect of the wound in his head in time to escape down the mountain. This happened, I think, about 10 a. m.

Our forces rallied about a mile below.

General Sheaffe with the 41st from Fort George, nearly three



hundred in number, came up soon after with the field-pieces of the ear-brigade.

All the force that could be collected was now mustered and marched through the fields back of Queenston, ascended the mountain on the right and remained in the woods in rear of the enemy till intelligence was gained of their position. During this time the Americans were landing fresh troops unmolested, and carrying back their dead and wounded in their return boats.

About three o'clock p. m. General Sheaffe advanced through the woods towards the battery on the mountain with the main body, composed of the 41st and Niagara militia flank companies (with field pieces) on the right. The Mohawk Indians, under Captain Norton, and a Niagara company of blacks proceeded along the brow of the mountain on the left, and the light company of the 49th with our company of militia broke through the centre. In this manner we rushed through the woods to the encamping ground on the mountain, which the enemy then occupied and which had been the scene of their morning's success. The Indians were first in advance. As soon as they perceived the enemy they uttered their terrific warwhoop, and rushing rapidly upon them commenced a most destructive fire. Our troops instantly sprung forward from all quarters, joining in the shout. The Americans gave a volley, then tumultuously fled by hundreds down the mountain. At that moment Captain Bullock, and one hundred and fifty of the 41st and two flank companies of militia, appeared, advancing on the road from Chippawa. The consternation of the enemy was complete. Though double in number they stopped not to withstand their pursuers, but fled with the utmost precipitation. Never were men more miserably situated. They had no place to retreat to and were driven by a furious and avenging enemy, from whom they had little mercy to expect, to the brink of the mountain which overhangs the river. They fell in numbers—the river presented a horrid spectacle, filled with poor wretches who plunged into the stream from the impulse of fear, with scarcely the prospect of being saved. Many leaped down the side of the mountain to avoid the horrors which pressed on them, and were dashed in pieces by the fall. The fire from the American batteries ceased.

Two officers were now seen coming up the hill with a white flag, and with some difficulty the slaughter was suspended. They were conducted up the mountain to General Sheaffe. A cessation of hostilities was asked for and assented to. Thus, about four p. m., ended the business of this day, so important to the inhabitants of this province. The invasion of our peaceful shores by its unprincipled neighbors has terminated in the entire loss of their army,



with everything brought over, not excepting their standards with the very modest device of an eagle perched upon the globe.

We have taken over nine hundred prisoners, with sixty of their officers. Except the wounded men, who were carried over in their boats while they retained possession of the mountain, scarcely a man has straggled back to relate to his country the disastrous event of an expedition planned by their unrighteous Government.

The view of dead bodies which strewed the ground, and the mangled carcasses of poor suffering mortals, who filled every room in the village, filled us with compassion.

Still we have much to sorrow for: we have a loss to deplore which the most brilliant success cannot atone for. That General who led our army to victory, whose soul was wrapped up in our prosperity, is now shrouded in death.

Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonell, too! This heroic young man, the constant attendant of the General, after his fall strove to support to the last a cause never to be despaired of, because it involved the very salvation of his country.

But he was not destined to witness its triumph. His career was short, but honorable, his end was premature, but full of glory.

He will be buried at the same time as the General.

*(From Lady Edgar's Ten Years of Upper Canada, pp. 150-6.)*

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### District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 14th Oct., 1812.

D. G. O.

Major-General Sheaffe offers his best thanks to the troops for the bravery and good conduct so evidently displayed by all ranks and descriptions in the action of yesterday, which terminated in the complete overthrow of the enemy: their General with many officers and above 800 men having been made prisoners, a considerable number killed and wounded and a stand of colors, with a six-pounder, taken. This brilliant success is, however, clouded by the ever to be lamented death of Major-General Brock, who gloriously fell whilst foremost in the ranks gallantly cheering his troops when opposing far superior numbers. The zeal, ability and valor with which he served his King and country render this a public loss that must be long deplored, and his memory will live in the hearts and affections of those who had an opportunity of being acquainted with his private worth.

Major-General Sheaffe has also to regret that Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell, Provincial A. D. C. to Major-General Brock, whose gal-

lantry and merit rendered him worthy of his chief, received a wound in the action which there is reason to believe will prove mortal.

All arms, accoutrements, ammunition, and articles whatsoever of a public nature, taken from the enemy in the action of yesterday, are to be delivered into the ordnance store without delay.

In consequence of the death of Major-General Brock, the command of His Majesty's troops serving in the Province of Upper Canada devolves on Major-General Sheaffe, to whom all reports and communications will be made accordingly.

By order,

THOS. EVANS, B. M.

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 15th Oct., 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Myers will take upon himself the superintendence of the force on the line from Fort George to Chippawa inclusive: all reports and details for that portion of the Niagara District are to be made to him, and for the greater facility and despatch of the public service Major-General Shaw, acting as Colonel of Militia and commanding between Chippawa and the Sugar Loaf, will be pleased to report to and communicate with Major-General Sheaffe through Lieut.-Colonel Myers as Deputy Quartermaster General.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS.

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**Major Thomas Evans to**————

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FORT GEORGE,  
Oct. 15th, 1812.

After dinner on the evening of the 11th inst., Major-General Brock handed me a note from Captain Dennis, commanding the flank companies of the 49th Regiment at Queenston. After perusing its contents, which were of an alarming nature, setting forth the highly mutinous state of his detachment, his men having deliberately threatened to shoot their officers, &c., the General said: "Evans, you will proceed early in the morning and investigate this business, and march as prisoners in here half a dozen of those most culpable and I will make an example of them. You can also cross the river and tell Van Rensselaer I expect he will immediately exchange the prisoners taken in the *Detroit* and *Caledonia* for an equal number of Americans I released after the capture of Detroit.

I reached Queenston early in the morning of the 12th, and finding many of the grenadier company confined and the guard

house gutted, and Captain Dennis himself in apparent alarm at the state of things, I proposed proceeding at once to select those most prominent for example. At this juncture, however, and when about leaving Hamilton's house, a scattered fire of musquetry from the American shore took place, and, on a musket ball entering the room and passing betwixt us, I inquired with surprise the meaning of such unusual insolence. Captain Dennis stating the practice to have existed more or less for some days, insomuch as to render ingress by the river door hazardous, I deemed it fitting first to cross the river, desiring Captain Dennis would prepare his men against my return. On passing along the river bank for Mr. T. Dickson's, the enemy kept up an incessant fire of musquetry till I entered that gentleman's house, but happily without mischief. I now begged Mrs. Dickson kindly to prepare a white handkerchief as a flag of truce, asking Mr. Dickson, who was a captain of militia, would he accompany me across the water; he had no objection, but both Mrs. Dickson and all present urged the danger of any attempt to cross, convinced, as they were, in the enemy's then temper the flag would not be respected. Feeling this to be no time for discussing about personal safety, I took Dickson by one hand and the flag in the other, then descending the precipitous steep to the water's edge, we landed our frail canoe amidst an unsparing shower of shot which fell around us, nor did the firing cease until the canoe became quite unmanageable, tossed about in the waters of the strong eddies, when, as if struck by shame at his dastardly attempt to deter us from our purpose, the enemy gave the signal to cease fire. I was thus relieved (and enabled) on approaching the shore to observe more calmly all that was passing. On touching the ground, with water in the leaky canoe ankle deep, I was about, as was my custom, leaping ashore, when a sentinel from a guard brought to the spot came to the charge with fixed bayonet, authoritatively commanding me not to leave the boat. To my enquiry for Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer, (the Adjutant-General,) with whom I usually conferred, I was told he was sick. I then stated having an important message from General Brock for their commander, which, if inconvenient for their General to receive from me personally, I begged an official person might be deputed to convey it to him. After some delay, Mr. Lovett, the General's secretary, made his appearance, but his reply to General Brock's request being abrupt, and as I thought somewhat significant—"that nothing could be done till the day after to-morrow," I ventured to remind him of General Brock's liberality towards their people which the fortune of war had thrown into his hands, entreating that he would again consult his general and enable me to carry to mine something more satisfac-

tory. In compliance, as he stated with my wishes, but as it appeared to me more with the intent to consume my time, rendered precious from its being after midday, he detained me in my miserable position for more than two hours, and then returned expressing the General's regret, "that the prisoners having been marched for Albany they could not instantly be brought back, but that all should be settled to their mutual satisfaction the day after tomorrow." I was now too anxious to depart to wish the parley prolonged, my mind being quite made up as to the enemy's intentions, and to the course it was most fitting for me to pursue under the circumstances. It had not escaped me that their saucy numbers had been prodigiously swelled by a horde of half-savage troops from Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee, which evidently made it hazardous for their northern countrymen to show their accustomed respect for a flag of truce from a foe, but my most important discovery was their boats slung in the sides or fissures on the river bank, covered only by the brush, with indeed many decided indications that an attack on our shores could not be prudently delayed for a single day. Under such impressions the first thing on reaching our own side was the removal by Mr. Dickson of his family from his own house on the beach, the very site of the prospective struggle, and giving note of preparation to the few militia which, with the 49th flank companies, were all the immediate disposable force for the defence of Queenston. Aware of the imminence and magnitude of the danger, the lateness of the hour, after three p. m., and distance from Fort George, headquarters, more than six miles, I hesitated not assuming the responsibility of liberating all the 49th prisoners on the specious plea of their offence proceeding from a too free indulgence in drink, appealing to them for proof of their loyalty and courage, which they were assured would be severely tested ere another day dawned. Then, after a rapid but effective arrangement of the several points requiring attention, seeing to the re-supply of fresh ammunition and infusing all the spirit and animation in my power to impart, I left Captain Dennis, exhorting his utmost diligence in keeping his charge on the alert for repelling the enemy's attempt, which I foresaw would not be deferred. Having to put the many posts on the line of communication on the *qui vive*, although I rode at full speed it was past six p. m. ere I reached Fort George, and then, from having been exposed for thirteen hours, under much anxiety, to wet feet and extreme heat without refreshment of any kind, I was so exhausted as to be unequal to further immediate effort. Refreshed, I narrated to General Brock all that had occurred, the precautionary steps I had taken and the responsibility I had assumed as to the 49th prisoners, which, under the stated circum-

stances, I trusted he would approve and at once authorize my making preparations for coming events, so indispensably required. The General, evidently doubting at first, hesitated, but seeing my earnestness in rebuking his attendants of their charging me of being over sanguine, and chagrin at their proffered bets against my predictions, he became unusually grave, desired I would follow him to the office, where I succinctly recapitulated the day's occurrences, adding my solemn conviction that a moment was not to be lost in effectually preparing for defence.

The General now thanked me, approved of all that I had done, and returning to the dining room directed officials to be immediately written, and despatched by Provincial Dragoons, calling in the militia of the vicinity that same evening, those more distant to follow with alacrity. I was directed to make all requisite preparations at headquarters. In this work I was busied till near eleven p. m., with but few converts, however, to my convictions, when, worn down by fatigue, I stretched myself on my mattress. After a slumber of a few hours I was aroused by a distant cannonade soon after two a. m., 13th October, but without surprise, well knowing the quarter whence the ominous sound came. The General, who himself had all in readiness, at once mounted his horse and proceeded for the post attacked. His aides-de-camp were awoke and soon followed. Major-General Sheaffe, second in command, assumed charge at headquarters, but the impression on General Brock's mind being that the attempt on Queenston would prove only a feint to disguise his (the enemy's) real object from the creek in rear of Fort Niagara, his apparent wish was that whilst all were held in readiness to act in any quarter, no decisive movement by the troops should take place till the enemy's intentions were fully developed. The Indians and regular artillery were, however, promptly despatched and the *elite* of the 41st, with an equal number of well-drilled militia flank companies ready to follow on the first summons. As the day dawned, the scouts I had sent out reporting no symptoms of hostile movement in the quarter indicated, these troops all proceeded at double quick for the succor of Queenston, the debouching of the head of which column on the main road appeared to be the signal for opening a brisk cannonade from Fort Niagara on the troops, the town and fort.

Soon after, the news of the gallant Brock's unhappy fall reached us, which, by necessarily removing General Sheaffe to Queenston, the command at Fort George devolved on me as next senior officer. At this moment the scene around was awfully discouraging, the gaol and court house were suddenly wrapped in flames, which, as containing many political prisoners, I at first imagined the act of an



incendiary, but other buildings soon appearing in a similar state of conflagration left me no longer in doubt as to the new enemy of hot shot with which we had to grapple, and its easy distance on wooden edifices I foresaw must be attended with very destructive effect. Luckily a *posse* of militia men had now come in, which I distributed in separate bodies, collecting all the water buckets and requisite implements from the inhabitants of the town.

This arrangement, though in part effective from the energy and courage displayed in extinguishing the flames as they occurred, I felt to be insufficient in itself for our security: selecting therefore all the old veteran militia artillery men, with two intelligent staff non-commissioned officers of the 41st, by bending our whole efforts to the attainment of one object we at length succeeded in stopping the mischief by diminishing and crippling the enemy's guns, but not before he had burnt to the ground many buildings, amongst the number, besides the gaol and court house, the chief engineer's quarters; the more important ones, however, the "royal barracks," "block house," "king's stores" and other public buildings, though repeatedly fired, were by steady and untiring intrepidity preserved. Thus temporarily relieved I was enabled to attend to Captain Derenzy's (commanding 41st Batt.) note, from which it appeared he found on arriving at Queenston the enemy in possession of the opposite heights and our heavy one-gun battery there: that the enfilading one on our side, too distant from the landing to be quite effective, had been powerfully aided by Captain Holeroft of the Royal Artillery, who, unmindful of consequences, boldly dashed his gun through the valley into Hamilton's court yard within point blank range, thus succeeding in sinking some of the enemy's crowded boats and damping the ardor of his troops for crossing. Seeing his critical position Captain Derenzy had sustained him by a party of the 41st Regiment. He briefly mentioned that the spirited Brock, finding on his arrival the 49th grenadiers and militia, though resolutely defending the landing place, hard pressed, had called to their aid the 49th light company from the heights' summit, the key to the position. The enemy, profiting by this step, moved unperceived about 150 men over a precipitous steep it was deemed impracticable for a human being to ascend, who suddenly appeared to the astonished General just on the mountain summit, and the next instant in possession of the redoubt, putting its defenders to the sword. The gallant spirit of Brock, ill brooking to be thus foiled, with a courage deserving a better fate, hastily collected the weak 49th company and a few militia: debouching from a stone building at the mountain's brow with these little bands, he spiritedly strove to regain his lost position, but in which daring attempt he was killed



by a rifle ball entering under the left breast, passing out by the right shoulder. Captain Williams by taking a wider range made a second effort, but, as the result proved, with too inadequate a force, the A. D. C. (Macdonell) being mortally wounded and Captain Williams's head partially scalped by a rifle ball.

These circumstances convinced me that General Sheaffe would be more circumspect than attack without a concentration of every disposable man. Under such impressions, after first despatching Lieut. McIntyre, 41st Regiment, with about 140 men of his regiment and militia, and afterwards Wm. Martin with every regular soldier and a few active militia from Fort George, I hastened to forward, at all hazards, the most active of the men from the many posts on the line of communication. On starting those from Young's battery, the enemy, as though by signal, re-opened his cannonade from Fort Niagara on Fort George and the town. However mortified by this unlooked for occurrence, prudence required that whilst sending our whole effective force to Queenston, Fort George and its dependencies should not be neglected, for what with the aliens and prisoners in the blockhouse, with those set at liberty by firing the gaol, their number was little short of 300, with but a few raw militia left for their security or that of the fort and town. I was therefore left no alternative but to gallop back and ascertain the enemy's power for further mischief. Well it was that I did so, for on reaching the gate of Fort George I met a crowd of militia with consternation in their countenances, exclaiming the magazine was on fire. Knowing it to contain 800 barrels of powder with vent side walls, not an instant was to be lost. Captain Vigoreux of the Engineers therefore, at my suggestion, was promptly on its roof, which movement was with alacrity followed by the requisite number of volunteers, when, by the tin being stripped off, the blazing wood was extinguished. Thus was confidence reassured. The enemy, taking advantage of a bend in the river, had brought a battery with hot shot to enfilade the barracks, magazine and king's stores, and despite all our efforts to dislodge him he had effectively consumed the storehouses with all the lower buildings, and repeatedly set on fire the barracks and magazine. Our success was perfect; the enemy's fire being again silenced and the necessary precautions taken to avert future disaster, I made another effort to reach Queenston, when I met Captain Chambers, 41st Regiment, with the glad tidings that General Sheaffe, by a spirited and judicious movement away to his right, and crossing the vale high up, with his collected forces had approached as to ground his enemy on more favorable terms, and that his operations had resulted in the enemy's complete destruction. But for the details of this brilliant

success I must refer to the despatches of the distinguished officer who, with his gallant troops, achieved it.

(From "*Laura Secord and Other Poems*" by Mrs. S. A. Curzon, *Appendix No. 1*, pp. 201-6.)

(From the *Quebec Mercury*, 27th October, 1812.)

Extract of a letter from Upper Canada, dated Brown's Point, Niagara, 15th October, 1812.

I little expected when I last wrote to you that I should now be able to give you an account of an engagement which, tho' it terminated in our favor, we shall ever have to lament. Our loss, tho' small in point of numbers, is of the most important kind. We have to deplore the loss of our beloved General and his gallant Aide-de-Camp, Colonel Maedonnell. General Brock, to whom no language is capable of giving the merited praise, fell in the beginning of the action, having received a shot in the breast.

The York Volunteers, to whom he was particularly partial, have the honor of claiming his last words. Immediately before he received his death-wound, he cried out to some persons near him to push on the York Volunteers, which were the last words he uttered. Having said so much on a subject which cannot fail to call forth the regret of every individual in the Canadas, I think it is now time to give you some account of the engagement. At four o'clock in the morning of the 13th inst., the Americans were seen attempting to cross the river at Queenston, and immediately a fire commenced upon them from our battery, which did great execution. The Americans, however, pushed forward and succeeded in effecting a landing, tho' their loss was immense. In several boats all were killed but two or three men. In the meantime, while this party was so strongly opposed by the grenadiers of the 49th and some companies of militia, a large body of Americans landed immediately under the face of the mountain without being discovered, their boats having pushed off from Lewiston with troops. The 49th light company, who were advantageously posted on the mountain to oppose the Americans in case they attempted to take possession of it, were called down by the bugle to oppose the landing of the boats. When the Americans discovered the 49th going down the hill they immediately ascended the cliffs and took one of the batteries, which, fortunately for us, they found could not be turned against the town. They then took possession of the top of the mountain, and a part of the 49th flankers and a part of the Yorkers were ordered to go up the mountain, and attack the enemy in flank if possible. Captain Cameron, J. Robinson, Stanton and myself immediately proceeded

under a most galling fire with part of our men to the top of the mountain, where we found Captain Williams of the 49th with some of his men. We immediately formed (about seventy in number) to charge the enemy, exposed at the same time to a sharp fire from them. After forming and advancing a little distance we found that the enemy had posted themselves behind trees, so that a charge would have very little effect upon them. We then separated, and each man posting himself behind a tree we kept up a smart fire upon them for some time. Colonel Macdonnell, who had joined us on horseback when forming for the charge, while in the act of encouraging the men was shot from his horse, and not long after Capt. Williams received a wound in the head. I was at that time within ten yards of them, and I supposed they were both killed. I was, however, glad to see them get up in a short time, and discovered that they were wounded.

Colonel Macdonnell's horse was first wounded, and in his pain he wheeled and his gallant rider was shot in the back. When he was wounded and could be of no further service he, of course, thought it prudent to retire to a place of safety. Captain Cameron assisted him along for some distance, and while helping him a ball grazed his arm and gave him so much pain he supposed himself wounded. Mr. Macdonnell then let go Mr. Cameron and ran alone to where I was. He then called out to me, "Help me." I immediately gave him my arm, and after proceeding a few paces, while thousands of balls whistled around us, I received one in the thigh. Mr. Cameron, who found it was only a bruise which he had received, just then came up and assisted Colonel Macdonnell down the mountain. He lived till yesterday morning, in the most excruciating pain. His remains are to be interred to-morrow in the same grave with General Brock. If ever honor belonged to mortals these valiant, these gallant heroes have it in abundance. They died fighting gloriously in an honorable cause, but still to Canada their deaths are an irreparable loss. The Americans now got possession of the mountain and remained quietly there for some time, but General Sheaffe arriving from Niagara with a detachment of the 41st of about three hundred men, some militia and about two hundred and fifty Indians, and being joined by all that we could collect of the troops who were previously engaged, in all not exceeding 800, they ascended the mountain some distance to the right of the Americans, who were now in great numbers in the top.

The Indians, being most active in climbing up, first came in contact with the enemy and drove him before them for some distance. The Americans, however, soon rallied, and drove the Indians in their turn. Our troops coming up at the same time opened so

good a fire upon the enemy that they were again obliged to retreat. They were immediately pursued by the Indians and our force shouting and hollowing as loud as they could. The Americans now gave way on all sides, some attempting to swim across the river, who were drowned or killed by our shot. A white flag was immediately hoisted by the Americans, and they surrendered prisoners of war.

*(From file in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)*

(The author of this letter was apparently Lieut. McLean of the York Militia.

### **Narrative of Volunteer G. S. Jarvis, 49th Regiment.**

On retiring to the north end of the village on the Niagara road our little band was met by General Brock, attended by his A. D. C., Major Glegg and Colonel Macdonell. He was loudly cheered as he cried: "Follow me, boys!" and led us at a pretty smart trot towards the mountain; checking his horse to a walk, he said: "Take breath, boys, we shall want it in a few minutes!" Another cheer was the hearty response, both from the regulars and militia. At that time the top of the mountain and a great portion of its side was thickly covered with trees and was now occupied by American riflemen. On arriving at the foot of the mountain, where the road diverges to St. David's, General Brock dismounted and waving his sword climbed over a high stone wall, followed by the troops: placing himself at the head of the light company of the 49th, he led the way up the mountain at double quick time in the very teeth of a sharp fire from the enemy's riflemen, and ere long he was singled out by one of them, who, coming forward, took deliberate aim and fired: several of the men noticed the action and fired—but too late—and our gallant General fell on his left side, within a few feet of where I stood. Running up to him I enquired, "Are you much hurt, Sir?" He placed his hand on his breast and made no reply, and slowly sunk down. The 49th now raised a shout, "Revenge the General!" and regulars and militia, led by Colonel Macdonell, pressed forward, anxious to revenge the fall of their beloved leader, and literally drove a superior force up the mountain side to a considerable distance beyond the summit. The flank companies of the York militia, under Captains Cameron and Heward and Lieutenants Robinson, McLean and Stanton, besides many others whose names I forget, eminently distinguished themselves on this occasion.

At this juncture the enemy were reinforced, and after a severe struggle, in which Colonel Macdonell, Captains Demas and Williams and most of our officers were either killed or wounded, we were overpowered by numbers and forced to retreat, as the enemy had

outflanked us and had nearly succeeded in gaining our rear. Several of our men were thus cut off and made prisoners, myself among the number.

(From G. Auchinleck's *History of the War of 1812*, p.———)

(From the *Quebec Mercury*, Tuesday, 27th October, 1812.)

Extract of a letter from Fort George, dated 14th October, 1812 :

His Majesty's arms gained a complete victory over those of the United States yesterday in a very brilliant affair, which lasted from break of day until half-past two p. m. The enemy had landed a considerable body of men under the mountain at Queenston in the night, which had not been perceived by our troops until a short time before daylight, when by a spirited fire upon their boats we succeeded in destroying four of them and a scow full of troops. Many were drowned and the remainder of the party surrendered. By this time intelligence was received of their actual landing. Directions were given to destroy [Fort] Niagara, and a party advanced with two six-pounders and a howitzer. On reaching Queenston the enemy were found in possession of the place, the town evacuated by our troops, our dear brave General Brock killed and in their possession. No time was to be lost; our party dashed forward and in less than an hour dislodged the enemy from the town and forced him to the summit of the mountain. We sustained the fire of two mortars, four eighteen-pounders and two six-pounders from their side of the river. Their mortars and six-pounders were silenced three different times, but the 18-pounder battery on the summit of the mountain was out of range. Owing to our fire the enemy was in a great degree prevented from reinforcing his strength, though not altogether, as they occasionally pushed over boats filled with troops. We kept our ground the whole day, and as their left flank was attacked by the Indians, supported by the regulars and militia, their right was kept in check, and they soon were obliged to abandon their six-pounder, which fell into our hands. A severe engagement becoming general in the meantime, a brisk fire was kept up of *spherical* case, which threw them into confusion, and at that moment the Indians gave a screech and we returning it with three cheers, they took to their heels, and soon were well paid for their temerity—as they descended to reach their boats shrapnels were fired into them.

An officer with two epaulettes held up his pocket handkerchief. We received him just in time to save him from the Indians. He was second in command; his name Colonel Scott, of the 2nd Regi-



ment of Artillery. General Wadsworth was also taken, and in fact all their army killed, wounded and prisoners.

The men in our battery behaved well, particularly Acting-Sergeant Ellerton and Bombadier Robinson, as did Bombadier Phemeram on the mountain. Gunner Birch was killed, Hunt badly wounded, and Gunner Granger had his leg shot off by an 18-pounder shot. A captain of militia was of much service in the battery.

We have upwards of 800 prisoners, and the killed and wounded of the enemy may be estimated at about 350. Our loss is very small in comparison: in killed, Indians 6; 41st Regiment, 2; 49th about 9; militia, not yet known. Our spherical case shot was of great use. Captain Vigoreux of the engineers volunteered his services, and commanded one of the batteries against the enemy's fort. He succeeded in silencing them and dismounting one gun. The enemy fired hot shot from their fort, which consumed the court house and a tanner's house in town, and struck the roof of our magazine in the fort, which took fire but was soon put out.

*(File in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)*

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(From "The War," New York, 31st October, 1812.)

#### THE BATTLE OF QUEENSTON.

During the whole affair the British kept up a constant fire from their batteries at Fort George, Fort Erie and opposite Black Rock, and at the latter place a bomb unfortunately fell upon a barrel of powder which blew up and set fire to the barracks, which, with some of the furs taken in the *Caledonia*, were consumed. Our batteries set fire to the gaol and also to a brew-house at Newark, on the British side, both of which were burnt down. It appears that the British were perfectly apprised of the intentions of our troops to cross, and it is stated that a letter was found in the pocket of a British officer who was killed, from another at Chippawa, informing of the intention of the Americans to cross, the time at which they might be expected and their probable force. The letter is said to be in the possession of General Van Rensselaer.

Captain Ogilvie of the 13th Regiment, who led the detachment that succeeded in taking the redoubt upon the heights, has arrived in this city and has furnished the following particulars:

A detachment from the 13th Regiment, consisting of about 300 men, under the command of Colonel Chrystie, and about 300 militia commanded by Colonel Van Rensselaer, received orders from the General to cross the Niagara River on the morning of the 13th inst., which was in part effected before day, under a very heavy and de-



structive fire of grape and musket shot from the British, who, it appears, were apprised of the attack.

In crossing the river three boats with troops, one of which contained Lieut.-Colonel Chrystie, were carried by the rapid current far below the point of landing, and as soon as Colonel Chrystie's boat touched the shore the only guide to the ground left the Colonel.

In consequence of this disaster not more than 200 men at first effected a landing. These few, however, marched on under a heavy fire and formed a line in front of the battery where they were sheltered by a bank, upon the summit of which there was a battery which had proved very destructive to officers and men. From the fire of this battery and that of a house on the right bank, Colonel Van Rensselaer was wounded and likewise Captain Lawrence, Capt. Wool and Lieut. Lent, and, killed, Lieut. Vallean and Ensign Morris, all of the 13th. Colonel Van Rensselaer after he was wounded urged the troops to storm the heights.

Sixty determined men, led by Captain Ogilvie seconded by Captain Wool (though wounded) and Lieut. Kearney, Lieut. Carr, Lieut. Hugulin, Lieut. Sammons and Ensign Reve [Reab ?] of the 13th, Lieut. Randolph and Lieut. Gansevoort circuitously onto the heights, gave three cheers and instantly charged, and after the third charge gained complete possession, which they kept about six hours. Among those sixty were ten militia. During the time they were possessed of the heights they had some reinforcement, and Lieut.-Colonel Chrystie effected his landing, and a body of militia, amounting in the whole to about 500. Colonel Scott superseded Captain Ogilvie, soon after which the British received a reinforcement from Fort George and Chippawa, amounting to about 1100 including Indians. The Indians were soon repulsed and driven to the woods.

The attack of the Indians and their war whoops had such an effect upon the militia that when the troops had formed a line in three divisions and were counted off only 240 men, 110 of whom were militia, remained. Previous to this, however, a column of British regulars advanced, commanded by General Brock. The British General's horse was killed by a private of the name of Wilklow, who was enlisted in Orange County, shortly after which the General himself fell, within pistol shot of the American troops. The superiority in numbers of the British troops and their Indian allies induced the American officers to hold a consultation, at which they were disposed to dispute the ground they held, but a note was received from General Van Rensselaer informing them he could furnish them no assistance, and that he would cover their retreat at the battery at Fort Grey and furnish boats to cross the river, and, finding by Colonel Stranahan that the militia would no longer

act, a retreat was resolved upon. They retreated in good order without the loss of a man, but to their extreme mortification not a boat was there to receive them nor did any arrive. After remaining in this extremely painful situation about a quarter of an hour, this little band surrendered to about five times their number.

The enemy consisted of a part of the 49th Regiment.

They treated their prisoners with tenderness and respect and allowed them as much merit as brave men could desire. The number of American troops killed amounted to not more than sixty, and about 100 were wounded. The number of prisoners, including the wounded, amounted to about 700.

But the victorious enemy, though generous and tender to those who by the fortune of war had fallen into their power, imposed no restraint upon their Indian allies from stripping and scalping the dying and slain that remained on the field of battle. Capt. Ogilvie himself saw the lifeless body of Ensign Morris stripped even of his shirt, and the skull of one that had been wounded was seen cloven by a tomahawk.

*(File in Library of Buffalo Historical Society.)*

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(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 20th October, 1812.)

MEADVILLE, October 7.

General Tannehill and staff arrived here yesterday. Arrangements, we understand, are making to march the troops to Niagara as soon as possible.

#### BATTLES OF QUEENSTON.

On Tuesday morning last, just before daylight, in conformity to previous arrangements, Colonel Sol. Van Rensselaer, aide-de-camp to General Van Rensselaer, at the head of 300 volunteer militia from the 18th Regiment, and Colonel Christie with 300 regular troops, the whole under the command of Colonel Van Rensselaer, crossed the river at Lewiston in seventeen boats with the intention to storm the enemy's works on the heights or mountain above Queenston. The militia and regulars moved forward with the greatest intrepidity and gallantry and carried the enemy's works with but a small loss, and possessed themselves of the enemy's battery. In this affair Colonel Van Rensselaer was severely wounded in the leg, thigh and side, and was carried back to the American side of the river. General Brock and his aid, Colonel McDonnell, of the British forces, were killed in this engagement.

General Wadsworth then crossed over with the residue of his brigade, consisting of detachments from Colonels Allen's, Bloom's,

Stranahan's and Mead's regiments, also Colonel Fenwick with the light artillery, amounting in all to about 700 men. The command was transferred to General Wadsworth, who commanded in the subsequent operations of the day. After a line had been formed on the heights our troops were attacked in rear by the Indians and militia in the direction of Chippawa, who were repulsed and driven back with great slaughter, and our men remained a second time in quiet possession of the field. At this period General Van Rensselaer ordered over Colonel Scott of the artillery and Lieut. Totten of the Engineers to lay out the plan of a fortified camp, and immediately after the General, with Major Mullany, crossed the river. From the heights the General observed a strong reinforcement of the enemy from Fort George marching up under the command of General Sheaffe, who succeeded General Brock in command, amounting to about 6 or 700 men. As this force, in co-operation with the force of the enemy yet hanging on our flanks, would inevitably overpower our brave troops, now fatigued with several hours hard fighting, the General was persuaded to recross the river in the hope of inducing the militia to cross to the relief of our brave countrymen, not a man of whom could be prevailed to cross over. The British militia and Indians, being reinforced by the troops from Fort George, made a vigorous attack, and, although opposed by fresh troops superior in discipline and numbers, yet our men maintained the unequal conflict with a determination bordering upon desperation for a considerable time, when, all hope of relief being cut off, they capitulated to a superior force and were conducted prisoners of war to Fort George. Our loss in prisoners and wounded was as follows:

Wounded, of the regulars, 62, two since dead, 6 dangerous; of the militia 20, 9 dangerous.

Prisoners—Regulars 386, militia 378, besides officers, numbers not estimated.

Of the killed there are no returns, and opinions are so various on this point that it is extremely difficult to fix on any probable number. Our loss in killed probably exceeds 100, and that of the enemy much the same number.

Our troops achieved all that bravery could accomplish. The misfortunes of the day are to be ascribed to causes as yet undeveloped. To express an opinion on this point would be highly improper, as an official report of the battle may be shortly expected.

The militia prisoners, we understand, have all been discharged on parole, not to serve during the war. We cannot learn that any of the officers were killed above the rank of captain, and but few were wounded.

There was a brisk exchange of cannon shot during the whole day at the different fortifications along the river. The jail and a brewery at Newark were fired by hot shot from Fort Niagara and consumed.

The corpses of General Brock and Colonel Macdonnell were conveyed to Newark and interred near the fort with martial honors. General Brock was 53 years of age, a real gentleman, and one of the best generals in the British provinces.

We understand that some of our troops in recrossing the river brought over eight or ten prisoners, among whom was an Indian chief.

#### WAR EVENTS AT BLACK ROCK.

On Monday last week the British came over to Squaw Island and captured two American boats, one of which was loaded with cannon balls.

On the same day, while a boat was passing down the river from Black Rock to Schlosser, loaded with flour and whiskey, the British opened their batteries and fired upwards of thirty rounds of grape shot at her while passing from Squaw Island to the head of Grand Island, most of which struck the sails or some part of the boat. There were about thirty men on board the boat and only one of them was wounded. The only thing that saved the men from being either killed or wounded was this: whenever they descried the smoke of the cannon they resorted to the fashionable mode of *prostrating* themselves in the boat. The wounded man, Thomas Morgan, lying with his elbow above the railing, received a grape shot in the elbow which came out at the shoulder. The limb being much shattered, an amputation took place next morning. He survived the wound about thirty hours. He was from the County of Cayuga—was a non-commissioned officer of much merit.

On Tuesday morning last the British batteries below Fort Erie opened a very heavy fire on the fortifications and village of Black Rock, which continued with intervals spiritedly all day. But few shots were returned from our batteries, having there no larger calibre than field sixes at the breastwork. Two shot in the morning pierced the house of Orange Dean, which did little damage besides bilging a barrel of old Pittsburg whiskey in Dean's cellar belonging to P. H. Colt. Several cannon shot struck the batteries and two or three passed through the upper loft of the west barracks. A bomb thrown from a 24-pounder struck the east barracks and destroyed them. A quantity of skins, a part of the cargo of the *Caledonia*, was much injured. This event caused much shouting among the British. Several shot passed through Sill's store. A 24-pounder

struck the upper loft of the stone house of General Porter while the General and his friends were at dinner, and passed through one of the chimneys and injured the ornamental work near the eave. Another ball passed through the roof of the house. Several other houses were injured. In the course of the day a marine, a black man, was killed by a 24-pound shot.

The cargo of the *Caledonia*, which has been estimated at the eastward at 150,000 dollars, is not now rated higher than eight or ten thousand dollars. The immense packs of beaver, muskrat, &c., with which it was said that the *Caledonia* was laden, prove to be nothing more than *deer*, *bear* and *buffalo* skins. This property, we understand, is now liable to seizure by officers of the customs in consequence of not having been reported to that department. At any rate, it must be libelled and sold by the marshal of the district of the State of New York before any distribution of the prize can be made.

Captain Thomas Davis of this village commanded one of the boats which captured the *Adams* and *Caledonia*. George P. Valentine of the United States army, one of the number who boarded the vessels, died in this village on Thursday last of the wounds he received in that encounter. He stated that he had connections living near Pittsburg.

On Friday last an express arrived from Lewiston bringing the account of an armistice concluded at Lewiston on Tuesday last, which expired on Monday evening at 4 p. m. This armistice, we understand, was requested by the British in order to bury the troops killed on the 13th.

On Saturday a flag came over from Fort Erie informing our General that they should consider an attempt to remove the guns which remained in the hold of the *Adams*, which was burned last week near Squaw Island, as an infringement of the armistice, and would fire on our troops should they come near the hulk. An answer, we understand, was returned stating that considering the property our own no attention would be paid to their request. The flag returned, and the moment it landed they fired two guns of grape at our troops on board the hulk, which, however, did no damage. In the course of the night Captain C. Chapin went on board with a party of soldiers and marines and took out an elegant long twelve-pounder from the ruins of the ship, which, together with an 18-pounder lately brought up from Lewiston, are mounted on our batteries.

On Sunday evening Lieut. Watts went on board with a number of men and brought away another long twelve.



On Friday last arrived off Buffalo Creek the schooner *Ellen*, a cartel eleven days from Detroit. She was chartered by R. H. Jones and David Baird, Esq., for the purpose of conveying from Detroit their stock of mercantile goods, the books and papers of the army contractor, A. Porter, Esq., and a few other articles.

General Van Rensselaer arrived in this village on Sunday last from the encampment at Lewiston, in expectation of meeting the Governor, who was expected to have arrived here accompanied by Commodore Chauncey.

*(File in Buffalo Public Library.)*

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### Return of Casualties.

Return of casualties in Captain Cameron's company of the 3rd Regiment of York Militia, during their service at Niagara from 8th September to the 20th December, 1812 :

Lieut. McLean, wounded on the 13th October at Queenston.

Sergeant Smallman, wounded in the hand at Queenston.

Thomas Smith, killed at Queenston.

Andrew Kennedy, lost his leg at Queenston.

Thomas Major, now in hospital, lost the calf of his leg, at Queenston.

John Tyrer, severely wounded in both legs at Queenston.

Francis Lee, received two severe wounds at Queenston.

Edward Thomson, slightly wounded in the breast at Queenston.

Simon Devine, died in hospital at Niagara.

Joseph Crawford, died in hospital at Niagara.

Johnson Yeomans, died on his return from Niagara.

York, 5th January, 1813.

D. CAMERON,

Captain 3rd Regt. Y. M.

*(Original in Toronto Public Library.)*

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**(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 2nd March, 1813.)**

We are informed that General Armstrong intends joining the army of the Centre in order to promote the enterprise of the troops by his presence. His son, a youth of about 20 years of age, was in the affair at Queenston. He headed a company of 36 men, 14 of whom were killed and 16 wounded. He received four wounds, one with a musket ball and three with buckshot.

*Baltimore Whig.*



(From the Independent Chronicle, of Boston, October 29th, 1812.)

Colonel Schuyler, in a letter to his brother in Albany, states the following loss of officers in his regiment (the 13th U. S. I.): Captain Nelson and Ensign Morris killed, Captains Lawrence, Armstrong and Wool, and Lieut. Lent wounded, not dangerously, Capt. Ogilvie, Lieuts. Fink and Kearney and Ensign Sammons prisoners.

(From file in the Lenox Library, New York.)

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**From the Aurora of Philadelphia, 29th October, 1812.**

Extract of a letter from a young gentleman at Canandaigua to his father in New York, October 17th :

Called by some business with the officers on the lines, I arrived at Lewiston (the place from which our troops embarked) at the moment the attack began. Our men, to the number of five hundred, headed by Solomon Van Rensselaer, in thirteen boats, crossed over to the Canadian side. They were fired upon by the British and Indians, who were undoubtedly aware of our intentions. As soon as they arrived within gunshot the cry was, "Pull away, boys!" and in a few moments our boats struck the shore. Here the battle began on our side, and a dreadful conflict ensued. We beat them up a very high mountain, at the foot of which our men landed at the point of the bayonet. Having possession of the Heights and planting our flag on the redoubt built on the hill, an ecstasy of joy seemed to pervade our ranks, and all hands were anxious to cross and did as fast as the small number of boats would allow. About eight hundred had crossed as a reinforcement when the British, who had rallied, returned to the attack.

The commencement of the second battle, and a considerable number of dead and mangled bodies which were brought to our shore in the return boats, caused a depression of mind on this side which could not be effaced. Though our troops were again completely victorious (under General Wadsworth, who had taken the command,) none could be got to cross, and many were constantly deserting. General Wadsworth came upon the brow of the hill and urged our men (we could talk across the river) to turn out and support what had been so gloriously won. But the sight of another reinforcement of red coats, who had marched directly within our view, decided their fears. The panic became universal, and the loss of our brave fellows clearly foreseen.

The third and last battle was one of the most desperate and severe that ever occurred. Our men, though outflanked and almost surrounded, fought in the most resolute manner for about an hour

and a half. They were driven to the edge of the hill which was nearest the water, and compelled (as we suppose) to surrender at discretion.

Our loss, as near as I can judge, must have been about twelve hundred in killed, wounded and taken prisoners. Among the number was G. H. Boughton, who was an ensign in an independent company that was called into service. All the militia was to be paroled and sent home, and could not learn that any officer of distinction was killed, though many were wounded, among whom were Lieut.-Colonel Christie of New York, Major Spencer of this county an aid to General Wadsworth, Colonel Bloom, &c., &c. General Wadsworth had a ball pass through his coat. From the peculiar situation of the ground those on this side had a fair view of the principal part of the whole transaction without being in material danger.—*Mercantile Advocate*.

(*File in Mercantile Library, Philadelphia.*)

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**From Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, 24th November, 1812.)**

MONTREAL, November 3rd, 1812.

Arrived here on Saturday last about 400 American prisoners taken at the battle of Queenston: among them were eight officers—the highest in rank a Colonel. Yesterday they embarked on board four of the river craft, escorted by a detachment of 100 men of the 5th Battalion of Embodied Militia, under the command of Major Guy [Gugy?].

We have received an Upper Canada Gazette of the 24th ulto., from which we have extracted the following relating to the battle of Queenston:

It is now ascertained that the number of prisoners taken at Queenston in the affair was 926, including about 60 officers, and that about 500 were killed or drowned. A gentleman, an eye-witness, relates that one boat, containing about fifty men, was sunk by our artillery, and that two others, containing about the same number, did not bring a dozen men on shore alive. One hundred and twenty of their wounded were carried to Niagara, part of which were lodged in the church, the hospitals not being sufficient to accommodate them, and the greatest attention was paid to them by the surgeons. Thirty of these died of their wounds. Such as could be removed were allowed to be taken to the American camp or garrison. Our loss in killed and wounded did not exceed 90. Our militia behaved most gallantly, and had their full share of the dangers and horrors of the day. One of the conditions on which the prisoners were ad-

mitted to a surrender was that they should destroy all their boats between Niagara and Queenston, which was immediately executed.

The prisoners, on their part, surrendered at discretion, but those among them who were militia were permitted to return home, under a promise they would not take up arms during the war, an indulgence they did not deserve, as it appears during the time they had possession of Queenston they plundered the houses of everything they could conveniently carry away. Indeed, it appears they were allured over by the hopes of plunder. The houses and farms for each of them were pointed out to them, and a paper was actually given to one assuring him of the Government House for a tavern. A specimen of what we have to expect should we allow them to get possession here.

It was their intention to burn the town of Niagara, as they fired red-hot shot into it and actually burnt the court house and a tavern.

*(File in Philadelphia Library.)*

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### Garrison Orders.

FORT NIAGARA, Oct. 15, 1813.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that the commanding officer gives to Captain McKeon his full approbation for his spirited and judicious conduct during the severe cannonade from Fort George and the batteries on the opposite side of the river against this post for seven hours on the 13th inst. To Dr. West he begs to express his sincere thanks for the aid and assistance received from him. To the non-commissioned officers and privates of the garrison, they have his full approbation for their cool and determined courage and their zeal and activity during the day.

N. LEONARD,

Capt. Commanding Fort Niagara.

*(From the Aurora of Philadelphia, 4th November, 1812. File in Mercantile Library, Philadelphia.)*

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**From the Aurora of Philadelphia, 4th November, 1812.**

FORT NIAGARA, Oct. 16th, 1812.

On the 13th day of October inst. we were ordered to be ready for action at five o'clock in the morning. At half-past five three cannon were discharged from the batteries on the opposite side of the river at us, when we immediately commenced the fire from our fort. The detachment from Captain McKeon's company, to which

we belonged, stationed at the south block house, commenced the fire with red-hot shot directed against the village of Newark, opposite the fort, and on the third or fourth shot we discovered that the court house was on fire. Soon after, we discovered the brewery and tan house on the bank of the river to be on fire, which buildings were all consumed. Several other buildings were set on fire but extinguished by the enemy. The magazine at Fort George was set on fire, but extinguished by their engine. The fire continued without intermission on either side for more than seven hours. Our commander, Captain McKeon, who commanded in the south block house, of whose bravery, skill and good conduct in the action too much cannot be said, continued the fire with great effect considering the size of the piece being only a six-pounder, until our defence was shivered almost into splinters, and would have continued it longer but the enemy commenced the fire with bombshells upon the fort, and having lost two men of Captain Leonard's company by the bursting of a 12-pounder placed in the north block house, and being left only with a six-pounder, induced the commanding officer, Capt. Leonard, to order a retreat rather than expose a handful of men to the danger of shells, against which we had no defence. Several red-hot shot were discharged from our single six-pounder at the south block house, and to our great satisfaction no man was materially hurt. The retreat was ordered by the commanding officer to the woods in rear of the fort, but hearing that the enemy were preparing boats for the purpose of crossing, Captain McKeon with a guard of twenty men returned to the fort and tarried during the night, when he was joined by the rest of the detachment the next morning.

We have to regret with tender emotion the loss of 25 men of our company, detached to Lewiston on the night of the 12th inst., who were killed, wounded and made prisoners.—*New York Columbian*.

(*File in Mercantile Library, Philadelphia.*)

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**Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

FORT GEORGE, 16th October, 1812.

SIR,—I have heard with great regret that Colonel Van Rensselaer is badly wounded. If there be anything at my command that your side of the river cannot furnish, which would be either useful or agreeable to him, I beg that you will be so good as to have me apprised of it.

(*From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix p. 77.*)

**Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

FORT GEORGE, 16th October, 1812.

SIR,—As the period assigned to the cessation of hostilities is drawing to a termination, and the intended exchange of prisoners and sending over the wounded and the militia will require much more time than remains of it, and as, moreover, part of this day is to be devoted to paying the last offices of humanity to the remains of my departed friend and General, I feel it to be my duty to propose a prolongation of the armistice to such period as may be necessary for the complete execution of those humane purposes. Lists are prepared for all the prisoners here, distinguishing those of the line from militia, and Brigade-Major Evans, who has been appointed by me to arrange the business with Captain Dox, will be ready to proceed in it as soon as that officer comes over.

*(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix p. 77.)*

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**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Sheaffe.**

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, Oct. 16th, 1812.

SIR,—I have this moment had the honor to receive your two letters of the present date. I most cheerfully agree to extend the cessation of hostilities for a time amply sufficient to discharge all duties of humanity to the brave who are wounded or prisoners, and the just tribute of respect to the gallant dead. For these purposes I agree to the further cessation of hostilities until four o'clock of the afternoon of the 19th instant.

I shall order a salute for the funeral of General Brock to be fired here and at Fort Niagara this afternoon.

You will please to accept, Sir, the grateful acknowledgments of Colonel Van Rensselaer and myself for your kind offer of anything in your power which might contribute to his comfort. I do not know that he is at present destitute of anything essential.

As this, Sir, is probably the last communication I shall have the honor to make to you from this station, I avail myself of the opportunity to tender you the assurance of my great esteem and consideration.

*(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix p. 77.)*

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**Major-General Sheaffe to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

FORT GEORGE, 16th October, 1812.

SIR,—I feel too strongly the generous tribute which you propose to pay to my departed friend and chief to be able to express



the sense I entertain of it. Noble minded as he was, so would he have done himself.

I have directed the prolongation of the armistice until four o'clock in the afternoon of the 19th instant, to be communicated along this line.

I feel a perfect confidence, Sir, that nothing will be omitted on your part to ensure a strict execution of the agreement respecting the militia officers and men, as well as any others not yet exchanged, who are released from their captivity.

Allow me, Sir, to express a hope that the time is not far distant when the restoration of peace and amity between our respective countries may afford me an opportunity of assuring you personally of the respect and esteem with which I have the honor to be, &c.

*(From S. Van Rensselaer's Narrative, Appendix, p. 78.)*

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**Captain M. Leonard to Major-General Van Rensselaer.**

FORT NIAGARA, Oct. 16th, 1812,  
4 o'clock P. M.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge (illegible) of this instant. The salute in honor of General Brock will be fired at sunset. I delivered your letter to Colonel Winder.

*(From Bonney's Historical Gleanings, p. 270.)*

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**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 16th Oct., 1812.

D. G. O.

The procession for the funeral of the late Major-General Brock and Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell will be arranged in the following order, and will leave the Government House for the place of interment at 10 o'clock this day:

Fort-Major Campbell.

60 men of the 41st, with one subaltern.

60 men from the militia, with one captain.

Two six-pounders.

Corps and detachments of the garrison.

Band, 41st Regiment.

General's horse, caparisoned, led by his groom.

Servants of the General.

Surgeon Moor, Doctor Kerr.

Staff Surgeon Thom.

Chaplain.

Captain Cameron, Lieut. Robinson, Joseph Edwards, Esq.	}	Body of Lieut.- Col. Macdonell.	{	Lieut. Jarvis, Lieut. Ridout, Captain Crooks.
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Chief Mourners.

Alexander Macdonell, Esq.

Mr. Dickson, Captain Cameron.

Col. Claus, Militia,  
 Major Merritt, Dragoons,  
 Capt. Dennis, 49th Regt.  
 Capt. Vigoreaux, R. E.  
 Brigade-Major Evans.

Body of Major-  
 General Brock.

Col. Butler, Militia.  
 Capt. Derenzy, 41st Regt.  
 Capt. Holeroft, R. Artillery.  
 Capt. Powell, Militia Artillery.  
 Capt. Glegg, A. D. C.

Chief Mourners.

Major-General Sheaffe, Lieut.-Colonel Myers.

Ensign Coffin, A. D. C., Lieut. Fowler, 41st Regt.

Civil Staff.

Friends of the deceased.

Inhabitants.

The officers will wear crape on the left arm and on their sword knots, and all officers throughout the Province will wear crape on their left arm for the space of one month.

Captain Holeroft will be pleased to direct that minute guns will be fired from the period of the body leaving the Government House until its arrival at the place of interment, and also after the funeral service shall have been performed, three rounds of seven guns from the artillery.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,

Brigade Major.

### District General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,

October 16th, 1812.

A prolongation of the cessation of hostilities having been agreed upon between Major-General Sheaffe and Major-General Van Rensselaer for an undefined period, the officers commanding posts along the line and all others concerned will strictly govern themselves accordingly until further orders.

Captain Glegg, 49th Regt., aid-de-camp to the late Major-General Brock, will be pleased to act in that capacity with Major-General Sheaffe until further orders.

Lieutenant Walter Kerr of the Glengarry Light Infantry (when his duty as assistant engineer will permit) will attach himself to Lieut.-Colonel Myers and receive his directions.

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**Militia Orders.**

NIAGARA, 16th October, 1812.

Captain John Jones will proceed to Queenston and take command of Captain John Servos's company until further orders, Capt. Servos being very ill. Capt. Jones will, on his arrival, report himself to Capt. Hatt, commanding the militia.

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**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 16th Oct., 1812.

D. G. O.

Two-thirds of the whole establishment of the 1st and 2nd Norfolk, 1st Oxford and 1st Middlesex Regiments of militia, officered agreeably to former regulations, are to repair with the greatest possible despatch to the following points :

1st Norfolk	}	Chippawa.
2nd do.		
1st Oxford	}	Queenston.
1st Middlesex		

A blanket each is recommended to be brought by each man, and all arms and ammunition in their possession are also to be brought.

To Colonel Talbot or officer commanding.

R. H. SHEAFFE,

Major-General commanding.

(Memo.)

Colonel Bostwick will direct that the men required by the foregoing order shall be marched in by their officers, without losing the time that it would require to wait for orders from Colonel Talbot.

R. H. SHEAFFE,

M. General Commanding.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

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**Garrison Orders.**

YORK, 16th Oct., 1812.

1st. The troops embarked on board the *Earl of Moira* will disembark at daybreak this morning.

2nd. The *Duke of Gloucester* will, as soon as possible, be put into a condition to receive prisoners of war. Lieut. Gouverneau will move her into a proper situation between the Garrison and Mr. Crookshank's house.

3rd. Immediately on the *Gloucester* being prepared for this service such a number of the prisoners of war as she can contain will be put on board her. The remainder will be provided for in the gaol if necessary.

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**From Colonel Edward Baynes to Captain Macdonell, Canadian Voyageurs.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
MONTREAL, Oct. 16, 1812.

SIR,—I am commanded to inform you that the practical objects which His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has in view in stationing the company of *voyageurs* under your command in the village of St. Regis are for the security of that post, which affords an easy inlet into the Province, to guard against any predatory incursion on the part of the enemy, to inspire confidence in the Indians of that place and to ensure their good conduct and fidelity.

Under the existing circumstances of the present state of the war it is not desirable to act offensively nor to provoke active hostility on the part of the enemy. It is, nevertheless, of the highest importance to preserve the utmost vigilance and to be at a moment prepared to meet and repel any insult on the part of the enemy.

The peculiar situation of Monsieur de Montigny, captain and resident agent at the village, renders it essentially necessary to the advantageous discharge of his important duties that he should receive every support and countenance from you in order to insure the respect and prompt obedience of the Indians under his superintendence. His local information, both with respect to the country and its inhabitants, is recommended to your serious attention.

Agents and spies on the part of the American Government have for some time past been clandestinely intriguing with the Indians of St. Regis to seduce them from their allegiance and their artifice has not been without effect. If you can by stratagem, within the Province line, arrest the persons of any of these American agents or others endeavoring to mislead the Indians, you are directed to send them immediately, under a sufficient escort, to Montreal.

(From *The War, New York, 14th November, 1812. File in Buffalo Historical Society's Library.*)

**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 17th Oct., 1812.

The service indispensably requiring that Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery should be assisted in the various duties of his department, Lieut. King of the corps will be pleased to act for the present under his directions.

No. 2. A board of survey to assemble at the 41st mess room at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning for the examination of, and to report upon, damaged clothing.

President—Captain Derenzy.

Mr. Bent and Mr. Price, storekeepers, members.

No. 3. The flank companies of the Newfoundland Regiment will march from Chippawa at daylight to-morrow morning by the back road for Fort George. Captain Bullock will be pleased to furnish a guide for the purpose of shewing them the road.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,  
Major of Brigade.

**District General Order.**

17th October, 1812.

A detachment of 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 2 sergeants and 20 rank and file will embark on board the *Earl of Moira* without delay to escort prisoners from here to Kingston, and a detachment of 1 subaltern, 1 sergeant and 10 rank and file will embark at the same time on the *Simcoe* for a similar service. Captain Howard and Lieuts. Merritt and Ridout are the officers to embark on board the *Moira*, and Lieut. Powers for the *Simcoe*, will be drawn from the militia stationed at this post.

**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

(No. 12.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,  
17th October, 1812.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to inform Your Lordship that the forces comprising the cordon of defence against the approach of the enemy in this neighborhood have moved into their respective cantonments, in consequence of the inclemency of the season. The cantonments that I have selected for the troops do not remove them considerably from their original position. They are calculated to afford equal convenience for the rapid concentration of the force



placed under the immediate command of Major-General De Rottenburg, consisting of 2,500 regulars and 3,000 select embodied militia.

The last accounts I have obtained of the American army acting against this frontier state Major-General Dearborn to be at Greenbush, near Albany, with about 3,000 men, mostly recruits, and Brigadier-General Bloomfield at Plattsburg with 6,000, having in his front at Champlain town twelve or fifteen hundred men.

A force has moved towards Chateauguay and great exertions are making by the Americans in front of the line of communication between this and the Upper Province, from St. Regis to Sackett's Harbor, to interrupt our intercourse, in consequence of which several partial affairs have taken place in covering our brigades of batteaux proceeding from Montreal with supplies for Major-General Brock's army.

The latest intelligence from Detroit represents everything in its immediate vicinity as quiet, and reports Colonel Procter having detached a small force of regulars and militia to Fort Wayne, to save the American force therein invested by the Indians from their merciless hands. On the Niagara frontier both parties were acting on the defensive.

The Government of the United States having become sensible of the great advantage we have hitherto derived from our naval superiority on the lakes, are using uncommon exertions to obtain a force superior to ours both on Lake Ontario and on Lake Erie.

It is necessary I should dwell a few moments upon this circumstance to solicit the attention of His Majesty's Government to that important part of the defence of Upper Canada. Having already transmitted to Your Lordship's predecessor a list of the vessels in commission, I have now to state the difficulties which attend providing them with proper officers and suitable crews. For the present I have allotted the Newfoundland Fencibles for that service and the Quartermaster-General has picked up a scanty supply of sailors at Quebec.

But the officers are in general deficient in experience, and particularly in that energetic spirit which distinguishes British seamen. In consequence, it will be necessary, in the event of the continuance of the war with America, that tried officers of the rank of lieutenants and trusty men from the navy should be appropriated for that service and sent to me as early as possible next spring.

War was declared by the United States against Great Britain on the 18th of June. Offensive operations against this portion of His Majesty's dominions quickly followed, and found me struggling to overcome difficulties arising from a scarcity of specie and a lukewarmness in the disposition of the Canadians. However, I have

fortunately overcome these obstacles and have obtained from the inhabitants of both provinces a display of active loyalty that must decide their character for some years to come. But I have to lament the delay in the arrival of the clothing, arms and stores applied for to Your Lordship when I was under the influence of strong apprehensions from the decided disposition of the American Government to act with hostility against His Majesty's Provinces.

From the want of these essential supplies I have not been able to avail myself of the voluntary services of the King's old and new subjects to the extent it has now become expedient I should use them.

The introduction of Army Bills has had the best effect. They are forming a powerful link in that chain which binds the Canadas to Great Britain.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 273.)*

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### General Smyth to General Sheaffe.

(Extract.)

October 18, 1812.

As I am averse to taking a single life or occasioning a single calamity without an object, I propose a further continuance of the armistice indefinitely, each party to have a right to terminate it, giving thirty hours' notice to the other party, the armistice to extend along the frontier from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

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### District General Orders.

18th October, 1812.

The cessation of hostilities expiring at 4 o'clock to-morrow the officers and soldiers generally, along the line of communication, will use the utmost vigilance in discovering the points of attack in order to the effectual repulsion of every hostile attempt of the enemy.

No. 2. A court to be assembled at Kingston to enquire into the conduct of Major Heathcote, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, when in command of an escort of batteaux with stores at the time of an attack by the enemy, on or about the 16th September last, below Prescott.

Colonel Vincent—President.

Colonel Vincent will be pleased to appoint the earliest convenient day, after the receipt of this order, for assembling the court of enquiry, the result of whose proceedings will be transmitted without delay to the Major-General commanding.

No 3. The two companies of the 41st, under Capt. Chambers,

will march for Queenston this evening without delay, after the men have dined; the detachment of the 49th Regiment will march from Queenston after arrival of the 41st Regiment to Fort George.

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**Militia Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 18th October, 1812.

Captain Selby's company of the 1st York Militia will remove this afternoon from this post to Gilbert Field's house on Niagara River, until further orders.

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**Captain J. B. Glegg to Colonel Talbot.**

FORT GEORGE, 19th October, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Since writing to you on the 14th and giving verbal instructions to Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick respecting the movements to be made by the different regiments of militia under your command, some circumstances have arisen which induce Major-General Sheaffe to make some changes in the former arrangements. The enemy having been foiled in his late attempt on this line, and an indefinite armistice having been agreed upon by Major-General Sheaffe and Brigadier-General Smyth, which extends only between the Lakes Erie and Ontario, or, in other words, the extremities of our mutual posts along this communication, it is not at all improbable that he may make some efforts to effect a landing, either above or below Fort Erie and Fort George.

Major-General Sheaffe requests you will distribute the proportion of militia directed to be immediately called out, consisting of the 1st and 2nd Norfolk, 1st Oxford and 1st Middlesex Regiments, between Long Point and Point Abino, making such intermediate arrangements for other points along that communication as your superior local knowledge may suggest.

Major-General Sheaffe begs that you will station strong detachments at the following places: At or very near Long Point, Dover Mills, Grand River, Sugar Loaf and a small party distributed from the latter place to Fort Erie. You will be pleased to make an early communication of your aggregate *effective* force and your distribution of it. You will be so good at the same time as to transmit a statement of your wants and means of supplying them. Every effort will be made to give the most immediate efficiency to the force under your command, and the Major-General recommends the establishment of your headquarters at the most convenient point for a quick communication with this post.

P. S.—Arrangements have been made this morning for facilitating your communication, by placing a proper proportion of dra-goons between this post and Long Point.

[P. P. S.]—I have not a moment to devote to you on the subject of our late glorious tho' melancholy proceedings. I will not forget, my dear Sir, the interest you have ever taken in everything relative to our late lamented friend. At a moment of more leisure you shall hear from me on this subject.

J. B. G.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

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**Sir George Prevost to Major-General Brock.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,  
19th October, 1812.

SIR,—I have been honored with your letters, dated the 9th and 11th October, together with their several enclosures. Two companies of the Glengarry levy are to leave Lachine on Wednesday for Cornwall and Prescott, taking with them two light gun boats, some hundred stand of arms with a proportion of ammunition. Having *had repeatedly* cause to mistrust *the judgment in command of Colonel Lethbridge* he has been relieved by Lieut.-Colonel Pearson, whose zeal and talents as a soldier I have frequently witnessed.

In the present state of affairs there exists a much greater desire than ability in the United States for the recovery of the Michigan Territory.

The precedent for an increase of pay, to which Colonel Procter alludes in his letter to you of the 1st of October, does not apply to his situation at Detroit, which cannot be considered as coming within the provision of the Secretary at War's letter of the 10th of January, as it confines the allowance of 10 and 20 shillings per diem to cases of regimental officers without regular staff appointments succeeding to the command of His Majesty's troops abroad by the death or absence of the commanding officer.

Colonel Vincent received the allowance whilst holding the command allotted to Major-General Welder, absent, and as you have already in Upper Canada one general officer more than has been considered necessary by His Majesty's Government for that Province, I can only augment the command money allowed to Colonel Procter upon a representation from you of the increase of duty and expense brought upon him by the administration of the Michigan Territory, you recommending at the same time an adequate remuneration.

I must regret the loss of H. M. brig *Detroit* and the private brig *Caledonia*. I am induced to think from your statement of the circumstances that had proper precaution been adopted and due vigilance observed, so disgraceful an event could not have occurred.

Aware of the desire of the enemy to obtain a naval superiority on both lakes, I have not failed to represent to His Majesty's ministers the absolute necessity of enabling me to maintain the ascendancy we now possess by sending experienced officers and able seamen for the marine service in Upper Canada. You will, of course, take measures to preserve the superiority you possess on those waters, and authorize the execution of such services as you deem essential, without further reference.

I have not prescribed limits to your marine operations, when calculated upon the great object of preserving a naval superiority on the lakes, nor have I been disposed to encourage them, from the want of energy evinced upon trial by the commanders of the vessels on Lake Ontario.

In the present state of the war, I still would have you refrain from unnecessary hostility, calculated to weaken our force, to widen the breach existing between the two countries, and unproductive of real advantage.

I will endeavor to reinforce the artillery under your command before our communication closes.

I have not the least apprehension but that you may be able to repel any simultaneous attack which the enemy may make on Detroit and Fort George.

*Memo. for the Adjutant-General, to 2nd Captain and 15 gunners.  
(Canadian Archives, C. 681, p. 323.)*

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### District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 19th October, 1812.

No. 1. The enemy having proposed a further continuance of the cessation of hostilities for an undefined period, the Major-General commanding has been pleased to accede to it, and it is agreed that either party shall have a right to terminate it, giving thirty hours' previous notice to the other party of his intention.

No. 2. The Major-General holds the officers in command of divisions, &c., responsible that every individual acting under their orders may be immediately acquainted with this arrangement, that no ignorance may be pleaded for a departure therefrom.



The Major-General expects and exacts from the different officers holding situations of responsibility, the most prompt attention on their part to giving the utmost possible instruction and effect to the militia generally, but more especially to that proportion recently embodied, as best calculated to insure our real strength and increase our security against any sudden effort of the enemy.

No. 3. The barrack-master will make the necessary distribution of the officers' quarters at his disposal, the choice of quarters according to seniority and the subalterns to double up, agreeably to the order of the 27th August.

By order,  
THOMAS EVANS.

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**General Smyth to the Secretary of War.**

NEAR BUFFALO, October 20, 1812.

SIR,—On the 16th instant General Van Rensselaer by a general order invested me with the command of the troops between the Lakes Erie and Ontario, with power to order general courts martial and exercise the authority of commander of a great military district.

On the 18th instant, I ordered Colonel Winder, (an admirable officer,) to Fort Niagara; on the 19th I broke up the camp at Lewiston, ordered the militia, such as had not deserted, and excepting the artillery, to Schlosser: the artillery were put under Colonel Winder's command, and would most of them take post on the mountain opposite Queenston. Colonel Parker, with the detachments of the 12th and 20th, will take post on a small creek near Black Rock and collect the boats. Colonel Schuyler, with the detachments of the 5th and 13th, will take a position near him. The volunteers will encamp near Buffalo.

In the small creek I mention, I wish to have one hundred boats that will carry across at once four thousand men, and twenty or thirty scows or flats to take over artillery or cavalry; and if you will increase my force to eight thousand men, with twenty pieces of light or field artillery and some troops of cavalry, I will enter Canada and leave the rest to Heaven.

Place no confidence in detached militia. They have disgraced the nation. Do not rely on the contractor for provisions. He has no salt meat and only damaged flour. If you have any compassion on the service send money either to Lieutenant Allison, my brigade-quartermaster, or to some public agent, under my orders. Without it we cannot supply the contractors' deficiencies; we cannot get transportation by land, build boats, procure forage or anything else



wanted by the army. Give me here *a clear stage*, men and *money*, and I will retrieve your affairs or perish.

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 20th October, 1812.

The Major-General having observed with regret the disorderly and intoxicated state of many soldiers of the line during the five last days, he is under the necessity of ordering that with the exception of servants no soldier shall, until further orders, be permitted to leave his quarters without permission first obtained from the officer commanding the company to which he belongs. This precaution will not be considered a hardship by the good soldier, who prides himself equally on his correct deportment in quarters as on his bravery before the enemy.

No. 2. The soldiers of the army are informed that so long as the enemy may think proper to threaten the safety of the frontier, the Major-General has thought proper to forbid persons on the line of defence between Niagara and Fort Erie from selling spirituous liquors except by license and under such restrictions as may be thought conducive to the good of His Majesty's service. All soldiers, therefore, attempting to obtain by threats or violence from any person whatever, spirits, contrary to this established mode, will assuredly be punished with the utmost severity.

No. 3. The attention of officers generally is called to the order of the 15th instant, establishing Lieut.-Colonel Myers in the command of the line from Fort George to Chippawa. The officers of the Grand Rounds have been particularly remiss in continuing to address their reports to the Major-General commanding, after the publication of an express order directing all reports and communications to be made to Lieut.-Colonel Myers.

No. 4. A piquet guard of militia, consisting of one subaltern, one sergeant and 12 privates to parade every evening at house. The duty of this piquet will be to patrol from the light house to the centre carronade battery beyond the batteaux creek and to watch the beach. The piquet guard at the White House will confine its patrols to the space between the light house and the detached guard south of the garrison. Major Merritt will order a night-patrol of two dragoons, the one to visit the extreme battery at 4-mile point, the other diverging off to his left, carefully examining the Black Swamp roads.

By order,  
THOS. EVANS,  
B. M.

**Major-General R. H. Sheaffe to Earl Bathurst.**

UPPER CANADA, YORK,  
20th Oct., 1812.

(No. 1.)

MY LORD,—In consequence of the death of Major-General Brock, late President administering the government of this Province, who gloriously fell in an action with the enemy at Queenston on the 13th instant, I have the honor of announcing to Your Lordship that, conformably with the additional instructions of the thirteenth of July, eighteen hundred and eleven, I have repaired to this place to meet the Honorable the Executive Council, before which I have this day taken the oaths prescribed as a member thereof, and as President to administer the civil government of this Province.

I do myself the honor of transmitting herewith an extract from my despatch of the thirteenth instant to His Excellency Sir George Prevost, for the further information of Your Lordship on the subject of the public loss which it has become my duty to communicate to you.

Since the command of the troops in this Province has devolved on me no despatch has been received from Colonel Procter, commanding at Detroit. The last letter from that officer, dated early in this month, stated that he had intelligence of two considerable corps being on their march to form a junction and act against him, each consisting of from two to three thousand men, and I learn that another strong corps is in motion to support them.

The enemy has been reinforced on the Niagara frontier since the action of the thirteenth instant, and I am informed expect fresh succors. Notwithstanding the losses they have sustained they seem determined to repeat their attacks. By the aid of numbers and perseverance they may succeed in obtaining possession of at least a small portion of this province, unless respectable reinforcements speedily arrive, the season for transporting which by the St. Lawrence and the lakes is fast approaching to a termination. At present there is an armistice agreed on for an indefinite period from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, between Brigadier-General Smyth and myself, thirty hours notice to be given of its intended rupture. It was proposed by him and I acceded to it, both as corresponding with the system of forbearance, which policy and a spirit of conciliation had prescribed, and as permitting my coming to this place to revive the supreme civil authority, the prolonged suspension of which might have proved highly detrimental to the public service.

Lieut.-Colonel Macdonell, Provincial aide-de-camp to the late

President and Attorney-General of this Province, died on the 14th of the wounds he received in the action at Queenston. I shall appoint a person to act in that capacity until His Majesty's pleasure shall be known.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 315, p. 205.)*

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**From Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, 29th October, 1812.**

MEADVILLE, PA., October 14.

The wretched quality of the State arms put into the hands of a number of the companies who have joined this detachment, the want of camp equipage, medical stores and a variety of other articles indispensably necessary for the comfort and safety of the troops has and still continues to delay their departure from this place. These articles must be got from a considerable distance. The utmost exertions are making by General Tannehill to remedy this deficiency as soon as possible. In the meantime, the most rigid attention is paid by the General to the order and discipline of the troops, by confining officers and men to the discharge of their respective duties.

*(File in Philadelphia Library.)*

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**Major-General Van Rensselaer to Major-General Dearborn.**

BUFFALO, 20th October, 1812.

SIR,—My extreme mortification at surrendering a victory which had been gallantly won and which I had ample force to have retained, and my disgust at the cause which changed triumph into defeat, has induced me to resign the immediate command of all the troops on the straights to General Smyth, subject to my order.

After the evidence furnished me, that the great body of the militia could not in the most trying imaginable crisis be prevailed upon to cross the river, it was very evident that my future services would avail nothing. I have therefore retired from Lewiston to this place, where I shall wait your orders, and have to request your permission that I may surrender my command and return home.

It is impossible for me to furnish you with a precise account of the loss in killed and wounded in the late action. The aggregate of my information would probably warrant the following statement as nearly correct: Killed 60, wounded 170, of the regulars 386 and of militia 378 are prisoners, as appears by Colonel Winder's statement. (He was the officer sent over.)

By a cartel which I have concluded with Major-General Sheaffe through Colonel Winder, the militia have been paroled and returned.

Since I left Lewiston General Smyth has agreed with Major-General Sheaffe to a cessation of hostilities until either party shall terminate it by thirty hours notice.

In my last I mentioned that General Brock was among the slain and his aide-de-camp mortally wounded. They were both interred in the same grave.

(*Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 240-1, New York State Library.*)

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**Garrison Order.**

YORK, 20th October, 1812.

In pursuance of orders received from Major-General Sheaffe, Captain Robinson's rifle company and Captain Burns's company will embark for Fort George by the first opportunity: the former will be augmented to 40 rank and file.

GENERAL DISTRICT ORDER.

Lieut.-Colonel Shortt will take immediate steps for transporting the American prisoners now under charge of the York Garrison on board the *Royal George*. Major Allan will be directed to proceed on board and go with them, as soon as the wind permits, to Kingston, where he will immediately report his arrival to Colonel Vincent. Major Allan will take the general direction of all the American prisoners now on board the King's vessels.

By order of Major-General Sheaffe.

J. B. GLEGG,  
A. D. C.

Lieut.-Colonel Shortt.

G. O.

The prisoners of war now on board the *Gloucester* will forthwith embark in the *Royal George*. Major Allan will proceed with them to Kingston, as soon as the wind permits, agreeable to the above order.

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**General Order.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,  
20th October, 1812.

G. O.

Information having been this day received by an express from York in Upper Canada, of an action having taken place on the 13th instant between the British and American troops on the lines

between Niagara and Fort Erie, His Excellency the Commander of the Forces takes the earliest opportunity of communicating to the troops the total defeat of the enemy with the loss of nine hundred prisoners, of whom one hundred and fifty had arrived at York prior to the departure of the express by whom the intelligence has been received.

Successful as the result of this engagement has been, and in a high degree glorious to His Majesty's arms, it is with feelings of the deepest regret that His Excellency announces to the troops the loss of Major-General Brock, of whose distinguished zeal, talents and courage his country was deprived at daybreak on the 13th instant, shortly after the commencement of the engagement, to the victorious termination of which his able dispositions had contributed not less than the determination and bravery of the handful of troops under his command.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
A. G. N. A.

(From the *New York Evening Post*, Wednesday, 26th Oct., 1812.)

(From the *Manlius Times*, October 20, 1812.)

Extract of a letter from an officer on the frontier to his friend in this village, dated Camp at Lewiston, October 11, 1812 :

Yesterday afternoon General Wadsworth sent up for volunteers to cross the river at this place, Lewiston, at 12 o'clock last night. Some companies volunteered without officers, of others officers without soldiers, and some neither officers nor soldiers. From Capt. Bristol's company about 20 volunteered, from Captain Kellogg's only one : the whole marched to the edge of the river at the hour appointed for the purpose of crossing. They remained on the bank of the river during a tedious rainy night, but no suitable preparation having been made they returned at the approach of day without having fired a gun.

Wednesday, October 14.

Yesterday morning at 3 o'clock the crisis arrived. Colonel Van Rensselaer with the volunteers crossed the river. At their landing a battle commenced, and there was one continued fire for two hours and a half, after which the firing ceased for a short time. Our men appeared successful and drove the British, but whilst they were taking some refreshments the British returned with reinforcements, when a dreadful conflict ensued. The battle lasted till four o'clock p. m., when our men laid down their arms and surrendered themselves prisoners of war. Lieutenant S. M. Smith is among the



prisoners, and eight or ten privates—not a rifleman hurt except Levi Bishop, who had his arm shot off, but is doing well. Ensign Grosvenor returned from the battle with a ball hole or two through his hat.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

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**John Lovett to Abraham Van Vechten.**

BUFFALO, 21st October, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—

The battle was by no means a matter of *choice*, but absolute *necessity*, with General Van Rensselaer. A flood of circumstances had convinced the General, as early as the beginning of this month, that a blow must be struck. He was therefore maturing a plan to close the campaign in the most honorable way he could. But the impetuosity of not only men but his first officers became such that he was absolutely compelled to go to battle or risk such consequences as no man could endure.

(From Bonney's *Historical Gleanings*, p. 271.)

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**Lieutenant G. Ridout to his Brother at York.**

BROWN'S POINT, 21st October, 1812.

As I have already given father a short account of the transaction of the 13th, I think it unnecessary to repeat, as you have, of course, been made acquainted with the contents of my letter of that date. Were it not for the death of General Brock and McDonell our victory would have been glorious and really a matter of triumph: but in losing our man, not only the President of the Province but our ablest General, is an irreparable loss under the existing circumstances, when his moderation and impartiality had united all parties in pronouncing him the only man worthy of being at the head of affairs. One field-piece, one stand of colors, one ammunition waggon, 1,200 stand of arms besides those seized by the Indians and militia, amounting to at least 400 more, together with 1,000 prisoners, were the fruits of that day's success.

As Congress meets in November no doubt Van Rensselaer, the American General, had been urged to make an attack by Madison so that the latter might make a favorable report of the game at Washington. General Smyth, the Democrat, has now the chief

command. He asserts that he is determined to conquer Canada even if he loses a hundred thousand men. Such gasconading is not to frighten, as it is well known that the American Government is not able to feed, clothe and equip so great a force. About an hour since two men marched down to Niagara under a guard. They crossed the river above Fort Erie—so they say. They state that the American force is about 12,000; that the greater part of that army is stationed at Lewiston, a village opposite Queenston; that the Americans intend making these attacks at different places; that they are determined to have the command of the lakes, and for that purpose have nearly 400 men on the two lakes constructing gun-boats and refitting merchant vessels. All this may be a trick of the Yankees to engage our attention to the fortifying of Queenston, while in reality they may be concerting measures for crossing at Chippawa or above that place. The latter, I think, is the case, as large bodies of the enemy have been seen moving up from Niagara in that direction.

I do not think the time is far distant when another attack is to be made. With another regiment I have no doubt that the country would be perfectly safe from all attempts they might make to subdue us.

General Brock and Macdonnell were buried on the 17th in one of the batteries of the garrison, called the York Battery, as our men were employed in constructing it. It was his desire to be buried in it, showing even to the last a preference for everything belonging to the name of York.

The burial was the grandest and most solemn I ever witnessed or that has been seen in Upper Canada. I was one of poor Macdonnell's pallbearers. The coffins were preceded first by a company of regulars, then a band of music, then the corpses, followed by another body of regulars and militia. The whole distance between the Government House and the Garrison where they were interred was lined by a double row of militia and Indians, resting on their arms reversed. Minute guns were fired during the whole procession. Mr. Addison read the service in a very impressive manner.

The American prisoners, officers and men, are the most savage looking fellows I ever saw. To strike a greater terror in their enemies they had allowed their beards on their upper lips to grow. This, however, had no other effect upon us than to raise sensations of disgust. I was over yesterday with a flag to the American garrison, and witnessed the destruction made by our cannon. Every building is completely riddled, but owing to the want of furnaces on our side we were unable to fire their garrison.

*(From Lady Edgar's Ten Years of Upper Canada, pp. 158-160.)*

## Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,  
21st October, 1812.

(No. 13.)

MY LORD,—I have the satisfaction of reporting to Your Lordship that His Majesty's forces, aided by the militia and Indians, stationed on the Niagara frontier, have completely repelled a second attempt of the enemy to invade Upper Canada, and that a victory has been gained which has left in our possession nine hundred of the American army and their commander, Brigadier-General Wadsworth, who surrendered himself on the field of battle to Major-General Sheaffe.

His Majesty and the country have to deplore the loss of an able and most active officer in Major-General Brock, who fell early in the battle at the head of the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, whilst nobly encouraging them to sustain their position, in opposition to an infinitely superior force, until reinforcements he had ordered to advance to their support should arrive. For further particulars of this splendid affair I beg leave to refer Your Lordship to Major-General Sheaffe's report herewith transmitted.

I also transmit a general order I have just issued to the forces in the British American Provinces, on the occasion of this important success, as it contains a statement of the services rendered by all who had the good fortune to maintain on that day the fame of His Majesty's arms, and to convince our deluded neighbors that their superiority in numbers cannot intimidate His Majesty's army nor shake the fidelity of his Canadian subjects.

Not having received a return of the killed and wounded on the 13th, nor that of the ordnance and stores captured from the enemy, I am under the necessity of deferring sending them to Your Lordship until the next opportunity, when I also expect to forward the colors taken from the Americans to be laid at the feet of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

Captain Fulton, my aide-de-camp, will have the honor of delivering this despatch to Your Lordship. He is very capable of affording such information as Your Lordship may require respecting the state of His Majesty's Canadian Provinces.

Eight companies of the Glengarry Levy are in motion to reinforce Upper Canada.

### General Order.

(*Montreal Herald Office, Wednesday, Oct. 21st.*)

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,  
21st October, 1812.

#### GENERAL ORDERS.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received an official report from Major-General Sheaffe of the brilliant victory achieved on the 13th instant by a portion of the troops under his command, over a division of the enemy's army which effected a landing at Queenston under cover of the night.

That post was nevertheless defended with undaunted gallantry by the two flank companies of the 49th Regiment, animated by the presence of their gallant and ever to be lamented chief, Major-General Brock, whose valuable life was on this occasion devoted to his country's service. These companies displayed exemplary discipline and spirit, although the captains of both were wounded, and succeeded in keeping the enemy in check until the arrival of Major-General Sheaffe with reinforcements.

The disposition of the forces and plan of the attack cannot receive a higher or more just praise than by stating that nine hundred prisoners of war, under the command of Brigadier-General Wadsworth, surrendered their arms to a force inferior in numbers and without sustaining any considerable loss on our part.

A six-pounder and a stand of colors have been taken from the enemy.

Major-General Sheaffe's report of the zeal and undaunted gallantry that animated every officer and soldier of his army, affords the Commander of the Forces the most heartfelt satisfaction and will be a most gratifying duty to His Excellency to bring before the notice of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

Lieut.-Colonel Myers, Deputy-Quartermaster General, was stationed in charge of Fort Erie, and succeeded in completely silencing the fire of the enemy, drove a detachment from the encampment near Black Rock and destroyed a barrack in which was a considerable depot of ammunition. Its explosion must have killed many.

The *Caledonia*, lately captured by the enemy, was destroyed at her moorings.

Lieut.-Colonel Myers speaks highly of the discipline of the detachment of the 49th Regiment, and of the skill and spirit with which the guns were served, under Captain Kerby and Lieutenant Bryson of the militia.

Essential service was rendered by Brigade-Major Evans, left in charge of Fort George. A well directed fire from that work succeeded in silencing the enemy's batteries on the other side. Captain Vigoureux, Royal Engineers, Colonel Claus and Captains Powell and Cameron of the militia were zealous and indefatigable in their exertions, particularly in extinguishing fires which broke out in the court house and other places from red hot shot fired by the enemy.

Captains Dennis and Williams of the flank companies of the 49th Regiment have particularly distinguished themselves. The former officer retained command of his company to the end of the conflict, tho' suffering severely from his wound.

To Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery the highest praise is due for his successful and judicious co-operation. The well directed fire of the artillery, militia, as well as regular, is the best proof of the indefatigable zeal and talents of that officer.

Major Merritt, commanding the Niagara Dragoons, accompanied and rendered essential assistance with part of his corps. Capt. A. Hamilton, belonging to it, was disabled from riding and attached himself to the guns under Captain Holcroft, who speaks highly of his activity and usefulness.

Lieutenant Crowther, 41st Regiment, had charge of two field pieces, which were employed with good effect.

Captains Derenzy and Bullock are represented to have maintained the high reputation of the 41st Regiment in the detachment under their respective commands. Major-General Sheaffe reports having received essential service from Captain Glegg, aide-de-camp to Major-General Brock, Lieut. Fowler, 41st Regiment, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster General and Lieut. Kerr of the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles, employed with a flanking party of Indians.

The eminent services and talents of Lieut.-Colonel Macdonnell, Provincial Aide-de-camp and Attorney General of the Province, are recorded by the most honorable testimony of the gallant General whose steps he followed during his short but glorious career nor quitted him in death.

Volunteers Shaw, Thompson and Jarvis, attached to the flank companies of the 49th Regiment, conducted themselves with great spirit; the first was wounded and the last taken prisoner.

The Major-General particularly mentions the services of Lieut.-Colonels Butler and Clark of the militia and Captains Hatt, Durand, Rowe, Applegarth, James Crooks, Cooper, Robert Hamilton, McEwen and Duncan Cameron, and Lieuts. Richardson and Thomas



Butler, commanding flank companies of the Lincoln and York Militia, who led their men into action with great spirit.

The Major-General reports the conduct of the Indians employed on this occasion as meriting the highest praise for their good order and spirit, and particularly names the Chief Norton, who was wounded.

Several gentlemen volunteered their services in the field and shared in the honor of the day. Mr. Clench and Mr. Willcox were of the number, and the Major-General witnessed the zealous conduct of many others not named in his report.

Major-General Sheaffe had humanely consented to a cessation of offensive hostility on the solicitation of Major-General Van Rensselaer, for the purpose of allowing the Americans to remove the bodies of their slain and wounded.

G. O.

Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe is appointed to the command of the troops in the Upper Province and to administer the Government of the same.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant General.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 288.*)

**General Dearborn to General Smyth.**

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, Oct. 21, 1812.

SIR,—Major-General Van Rensselaer having communicated a wish to retire from his command, I have acquiesced in his request and have desired him to give over the command which he held to you, and to give you copies of my last two or three letters to him and such information in relation to the enemy, his means of obtaining information, and the state of the troops, stores, &c., as he may possess. The unfortunate affair at Queenston on the 13th is most seriously to be lamented, but we must endeavor by redoubled efforts to retrieve the state of our affairs. I have ordered Colonel Porter of the artillery to Niagara to take command of the whole light artillery at that post. You will find in him all the requisite practical information and industry in his line. A fine company of light artillery, all mounted, will proceed as rapidly as possible to replace such as have been lost. On their arrival it will, I presume, be expedient to send the greatest number of horses back to some place where forage may be conveniently obtained. I shall order Colonel McClure, with his battalion of uniform volunteers, to march from Onondaga to Niagara, and I yet hope that when the troops shall have been concentrated and put into a state of organization that

you will be able to pass into Canada and secure good winter quarters. I had directed General Van Rensselaer to call on the contractor for a deposit of provisions for at least two months, exclusive of the current issues. It will be expedient for you to repeat the requisition on the contractor. Captain Thomas, the Deputy-Quartermaster General, will join you with stores and funds for that department, and I trust you will find in him an active and attentive officer. It will be proper to give Colonel Parker the command of a brigade. In all important movements you will, I presume, consider it advisable to consult some of your principal officers. Every means in your power should be exerted to procure a sufficient number of boats and scows for transporting the troops. You should, if possible, be prepared for crossing with three thousand men with artillery *at once*. Faithful and experienced boatmen should be selected for managing the whole of the boats, and there should be a surplus in each boat as a provision to meet accidents. The greatest precaution should be observed in the arrangement for embarkation and debarkation. You will pardon me for being thus particular. The most important consideration will be that of ascertaining and agreeing on the best and surest points of crossing; much will depend on a judicious selection of the principal landing places. Your information will enable you, *with the advice of your principal officers, to decide* on these subjects in the most judicious manner. That you may be so fortunate as to succeed in retrieving and meliorating the state of your affairs, is my most ardent wish. You will by all practicable means endeavor to correspond with General Harrison, who I presume is now at Detroit with a very respectable force. I need not impress you with the necessity of cultivating a spirit of harmony and good understanding among all the corps under your command—on which the success of your operations will materially depend. I have been establishing a line of expresses between this place and Niagara, by which despatches may pass in about forty-four hours. You will direct where the non-commissioned officers of the express will be stationed, near your quarters. The line will, I trust, be completed within two or three days after this reaches you.

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Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,  
22nd October, 1812.

(No. 14.)

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Lordship that in consequence of a despatch which I have received from Major-

General Dearborn expressing a wish that I would admit the officers and privates of the American army, now prisoners at Quebec, to their parole, and understanding at the same time from the papers he transmitted to me that it was the President's desire, in order to lessen the calamities of war, that all persons already made prisoners on either side should be exchanged without delay, for which purpose an arrangement has been entered into by the American Government and Mr. Baker as respected naval prisoners, I have given directions for two of the transports now at Quebec to be immediately fitted up for the reception of all the American prisoners at that place, for the purpose of transporting them on their parole to Boston, to which place they will proceed without delay, and where I have no doubt they will be exchanged as soon as the arrangement above mentioned shall be completed.

I take the opportunity of once more earnestly soliciting Your Lordship for a supply of arms, accoutrements and clothing for the militia forces in the Canadas. In fact, without the first two articles His Majesty's service in this part of the world may experience serious inconvenience.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 296.)*

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#### District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 21st October, 1812.

Officers in command of divisions will immediately inspect the different companies of militia under their orders and will make an exchange of arms so that there may not be any except of one description in the same company; for instance, where there are two companies having mixed arms of French and English they will mutually exchange them so that the one may have all English and the other French. This arrangement will preclude the possibility of mistake in the distribution of ammunition.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,  
B. M.

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#### Colonel Parker to General Smyth.

Colonel Parker has the honor to report to General Smyth that agreeably to his orders he has caused to be collected all the boats that could be found last evening, and had them carried up the creek to an old field about a mile above the bridge, where they are left under a small guard.

He has also obtained a promise from Lieutenant Angus of the navy to send out a party of sailors to collect all the boats they can find on the coast and convey them to the same place.

Colonel Parker would beg leave to suggest to the General the propriety of placing these boats under charge of a careful officer, and, as many of them are leaky and scarce of oars, have them carefully prepared for service.

From report Colonel Parker is of opinion that the Secretary of War will probably urge a descent on Canada this fall, but he supposes that a discretionary power will certainly be given to the commanding officer on the lines. From the present state of the Quartermaster's and Commissary's department, from the almost total want of discipline in the regular troops, and from the little confidence that can be placed in the militia force, it would appear that a successful issue could hardly be expected, and defeat might prove highly injurious to our country. If the General's intention should be entirely turned to the discipline of the troops, even to the 10th of next month, it is feared that after that period it would be too late to put the troops under a comfortable cover before the winter sets in, which might be attended with the most fatal consequences. Would it not therefore be better to detail six or eight men, best qualified for the service, from each company to commence building the huts while the residue are employed on drill?

Whilst Colonel Parker has taken the liberty of making the foregoing observations, he begs leave to assure the General of his entire submission to his better judgment, and of his determination to promote his views by every exertion that his feeble health and abilities will permit.

22nd October, 1812.

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 22nd Oct., 1812.

In consequence of the morning states not having been sent in for some mornings past from the posts of Fort Erie, Chippawa and Queenston the service has been much retarded. The Major-General looks to the officers in command of divisions for the most pointed attention on their part to the furnishing the Brigade-Major with accurate daily states, agreeable to the order on that subject of July 2nd, 1812.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,  
B. M.

Captain John E. Wool, 13th U. S. Infantry, to Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer.

BUFFALO, Oct. 23, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honor to communicate to you the circumstances attending the storming of Queenstown battery on the 13th inst.: with those which happened previously you are already well acquainted.

In pursuance of your order we proceeded round the point and ascended the rocks, which brought us partly in rear of the battery. We took it without much resistance. I immediately formed the troops in rear of the battery and fronting the village, when I observed General Brock with his troops formed, consisting of four companies of the 49th Regiment and a few militia, marching for our left flank. I immediately detached a party of 150 men to take possession of the heights above Queenston battery and to hold General Brock in check, but in consequence of his superior force they retreated. I sent a reinforcement; notwithstanding which the enemy drove us to the edge of the bank, when, with the greatest exertions, we brought the troops to a stand and ordered the officers to bring their men to a charge as soon as the ammunition was expended, which was executed with some confusion, and in a few moments the enemy retreated. We pursued them to the edge of the heights, when Colonel McDonald had his horse shot from under him and himself was mortally wounded. In the interim General Brock, in attempting to rally his forces, was killed, when the enemy dispersed in every direction. As soon as it was practicable I formed the troops in a line on the heights fronting the village and immediately detached flanking parties, which consisted of Capt. Machesney of the 6th Regiment, Lieutenant Smith and Ensign Grosvenor, with a small detachment of riflemen, who had at that moment arrived; at the same time I ordered Lieutenant Gansevoort and Lieutenant Randolph with a detachment of artillery to drill out an 18-pounder which had been previously spiked, and if possible to bring it to bear upon the village. The wounded and prisoners I ordered to be collected and sent to the guard house. About this time, which was about three or four o'clock in the afternoon, Lieut.-Colonel Christie arrived and took the command. He ordered me across the river to get my wounds dressed. I remained a short time. Our flanking parties had been driven in by the Indians, but General Wadsworth and other officers arriving we had a short skirmish with them, and they retreated and I crossed the river.

The officers engaged in storming the battery were Captains Wool and Ogilvie, Lieuts. Kearney, Hugunin, Carr and Sammons



of the 13th Regiment, Lieuts. Gansevoort and Randolph of the light artillery, and Major Lush of the militia.

I recommend to your particular notice Lieuts. Randolph, Carr and Kearney for their brave conduct exhibited during the whole of the action.

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BUFFALO, 11th Nov., 1812.

*To Captain John E. Wool, 13th Infantry:*

DEAR SIR,—Agreeably to your request of the 13th inst., we have no hesitation to declare that the statement of Queenstown battle, fought on the 13th ultimo, which was said to be given by Capt. Ogilvie of the 13th Regiment of Infantry, and which appeared in the New York *Columbian* of the 27th October last, to be with few exceptions totally false, and that so far from considering Capt. Ogilvie as having command of the detachment which stormed Queenstown battery and defeated General Brock, that we most sincerely believe that if he had commanded he would have surrendered the detachment at the approach of General Brock prisoners of war. And in justice to yourself, we think it our duty to state we do not believe there was a single officer, until after the defeat of General Brock, who considered any other person having command but yourself. And that we believe had it not been for your exertions we should not have defeated General Brock with the force under his command.

You are at liberty to make any use of this letter which you may think proper.

THOMAS B. RANDOLPH,  
Lieut. Light Artillery,  
and other officers.

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NEW YORK, 21st Dec., 1812.

MY DEAR WOOL,—I arrived here last evening and have learned that it is of importance to me to proceed to Washington. I have found the public opinion here just what you would wish with regard to yourself—everybody giving you the exclusive title to the affair of the morning, without the interference of myself or any other field officer, except perhaps some idle reports that Fenwick received some of his wounds in the attack on the battery. But you are universally known and acknowledged as the officer who took possession of the height. I have consulted with some friends whether it would be well in me to make a publication on the subject, but they

say the matter is perfectly understood now, and that the public are satisfied with reports and statements about Queenstown.

Your friend,

JOHN CHRYSTIE,

Lieut.-Col. 13th Infantry.

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ALBANY, 24th Dec., 1812.

SIR,—In my official despatch to General Dearborn, I was not sufficiently informed to do justice to your bravery and good conduct in the attack of the enemy on the Heights of Queenstown. The manner in which you met and repulsed the troops under General Brock when he fell, with the party under your command, merits the notice of government, and I hope your promotion will stimulate others to emulate your example.

Yours respectfully,

S. V. RENSSELAER.

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December 27, 1812.

*To the Editor of the New York Evening Post :*

SIR,—I perceive in your paper of last evening a copy of a letter from Lieutenant Randolph, referring to a statement published in the *Columbian* some time since. Of that publication I was not the author; it was merely the result of a conversation that took place on board the steam boat between some gentlemen and myself, though I assert that the contents, with some corrections, were strictly correct. I never withheld from Captain Wool that respect due to the seniority of his rank, nor ever arrogated to myself the exclusive applause of the affair at Queenstown; on the contrary, every individual officer without distinction concerned in that enterprise was entitled to an equal share of praise. After we had gained the Heights, Captain Wool, being the oldest officer on the ground, took the command, and gave his respective orders, which were obeyed by all with alacrity and pleasure. Instead of derogating from the merits of that gallant officer, his conduct excited my highest admiration and secured to himself a wreath of unfading laurels. I regret that the misconception of his friends should have induced such illiberal remarks, for if I cannot rise by my own merits I would rather die a private in the ranks than rob even a common soldier of his well earned fame.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours, &c.,

P. OGILVIE,

Junior Capt., 13th U. S. Infantry.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 22nd December, 1812.)

*Major-General Van Rensselaer to Governor Tompkins.*

[Communicated for publication by the Governor.]

BUFFALO, October, 23rd, 1812.

SIR,—The daily expectation of Your Excellency's arrival on the Niagara frontier, since the action of the 13th, has prevented my making an official communication to you on that subject. But having now received Major-General Dearborn's permission to resign my command, I propose to proceed immediately to Albany.

Under these circumstances I have determined to furnish Your Excellency with a copy of my despatch of the 14th, to Major-General Dearborn, reserving for future communication some documents calculated to furnish a more full explanation of the movements of the army.

I cannot, however, in justice to my own feelings, to merit and to the service, close without noticing to Your Excellency a number of officers whose conduct in the late action would have reflected great honor upon veteran soldiers, and entitles them to the notice of Your Excellency and the gratitude of their country.

Brigadier-General Wadsworth proved himself an officer capable of commanding with promptness, coolness and decision in all the vicissitudes of battle, and though he was fortunate enough to escape wounds scarcely a garment he had on but bears more than one mark of honorable testimony.

Colonel Van Rensselaer was in the first boat and was the first man on shore. In the most gallant manner he led the van of the first column through a very severe fire, and when four wounds prevented him from proceeding, he gave his orders with decisive firmness and they were effectually performed. Major Lush acted as his volunteer aid, and his courage and conduct in the field were highly honorable to a young officer.

Lieut.-Colonel Bloom was early in the action, and when a wound obliged him to return from the field he persevered in his efforts to urge on reinforcements.

Lieut.-Colonels Allen, Stranahan and Mead exerted themselves to get as many of their men as possible to the field, and faced the enemy to the last.

Major Spencer, aide-de-camp to General Wadsworth, is in all respects an excellent officer, and his conduct in the field was honorable.

Lieutenant Smith and Ensign Grosvenor of Major Moseley's riflemen were very brave, active and efficient in the field.

I would only add that, after all the toils and operations of a very perplexing campaign, to be obliged to witness the sacrifice of a victory so gallantly won on the shrine of doubt is mortifying indeed.

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**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 23rd Oct., 1812.

The 1st Lincoln companies of militia, stationed at Queenston, will, on the receipt of this order, immediately march for Fort George, and report their arrival to Colonel Claus.

2nd. Captains Hatt and Durand of the 5th Lincoln flank companies will hold themselves in readiness to march for Chippawa at a moment's notice.

Mr. Adj. Clark will order one sergeant and six privates from the militia stationed at Niagara on board the *Regent* to escort prisoners to York.

By order,  
 THOMAS EVANS,  
 B. M.

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, Oct. 23rd, 1812.

The detachment of the 49th Regiment, under Lieut. Bartley, will remove from Wintermute's to Putnam's. It will march early to-morrow morning. The 3rd Lincoln Militia, under the command of Major Warren, will march to-morrow morning from Miller's to Wintermute's. The three companies of the 5th Lincoln Militia will march early to-morrow morning; 40 will be stationed at Palmer's and the remainder occupy the quarters at Andrew Miller's.

The flank companies of the Fourth Lincoln Militia will march early to-morrow morning for Chippawa, and report the same to Lieut.-Colonel Clark.

By order,  
 THOMAS EVANS.

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**General Smyth to General Dearborn.**

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, Oct. 24th, 1812.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 21st instant, and shall fail in nothing in my power to retrieve the state of our affairs.

The affair of Queenston diminished our force 2,000 men; one-

half of which were killed, wounded and prisoners, and the other half deserted or were discharged, in consequence of some battalions being greatly reduced.

General Van Rensselaer transferred to me the command on the 15th and on the 16th, I broke up the camp at Lewiston, sent the 14th Infantry, under Colonel Winder, to Niagara, the militia artillery to a battery opposite the Heights of Queenston, the militia infantry and riflemen to Schlosser, and I returned with the 5th, 13th, 12th and 20th to my camp near Buffalo; the troops of the Light and 2nd Artillery are at Black Rock.

In a creek at Black Rock I am collecting boats, and there I propose to cross. The Canadian shore is easy of access from Erie to Chippawa. There are some batteries opposite Black Rock which I can have carried when I please.

Boats are wanting. I have sent to have those which Chrystie brought to Niagara carried to Schlosser; this will be a difficult work. Scows are wanting and essential. As yet I have no funds.

The reinforcement you mention I hope will encourage those under my command. It is said 500 soldiers have arrived at Fort George since the battle, that the Indians have gone home to gather their corn, and that three-fourths of the militia are called into service. As the enemy's regular troops and flankers amount to 3,000 men, their militia, if called out as said, may swell their force to 10,000 men.

It has seemed to me, Sir, that the three armies should strike on the same day. If not, the command of the lakes will enable the enemy to beat us in detail.

The sailors here will furnish me with excellent boatmen. I shall take the opinions of a few of my most enlightened officers at times, but I will decide.

There is some difficulty in giving Colonel Parker a brigade, as Schuyler contests his right to rank. Winder is an officer of the first class.

In consequence of the loss of five companies of the 13th, I consolidated the 5th and 13th, as was done by the Adjutant-General in the case of the 12th and 20th. In consequence, Milton asked and obtained a furlough. His regiment was badly governed and I found I had nothing to expect from him.

I do not expect the contractor to supply us with provisions. I received a number of returns at Lewiston: "unfit for duty for want of provisions."

We much want some cannon of large calibre, for the fort of Niagara and the batteries of Black Rock. A powerful battery at the latter place would protect our landing at noon-day.



The ship carpenters have gone off, which I much regret. Colonel Porter will doubtless be of great service to us, but I should have preferred his coming to Black Rock. I shall keep you advised of our progress.

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**General Van Rensselaer to Brigadier-General Smyth.**

BUFFALO, 24th October, 1812.

SIR,—Having this day resigned to you the command of the army on the Niagara frontier, and being now on the eve of my departure for Albany, I conceive it to be a duty I owe to myself, to merit and to the service, to recommend to your particular notice and favor, and through you, Sir, to Major-General Dearborn, the following brave officers, who distinguished themselves in the first detachment of troops who were engaged in storming the redoubt upon the Heights of Queenston on the 13th inst.: Captains Wool and Ogilvie, Lieuts. Kearney, Carr, Hugunin and Sammons of the 13th Infantry, Lieut. Randolph of the Light Artillery, who volunteered his services and commanded the vanguard: Lieuts. Rathbone and Gansevoort of the Artillery.

And if, Sir, through want of particular information I may have omitted any who are known to have distinguished themselves on this occasion, I beg you will have the goodness to insert their names in such a manner as to do justice to their merit.

*(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 15th December, 1812.)*

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**Militia Orders.**

NIAGARA, 24th October, 1812.

Officers commanding corps of militia at Niagara will give in a list of such old men as they may think should be allowed to go home, stating their age.

The First Lincoln Regiment, Captain Powell's company, Light Dragoons, Capt. Swayze's brigade, and Capt. Runchey's company will parade on Monday next at 10 o'clock, for the purpose of being mustered.

Lieut. Wm. Servos will join Capt. McEwen's flank company of the 1st Lincoln Regiment, vice Lieut. Secord; Lieut. Matthew Crooks will join Capt. Abraham Nelles's company, vice Lieutenant Servos, Ensign Peter McCollum will join Capt. Wm. Crooks's company, vice Lieut. Thos. Butler promoted.

**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 24th Oct., 1812.

Appointment in the Niagara Light Dragoons.

Quartermaster Charles Ingersoll to be cornet vice John Pell Major, deceased.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,

B. M.

**Militia Order.**

NIAGARA, October 24th, 1812.

The six battalion companies of the 1st Regiment of Lincoln Militia will be formed into three, as follows :

Captain Jones's and Captain Jac. Ball's, No. 1, to be commanded by Captain Jones.

Captain McClellan's and Captain Lawe's, No. 2, commanded by Captain McClellan.

Captain George Ball's and Captain Servos's, No. 3, Captain G. Ball.

Sergeants to the above three companies are as follows :

Captain Jones,	}	Capt. Jones's men.	40	}	Sergt. A. Stull,
Lieut. May,		J. Ball's.....	40		Sergt. R. Brown,
Lieut. Stevenson,		—			Robt. Runchey,
Ensign Jos. Clement.		80	Lewis Haines.		
Capt. McClellan,	}	Capt. McClellan ..	42	}	Sergeant A. Ross,
Lieut. E. Secord,		Captain Lawes....	40		Sergeant J. Hulbert.
Lieut. H. Pawling,		—			Sergeant Yokum.
Ensign P. M. Ball.		82	Sergeant Geo. Reace.		
Captain Geo. Ball,	}	G. Ball.....	50	}	Sergt. John Fletcher,
Lieut. Hainer,		Servos.....	30		Sergt. Jacob Darby,
Lieut. Smith,		—			Sergt. Sparback,
Ensign D. Servos.		80	Sergt. John Fox		

Captain McClellan's company will occupy the quarters left by Captain W. Crooks's and Nelles's flank company, and the lower room will in future be occupied as the orderly room.

**John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.**

Sunday Evening, Oct. 25th, 1812.

DEAR ALEXANDER,—On the 23rd General Van Rensselaer, by

permission, resigned his command to Brigadier-General Smyth, and to-morrow morning starts for Albany.

The several actions were sharp, but all the world was not killed or wounded as some have represented. Exact truth upon the subject can never be known—it is impossible—the aggregate of our information would about warrant this: Killed, 60; wounded, 170; prisoners, balance against us, say 720. As to *numbers* the slaughter was probably about even on both sides, but characters differ. We lost no officer of higher rank than a captain.

All Canada mourns her truly gallant Brock, and Colonel Macdonnell, his aide-de-camp, was the Attorney-General of the Province—their second idol. I knew him. Two Indian chiefs fell—we took one. The armistice which was agreed upon after the battle for three days has been continued and now exists. When it will end I cannot say. Since the battle everything has been conducted in that character which will forever honor civilized nations. The salute which we fired at Brock's funeral almost overwhelmed General Sheaffe. With sensibility which almost choked his utterance, he exclaimed to an officer standing by him: "*Noble minded as General Brock was, he would have ordered the same had a like disaster befallen the enemy.*"

On hearing this General V. R. was almost overwhelmed. . . .

Governor Tompkins, by exceeding hard driving, has so managed and economized his time as to be able to be in season to get there too late. He arrived this day. Why or for what is more than I can tell you. He has been closeted almost the whole day with the General, but I cannot learn that he has any plan, or plan of a plan, or copy of a plan's plan.

(From Bonney's, *Historical Gleanings*, pp. 273-4.)

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### Militia General Orders.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
NIAGARA, 25th Oct., 1812.

Militia G. Orders.

His Honor the President is pleased to make the following promotions and appointments:

4TH REGIMENT LINCOLN.

Lieutenant Thos. Butler to be captain . . .	25th Oct., 1812.
Ensign Henry Dochstader to be lieut. . . .	" " "
Ensign Robt. Pettitt to be lieut. . . . .	" " "

Ensign Wm. Chisholm to be lieut.....	25th Oct., 1812.
Peter McCollum, gent., to be ensign.....	“ “ “
Henry Pawling, gent., to be ensign.....	“ “ “
Adam Simmerman, gent., to be ensign...	“ “ “
Ezra Barnum to be quartermaster.....	“ “ “

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjutant-General, Militia.

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**Militia General Order.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 25th October, 1812.

Militia G. O.

His Honor the President is pleased to make the following promotions and appointments :

1ST REGIMENT LINCOLN MILITIA.

Ensign George Hainer to be lieut.....	25th Oct., 1812.
Ensign William L. Smith to be lieut.....	“ “ “
Sergt. John Robertson to be ensign.....	“ “ “
Sergt. Peter Warren to be ensign.....	“ “ “

By order,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjutant-General, Militia.

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**Militia General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
October 25th, 1812.

M. G. O.

His Honor the President is pleased to make the following appointments :

2ND YORK REGIMENT.

Henry Beaseley, Gent., to be ensign.

Lieut. Applegarth is to do duty in Captain Applegarth's company, and Ensigns Hepburne and Beaseley in Captain Thompson's.

By order.

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**Garrison Order.**

FORT GEORGE, October 25th, 1812.

The Garrison will be under arms tomorrow at daylight to witness the execution of the sentence of a court martial of which

Captain Williams, 49th Regiment, will be President. Capt. Derenzy will be pleased to superintend the parade on that occasion.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,  
B. M.

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**Militia Order.**

NIAGARA, Oct. 25th, 1812.

Those men whose names were given in yesterday as infirm will receive a pass from the officers commanding their respective regiments, but are to consider themselves liable to come forward the instant their services may be required. Officers will be particularly careful that those men who go home deliver up their arms, ammunition and accoutrements.

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**Commander George B. Hall to Lieut.-Colonel Myers.**

H. M. SHIP QUEEN CHARLOTTE,  
OFF FORT ERIE, October 27th, 1812.

SIR,—Should His Excellency the Commander of the Forces approve of the establishment of officers and men which I submitted as in my opinion necessary for His Majesty's vessels on these lakes, I beg to recommend the following gentlemen for promotion, viz: Mr. Robert Irvine for a lieutenant, Mr. James Fleet to be master of this ship, and Mr. James Fortier to be mate. The former gentleman is deserving of notice for his gallant defence of the *Caledonia*, of which he was late master. Mr. Fleet is an old experienced seaman and has served with me since the commencement of hostilities, and has rendered me great assistance, and Mr. Fortier is a very promising young man, and I trust will merit your future protection. As the enemy has undoubtedly got a number of seamen on the frontiers of the lakes, there is little doubt of their risking everything to try and obtain the command upon them. The want of seamen for His Majesty's vessels is already severely felt: none of them have more than a sufficient number to navigate them in peaceable times. If you should think that by my going to Quebec after the close of navigation I could procure men, I would gladly undertake that service, or any other which you might think could be useful in procuring seamen.

After the ships are laid up for the winter I would wish to have



a small brigade of field guns attached to this department, and one or two non-commissioned officers of the Royal Artillery, for the purpose of drilling the seamen to them. This, I think, would be found useful should the enemy attempt anything during the winter.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 729.*)

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**From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 27th October, 1812.**

We are indebted to Colonel Stranahan for the following list of officers taken prisoners at Queenston on the 13th inst. Colonel Stranahan corroborates all the material facts contained in our statement of last week.

NEW YORK MILITIA OFFICERS.

Brigadier-General Wm. Wadsworth, Major Wm. H. Spencer, aide: Lieut.-Colonels Stranahan, Allen, Mead: Majors Holland, Smith.

Captains Pettingal, Felt\* ; Adjutant Stafford\* ; Lieuts. Shephard, Houghton, Culley, Smith : Ensigns Picken, Denton, all of Lieut.-Colonel Stranahan's regiment.

Captains Clark, Brown ; Lieuts. Phillips, Robinson, Sweney\* of Lieut.-Colonel Allen's regiment.

Captain Cronk of Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin's regiment.

Captains Bacon, Ireland, Stanley, Brinkerhoff, Sutton, Eldridge, Barber, Ellis ; Lieuts. Smith, Richmond, Price, Daniels, Kishley, Holcomb, Soverill\*, Wilson : Ensigns Ireland, White, Canada, Boughton, Sperry, Cobb, Waldroff, of infantry and rifle corps not ascertained.

UNITED STATES OFFICERS.

Colonel Scott, Lieut.-Colonels Christie\*, Fenwick\*, Major Mul-lany† : Captains Gibson†, Machesney†, Ogilvy ; Lieuts. Randolph†, Kearney, Sammons, Hugunin, Fink, Carr, Turner, Totten†, Bayley, Phelps†, Clark\*, McCarty ; Ensign Reeve.

\*Wounded. †Paroled. ‡Exchanged.

Governor Tompkins and suite arrived in this village on Sunday, accompanied by Messrs. Livingstone and Macomb, aides-de-camp.

Major-General Hall left this village on Thursday last to attend the approaching session of the Legislature on the first Tuesday of November.

Major-General Van Rensselaer left town yesterday morning for

his residence at Albany. Colonel Van Rensselaer remains in this village. His wounds, we understand, are in a good way of healing.

#### ARMISTICE.

At the expiration of the armistice concluded between General Van Rensselaer and General Sheaffe, another was agreed on between General Smyth and General Sheaffe, to be terminated by either at 30 hours notice.

#### THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Came down from Malden last week, and on Sunday last anchored at Fort Erie.

#### MILITARY STORES, ETC.

A considerable supply of arms, ammunition, baggage, etc., have lately arrived on the lines. Several companies of light horse and one or two infantry companies have also arrived.

#### ACCIDENT AT FORT NIAGARA.

On the day of the Queenston conflict a 12-pounder burst in Fort Niagara and killed a private in Captain Leonard's company named Shaw, and another lost both legs, named Todd, who died in a few hours afterwards. There was but little other damage done. The cause of the explosion was owing to a heavy charge not sufficiently rammed home.

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#### General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, BUFFALO, Oct. 26th, 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel McClure will upon his arrival at the headquarters in Buffalo report himself and the detachment under his command to General Alexander Smyth, Commandant of the Forces on the Niagara frontier.

The said detachment is hereby placed under the command of General Smyth, and the officers and soldiers thereof are strictly enjoined to pay assiduous attention to the discipline and subordination, and so to conduct themselves in every respect as to maintain the high reputation for patriotism and soldierly conduct for which they have heretofore been distinguished.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

J. W. LIVINGSTONE,

Aide-de-Camp.

(*Tompkins Papers, New York State Library.*)

**General Dearborn to General Smyth.**

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH,  
October 28th, 1812.

SIR,—Your letters of the 22nd and 24th were received at 5 o'clock P. M. yesterday. This will leave here to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock. I have this day received information from General Bloomfield that about 800 men, with several field pieces, left Montreal for your neighborhood on the 14th instant; of course the sooner you are prepared to strike the better. From the accounts I have received from Fort George, I am induced to believe that, exclusive of Fort Erie and its immediate dependencies, the whole force on the British side of the river does not amount to more than twelve or fourteen hundred, including the militia which were in service at the time of the unfortunate partial attack, and the derangement the death of General Brock must have occasioned in relation to the militia and Indians must have a considerable effect on their measures of defence, if they are not allowed too long a time for procuring reinforcements and forming a new organization. I expect that General Bloomfield will move immediately towards Montreal, and I calculate on his being able to beat up the several posts between his camp and the river St. Lawrence. You should be explicit and positive in your orders to the contractor for having at least two months' deposit of provisions on hand, exclusive of the current issues. If you should determine on crossing from the vicinity of Black Rock, will not the enemy have it in his power to destroy the bridge over Chippawa creek and render your passage difficult? You will, I presume, think it advisable to make one or more feints at other points, while your main body crosses at the place decided on.

I am induced to suspect that the actual benefit of heavy ordnance in facilitating a landing has been overrated. Some twelve pounders in scows would, in my opinion, be of more service in covering a landing than the fire of heavy pieces at long shots. And when a footing is secured on the Canada shore, the ordnance in their batteries must undoubtedly fall into your hands. Neither General Van Rensselaer nor yourself have said anything in relation to the arrival of the Pennsylvania Militia. I presume they must have arrived or that you will have sent in quest of them with orders to hurry on as quick as possible. An additional supply of powder, balls, paper, &c., has been ordered to your post. Colonel Porter left this place on the 24th with 100 light artillerists, all mounted and well appointed in every respect. He will proceed in the stage to Canandaigua and from thence to your quarters as rapidly as pos-

sible. You will perceive the propriety and necessity of a return being made of all the troops under your command, which has been too long delayed.

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**Militia Orders.**

NAGARA, October 28th, 1812.

Officers commanding companies will, without delay, send a trusty sergeant and a file of men to bring in those men who have absented themselves. They will have a pass for a limited time for the purpose. On the arrival of the prisoners they are to be sent to the guard and their names and to what company they belong reported to the commanding officer.

Officers commanding companies will parade their subalterns and men at their different barracks at half-past 6 o'clock in the morning, call the roll, examine the men's musketry, accoutrements and ammunition and report their state and any deficiency at the foot of the morning report, and march to the general parade at 10 o'clock when a drill is ordered. The officers not on duty will fall in with the men. At half-past two o'clock they will again parade at their barracks, the rolls called, and from there march to the parade ground at three o'clock for the purpose of drill, and from drill they will return at 5 o'clock, parade at 6 o'clock in the evening, the captains will again call the roll and their subalterns will attend. At the different roll calls absentees, whether officers or men, without leave of the captain commanding the company, for which they are to give some very sufficient reason, and this only allowed from roll call to roll call, shall for the first offence do double duty, and so on in proportion.

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**General District Militia Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK,  
29th Oct., 1812.

A communication having been made to headquarters by the commissariat stating the existing difficulty in procuring forage for the wants of the militia cavalry now embodied, Major-General Sheaffe is pleased to call upon the commanding officers at York, Fort George, Kingston, Prescott and Amherstburg for a return of the present establishment and distribution of dragoons within their respective commands.

The Major-General requests that an immediate report may be

transmitted from each of the above posts, stating whether any and what reduction may be made without producing any prejudice to the service.

By order of His Honor,

MAJOR-GENERAL SHEAFFE.

J. B. GLEGG, Capt., A. D. C.

### District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 29th October, 1812.

Major-General Sheaffe has been pleased to appoint Samuel Street, Esquire and Thomas McCormick, Esquire, additional paymasters to the militia forces serving betwixt Fort Erie and Fort George, appointments to take place from the 24th inst., incls. They will be allowed 10/ per diem army pay and forage for one horse while so employed. John Symington, Esquire, will come under the same regulation with respect to pay and forage from the 24th inst. These gentlemen will proceed to muster the different corps and detachments to the 24th inst. as follows, estimates for the payment of which will be furnished to the Deputy Commanding General, agreeably to the order of 1st August :

2nd	} Lincoln Regiments by Paymaster Samuel Street and Oxford flank companies.
3rd	
5th	

4th Lincoln,	} Paymaster McCormick.
2nd York,	
Capt. Kerby's company of artillery,	
Captain Robinson's rifle company,	

1st Lincoln,	} Paymaster John Symington.
1st York,	
3rd do.,	
Capt. Powell's artillery,	
Dragoons,	
Drivers, Corps of Colour.	

By order of the Major-General,

THOS. EVANS,

B. M.



**General District Militia Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, YORK,  
29th Oct., 1812.

Major-General Sheaffe having observed in this day's state of the York Garrison that under the head of Captain Arnold's company there appeared to be one captain, two subalterns, two sergeants and only 17 privates, he considers it his duty to remark upon so extraordinary a deviation from the regulations established by the Militia Act, and by the General Order founded thereon bearing date, 9th July, 1812.

The Major-General is therefore pleased to direct that the privates of Captain Arnold's company shall be permitted to return to their homes in order to stand a ballot with the other individuals intended to complete the companies of the First York Regiment now in garrison.

By order of His Honor,

MAJOR-GENERAL SHEAFFE, President.

J. B. GLEGG, Capt., A. D. C.

To Major Allan

or officer commanding Militia,  
York.

**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 29th Oct., 1812.

The light company of the Newfoundland Regiment will hold itself in immediate readiness to march for Fort Erie. Those men belonging to the Newfoundland Regiment and lately returned from being prisoners of war will be equipped with arms, &c., and be furnished with clothing so as to be able to march with the light company of that regiment.

2. One subaltern, two sergeants and 40 rank and file of the 41st Regiment will immediately march from Chippawa and occupy the quarters lately occupied by the detachment under Ensign Jebault at Miller's. Major-General Shaw will be pleased to give directions that every assistance be afforded from the line towards instructing the different militia detachments in that neighborhood in the military exercises.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,

B. M.

**Colonel Thomas Parker to General Smyth.**

CAMP, October 30th, 1812.

SIR,—You did me the honor last evening to consult me about the propriety of forming a brigade, to be composed of the regular troops expected in camp and some of the volunteers and militia now on the lines.

I have been made acquainted from different sources with the disposition of the troops at Buffalo and Colonel Swift's regiment, and I think there is only one company amongst them that would not corrupt any regular troops that they might be associated with; and even that company would not be willing to be subjected to regular discipline. What may be the disposition of the volunteer Irish Greens I do not know, but upon the whole I should think it best to keep the regular troops entirely distinct from them.

I would beg leave to recommend that the militia and volunteers be formed into a distinct brigade and put under strict drill. If they will not bear this, they had better be at home.

I must beg leave, Sir, to call your attention to the requisition made for flannel, as it will be of infinite service to our men.

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**General Smyth to General Dearborn.**

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, October 30, 1812.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive to-day at 4 o'clock P. M. your letter of the 28th instant.

We may in a few days have together seventy boats that would carry over three thousand five hundred men, but we have no scows. I have set all the carpenters and some citizens to building of scows. We want tools and materials. The Deputy-Quartermaster gives it as his opinion that we can have ten scows in twenty days.

I would cross in three days if I had the means: without them it would be an injustice to the nation and myself to attempt it. I must not be defeated.

The New York Greens and a troop of volunteer cavalry have arrived. The Twenty-third Regiment, the Pennsylvania Volunteers and those from Baltimore have not arrived.

The Deputy-Quartermaster has brought on checks instead of money, and he is unable to make payments. His letter to the Quartermaster General is enclosed, and I request that money may be sent him immediately.

If I can beat the enemy on the plains of Erie and take that place I will find means to get to Fort George, whatever may become of the bridge at Chippawa.

## Colonel Wm. H. Winder to General Smyth.

FORT NIAGARA, Oct. 30th, 1812.

SIR,—Captain Archer of the 2nd Artillery arrived at this post this morning. He has with him about sixty men and two six-pounders. His instructions were to report himself to Lieutenant-Colonel Scott at this place.

Under the circumstances I have deemed it advisable to recommend his waiting your orders here, which he will do. I send this by an express.

In a letter which I addressed you by Mr. Suchet, I suggested the propriety of retaining ten or twelve boats on this end of the line; a knowledge of your wishes on this subject might prevent the labor and trouble of bringing them back from Schlosser.

The movement of troops and boats from this end of the line has occasioned a considerable movement of men from the other side of the river towards Erie. They have been principally, if not altogether, militia. The number estimated by the cavalry stationed between this and Lewiston as passing up are from four to five hundred.

This morning the armed ship *Earl Moira* has arrived, accompanied by a small unarmed schooner, having a number of men on her deck, but how many there are cannot yet be ascertained, as they have not landed.

I shall gather all the men I can and parade them near here to-morrow. My object will be to prevent an accumulation of force against your end of the line by making a display here; should your movements render it necessary I can send them on to that end of the line by a feint.

Should not Captain Archer be necessary to you, he will be of important service here.

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, October 31st, 1812.

The light company of the Newfoundland Regiment, under the command of Captain Whalen, will march to-morrow morning at 4 o'clock for Fort Erie. The men of the Newfoundland Regiment, mentioned in the orders of the 29th October, will march with them. The Deputy-Quartermaster General will be pleased to provide the necessary conveyance for the baggage.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,  
B. M.

**Militia District Orders.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
1st November, 1812.

Major-General Sheaffe has witnessed with the highest satisfaction the manly and cheerful spirit with which the militia on this frontier have borne the privations which peculiar circumstances have imposed on them. He hopes, however, to be soon enabled by the arrival of the liberal supplies ordered from the Lower Province to furnish them with articles which in contributing essentially to their comfort will afford him particular gratification, for he cannot but feel that their conduct entitles them to every attention he can bestow on them. It has furnished the best characteristics of the soldier, manly constancy under fatigue, and determined bravery when opposed to the enemy—by a perseverance in the exercise of those noble qualities they may be assured of accomplishing the glorious task in which they are engaged. The armistice will shortly be terminated and an attack is to be expected immediately after its termination, but Major-General Sheaffe is confident that any attempt to make an impression on a frontier defended by such men cannot succeed—that it will only heap new disgrace and disaster on the enemy and add fresh laurels to those which have been already acquired by the brave militia on this frontier.

Major-General Sheaffe directs that officers commanding corps or detachments shall make a report of those individuals under their command who particularly distinguish themselves by meritorious conduct.

The attention of officers commanding corps and detachments is called to the issue and distribution of provisions, that it may be ascertained whether they are received by those under their command at the proper periods and in the regulated quantities, and if any delay or irregularity should occur in the issue of them it is to be reported through the proper channels for the Major-General's information.

By order,  
THOMAS EVANS,  
B. M.

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**John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.**

BUFFALO, November 2nd, 1812.

There was yesterday a severe cannonade below, probably on Lake Ontario. We have no intelligence, possibly a naval brush on

the lake. Just now Colonel Parker, the most respectable officer in Smyth's brigade, called to see us. He says the *Pennsylvania Militia will not cross over to Canada.*

(From Bonney's *Historical Gleanings*, pp. 276.)

### Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, 3rd November, 1812.

SIR,—I have at least the satisfaction of reporting to Your Excellency the arrival of intelligence from Detroit and likewise from Michilimackinac. His Majesty's schooner *Lady Prevost* arrived some days since, bringing Mr. Robert Dickson and Mr. Crawford. When they left Detroit no other information had been received of the occurrences of the 13th of October than that Major-General Brock had fallen and Queenston was in the possession of the enemy. Colonel Procter, fearing that the communication was cut off, would not send a written communication either by them or by Colonel Caldwell or Lieut. Barnard, who have since arrived by land. The substance of what the last was directed to say to me is contained in a written statement herewith enclosed, to which I have added Mr. Dickson's intelligence.

While engaged in writing this despatch, Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp has arrived by the way of York, and has brought me Your Excellency's despatch of the 21st October. I beg that Your Excellency will accept my very grateful thanks for the way in which you have noticed my humble services. Fortune and the comparative composition of the corps which I commanded were quite adequate to the accomplishment of all that was effected on the 13th of October. I am much mortified to find that I omitted the names of Captain Chisholm, commanding a flank company of militia, and of Lieut. Ball, commanding the militia artillery attached to the post of Queenston. Captain Dennis's report, since transmitted, has partly supplied that omission; he commends highly both these officers, and in justice to them I have issued an order acknowledging my omission and their merit.

I sent to the Military Secretary some documents relative to appointments which appear to me to be beneficial to His Majesty's service; those in the barrack department were authorized by M. General Brock. I transmit also Major Heathcote's report of an attack made on the escort under his command, not being certain that a copy of it has been before sent down.

The enemy appears to be busily employed in preparing for another attack, and I believe has received reinforcements and supplies of various kinds. A number of large boats have been conveyed by land above the Falls and are on the communication between Schlosser and Black Rock, where the greater part of their force seems to be collected. I have strengthened the right of our line, and I intend detaching to it a portion of the Indians, of whom there are about four hundred here, but I shall be cautious of making any further diminution of the number on this flank.

I suspect that after their demonstration on the frontier of the Lower Province a large portion of their troops were withdrawn to act against the Upper Province.

We are yet employed in raising works for the protection of the interior of Fort George. The magazine is considered secure from the effects of hot shot.

The armistice still continues, and I hope will not be terminated before the arrival of the vessels with the supplies for the militia, many of whom are in a very destitute state with respect to clothing, and all in what regards bedding and barrack comforts in general. These wants cause discontent and desertion, but the conduct of a great majority of them is highly honorable to them, and I have not failed to encourage it by noticing it in public orders. Their number in this district has been so much increased since the nomination of a paymaster for it, and his business is so much in arrear, that I have been compelled to appoint two other paymasters for the corps distributed along the frontier.

I wrote to Captain Glegg, who is at York, to acquaint him with Your Excellency's gracious offer to him, which I have no doubt he will be proud to accept.

I hope that a favorable reception has been accorded to my request to have Captain Loring sent to me.

An express has arrived this afternoon from Colonel Procter. I transmit copies of the letters received by it.

*(Canadian Archives, C. 677, p. 166.)*

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### District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, November 3rd, 1812.

Lieutenant Barnard of the 41st Regiment will do duty with the detachment of that regiment stationed at Fort George until further orders.

2nd. Captain Derenzy will be pleased to order a subaltern of



the 41st Regiment to proceed to Chippawa without delay and place himself under the orders of Captain Bullock.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,  
B. M.

**Colonel Wm. H. Winder to General Smyth.**

FORT NIAGARA, November 3, 1812.

SIR,—I avail myself of the opportunity by Lieut. Totten of the Engineers to write you. You will find him a useful and valuable officer in his professional line, and an estimable private man.

I shall send the clothing for the fifth, which is one barrel only, and a quantity of stockings, by Quartermaster Allison. I also enclose to you a return of clothing at this place, made to me by Captain Leonard. This list is exclusive of twenty-three tierces sent on to the Fourteenth, which contains coats, pantaloons, and vests only of winter clothing.

Another vessel arrived at Fort George yesterday evening. It was near dark and no accurate observation could be made from here. Captain Archer was at the Salt battery, directly opposite Fort George, and will be able to inform you more particularly. I have not seen him. It is said that a body of Indians landed from her, say one hundred. Every one of their brethren that we can raise should cross to meet them. I suspect the enemy relies very much upon his savage ally. As many militia riflemen as can in any sort be relied on and can be got to cross would be important. Should your plans permit a notice of twenty-four hours to be given to me before I move from here, I might make some movements to draw them toward this end of the line. By selecting the twilight of morning or evening I might give my force the appearance of a thousand men and make some indications of crossing.

My whole force is applied to the requisite labor of the garrison and batteries. I shall turn to drilling at every possible moment.

**Jesse D. Elliott to General P. B. Porter.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, Nov. 3rd, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—Until this moment I have been much engaged. My vessel, the *Genesee Packet*, re-named the *Conquest*, I have prepared for action. On the 6th instant we are to sail for Kingston against the British fleet, with a force much inferior to the enemy.

The brig *Oneida* of eighteen 24-pounder carronades, my vessel with two guns, one of 32 pounds, one of 24, 60 men; the *Diana*, of 11 guns, one of 24 pounds, 10 carronades 18-pounders; the *Charles and Ann* of 6 guns, one 32, one 24, four 32-pound carronades; four other schooners, mounting each a 32-pound gun, with four sixes. Twenty-four hours will decide the fate of the day. Good-bye, you shall again soon hear from me.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

### District General Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
3rd November, 1812.

D. G. O.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bisshopp, Inspecting Field Officer of Militia, having arrived to exercise the duties of that appointment, agreeably to the General Order of 22d October, is to act for the present in the Niagara District. He will proceed without delay to the inspection of the several corps of militia therein, beginning with those at Queenston and dependencies and proceeding from thence to Fort Erie. He will then return and inspect those at Fort George and dependencies. He will particularly attend in the first instance to their equipment for active service in the field and ascertain their wants in what relates to essential articles of clothing, as well as those which are necessary for their comfort and accommodation in their quarters, the supplies for which, having arrived some time since at Kingston, may be expected with the first fair wind, to enable the Major-General to distribute the quantity that may be required as soon as the reports of deficiencies are received. The commanders of the several corps and detachments of militia will prepare for the information of Lt.-Col. Bisshopp the necessary return of their strength, in which the total number of each is to be accounted for and their arms, accoutrements and ammunition, with the reports of all deficiencies, &c.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bisshopp will please to apprise the commanders at the several posts of the periods at which he will inspect the militia attached to them. The Brigade Major will furnish to Lieutenant-Colonel Bisshopp a return of distribution of the corps of militia in the district.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,  
B. M.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 3d November, 1812.)

On Thursday last His Excellency Governor Tompkins left this village for Albany to meet the Legislature, which convenes this day. While His Excellency was here we understand he had conferences with General Van Rensselaer and General Smyth, but the result of their deliberations has not transpired.

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COURT MARTIAL.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE CENTRE,  
Oct. 27th, 1812.

At a General Court Martial, of which Lieut.-Colonel Coles was president, was tried Cornelius Gorman, a private soldier in the 12th Regiment, for desertion, viz :

Near Baltimore in August or September last: at Sunbury, Pa., in September; at Lewiston in October. He had enlisted twice. He plead not guilty.

The Court, after mature deliberation, found the prisoner, Cornelius Gorman, guilty of the charges and specifications alleged against him, and sentenced him to be shot to death.

The Commanding General has read and considered the proceedings of the Court.

The infamous crime of desertion has become so common that the honor and safety of the nation demand that it should be put a stop to.

The General approves of the proceedings of the Court, and directs that their sentence shall be carried into execution under the superintendence of the officer of the day to-morrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.

At that hour all the troops of this encampment will be under arms except those on particular duty.

By order,

JAS. BANKHEAD,  
Capt. and Brigade Major.

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Three companies of Irish Greens, under Colonel McClure from New York and Albany, and a company of light horse from Columbia, have arrived here since our last.

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(From the New York Evening Post, Wednesday, 11th Nov., 1812.)

MANLIUS, Nov. 3.

The militia corps on the lines have dwindled and are dwindling

to mere skeletons. Some of the companies contain a less number of privates than of officers. The rifle corps from this county is reduced by sickness, prisoners to the British, &c., to less than the complement of a company, and Major Moseley has in consequence returned home.

*(From File in New York Society Library.)*

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**Lieut.-Col. J. W. Livingston to General Smyth.**

BUFFALO, November 4, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to report the result of my inspection, as far as was in my power, of General Miller's brigade of militia and the organization of the same, as contemplated by your order of the 29th ultimo. I regret I am not enabled to make a favorable report, but the state of the brigade is such as to be little better than an undisciplined rabble, and it may be a question whether they are not of more dis-service than of use. The total want of order no doubt proceeds from the ignorance of the officers and the great familiarity which exists between them and their men. That this can be remedied perhaps is impossible while such materials are employed for officers. I have endeavored to select and retain in service the best, and such as I am told will not shrink from duty.

After waiting two days for the different returns, I found it impossible to obtain them, although I applied to the General and his Brigade Major, whose duty, I presume, it was to furnish them. This circumstance prevents my giving a statement of the exact number of men, arms, ammunition, &c. The arms in use are good, although not kept (with a few exceptions) in such order as they ought to be. I am informed there are about seven hundred and fifty men, of which four hundred and twenty were under arms on the day of inspection. On Saturday evening one hundred deserted, and no measures taken to bring them back. A spirit of mutiny seems to pervade the camp.

I shall leave this to-morrow for Geneva, and will take charge of any communication for His Excellency the Governor or any other you may wish to forward.

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

WAR DEPARTMENT, Nov. 4th, 1812.

SIR,—Your letter of October 20th has been received. On the 21st of October Major-General Dearborn reported to this department that he had granted General Van Rensselaer's request to retire from

his command ; that he had directed him to give over his command to you, and that he had written you in “ a particular and explicit manner.” You are too well acquainted with service to require to be informed that all communications respecting your command should be directed to that officer. A copy of your letter has been enclosed to General Dearborn.

Such ordnance as he may assign to Niagara must be sent from Albany. Transportation, whether by boats or waggons, is furnished by the Quartermaster’s Department, and in case of failure or deficiency in rations, purchases should be made according to the provisions of the contract, for which purpose bills may be drawn on this department, properly advised, that the contractor may be made accountable.

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John Lovett to Joseph Alexander.

BUFFALO, 4th Nov., 1812.

I understand that General Smyth is getting together all the boats he can ; that the Pennsylvania Militia are looked for with solicitude ; in short, that movements warrant the expectation that the descent upon Canada will shortly be renewed in this neighborhood. I have before advised you as to an opinion upon that subject. Experiment is the touch-stone of opinion. General Van Rensselaer had his opinion as to the best place for crossing the Niagara. He tested his opinion—the result is known—and General Smyth has certainly the same right to his opinion that General V. R. had to his, and when both are tested the world will be prepared to decide. I have but one hope, one prayer, in either case, which is for the best interest of the service, the highest honor of our arms, and the greatest weal of our country. What our militia will come to I know not. A daring mutiny broke out three days ago in Miller’s brigade ; 100 stacked their arms and marched off, 100 more stacked their arms and stood by them. The General and his principal officers came forward with great efforts, persuaded the enemy to return to their duty on the *promise* of *barracks* and *better quarters* in a few days. This may be relied on, as I have it from the mouth of one of the first officers of the brigade. General Miller is dismissed and has retired. His brigade is now consolidated with Colonel Dobbin’s regiment. The firing mentioned in my last was a *sham battle* of Colonel Winder’s regiment at Fort Niagara.

Should any man say we had not *boats* eno’ the truth is not in

him. The river is not, where the boats crossed, 300 yards wide; a passage might be easily made in five minutes. We had 12 boats which would carry 30 men each, and two which would carry 80 each. If on the Heights of Queenston there had been a sight to gratify curiosity every man of the army might have been over before 11 o'clock. I saw the boats on both sides idle. The *eternal truth* is that the men who had solemnly pledged themselves to go over would not.

(From Bonney's *Historical Gleanings*, pp. 278-9.)

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### District General Order.

November 4th, 1812.

A Royal Salute to be fired at Fort George at 12 o'clock to-morrow in celebration of the splendid and glorious victory achieved by the allied forces of Great Britain, Spain and Portugal, commanded by General Marquis Wellington, over the army under the command of Marshal Marmont. This brilliant victory was gained on the Formes near Salamanca on the 22nd July, by the complete defeat and rout of the French army, with the loss of their artillery and upwards of ten thousand prisoners in a pursuit of three successive days. The loss of the enemy was immense.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,  
B. M.

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### Militia Order.

NIAGARA, Nov. 4th, 1812.

The 2d York Regiment of Militia will move from the church early to-morrow morning and occupy Mr. Howell's house in the town of Niagara.

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### District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 5th November, 1812.

Major-General Sheaffe observes with great regret that the names of Captain Chisholm, commanding the flank company York Militia, and of Lieutenant Ball of the militia artillery, are omitted by His Excellency Sir George Prevost in noticing the action of the 13th October at Queenston, in which those officers distinguished



themselves. In the hurry of writing the first despatch to Sir George Prevost their names may have been omitted, no particular report of the occurrences of the early part of the day being then in Major-General Sheaffe's possession, but such a report accompanied the second despatch, in which full justice was done to the gallantry and good conduct of both those officers.

No. 2. Until further orders the hour of guard mounting will be nine o'clock. The troops are expected to have breakfast previous to going on guard.

No. 3. Returns and descriptions are to be sent in as soon as practicable by the proper officer of all public stores, buildings, &c., in their charge, and the persons employed in each department, stating by what authority: commanding officers of districts and heads of departments are particularly desired to accelerate the execution of this order, and they will please to furnish the Major-General with all such information as they may deem beneficial to His Majesty's service.

THOMAS EVANS,  
B. M.

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#### Militia General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 5th Nov., 1812.

It being indispensably necessary for the defence and security of this frontier that there should be an augmentation of the number of men attached to the artillery, that in case of need there may be sufficient for the service of the batteries and the field train, His Honor the President is pleased to direct that a proportion of one-tenth of the companies of militia of Fort George and second division be attached to Captain Powell's company of Militia Artillery and trained under the direction of Captain Holcroft to the use of garrison and field guns. They are to return their small arms and to be ready at all times to act with them. During their training and whilst they remain liable to serve with the artillery, they are to be free from every other duty, and will receive the extra six pence a day.

Captain Cameron's company having already furnished its quota by volunteers, is to be exempted from the operation of this order.

Captains of companies will, as early as practicable, report the number of their men who volunteer for this service, and if it should

not amount to the number required, the remainder are to be drawn by ballot.

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adjt.-Genl. Militia, U. C.

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**Garrison Orders.**

YORK, 5th Nov., 1812.

The officer in command thinks it necessary to enjoin the utmost vigilance, both by day and by night, on the part of every officer and soldier in the garrison, whether on or off duty. It is expected from the preparations already made, and which will be further completed, that the means we possess will be adequate not only to resist but to defeat any attempt the enemy may make on this post. On the firing of the carronade at the Telegraph the whole garrison will immediately get under arms.

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**General Dearborn to General Smyth.**

HEADQUARTERS, GREENBUSH, November 6, 1900.

SIR,—Your letter of the 30th was duly received. I have sent on an additional supply of cartridges and stockings. I trust the Pennsylvania Militia have joined you. I have sent Colonel Macomb with upwards of four hundred men to co-operate with Commodore Chauncey, who has informed me that he shall be ready on the 15th instant to look for and attack the British force on Lake Ontario, and probably attack Kingston if I should send him a body of troops that he could rely on to aid him. If he should succeed I have requested him to send a part of his force to Niagara as soon as practicable. I hope you will be ready to strike as soon as he will. A movement will probably be made by that time towards Montreal, and at the same time I trust General Harrison will be in operation at Detroit. The campaign may still be closed with success. I shall set off this day for Lake Champlain. If you succeed at Niagara, York and Kingston will demand your early attention. That you may succeed and cover yourself and the troops under your command with glory, is the ardent wish of your friend and humble servant.

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**Major-General Sheaffe to Colonel Talbot.**

FORT GEORGE, 7th Nov., 1812.

(An Extract.)

Your letter from Dover Mills has been received. We have few

if any arms to spare. If any can be mustered they shall be forwarded with ammunition. There being some rifles in store I have authorized Lieut. Brigham to form a company of riflemen.

The *Simcoe* is just arrived with clothing and bedding. The *Moira* approaches with other stores for the militia, &c., &c.

Six companies of the Glengarry levy are expected at Kingston: two come here, one to York; two of the 49th also come here.

The *Simcoe* brings a report of a fleet with several regiments in the river [St. Lawrence.] The Quartermaster General is in the *Moira*. He brings money. C[aptain] Glegg and Mr. Brock are here. They go to York to-day. Brock proceeds by boat to Kingston. Glegg comes back to go by water to join Sir G[eorge] P[revost] as extra [aide-de-camp.] C[aptain] Fulton has been sent home with despatches. I have some intention of going to York. I wait for the coming in of the *Moira*. Major-General Shaw, who acts now only as Adjutant-General, will send you further information.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

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### District General Orders.

FORT GEORGE, Nov. 7th, 1812.

Major-General Shaw's services being essentially necessary as Adjutant-General of the militia he has been pleased to relinquish the command of the First Division. In accepting it as Colonel in the militia his zeal for His Majesty's service was no less manifested than has been his ability to promote it during the period which he held it.

Major O. Ormsby of the 49th Regiment is appointed to command the First Division until further orders.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,  
B. M.

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### District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 8th November, 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, inspecting field officer, will inspect the different corps and detachments of militia stationed at Fort George and dependencies on the parade ground to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Commanding officers of corps and detachments will furnish

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp with the returns of their strength, &c., agreeable to the order of the 3rd November, 1812.

THOMAS EVANS,  
B. M.

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**Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

YORK, 8th November, 1812.

SIR,—I arrived here last night, having come over to execute some Provincial business, and I propose returning to-night to Fort George. I found Doctor Richmond here, and was honored by him with Your Excellency's despatch of the 27th of October. It mortifies me extremely that my conduct in regard to the prisoners and in allowing Brigadier-General Wadsworth to go on his parole with the rest of the militia is not approved by Your Excellency. In adopting it I was encouraged by motives of duty, conceiving that it would be productive of public benefit. A similar consideration influenced me in acceding to the armistice, which I shall terminate as soon as it shall appear to me to cease to operate in our favor to such an extent as to justify it.

The *Maira*, with Colonel Nichol on board, and the *Simcoe*, arrived yesterday at Fort George with stores of various kinds. Every exertion was making for landing them speedily, and I gave directions for the immediate distribution of those articles which the militia particularly require.

The moment that an officer of the artillery arrives at Fort George, Lieutenant King shall be ordered to this post that his services may be devoted to the marine department.

I have directed an enquiry to be made into our naval resources and reports to be made thereon preparatory to such exertions as Your Excellency may think proper to authorize in order to counteract the efforts of the enemy and to preserve the ascendancy of our marine. Captain Earle reports in a letter to Lieut.-Colonel Myers that they are building "a large vessel and several gunboats" at Sackett's Harbor. Elsewhere on this lake as well as Lake Erie similar exertions may be expected on the part of the enemy.

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**General Smyth to General Dearborn.**

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, Nov. 9th, 1812.

SIR,—Colonel McFeely arrived on the 1st instant with about one hundred and eighty men of the 22nd. Captain Archer's company of artillery arrived on the 4th instant, and to-day Colonel

Brown, with one hundred and ninety infantry, and also the light artillery, arrived.

I have sent an officer to meet the Pennsylvanians. He had gone as far as Erie when I last heard of him, without meeting them. They are volunteers to supply that State's quota of militia. Can they be forced to cross the line? I am told they will refuse.

One of the aids of the Governor of New York has been at Schlosser in the capacity of the Deputy-Adjutant General, making a new organization of the militia there. I caused them to encamp by themselves—not a soldier within ten miles of them. One hundred of them deserted the next night after the Governor's aid left them.

What most disturbs me is the ill health of the troops. The measles has affected many, and the want of salt meat, of ovens, and exposure to cold, until lately without winter clothing, has produced dysenteries and other diseases. Our hospitals are filled with sick and wounded, and new cases of disease are occurring daily.

Colonel Winder of the 14th is coming to this place from Niagara. I shall trust the defence of it to two companies of artillery and Lieut.-Colonel McFeely's corps of infantry, which will march to-morrow.

The contractors have failed to supply, and I have ordered purchases of provisions for Fort Niagara.

Between the 20th and the 30th instant I shall be ready to cross the river with about thirteen hundred regular infantry, three hundred artillery, six hundred volunteers and seventy cavalry, (if you will allow me Captain Morgan's troop.) In this estimate is not included the Pennsylvania and New York militia.

Two regiments will proceed on to-morrow to commence building huts. If we cannot stay on the other side, we shall have a shelter ready for the sick and wounded.

P. S.—A district paymaster with money is necessary. The volunteers cannot be retained in service unless paid.

Lieutenant Gansevoort of the artillery, who states he was appointed district paymaster, was ordered to Albany more than three weeks since to procure funds. I have heard that he is sick. Colonel Brown's regiment mutinied at Manlius on account of their pay.

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**In General Smyth's Letter to General Dearborn of November 9th, 1812.**

General Smyth conceives the following facts should be known and considered by the Secretary of War:

1. That the 5th Regiment at Utica, on its march, did mutiny for want of their pay.

2. That the 23rd Regiment at Manlius did mutiny on account of their pay, which is still due.

3. That a company of volunteers at Buffalo did mutiny on account of their pay and clothing.

4. That the captain of another volunteer company, the best in the service, has stated that he believes his men will not cross into Canada without their pay and allowance for clothing.

5. That the Deputy-Quartermaster General states himself to be without money.

6. That there is no distinct paymaster at Niagara supplied with money.

7. That Colonel Winder, commanding at Fort Niagara, reports, "We are literally starving on this end of the line, for bread." In consequence of which the Deputy-Quartermaster has been ordered to purchase provisions.

8. That eighteen hundred Pennsylvania volunteers will arrive next week.

9. That General Smyth will be ready in fifteen days to cross into Canada.

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, November 9th, 1812.

It having been reported that soldiers when on fatigue are in the habit of giving over their allowance of spirits to each other, by which means several of the men had been frequently intoxicated, the Major-General positively forbids a further continuance of this baneful practice, and is pleased to direct that whenever a man refuses his allowance of spirits it might be retained and returned into store for the public service. Officers whose duty it is are held responsible for the faithful observance of this order.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,

B. M.

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**Proclamation.**

By His Honor Roger Hale Sheaffe, Esquire, administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major-General commanding His Majesty's forces within the same, &c., &c., &c.



## A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas divers persons residing within the limits of this Province claim to be exempt from military service on the pretence of being citizens of the United States of America, I have thought proper, by and with the advice of His Majesty's executive council for the affairs of the Province, to direct and require that all such persons residing within the Western, London and Niagara Districts to forthwith report themselves to the board appointed at Niagara to examine into such claims, and that all such persons residing in the Midland, Johnstown and Eastern Districts do report themselves to the board appointed at Kingston, and all such persons residing in the Home and Newcastle Districts do in like manner report themselves to the board appointed at York, for the same purpose, in order that if recognized to be citizens of the United States of America they may be furnished with proper passports to leave the Province. And it is hereby made known that every citizen of the United States of America in this Province who shall not before the first day of January, 1813, have reported himself to one of the said boards shall be taken to be an alien enemy, and shall be liable to be treated as a prisoner of war or as a spy, as circumstances may dictate.

Given under my hand and seal at York this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve, and of His Majesty's reign of the fifty-third.

ROGER HALE SHEAFFE,

President, &c.

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**General Smyth's Speech to the Indians.**

Brothers:—

I thank you for the tender of your services in the *defence* of the United States which you have made, and in their name accept them in case the troops and the Indians of the British King should invade the United States, which I expect they will not dare to attempt.

It is the desire of Your Great Father the President that you should take no part in the war between the United States and Great Britain, but remain at peace and take care of your wives and children.

The British nation is not able to maintain the contest against the United States on this great island without help. They ask the Indians for help, who have given it and will be ruined by doing so.

We are able to beat the British without help, and although we understand that you are willing to help us if we ask it, yet we do

not ask it. The quarrel is ours, not yours, and we will fight our own battles.

Brothers! hold fast the chain of friendship between you and the United States, who are great, powerful, just and good, and will vanquish all their enemies and protect all their friends.

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**J. W. Livingstone to Governor Tompkins.**

GENEVA, November 9th, 1812.

SIR,—I arrived here yesterday and now have the honor to report the result of my inspection of the militia at Schlosser. On the day of your departure from Buffalo I waited on General Smyth and requested his orders on the subject, which he gave me, confining my powers to the organization of General Miller's brigade. He informed me that he considered the volunteers as troops of the United States, and I concluded from this observation that I had nothing to do with their inspection, &c. I proceeded on Friday to Schlosser and presented the order to General Miller, and directed muster rolls to be made out. On Sunday I inspected the brigade. There were 420 under arms, and I was informed the force consisted of about 750. This number being much smaller than I had calculated on, I issued an order to organize them into one regiment of infantry, consisting of ten companies, and one battalion of riflemen of three companies. The infantry I directed to be under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin, and the riflemen under Major Gaylord, the whole force subject to Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin. The remainder of the officers I discharged and transferred their men to Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin's command, directing him to apportion them equally in the different companies. My orders relating thereto being with my baggage which has not arrived, prevents my forwarding them herewith. In this arrangement I have retained such officers in service as I was told will not shrink from danger: the others perhaps are better away as they would only tend to dispirit the men. I find the brigade totally undisciplined and in a state of insubordination. On the evening preceding the day of inspection eighty stacked their arms and deserted. I was informed of it the day following. No measures were taken by the General to bring them back. I advised Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin if such a case occurred again, and they refused to return, to use the powers the law gave and compel them to obey by force. After waiting two days I found it impossible to obtain muster rolls or any other returns, although I called on the General and his Brigade-Major to furnish them. Indeed, the Major of Brigade seemed to know less of his brigade

than any person at the camp. Thus circumstanced, I returned to Buffalo. They promised to forward them, but they have not yet been received. This places it out of my power to give you such a return as ought to be made. I reported accordingly to General Smyth. The arms are in good order, though not kept clean. I directed Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin to have such as were not wanted to be packed and forwarded to Quartermaster-General Porter. I considered they would be better in his hands than scattered about. Many of the men were sick and the list increasing. I attributed this in some measure to the want of salt pork, which the contractor ought to be obliged to furnish. The constant diet of fresh meat, and that fried, which is the usual mode of cooking, cannot but be the means of destroying many valuable men. This branch of supply requires to be remedied and that without delay. At Schlosser they report about seventy sick. General Smyth informed me he had many indisposed in his camp. The season becoming very inclement, the men complain much for the want of barracks. I did not perceive any preparation for such an arrangement. Whether General Smyth intends crossing I know not. He was rather silent on that subject. However, if he thinks it possible to hold possession he will no doubt attempt it. The Pennsylvania Militia have not arrived. I fear they feel but little disposition to join, by being so tardy.

*(Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 250-3. New York State Library.)*

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**From a Memorandum Book of Captain Abraham A. Rapelje,  
Norfolk Militia, in Possession of Captain J. G. Spain.**

Simon Mabee deserted, the first day's march from Dover to Sugar Loaf. James Colton, the second day. Jacob Shoaf left sick at the Grand River, third day's march.

Simon Mabee returned and joined the company at Sugar Loaf, November 4th, 1812.

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Muster roll of the 1st Flank Company, 2nd Regiment, Norfolk Militia :

A. A. Rapelje, Captain.	
Titus Williams, Lieutenant.	
Isaac Gilbert, Ensign.	
Henry Medcalf,	} Sergeants.
Benj. Williams,	
Benj. Haviland,	
1 John Mathews.	
2 Richard Drake.	

- 3 John Butler.
- 4 Silas Messenger.
- 5 Philip Mathews (dead.)
- 6 Reuben Alward.
- 7 David Conrad.
- 8 Jacob Berdan.
- 9 John Wyckoff (dead.)
- 10 Mathias Woodley.
- 11 Alexander Lemon.
- 12 Elijah Williams.
- 13 Pinkney Mabee.
- 14 Leon Chivic.
- 15 Cornelius Sleight.
- 16 James McQueen.
- 17 Abram Messercar.
- 18 Israel R. Disbrow.
- 19 Joseph Robier.
- 20 Dan Millard.
- 21 Evi Adams (certified dead.)
- 22 Job Messercar.
- 23 George Sergeant.
- 24 Samuel Gilmore.
- 25 Albert Berdan.
- 26 James Lemon.
- 27 Charles Harmon.
- 28 John Conrad.
- 29 Christian Dedrick.
- 30 Samuel McLean.
- 31 John Dutcher.
- 32 George Zobiskie.
- 33 Daniel Berdan.
- 34 Richard Marr.
- 35 Michael Cruson.
- 36 John Bonnet (drummer.)
- 37 Simon Mabee.
- 38 Samuel Troup.  
John Winance.

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SUGAR LOAF, NOV. 5TH, 1812.

Daniel and Jacob Berdan deserted and brought back by a sergeant and file of men from Captain McCall's company from the Grand River, and acquitted on trial by making such concessions as satisfied the officers present.

## NOVEMBER 15TH, 1812.

Deserted from the company under my command at Sugar Loaf: Samuel McLean, John Dutcher, Daniel Berdan and Richard Marr.

Silas Messenger, Israel R. Disbrow and Simon Mabee obtained leave to go home on furlough for eight days, commencing on 16th November, 1812.

Dan Millard and Cornelius Slaght have permission to go home on furlough for fourteen days, commencing 19th Nov., 1812.

Samuel Troup joined the company at Sugar Loaf, November 19th, 1812.

John Bonnet obtained leave to go home on furlough for five days, November 18th, 1812.

Morning returns made from the 31st October, 1812, at Sugar Loaf, to headquarters at Fort Erie, up to 3rd Nov., 1812—42 men.

Received November 2nd, 1812, one bbl. flour, the property of Mr. Maclem, Chippawa, at Sugar Loaf Mills.

A. A. RAPELJE, Captain.

3rd—Beef issued, two days rations for 114 men, including Captain Bostwick's and Lieut. Brigham's company.

Received 5th November, one bbl. flour for the use of a detachment of men stationed at Sugar Loaf, the property of Mr. Maclem, now at Chippawa.

A. A. RAPELJE, Captain.

Received 7th November, 1812, one bbl. flour for the use of a detachment of men at Sugar Loaf, the property of Mr. Maclem, Chippawa.

A. A. RAPELJE, Captain.

Morning report made from the 4th November up to the 9th inclusive, to headquarters at Fort Erie, 43 men, including officers.

Morning report made from the 10th November up to the 19th inclusive, 36 men, including officers.

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**General Smyth's Proclamation.**

TO THE MEN OF NEW YORK.

For many years you have seen your country oppressed with numerous wrongs. Your Government, although above all others devoted to peace, have been forced to draw the sword and rely for redress of injuries on the valor of the American people.

That valor has been conspicuous; but the nation has been unfortunate in the choice of some of those who directed it. One army has been disgracefully surrendered and lost. Another has been sacrificed by a precipitate attempt to pass it over at the strong-

est point of the enemy's lines, with most incompetent means. The cause of these miscarriages is apparent. The commanders were popular men, "destitute alike of theory and experience" in the art of war.

In a few days the troops under my command will plant the American standard in Canada. They are men accustomed to obedience, silence and steadiness. They will conquer or they will die.

Will you stand with your arms folded and look on this interesting struggle? Are you not related to the men who fought at Burlington and Saratoga? Has the race degenerated? Or have you, under the baneful influence of contending factions, forgotten your country? Must I turn from you and ask the men of the Six Nations to support the Government of the United States? Shall I imitate the officers of the British King and suffer our ungathered laurels to be tarnished with ruthless deeds? Shame, where is thy blush? No! where I command, the vanquished and the peaceful man, the child, the maid, and the matron shall be secure from wrong. If we conquer, we will "conquer but to save."

Men of New York!

The present is the hour of renown. Have you not a wish for fame? Would you not choose to be one of those who, imitating the heroes whom Montgomery led, have, in spite of the seasons, visited the tomb of the chief and conquered the country where he lies? Yes, you desire your share of fame. Then seize the present moment: if you do not, you will regret it and say: "The valiant have bled in vain, the friends of my country fell and I was not there."

Advance, then, to our aid. I will wait for you a few days. I cannot give you the day of my departure, but come on. Come in companies, half companies, pairs or singly. I will organize you for a short tour. Ride to this place if the distance is far and send back your horses. But remember that every man who accompanies us places himself under my command and shall submit to the salutary restraints of discipline.

ALEX. SMYTH, Brigade-General.

Camp near Buffalo, Nov. 10, 1812.

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**Answer of the Men of New York, Inhabiting the Western District.**

General, we have seen your proclamation. We have seen this country not many years ago the sole habitation of the beasts of the forest and their prowling enemy. We see it the habitation of many thousand souls, rich in all the necessaries and in many of the com-



forts of life. Till the day that the sound of war burst on our ear from the Capitol at Washington we scarcely experienced one moment of anxiety for the safety of our persons and property.

The clamor of avaricious traders and of factious office seekers trouble not our quiet. It reached us but at the period of the elections, and it was then but like a blast of wind on our lakes, variegating but for a moment the placid uniformity of the surface.

Why should our swords be drawn in redress of injuries which we have never felt, or which if they exist are beyond our reach? Why appeal to our valor for the destruction of our own happiness or that of others?

We are the descendants of the men that fought at Bennington and at Saratoga. The labors of the field are proof alike against degeneracy and the rage of contending factions. You, General, have been more exposed to their influence. The men who fought at Bennington and Saratoga fought for the liberties of their country. Foreign mercenaries had set foot upon the soil which their hands had redeemed from the desert and rendered fertile; they had entered the sanctuaries of their wives and children. Our fathers fought and conquered. You, General, who are taking the place of these mercenaries, cannot appeal to us.

The renown which you seek is not our renown. It is the renown of Europe not of America. The wrath of God precedes it, and desolation follows in its footsteps. It delights in blood and in fields strewn with carnage, in the tears of the widow and the complainings of the orphan perishing of want and disease. This is your glory. Ours has upon it the primeval blessing of the Almighty; our victories are victories over the unproductive face of nature; our renown is in fertile fields, in peaceful homes and numerous and happy families.

Go, General, if you will. Should you ever reach the walls of Quebec, the shade of Montgomery will reproach you for not having profited by his example, and when you fall the men of New York will lament that folly has found new victims.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 134.)*

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### **Treaty for Release of Prisoners.**

Treaty for the release of prisoners of war upon their parole and for their eventual exchange, concluded at Whitehall, U. S., 12th November, 1812, between Major-General Dearborn, commander of the forces of the United States in the Northern Department, and Robt. McDouall, Esq., Captain of the 8th or King's Regiment of

Infantry and aide-de-camp to the Governor-in-Chief of the Canadas, duly authorized by His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir Geo. Prevost.

ARTICLE 1ST.

The American prisoners of war at present in Canada, are to be embarked for Boston with as much expedition as circumstances will admit, on their parole not to carry arms or engage in active hostility or perform any military service whatever until regularly exchanged.

None of the troops are to be suffered to remain upon the frontier or with any corps engaged on actual service.

ARTICLE 2ND.

Prisoners of war who may be prevented by sickness from returning to their country, will be sent, when sufficiently recovered, by the post of St. Johns, a receipt for the men by name being given by the officer at the advance post who receives them.

ARTICLE 3RD.

The detachment of Canadian *voyageurs* and all British prisoners of war of whatever description, belonging to the British forces in Canada, are to be immediately sent upon their parole to the nearest advanced post towards St. Johns, apprising the commandant of the circumstances, who will give a receipt for the same.

They will, of course, be subject to the same restrictions as those mentioned in the first article.

ARTICLE 4TH.

Should the fortunes of war hereafter place British prisoners, whether regulars or militia, in the power of the American Government, they are immediately to be sent back to the nearest British post, and an equal number of American prisoners are in consequence to be released and exonerated from their parole. As far as may be practicable, all exchanges to be kept distinct: troops of the line for regulars, embodied militia for the militia taken in arms, and other corps according to their respective engagements and organization.

ARTICLE 5TH.

In the event of the prisoners of war of either country who are on parole being permitted to reside at their respective homes, the utmost precaution to be taken by both Governments in impressing upon their minds the serious consequences which must result to them should they inconsiderately engage in any corps or regiment, or perform any military duty, until it is officially announced to them that they are regularly exchanged and released from their parole, and in order that no mistake may arise involving such seri-

ous consequences, whenever any men are proposed to be exchanged, correct authenticated lists of the individuals are to be interchanged between the two Governments, expressly mentioning the name and corps of each soldier thus rendered eligible again to bear arms in the service of his country.

## ARTICLE 6TH.

Should the British Government have omitted to take lists of the militia released upon their parole at Detroit and Queenston, the American Government is to furnish as correct lists as can be procured in order to simplify and facilitate their exchange when circumstances render it practicable.

## ARTICLE 7TH.

Such British prisoners of war as are or may be taken in Upper Canada are to be sent to the nearest military post in that country instead of St. Johns.

H. DEARBORN,  
Major-General.

RT. MCDOUALL,  
Captain King's Regiment,

A. D. C. to Lieut.-General Sir George Prevost.

Headquarters, Montreal,  
24th Nov., 1812.

Ratified,

GEORGE PREVOST,  
Com. of the Forces.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 690, p. 32.*)

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 5th Nov., 1812.

Lieutenant B. Brewster Brigham of the 1st Oxford Regiment of Militia is authorized to form a company of riflemen.

By order of His Honor Major-General Sheaffe.

N. COFFIN,  
Ens. A. D. C.

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

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 6th Nov., 1812.

SIR,—As I have reason to believe that the *Royal George*, *Prince Regent* and *Duke of Gloucester* have gone up the lake with troops

to reinforce Fort George, and as I have reason to believe that other troops are waiting at Kingston for their return, destined for the same post, I have determined to proceed with the force I have ready in quest of the enemy. My present intention is to take a position on the Canada shore near some small islands called the False Ducks, where the enemy are obliged to pass and where I will wait their return to Kingston. If I should succeed in my enterprise, (which I have little doubt of,) I shall make an attack upon Kingston for the purpose of destroying the guns and public stores at that station.

I shall proceed for my station this evening or to-morrow with the following vessels, to wit: Brig *Oneida* and schooners *Hamilton*, *Governor Tompkins*, *Conquest*, *Growler*, *Julia* and *Pert*, mounting altogether 40 guns of different calibres, and 430 men including marines.

With this force I hope to give a good account of the enemy, although he is more than double our force in guns and men. His consists of the following vessels, as near as I can ascertain, to wit: The ship *Royal George*, 26 guns, 260 men; ship *Earl Moira*, 18 guns, 200 men; schooners *Prince Regent*, 18 guns, 150 men; *Duke of Gloucester*, 14 guns, 80 men, *Toronto*, 14 guns, 80 men; *Governor Simcoe*, 12 guns, 70 men, *Seneca*, 4 guns, 40 men, making a grand total of 108 guns and 890 men.

The officers and men under my command are extremely anxious to meet the enemy. We cannot command success but we will endeavor to deserve it.

(From the *Historical Register of the United States*, Vol. II., pp. 111-2.)

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### Indian Speech at Council of Condolence.

At a general Council of Condolence held at Council House, Fort George, 6th November, 1812, with the Six Nations, Hurons, Chippewas, Potawatomies, &c. Present:—

William Claus, Esquire, Deputy-Supt. General.

Captain Norton,

Captain J. B. Rousseaux.

And several other officers of the Indian Department.

Kodeaneyonte, Little Cayuga, chief speaker.

BROTHER,—The Americans have long threatened to strike us, and in the beginning of the summer they declared war against us and lately they commenced hostilities by invading the country at Queenston. In this contest which, with the help of God, terminated

in our favor, your much lamented commander, General Brock, his aide-de-camp, Colonel Macdonell, and several warriors have fallen.

BROTHER,—We, therefore, now seeing you darkened with grief, your eyes dim with tears and your throat stopped with the force of your affliction, with these strings of wampum we wipe away your tears, that you may view clearly the surrounding objects. We clear the passage in your throats that you may have free utterance for your thoughts, and we wipe clear from blood the place of your abode, that you may sit there in comfort without having renewed the remembrance of your loss by the remaining stains of blood.

Eight strings white wampum.

BROTHER,—That the remains of your late beloved friend and commander, General Brock, shall receive no injury we cover it with this belt of wampum, which we do from the grateful sensations which his friendship towards us continually inspired us with, as also in conformity to the customs of our ancestors, and we therefore now express with the unanimous voice of the chiefs and warriors of our respective bands the great respect in which we hold his memory, and the sorrow and deep regret with which his loss has filled our hearts, although he has taken his departure for a better abode, where his many virtues will be rewarded by the great dispenser of good, who has led us on the road to victory.

A large white belt.

BROTHER,—We now address the successor of our departed friend, to express the confidence we feel, that his heart is warmed with similar sentiments of affection and regard to us. We also assure him of our readiness to support him to the last, and therefore take the liberty to exhort him to speak strong to all his people to co-operate with vigor, and trusting in the powerful arm of God not to doubt of victory. Although our numbers are small, yet counting Him on our side who ever decides on the day of battle, we look for victory whenever we shall come in contact with the enemy.

*(Canadian Archives, C. 256, p. 194.)*

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### Colonel Winder to General Smyth.

FORT NIAGARA, Nov. 7th, 1812.

SIR,—I wrote you yesterday at considerable length by Quartermaster Allison. Major Armistead deems it necessary to go to Black Rock to present you his ideas of this place in a military point of view.

The Major apprehends that there is risk of an enterprise against this place from the other side, and that there is danger of



its succeeding if attempted when the infantry are withdrawn. My opinion, you will recollect, has been that the enemy would not attempt anything against this end of the line. I am still of that opinion. How far he might succeed if he attempted it would depend upon the force he employed and the courage and firmness of the resistance here. My practical knowledge of the defence of fortified places does not enable me to form an opinion upon the subject, which would be entitled to much weight. Major Armistead is informed of my views of this place as detailed in my letter of the 17th October, but his views are derived more probably from his professional knowledge and skill than from general considerations.

My own opinion is that a successful effort on any part of the line will be a protection to this place equal to that of any force which might be thrown in here, because I believe the enemy, so far from thinking of attacking us, are exerting every nerve to evade a blow which they dread from us.

Three vessels are just arriving: one was here before. It is not yet perceived that they bring any force.

We are literally starving on this end of the line for bread, and unless the supply is more abundant, the contractors will be answerable for consequences more fatal to their country than treason.

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S. P. Jarvis' Collection, Toronto Public Library.

BROWN'S POINT, 8th November, 1812.

MY DEAR PARENTS,—It is some time since I have had the pleasure of hearing from you, altho' the vessels have repeatedly been at York. You complain much of my not being punctual, but I think that there is as little regard to punctuality on your side as mine. Several vessels have escaped without my writing, but the distance I am stationed from Niagara, and their short delay in general at that place, is an apology. Yesterday a boat loaded with salt (and a medicine chest) drifted to our side. It appears that the men on board were not acquainted with the channel—left the boat in possession of one man to enquire or search for it—who, in the meantime got intoxicated, and allowed the boat to drift over; it contained 50 barrels. The Americans have built a great number of boats of different kinds. It is greatly apprehended that their intention is to cut out the *Queen Charlotte*, in which they will probably succeed. They have taken up the guns out of the water which were on board the *Adams* or *Detroit* and mounted them. They have altogether nine pieces of cannon mounted opposite Fort Erie



or at Black Rock. They seem determined to have command of the lakes. The keel of a 36-gun ship is laid at Sackett's Harbor, and they are working very rapidly to have her ready by the spring.

John Robinson and Mr. Jarvis have arrived from Kingston. We are not likely to have any troops from Quebec this season, and an attack at Kingston is expected. It is said that the armistice will soon be at an end.

I am afraid that I shall not be able now to get my letter on board; she is out in the stream with her sails unfurled, visible from here.

Tell Archy his calf skin is made up. I hope he is getting better. All well here.

Yours truly,

SAMUEL JARVIS.

**Lieut.-Colonel Cecil Bisshopp to Colonel Wm. Claus.**

NIAGARA, Nov. 10th, 1812.

SIR,—Supplies of clothing for the militia having arrived, you will order the quartermasters of the detachments under your command to attend on Thursday, the 12th instant, to receive such portion of such articles as may be necessary to complete the equipment of your flank companies, after which clothing, as far as it can be done, will be issued to the remainder of your corps. The quartermaster will have prepared separate rations for the flank companies.

**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, CHAMPLAIN,  
Nov. 10th, 1812.

The indisposition of Brigadier-General Bloomfield renders it expedient for Major-General Dearborn to take the immediate command of the troops on Lake Champlain and its vicinity, and the General embraces the earliest opportunity to express his confidence in the troops composing the Army of the North. Their bravery and patriotism will supply any deficiency in military discipline and tactics, which time and experience will render perfect. In any movement towards the enemy the most rigid attention to orders will be required, as well as a fixed determination in every individual of the army not to retreat or give ground before the enemy. Should any one be so lost to a sense of honor and military duty and the pride of the American character as to be guilty of flight or dis-

orderly conduct in time of action, he must expect no relaxation in the law martial. Every species of plunder or abuse of the inhabitants within the territory of the United States or Canada is forbidden on pain of death.

By order,

THOS. BIDDLE, Capt. 2nd U. S. Artillery,  
Acting Adjutant-General.

(From *The War, New York, 5th December, 1812. File in Library of Buffalo Historical Society.*)

### Militia General Order.

FORT GEORGE, November 11th, 1812.

A return is to be sent in to Lieut.-Colonel Bissshop as soon as possible of the names of such men in the 4th Division as are willing to be employed as wood-cutters.

They are to be exempted from all other duty, but are to sleep in their quarters every night.

The Adjutant of the 1st Regiment to attend every day at one o'clock P. M. at the Government House, to receive orders, and he will give them out to the other regiments at such hours as Colonel Claus shall appoint. A requisition to be made by each regiment of the 4th Division of the proportion of planks, boards and nails required to make tables and forms for the barrack rooms.

By order,

LIEUT.-COLONEL BISSHOPP,  
J. BARNARD,  
Lieut. 41st Regiment.

(From the *Buffalo Gazette*, Tuesday Nov. 11, [sic] 1812.)

### MEADVILLE TROOPS.

The following is a list of the field officers elected by the detachment of Pennsylvania Volunteers soon expected at Buffalo:

Brigadier General—Adamson Tannehill.

1st Regiment of Infantry—Colonel, Jeremiah Snyder; 1st Major, James Warner; 2nd Major, John Scott.

2nd Regiment of Infantry—Colonel, John Purviance; 1st Major, James Harriott; 2nd Major, Edward Wright.

1st Regiment of Riflemen—Colonel, Jared Erwin; 1st Major, James McAfee; 2nd Major, James McDowell.

2nd Regiment of Riflemen—Colonel, Wm. Piper; 1st Major, Henry Beaver; 2nd Major, John McGerry.

## FIFTY BARRELS OF SALT GONE OVER TO THE BRITISH.

A few nights since a boat load of salt came up Niagara River, passed Black Rock and run aground off Buffalo Creek, and after a family had been landed from the boat, the owner left a man on board to take care of the boat. But no sooner had the owner got handsomely into this village when the man in the boat hoisted sail and made for Fort Erie, at which place he arrived in safety.

Flags have been sent over to demand a restoration of the salt, but we understand the crafty Canadians preferred keeping it, as salt is worth to them 25 dollars per barrel.

## MEADVILLE TROOPS.

Governor Snyder's 2000 troops from Pennsylvania, by order of the Adjutant-General of that State, were to rendezvous at Meadville on the 25th September last, elect their officers and proceed without delay to this place. It is now the 11th of November and they have not yet arrived, the distance being 130 miles. The last accounts received are, that part of them were at Erie and the remainder had not come on to that place. An express, we understand, has been sent on to the commander in order to expedite their movements, which in this part of the country are considered very tardy. Sixty baggage waggons are said to accompany them.

Since our last, several fine pieces of heavy artillery and a detachment of 100 flying artillery have arrived on the lines.

In the hospital in this village, since the 28th October, about 20 soldiers have died, belonging to the army of General Smyth. There are not far from 100 sick, but few of them, however, are considered dangerous.

## Colonel John Vincent to Major-General Sheaffe.

KINGSTON, 11th November, 1812.

SIR,—I sent off an express yesterday to the commanding officer at York, that some very suspicious vessels had appeared and were making for the Bay of Quinte. I had reason to suppose that a landing was attempted. I since find that it was the American brig the *Oneida* and six small vessels, with one or two heavy guns each, 24 and 32 pounders. From their actions I must suppose their visit was only intended to cut out the *Royal George*. The Commodore did not consider his force sufficient as a match for the fleet against him, and placed his vessel between our batteries. At 2 o'clock yesterday they passed this post, exchanging shots with our batteries and several broadsides with the *Royal George* until it was dark.

They returned for the night to the 4 Mile Point, and there anchored. This morning they left us, we suppose to return into port.

It is to be lamented that the guns we have here are only 9-pounders, and the enemy kept at too great a distance, still a few shot struck them, and notwithstanding the whole of their fire was directed at the *Royal George*, she suffered but little—one man killed, a 32-pounder shot lodged in her bottom and her rigging much cut.

On this late business I had no arms to give out of store if an enemy had landed: 230 men came in as volunteers to join the militia.

The *Simcoe* is reported to have just come in. She met the American fleet, which chased her for some time, and got in safe. I suspect this fleet will return to Sackett's Harbor without having anything to boast of.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 677.*)

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**From the New York Statesman, 4th December, 1812.**

BUFFALO, November 12, 1812.

*To the Men of Ontario and Genesee :*

FELLOW CITIZENS,—I transmit to you the eloquent appeal of General Smyth, an able and experienced officer, to the patriotism of the State of New York. It speaks to the heart of every man who is not lost to the honor and interest of his country.

He has at this place a powerful army under strict discipline, in high spirits and eager for the contest. With this army he can and will, in the course of a few days, occupy all the British fortresses on the Niagara river, the possession of which will give him the command of the Upper Province. Humanity, however, suggests that this conquest should be achieved with the least possible sacrifice. It is for the purpose of obtaining a force that will overawe opposition and save the effusion of blood that he now asks your aid and co-operation.

The crisis is an all-important one to us and demands our best exertions. I shall accompany General Smyth to Canada, and will you not join your fortunes to mine and follow him? Come on, then, and bring with you all the volunteers you can collect. Let them provide themselves with warm clothing and blankets, and they shall be supplied with arms and ammunition on their arrival at this place.

A vigorous campaign of one month will relieve your brethren on this frontier from the sufferings which always fall so heavily on

those who have the misfortune to be placed on the seat of war. It is to palsy the savage hand that is now wielding the scalping knife, restore peace to the whole of this section of the country, and redeem the tarnished reputation of the nation. Can the independent and high-minded yeomanry of Genesee and Ontario remain idle spectators of events so interesting to our beloved country ?

Yours very respectfully,

PETER B. PORTER.

(From file in the New York Society Library.)

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**Distribution of Troops in Upper Canada, Nov. 12th, 1812.**

. . . . .

YORK.

*Total.*

Royal Artillery, 2 gunners.....	2
41st Regiment, 3 officers, 2 sergeants, 28 rank and file.....	33
49th Regiment, 1 sergeant, 21 rank and file.....	22
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 2 officers, 1 private.....	3
Canadian Fencibles, 1 officer, 1 private.....	2
	<hr/>
	62

FORT GEORGE.

Royal Artillery, 1 officer, 1 trumpeter, 31 gunners.....	33
Royal Engineers, 1 officer.....	1
41st Regiment, 11 officers, 28 sergeants, 15 drummers, 337 rank and file.....	391
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 4 officers, 5 sergeants, 2 drummers, 107 rank and file.....	118
Glengarry Light Infantry, 1 officer.....	1
	<hr/>
	544

CHIPPAWA.

Royal Artillery, 6 gunners.....	6
41st Regiment, 8 officers, 8 sergeants, 3 drummers, 252 rank and file.....	271
	<hr/>
	277

## LANDING (QUEENSTON.)

Royal Artillery, 7 gunners.....	7
41st Regiment, 1 officer, 9 rank and file.....	10
49th Regiment, 5 officers, 7 sergeants, 3 drummers, 160 rank and file.....	175
	<hr/>
	192
	<hr/>

## FORT ERIE.

Royal Artillery, 6 gunners.....	6
41st Regiment, 4 rank and file.....	4
49th Regiment, 7 officers, 10 sergeants, 5 drummers, 230 rank and file.....	252
	<hr/>
	262
	<hr/>
Aggregate.....	1,275

## ON ROUTE TO UPPER CANADA.

Royal Artillery, 1 officer, 13 rank and file.....	14
Royal Engineers, 1 officer.....	1
49th Regiment, 8 officers, 15 rank and file.....	23
	<hr/>
	38

(*Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, 1812-13.*)

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 12th November, 1812.

Until further orders the daily morning parade states are to be discontinued, and states of the several divisions will be forwarded from the different posts every Monday and Thursday morning, those of the line addressed to the brigade-major and those of the militia to the office of Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, inspecting field officer, established at Government House. Pointed attention on the part of commanding officers is required to the accuracy of those returns, and it is to be understood that whenever anything occurs between the periods for sending in the states a particular report is to be made of it.

No. 2. Reports not having been received for the last two mornings from the main guard, Lieut.-Colonel Myers cautions officers commanding guards against similar neglect, as, should it be reported, he will notice it in a very serious manner.



It being found necessary for the supplies of the essential articles of forage, fuel and straw to employ some of the troops to thresh grain and to cut wood, the number that may be required for those purposes by the commissariat is to be furnished by the several corps. The Deputy-Commissary General or person authorized by him will apply to Lieut.-Colonel Myers, Deputy-Quartermaster General, or in his absence to the Brigade-Major for the number of men wanted for such service, stating where they are to be employed. The rates of payment to be allowed will be hereafter notified.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,  
B. M.

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 13th November, 1812.

Sergeant Thomas Cummings, 41st Regiment, is appointed to act until further orders as Garrison Sergeant and will receive an allowance of 1s. per diem army pay, commencing on the 25th Oct., 1812.

No. 2. The following corps will send in to the Brigade-Major's office without delay nominal lists of killed, wounded and missing in the action at Queenston on the 13th ultimo :

Niagara Dragoons,	1st Lincoln Militia,
Royal Artillery,	2nd Lincoln flank companies,
Lincoln Artillery,	3rd Lincoln Militia,
41st Regiment,	3rd Lincoln flank companies,
49th Regiment.	2nd York flank companies,
	3rd York flank companies.

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**District Militia General Order.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 13th November, 1812.

His Honor the President having observed on an inspection of the returns of several corps on this frontier that there are many absentees therefrom, and being willing in the commencement of the command that has devolved on him to give a proof of lenity and forbearance, he is pleased to direct that no proceedings shall be had against those now absent without leave who shall without delay voluntarily repair to their posts. Commanding officers of companies and of regiments are to take the necessary steps for causing

to be apprehended and sent back to their companies all those who shall persist in absenting themselves without leave.

By command,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjt.-General Militia.

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

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th Nov., 1812.

SIR,—I arrived here last evening in a gale of wind, the pilots having refused to keep the lake. On the 8th I fell in with the *Royal George* and chased her into the Bay of Quinte, where I lost sight of her in the night. In the morning of the 9th we again got sight of her lying in Kingston channel. We gave chase, and followed her into the harbor of Kingston, where we engaged her and the batteries for one hour and forty-five minutes. I had made up my mind to board her, but she was so well protected by the batteries and the wind blowing directly in, it was deemed imprudent to make the attempt at this time: the pilots also refused to take charge of the vessels.

Under these circumstances, and it being after sundown, I determined to haul off and renew the attack next morning. We beat up in good order under a heavy fire from the *Royal George* and batteries to Four Mile Point, where we anchored. It blew heavy in squalls from the westward during the night, and there was every appearance of a gale of wind. The pilot became alarmed, and I thought it most prudent to get into a place of more safety. I therefore (very reluctantly) deferred renewing the attack upon the ships and forts until a more favorable opportunity.

At 7 a. m. on the 10th I made a signal to weigh, and beat out of a very narrow channel, under a very heavy press of sail, to the open lake. At 10 we fell in with the *Governor Simcoe*, running for Kingston, and chased her into the harbor. She escaped by running over a reef of rocks under a heavy fire from the *Governor Tompkins*, the *Hamilton* and the *Julia*, which cut her up very much. All her people ran below while under the fire of these vessels. The *Hamilton* chased her into nine feet of water before she hauled off. We tacked to the southward with the intention of running to our station at the Ducks, but it coming on to blow very heavy the pilots told me that it would be unsafe to keep the lake. I bore up for this place, where I arrived last night.

In our passage through the Bay of Quinte I discovered a schooner at the village of Ernestown, which we took possession of,

but finding that she would detain us, (being then in chase of the *Royal George*,) I ordered Lieutenant Macpherson to take out her sails and rigging and burn her, which he did. We also took the schooner *Mary Hatt* from Niagara at the mouth of Kingston harbor, and took her with us to our anchorage. The next morning, finding that she could not beat through the channel with us, I ordered the sailing-master in the *Growler* to take her under convoy and run down past Kingston, anchor on the east end of Long Island and wait for a wind to come up on the east side. I was also in hopes the *Royal George* might be induced to follow for the purpose of retaking our prize, but her commander was too well aware of the consequences to leave his moorings.

We lost in this affair one man killed and three slightly wounded, with a few shot through our sails. The other vessels lost no men and received but little injury in their hulls and sails, with the exception of the *Pert*, whose gun bursted in the early part of the action and wounded her commander, (Sailing-Master Arundel,) badly, and a midshipman and three men slightly. Mr. Arundel, who refused to quit the deck although wounded, was knocked overboard in beating up to our anchorage and, I am sorry to say, was drowned.

The *Royal George* must have received very considerable injury in her hull and in men, as the gun vessels with a long 32-pounder were seen to strike her almost every shot, and it was observed that she was reinforced with men four different times during the action.

I have great pleasure in saying that the officers and men on board of every vessel behaved with the utmost coolness and are extremely anxious to meet the enemy on the open lake, and as long as I have the honor to command such officers and such men I can have no doubt of the result.

I think I can say with great propriety that we have now command of the lake, and that we can transport troops and stores to any part of it without any risk of an attack from the enemy; although the whole of his naval force was not collected at Kingston yet the force at the different batteries would more than counterbalance the vessels that were absent. It was thought by all the officers in the squadron that the enemy had more than 30 guns mounted at Kingston and from 1,000 to 1,500 men. The *Royal George*, protected by this force, was driven into the river harbor under the protection of the musketry by the *Oneida* and four small schooners fitted out as gun boats, the *Governor Tompkins* not having been able to join in the action until about sunset owing to the lightness of the winds, and the *Pert's* gun having burst the second or third shot.

We are replacing all deficiencies and I shall proceed up the lake the first wind in the hopes to fall in with the *Earl Moira* and the *Prince Regent*; at any rate I shall endeavor to prevent them from forming a junction with the *Royal George* again this winter. I shall also visit Niagara river if practicable, in order to land some guns and stores that I have taken on board for that purpose. If the enemy are still in possession of Queenston, I shall land them a few miles below. I shall have the honor of writing you more in detail upon this subject on my return, or perhaps before I leave here if the wind continue ahead.

(From the *Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 113-5.*)

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**S. T. Anderson to the Secretary of the Navy.**

SACKETT'S HARBOR, 13th Nov., 1812, at night.

SIR,—Since the enclosed letter from the Commodore was written the *Growler* has returned with a prize, and in her Capt. Brock, brother to the late General of that name, with the baggage of the latter. By the prize we learned that the *Earl of Moira* was off the False Ducks, and the Commodore has put off in a snow storm in the hope of cutting her off from Kingston.

From information received from Captain Brock there is no question but Kingston is very strongly defended. He expressed surprise to find our vessels had got out of the harbor after having been in it, and says that the regiment to which he belongs is quartered there 500 strong, besides other regulars and a well appointed militia. The resistance made fully justifies this report. Be assured, Sir, that in the action of which the Commodore has given you an account the national honor has been most ably supported.

(From the *Historical Register of the United States, Vol. II., p. 113.*)

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**Militia General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 13th Nov., 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp's office, established at the Government House, will be open from 10 o'clock in the morning till two in the afternoon. All applications to Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, Inspecting Field Officer, or Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Quartermaster General, to be made between those hours except on urgent occasions.

A return is to be given into Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp's office of such men belonging to the different divisions willing to be employed as tailors in making clothing for the militia.

**Statement of Alexander Galloway.**

FORT GEORGE, 14th November, 1812.

Alexander Galloway, born at Newburg in York State, but a resident for near 20 years in this Province, having taken the oath of allegiance, states that at the request of his father he quitted this on the 4th of last May to visit him and that on his return he was refused permission by Generals Hall and Wadsworth to cross over. He consequently boarded from the last of July at a house about a mile and-a-half from Lewiston, until the 13th inst., when he made his escape to Queenston in a skiff. He reports that from his stationary manner of living he had no opportunities of acquainting himself with the enemy's intentions. Reports were very contradictory respecting his strength, some making it 2,000, others 10,000 men, but he believes their principal force to be about Buffalo. Their militia had generally quitted the lines. He thinks it probable an attack will be made this fall, but General Smyth keeps everything secret. He says that the *Oneida* and a new 22-gun ship with 32-pounders, the *Charles and Ann*, the *Ontario*, with six other vessels all armed, having 2,300 men on board, were expected from Sackett's Harbor the first fair wind. He heard it said that should no attack take place this fall the troops would return and winter in the Genesee country. The troops are sickly and great numbers of the wounded have died. Neither newspapers nor anything else now comes as usual, and the officers keep everything to themselves.

Taken by me,

THOMAS EVANS,

B. M.

*(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)***Militia General Orders.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

FORT GEORGE, 14th Nov., 1812.

The articles of clothing provided for the use of the militia, and of which a part has recently arrived, were directed in the instructions given to Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Quartermaster-General, who was employed to procure them, to be delivered out and to be charged to the militia men at the original price paid for them, but His Honor Major-General Sheaffe, taking into consideration the extraordinary wear to which the clothing properly belonging to the flank companies has been exposed, and that by their meritorious conduct they have given themselves a particular claim on the approbation and liberality not only of this Government but of the British Empire at



large, he is pleased to direct that to each man of the flank companies now present with them, or being absent who shall voluntarily and without delay return thereto, shall be issued the following articles free of expense, viz.:

One pair of grey cloth trowsers, one pair of shoes or two pairs shoepacks, and to those for whom there may not eventually be found a sufficient quantity of cloth to furnish a jacket or waistcoat some other article or articles shall be substituted without cost.

The watch coats as they are made are to be distributed among the companies generally, according to their strength. The articles to be paid for, such as flannel shirts, stockings, &c., are to be charged for at their original cost, the rate of which shall be furnished the several corps by Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Quartermaster-General, to whom returns are to be sent without delay of the number present with each flank company, and statements from all the militia corps of the number wanted for the men, to be charged to them at prime cost.

The militia on this frontier are immediately to be completed with a blanket to each man, to which it is proposed to add a proportion of barrack bedding.

Neither blankets nor great coats are to be considered as the property of the man to whom they may be issued. They are public property and intended for general use, and no man is to carry from his company either of those articles unless he be employed on duty and be authorized to take them.

By order of His Honor,  
 MAJOR-GENERAL SHEAFFE.  
 ÆNEAS SHAW,  
 Adjutant-General Militia.

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### Militia General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 14th Nov., 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp will inspect the militia forces of the different divisions on the following days :

3rd Division—Monday, 16th instant.

2nd Division—Tuesday, 17th instant.

1st Division—Wednesday, 18th instant.

4th Division—Friday, 20th instant, at 3 p. m.

All reports, letters, &c., during Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp's absence are to be left at his office.



**J. W. Livingstone to Governor Tompkins.**

GENEVA, November 14th, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—I herewith forward the orders relating to General Miller's brigade. I have not yet received the returns and I doubt much whether any will be furnished. Things remain *in statu quo* at Buffalo, excepting the issuing of a proclamation by General Smyth, addressed to "the men of New York." I have not a copy or I should send it. I merely had the perusal for a moment. I hope the General will fight better than he writes, for it is the most miserable (in my humble opinion) piece of composition I ever read. However, he promises to cross and conquer or die. This is a good resolution, if well kept. Not knowing how long it may be your pleasure to detain me here, I have taken the liberty to draw on you for \$100 in favor of Messrs. Th. Lathrop & Co., as I find the extravagance of the charges at Buffalo, &c., exceed my calculation.

(*Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 258-9. New York State Library.*)

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**From the New York Statesman, 23rd November, 1812.**

LETTER FROM AN AMERICAN OFFICER UNDER COMMODORE CHAUNCEY.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, Nov. 15, 1812.

On Monday about 1 o'clock we discovered the *Royal George*, and signal was made for a general chase, but alternate squalls and calms continuing we were led in hot pursuit into the very harbor of the enemy, Kingston. We followed boldly, even to the spot where he anchored under protection of the land batteries, being determined to board him, but we were prevented by the tremendous showers of shot and grape which ploughed the water everywhere around us. However, seeing our intention, the *Royal George* thought it prudent to slip or cut her cables and run further in. We beat out against a strong head wind under the fire of about 40 guns from their batteries, besides 26 of the ship *George*, and wonderful to relate, we had only one man killed and two wounded.

I took notes during the action which I subjoin: 50 minutes after 1, set top-gallant sails; five minutes after 3, the batteries on India and Navy Points opened their fire on the leading vessel. Lieutenant Elliott of the *Conquest* pushed forward and went in in the handsomest style. He was followed by the *Julia*, *Trant*, *Pert*, *Arundel*, and *Growler*, *Nix*. Next came the brig bearing the Commodore's broad pennant, then the *Hamilton*, Lieut. Macpherson, and *Governor Tompkins*, Lieutenant Brown, who was far astern, having been despatched in the early part of the day on particular business.

Twelve minutes after 3 Lieutenant Elliott opened his fire; fifteen minutes after 3 *Pert*, *Growler* and *Julia* commenced theirs; twenty minutes after 3 the batteries opened on the brig and she sustained the principal part of the fire during the remainder of the day; twenty-two minutes after 3 signal, "engage closer," thrown out and answered by all; twenty-five minutes after 3 the *Pert's* gun burst, Arundel badly wounded, who was afterwards knocked overboard by the boom and drowned; thirty minutes after 3, Garnet killed on board the brig; forty minutes after 3 the brig opened her fire on the ship and the ship on the *Hamilton*; the fire continued with the most astonishing alacrity.

At 4 o'clock the ship *George* cut her cables and ran away farther up the bay. The squadron is now exposed to the cross fire of five batteries, of flying artillery, of the ship with springs on her cable so as to enable her to bring her guns to bear. The *Governor Tompkins* bears up into the bay and opens her fire, and the firing becomes general and very warm: showers of round and grape fell around us. Half-past 4, hauled by the wind, and began to beat out of the bay, as night was closing in and the prospect blowing weather, anchored two miles out in full sight. Heavy gales all night: continued in sight next day. The *Royal George* was too prudent to venture out.

(From File in New York Society Library.)

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### General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
MONTREAL, 15th Novr., 1812.

G. O.

The Commander of the Forces has been pleased to approve of the following appointments in the Indian Department in Upper Canada, at the rate of pay opposite their respective names from the 25th of October inclusive:

J. B. Rousseau, President and Captain, at 10/6 per day.

Benjamin Fairchild, Lieutenant and Interpreter, at 7/6 per day.

Peter Fairchild, Assistant Storekeeper, at 2/6 per day.

William J. Chew, Lieutenant, at 5/ per day.

George Martin, Assistant Storekeeper, at 5/ per day, and James Cooper to succeed Barnabas Kain as Indian Blacksmith, who from his long service and great age is permitted to retire upon a pension of 2/6 per day.

His Excellency has also been pleased to approve of the appointment of William Ross, gentleman, to be a commissary clerk at 7/6

sterling per day, vice J. C. Green, promoted, to take place from the second inst.

The Commander of the Forces has received from Major-General Sheaffe, but too late to notice in general order of the 21st October, an official report of the zeal and active assistance rendered in the action of the 13th of October at Queenston by Captain Swayze of the artillery drivers and by the companies of Captains Chisholm and Applegarth, who joined with the other companies of militia already noticed in gallantly supporting the flank companies of the 49th Regiment.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
A. G. N. A.

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**Militia Order.**

NIAGARA, Nov. 16, 1812.

One captain, two subalterns, and 40 rank and file of the flank companies of the 1st Lincoln Militia to parade to-morrow at one o'clock to attend the funeral of the late Lieut.-Col. B. Rousseau of the 2d York Regt. of Militia. The above party will be paraded with three rounds each of blank cartridge. All officers and men belonging to the militia off duty are requested to attend the funeral at 2 o'clock from the Indian buildings. For the above duty, Capt. J. Crooks, Lieut. Powers, Lieut. Wm. Servos.

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**General Smyth to the Soldiers of the Army of the Centre.**

COMPANIONS IN ARMS.

The time is at hand when you will cross the streams of Niagara to conquer Canada and to secure the peace of the American frontier.

You will enter a country that is to be one of the United States. You will arrive among a people who are to become your fellow-citizens. It is not against them that we come to make war. It is against that Government which holds them as vassals.

You will make this war as little as possible distressful to the Canadian people. If they are peaceable, they are to be secure in their persons and in their property so far as our imperious necessities will allow. Private plundering is absolutely forbidden. Any soldier who quits his ranks to plunder on the field of battle will be punished in the most exemplary manner.

But your just rights as soldiers will be maintained ; whatever is booty by the usage of war you shall have. All horses belonging to the artillery and cavalry, all waggons and teams in the public service will be sold for the benefit of the captors. Public stores will be secured for the service of the U. States. The Government will, with justice, pay you the value.

The horses drawing the light artillery of the enemy are wanted for the service of the U. States. I will order two hundred dollars for each to be paid to the party who may take them.

I will also order forty dollars to be paid for the arms and spoils of each savage warrior who shall be killed.

Soldiers, you are amply provided for war. You are superior in number to the enemy. Your personal strength and activity are greater. Your weapons are longer. The regular soldiers of the enemy are generally old men, whose best years have been spent in the sickly climate of the West Indies.

They will not be able to stand before you when you charge with the bayonet.

You have seen Indians such as those hired by the British to murder women and children and kill and scalp the wounded. You have seen their dances and grimaces and heard their yells. Can you fear them ? No ; you hold them in the utmost contempt.

Volunteers : Disloyal and traitorous men have endeavored to dissuade you from your duty. Sometimes they say if you enter Canada you will be held to service for five years. At others they say that if you are wounded the Government will not provide for you by pensions. The just and generous course pursued by the Government towards the volunteers who fought at Tippecanoe furnishes an answer to the last objection. The others are too absurd to require any.

Volunteers : I esteem your generous and patriotic motives. You have made sacrifices on the altar of your country. You will not suffer the enemies of your fame to mislead you from the path of duty and honor and deprive you of the esteem of a grateful country. You will shun the *eternal infamy* that awaits the man who, having come within the sight of the enemy, *basely* shrinks in the moment of trial.

Soldiers of the corps : It is in your power to retrieve the honor of your country and to cover yourselves with glory. Every man who performs a gallant action shall have his name made known to the nation. Rewards and honors await the brave. Infamy and contempt are reserved for cowards. Companions in arms !

you come to vanquish a valiant foe. I know the choice you will make. Come on my heroes! And when you attack the enemy's batteries let your rallying word be: "The cannon lost at Detroit or Death."

ALEXANDER SMYTH,  
Brigadier-General Commanding.

Camp near Buffalo, 17th Nov., 1812.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 139.*)

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 17th November, 1812.)

#### AFFAIRS ON OUR FRONTIERS.

From General Harrison we have nothing since our last. He is very probably at this time at the Miami Rapids with an army of at least 8,000 men under his command, mostly volunteers, and many of them experienced riflemen. *We calculate* that he will be at Detroit before the 25th of this month, and then he will put the *opposition* down. The serene Governor Procter, like his predecessor Hull, will be compelled to resign his commission and his Secretary, *Woodward*, (Chief Justice of Michigan under James Madison and Secretary of Michigan under King George,) will go *the Lord knows where*, perhaps into exile in the vicinity of the Lake of the Woods, there to spend the remnant of his days in penning "*Considerations on the Executive Government of the United States.*" *We calculate* that, considering the navigation of Lake Erie being nearly at a close, and all the British shipping being at the upper end of the lake, the British will not be able to reinforce Malden this fall, and of course when the brave Harrison disperses the hordes of savages in the vicinity of that place and closely invests the fort, Malden must *capitulate*. From Malden down to Fort Erie our army will find no other enemy than the wilderness well stocked with snow.

Respecting the force on the Canadian side of the Niagara, various conjectures and opinions are afloat. At the battle of Queenston it is believed that the British had nearly 1,500 men engaged, of whom 100 were killed or badly wounded; at Fort Erie and in the batteries below there could not have been more than 100 or 200; at other points on the river there could not have been more than 100; at Newark and Fort George probably not more than 3 or 400. Therefore, the British forces at that time, regulars and militia, (exclusive of 100 or 200 Indians,) will fall short of 2,000. Since that time their reinforcements from head of the Lake Ontario, York, Kingston and other places on the lake cannot exceed 500



men. It has been here reported and believed that a General De Ruytenburg from Montreal has arrived at Fort George with 2,000 men. How far that may be true we don't pretend to determine. The only account we have of troops passing up the St. Lawrence is mentioned in the Ogdensburg *Palladium*, which states that on the 21st of October 53 British boats, laden with arms, ammunition and clothing, having on board 150 or 200 Indians, and guarded by a considerable body of regulars and militia, passed that village on their way to the lake. Now from these estimates, which must be considered very imperfect, it will not appear that the enemy's force on the Niagara can amount to more than 3,500, allowing them to have obtained every reinforcement in their power, and as this force is stationed at several different points on the river, it is not probable they can bring more than 1,500 men into the field at any one engagement. It can hardly be necessary to give any opinion of their fighting. When they must know that Forts Erie and George are in our possession and Upper Canada ours this event will have great influence on the operations and movements in the Lower Province.

Of our own force on the Niagara it becomes us not to speak at present, but we have no hesitation in saying that it is amply sufficient to accomplish any object in contemplation. By the address of General Smyth in the first page of this paper it will be seen that "in a few days the American Standard will be planted in Canada." An opportunity for volunteers to distinguish themselves is now offered, and it is hoped that those who have shewn such a zeal for valorous deeds and such a strong desire to meet the enemy *on his own ground* will step forward and shew to the world that their patriotism is as good as their professions. Let unanimity, firmness and resolution animate the troops and all will be well—but should a contrary disposition manifest itself, it will not require a prophet to foretell the consequences.

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(From the New York Evening Post, Wednesday, 25th Nov., 1812.)

*From the Munlius Times published in Onondaga County, Nov. 17.*

The following extracts of letters from gentlemen in Buffalo to their friends in this village contain information as late as any we have from that quarter.

CAMP AT BUFFALO, Nov. 6, 1812.

Should 2,000 militia arrive this week from Pennsylvania we shall have another invasion, and the commanding officers say that those who will not voluntarily embark shall be forced, and as there



are many who will never volunteer in an *offensive* operation there may be an opportunity for them to maintain *principle* at the risk of life. We are at present in a most deplorable situation—the regulars are daily sickening; four or five on an average are daily buried; no attendance at the hospitals; wounds not dressed; in fine, everything that is sure to rid man of life is here practised. The militia at Schlosser are in a state of mutiny; have stacked their arms and are determined to leave the lines. Some of their officers are on parole from the British, others dismissed, the different regiments consolidated into one, and over some new officers appointed. These things have given general dissatisfaction, and the dissatisfied being more numerous than the others, should a courtmartial sentence any to punishment it would be impossible to execute it without the loss of many lives. On the 3rd a volunteer company at this place stacked their arms and told their officers that they have been in the service three months without receiving pay or clothes, and that they would not stand guard again in the cold without shoes, stockings and pantaloons, and with the mere covering of a blanket. Representations were made to General Smyth, who ordered a battalion of 200 to march them under guard to the encampment three miles from the village. What the result will be I cannot surmise.

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BUFFALO, November 8.

If another attack is made this fall fourteen days will not elapse before the trial. If ever a nation was cursed for inhumanity ours will be. They bury from the troops at the Court House four soldiers upon an average daily, two at the camp and three or four at Lewiston. All, we may say, for not having proper surgeons.

The riflemen have been generally healthy since they came to this place, but are growing more sickly. One of Captain Bristol's company (George Jones of Onondaga) died last Friday. The whole effective force of the army, now on the lines between this place and Fort Niagara, does not exceed 3,000 regulars and 1,000 militia, the various reports to the contrary, notwithstanding.

November 11.—The greatest distress prevails in the camp by reason of sickness. Upwards of 100 of those wounded in the battle of the 13th October have already been buried. The two brigades of militia, formerly commanded by Brigadier-Generals Wadsworth and Miller, have been, by order of General Smyth, (an officer of the regular army,) consolidated into one regiment and stationed at Schlosser. Two or three from the regiment die daily, and of the regular army of this place (numbering about 2,500) three or four

die upon an average every day. The militia are deserting by hundreds. Nothing but tents to lie in and no other meat than fresh beef.

November 12.—Captain Kellogg and his company were discharged yesterday, and will mostly start for home to-morrow. Two of his company only will be unable to go home at this time, Levi Bishop, who lost his arm, and Peter Henegin. Captain Bristol's company expect to be discharged in a few days.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

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From the Quebec Mercury, 8th December, 1812.

KINGSTON, November 17th.

Early on Tuesday morning last information was conveyed to town that seven American vessels full of men were approaching. At daylight the troops and militia were under arms, and detachments were immediately sent to occupy the different avenues to the town in order to give the enemy a proper reception should they be disposed to land. The flying artillery were despatched in advance of the troops. When they had passed Collins' Bay several shots were fired by our gun boat at the nearest vessel, which they returned, but without effect on either side. At Everett's Point one of our field pieces opened fire upon them, the shot from which appeared to strike several times and they thought prudent to sheer further off. About two o'clock they approached the town and were fired at by the batteries. They opened and kept up a brisk fire in their turn upon the *Royal George* and upon our batteries, which was continued till after sunset, when the enemy hauled their wind and anchored under the Four Mile Point, having done no other mischief than killing one man on board the *Royal George*. It is supposed that some damage was done to their largest vessel, the *Oneida*, as some of our shot from the battery at Missassagua Point were seen to strike her. On their way down the bay of Kenty in the morning they burned a small vessel belonging to Messrs. B. Fairfield & Co.

The alarm had been early communicated through the country, and persons of every age flocked into town from every quarter, eager to repulse the invaders from our peaceful shores. The veteran Loyalists, who had manifested their zeal for their Sovereign during the American rebellion, showed that age had not extinguished their ardor, and though many of them had passed that time of life when military service could be legally required, they scorned exemption when their inveterate foes approached. Before night the town was crowded with brave men, who, insensible to fatigue, were anxious

only to grapple with the enemy, who had they attempted to land would have paid dearly for their temerity. The conduct of the inhabitants of the Midland District on this occasion will be long remembered to their honor.

On Wednesday morning the American fleet got under way. After beating up towards the lake for some time two of them bore away and sailed down the river, keeping at a respectful distance from our batteries, which, nevertheless, gave them a shot in passing. The other five continued their progress. Early in the afternoon another vessel appeared in sight, which appeared to be the *Simcoe*. She was chased by the enemy, who fired upwards of fifty shots at her. But she escaped by the intrepidity and dexterity of the master and crew, not, however, without receiving a shot between wind and water that must have sunk her had she been much farther from port. In the evening they were out of sight.

Early on Saturday morning the sloop *Elizabeth*, Henry Nunney master and owner, which sailed from York on Wednesday night, under convoy of the *Earl of Moira*, was taken by the *Julia*, one of the American vessels.

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Extract of a letter, dated Kingston, November 20.

Next day the enemy fired at the *Simcoe* on her passage from Niagara, and one ball struck her, which rendered the crew's situation very critical. She, however, got safe into Kingston. About 2,000 men had assembled here from all parts of the Bay of Quinte, so we were well prepared if the enemy meant to land.

The *Earl of Moira* arrived 2 or 3 days after with the intelligence that Captain Murney's sloop and the schooner *Mary Hatt* were taken, with Captain Brock, 49th Regt., and all General Brock's baggage. The Americans, however, sent back Captain Brock and all the baggage, as also Captain Miller of the *Mary Hatt*. They have detained Captain Murney on account of his having concealed his papers and telling them he had none. He is soon, however, to be sent over to us. All are in arms here—boys from the age of twelve years.

(File in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)

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### Militia Orders.

FORT GEORGE, 18th Novr., 1812.

Lieuts. Pawling, Servos, Stevenson, and Ensign Robertson of the 1st Lincoln Regiment will proceed to the country and bring in such men of their respective companies as are now absent. It is to

be understood that officers are not to confine themselves to take up men of their own companies, but every militiaman they meet without a pass, and bring them to Fort George. They will take with them one sergeant or private from each company.

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(From *New York Evening Post*, Friday, November 22d, 1812.)

*From the Western Federalist*, Nov. 18.

One of the editors of this paper returned yesterday from a perilous and distressing campaign at Buffalo and Niagara, the company being discharged for want of men. The whole line from Buffalo to Niagara does not contain more at present than 3,000 men, but 2,000 Pennsylvania volunteers are daily expected to join them, and so indeed they have been expected these two months past. Previous to the battle of Queenston there were more than double the present number, but what with the loss on that affair, the great desertion of militia by wholesale and retail, through starvation and disgust of the service and objection to serve under United States officers, few militia are left. Much sickness prevails on the line. At Buffalo village 20 of Smyth's regulars have died since the 28th October, and 100 are now sick at the hospital in Buffalo village. Added to this five vessels have arrived at Fort George with British troops and returned (as supposed for more), so that there is an end to any expectation of another invasion of Canada this campaign, for all Mr. Smyth and his troops say to the contrary notwithstanding.

(From File in *New York Society Library*.)

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**Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

FORT GEORGE, 19th November, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of acquainting Your Excellency that about half-past eight o'clock this night I received a letter from Major Ormsby, commanding at Fort Erie, dated at half-past twelve this day, enclosing a letter addressed to him by Brigadier-General Smyth, commanding the "army of the centre," as he styles it, in which he announces that the armistice is to terminate at "9 o'clock to-morrow evening, the 20th instant." The despatch which this accompanies was intended to go with Doctor Richmond in the *Prince Regent* to York, but the arrival from Detroit having given me some intelligence to add to it, and there being another vessel at my disposal, and the *Prince Regent* having on board what might be essential to the defence of York, the wind being fair, I allowed

her to sail. Unfortunately the wind soon after shifted and has detained the vessel, but if the wind should not prove favorable early in the morning I shall send off an express by land.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop returned this evening from a second inspection of the militia. He had heard on his way down of the termination of the armistice, and imparted the intelligence to the corps stationed on his route, who received it with strong marks of joy, but I should wish to have had possession first of some articles for them that are yet at Kingston, those particularly of which it unfortunately happens that but a small portion has been brought up. I should have been glad to have been joined by the party of the artillery before the rupture of the armistice; as it is, I almost despair of their coming here. Winter seems to have set in. A strong north-west wind has been blowing nearly a fortnight with the intermission of the short period which permitted the sailing of the *Prince Regent*.

Whatever may be the event of another conflict with the enemy, I feel confident that the troops in general that I have the honor to command will perform their duty.

(*Canadian Archives, C, 677.*)

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 19th Nov., 1812.

Until further orders the Grand and Visiting Rounds from Fort George will confine their rounds by night to betwixt the Two-Mile Creek and the detached guard south of the Fort, but the Grand Rounds will visit by day as far as the 4-Mile Battery on the lake. Capt. Chambers will give the necessary orders for the rounds from his post to visit as far as Brown's Point, and the officers stationed at Brown's Point to take the rounds from thence to the Two-Mile hut. The officer stationed at McFarland's will visit betwixt the Two-Mile hut and detached guard.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,  
B. M.

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 20th Nov., 1812.

PAROLE PIGOT.

The Major-General commanding announces to the troops



stationed along the frontier the termination of the armistice at nine o'clock this evening.

To men who have already so nobly conducted themselves before the enemy it would be superfluous in the Major-General to say more than that he is persuaded that whenever the opportunity shall present itself they will again prove themselves worthy of the glorious cause in which they are engaged, and successfully defend their country, their families, and property.

No. 2. The troops will commence wearing their winter clothing from this day.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,  
B. M.

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**District General Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 20th November, 1812.

The commanders of the different posts are to use the utmost vigilance and enjoin it in all those under their command. No officer or soldier is to take off his clothes at night. One-half of the troops in quarters to be in perfect readiness to turn out at a moment's warning at any time of the night, for which purpose the night is to be divided into four watches, from the close of one day to full daylight of the following one.

During the day the men are not to stray from their quarters, and are to be accoutred with arms in their hands if out of their quarters, and when in they are to be so placed as that each man shall be able to seize his arms at an instant's notice. Frequent patrols must be sent out during the night. Sentries are to be so distributed that any movement of the enemy shall be immediately discovered and the alarm given.

From the officers the Major-General expects the most exemplary alertness.

The men are not on any occasion to be uselessly exposed to a cannonade. If the enemy attempts to cross the water he is not to be opposed by musquetry until he is well within its range, and if he perseveres in endeavoring to gain the shore he is to be attacked at the point of the bayonet with the most determined resolution, such as becomes the character of the British arms, which has hitherto been so nobly sustained by the troops of all descriptions on this frontier. If in spite of every exertion any portion of the troops should be forced by great superiority of numbers to retire, the best possible order is to be preserved, covering the retreat by a steady



well directed fire, closing to that flank of which the most speedy and effectual support may be expected.

If necessity should arise for abandoning a post all ammunition, provisions and other articles that may be useful to an enemy are to be destroyed, timely preparations for which having been previously made.

By order,  
 THOMAS EVANS,  
 B. M.

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**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 20th November, 1812.

Lient.-Colonel Bisshopp, Inspecting Field Officer, will proceed immediately to Chippawa and take upon himself the command of the troops of every description from that post inclusive to Point Abino. He will direct such alteration in their distribution as circumstances may render necessary, and assign to each field officer on the line a portion for his particular superintendence.

By order,  
 THOMAS EVANS,  
 B. M.

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**General Smyth to General Tannehill.**

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,  
 November 21st, 1812.

SIR,—Will you be pleased to ascertain whether there are any companies of your brigade who will refuse to serve the United States in Canada.

I deem it essential we should know on whom we may rely with confidence.

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**Brigadier-General Adamson Tannehill to General Smyth.**

CAMP AT GRANGER'S FARM,  
 22nd November, 1812.

SIR,—To enable me to answer your note of yesterday I convened my field officers in camp. *The prevailing opinion appears to be that if an efficient force can be had to cross into Canada a very general embarkation of my brigade may be expected.* If, on the contrary, it is difficult for me to say what number may be calculated on.

Return of the officers and privates of the First Brigade of Pennsylvania Volunteers, under the command of Brigadier-General Adamson Tannehill, who have volunteered to cross the boundary line in the Province of Upper Canada to assist in establishing the American standard in that Province :

First regiment of riflemen—Lieut.-Colonel Irwin, seven companies, 13 officers, 79 privates.

Second regiment of riflemen—Lieut.-Colonel Piper, seven companies, 8 officers, 133 privates.

First regiment of infantry—Lieut.-Colonel Snyder, six companies, 35 privates.

Second regiment of infantry—Lieut.-Colonel Purviance, nine companies, 16 officers, 145 privates.

Total—413.

**From the United States Gazette of Philadelphia, 8th Dec., 1812.**

CANANDAIGUA, November 21.

Volunteering—Since the publication of General Smyth's proclamation a considerable number of citizens in the different towns in this county have assembled and subscribed volunteer enrollments for a short tour across the Niagara. Several companies have already marched, and others we hear will march immediately. We calculate on from 700 to 1,000 men from this county.

We are informed that 1,200 or 1,300 have already volunteered and enrolled themselves in the county of Genesee. We think Niagara will furnish an equal number.

We hear also that the little county of Seneca, although it has a number of men already on the frontiers, will yet furnish many more : that Cayuga will furnish a large number. We calculate on 1,000 men from these two counties. The aggregate number of volunteers which will turn out on this occasion it is supposed will be at least 3,500 and probably 4,000.

MESSENGER.

(*File in Philadelphia Library.*)

**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, CHAMBLY,  
Nov. 21, 1812.

No. 22.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Lordship that the efforts of the enemy at Sackett's Harbor enabled them to send

out on the 10th instant seven sail of armed vessels, manned by the crew of one of the American frigates and commanded by some of their naval officers, having on board a considerable detachment of troops for the purpose of carrying the port of Kingston by surprise and of destroying His Majesty's ship *Royal George* then lying there. I have much satisfaction in reporting to Your Lordship that the vigilance and military skill of Colonel Vincent, who is in command at Kingston, frustrated their designs, and after many hours of ineffectual cannonade the American flotilla hauled off, and on the following day returned into port.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 43.*)

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**Major W. K. Armistead to General Smyth.**

LEWISTON, November 22, 1812.

SIR,—I left Niagara with the intention of seeing you, but finding my horse not able to proceed have declined going. My business was to get if possible some ammunition for the garrison, as we nearly expended all we had yesterday, and which did great damage—destroyed one of their best buildings and did the town considerable damage, sunk a schooner that was cut out of Genesee river and dismantled several of their guns.

It gives me extreme pleasure to inform you that the officers behaved themselves with the greatest degree of bravery. Captain Leonard was as conspicuous as to coolness and attention as I have ever seen. We on our part lost five men, three from the bursting of a gun and two from the enemy's fire; several wounded from careless loading. If possible, dear sir, send on ammunition for eighteen and six-pounders and fours, but my greatest concern is the want of provisions, which, if not supplied, we will inevitably have to evacuate the post.

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**Lieut.-Colonel Myers to Major-General Sheaffe.**

FORT GEORGE, 22d Oct., (November ?) 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you that in obedience to your orders I directed Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery to open a cannonade upon the enemy's fort at half-past seven o'clock yesterday morning, beginning with the gun stationed near the lighthouse, following it up in the front and from Fort George. In

a quarter of an hour the enemy returned a sharp but ill-directed fire.

During the day the enemy ceased firing at different periods, some times to assist in extinguishing fires which were visible issuing from many buildings in their fort, from the effects of our shells and heated shot, and sometimes to obtain supplies of ammunition. From a well directed shell which burst upon the enemy's north blockhouse, the gun upon that building was dismantled and abandoned. A shot from the 24-pounder right of Fort George entered an embrasure of the enemy's two-gun battery at Youngstown, upset the 18-pounder and rendered it unserviceable for about two hours. About eleven o'clock the old building at Navy Hall, occupied as the mess room of the garrison, was set on fire by the enemy's battery at Youngstown and entirely consumed. An eight-inch shell bursting on the top of the stone house in the enemy's fort silenced a 6-pounder on that building for more than an hour, when that gun was again manned. It was remarkable for having fired three rounds without shot.

A public building of the enemy under this fort, near the river's edge, was set in a blaze by our hot shot, and from the well directed fire kept upon it all his efforts to extinguish it were frustrated. It was, together with an adjacent building, totally destroyed.

From the many excellent shells thrown and the general judicious direction of our fire much serious injury must have been done to the enemy's works and barracks, and Captain Holcroft reported to me that several of their killed and wounded were at one time observed to be removed from the picketing of the north curtain, through the gate of the west, and some from Youngstown to the fort.

At 5 o'clock P. M. the enemy entirely ceased firing from his fort, but continued it feebly from his battery at Youngstown. I then, when it was nearly dark, ordered our batteries and fort to cease.

During the day one of our barracks in Fort George sustained some damage from the enemy's shot, all of which against our fort and town appeared to be heated. The town, too, has been in some parts injured. We have only to lament the loss of an old half-pay officer, Captain Frey, and one private of the 49th Regiment.

The talent and zeal of Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery are too well known to gain additional claims on the service from any praise of mine, but I cannot omit observing to you that they were upon this occasion most conspicuous.

I received during the day very great assistance from Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Quartermaster General of Militia, from Major-of-

Brigade Evans, Captain Vigoreux, Royal Engineers, and Lieutenant Fowler, 41st Regiment, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster General.

In the absence of Captain Powell, who had been for some days sick, Captain Cameron of the militia artillery was stationed at the 24-pounder on the left and executed his duty with much judgment and activity. The spirits manifested by the troops of the line and militia were highly gratifying, and strongly tends to prove that the expectations entertained of their gallant defence will not be disappointed whenever the enemy may dare to come in contact with them.

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**Statement of Sarah Willott.**

Sarah Willott says that part of the enemy's army is at Buffalo and part encamped between that place and Black Rock. It is reported that their number is about twelve thousand and that they intend making an attack shortly at Fort Erie and below it and taking over forty pieces of cannon with them. That nineteen hundred men are on their route from Pennsylvania to the Black Rock. That provisions are very scarce and very bad; that their army is suffering much from want of clothing and from yet being encamped, and that they are preparing their boats to come over.

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**Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

FORT GEORGE, 23rd Nov., 1812.

SIR,—I have this day received a packet from York containing a letter from Colonel Vincent, apprising me of the return of Paymaster Brock from Sackett's Harbor and of the intelligence brought from thence by him. It fully confirms that which had been previously received through several channels of the activity of the enemy in preparing the most formidable means for establishing a superiority on the lakes. If the weather at this advanced period should not countenance their design of employing them against us this season, and we should be fortunate enough to maintain our military positions in this Province during this winter, it will require exertions of the most energetic kind to enable us to contend with them in the spring for the ascendancy on the lakes, to obtain which engages the particular attention of the American Government as being necessary to the attainment of what is evidently the main object of the war, the possession of the Upper Province, with an

ulterior view to establishing a control over the numerous Indian nations.

I have the honor of transmitting to Your Excellency an address which I have received from the committee of the Executive Council of this Province respecting the comparative state of its marine. The subject is indeed interesting and has a special claim on the attention of the guardians of the public welfare.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 728, p. 115.*)

Return of the killed, wounded and missing of the following corps of the division of the army serving in Upper Canada under the command of Major-General Sheaffe in an affair with the enemy on the 21st and 28th November, 1812 :

21st November.—Royal Artillery—1 rank and file wounded.

49th Foot—1 rank and file killed.

28th November.—Royal Artillery — 1 rank and file killed ; 1 lieutenant, 1 rank and file wounded.

49th Foot—12 rank and file killed : 1 lieutenant, 3 sergeants, 22 rank and file wounded ; 3 drummers, 21 rank and file missing.

Militia Artillery—1 sergeant wounded.

1st Regiment Norfolk Militia—1 sergeant killed ; 1 captain, 8 rank and file wounded, 2 rank and file missing.

2nd Regiment Norfolk Militia—1 rank and file killed ; 7 rank and file wounded : 4 rank and file missing.

Total loss—14 rank and file (line), 1 sergeant, 1 rank and file (militia), killed : 2 lieutenants, 3 sergeants, 24 rank and file (line), 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 15 rank and file (militia), wounded ; 3 drummers, 21 rank and file (line), 11 rank and file (militia), missing.

General total—1 sergeant, 16 rank and file killed : 1 captain, 3 lieutenants, 4 sergeants, 39 rank and file wounded : 3 drummers, 32 rank and file missing.

#### OFFICERS WOUNDED.

Royal Artillery—Lieut. King, severely, and taken prisoner.

49th Foot—Lieutenant Lamont, severely.

1st Norfolk Militia—Captain Bostwick, slightly ; Lieutenant Ryerson, severely.

THOMAS EVANS, Major-of-Brigade.



**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 24th November, 1812.

The flank companies of the 49th Regiment will march from Queenston for Fort George so as to arrive at the latter post before daylight to-morrow morning.

2nd. Captain Chambers will give orders for the return of Captain Durand's company to Queenston, and Captain Applegarth's company will return and occupy its former quarters.

3rd. The attention of the officers is called to the order of 12th of July, 1812, whereby it is forbidden for any individual to fire across the river without orders.

By order,

THOMAS EVANS,  
Brigade-Major.

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(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 24th November, 1812.)

ARMISTICE OFF; WAR RECOMMENCED.

On Friday evening at 9 o'clock p. m. the armistice, concluded between General Smyth and General Sheaffe, expired, thirty hours notice having been previously given by General Smyth. After the notice was given the British armed vessel, then lying at Fort Erie, sailed up the lake. On Saturday morning a heavy firing of cannon was heard from Niagara, which continued at intervals for several hours. Accounts have been received from that quarter which state that the cannonading was commenced by the British; that during the firing a gun burst in Fort Niagara which killed three men and destroyed the hands of another; that the fort sustained some damage, and that two or three men were killed by the enemy's shot and that the British lost some men.

PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

On Wednesday last the Pennsylvania Volunteers, under General Tannehill, arrived at the Buffalo encampment, nearly 2,000 strong. They made a very fine martial appearance and are generally composed of healthy young men. About one-fourth of the brigade are riflemen.

The most active and indefatigable exertions are making to forward the enterprise on foot. Volunteers from different parts are coming in daily to join the American army. The town of Batavia has been patriotic: a subscription of 700 dollars, we understand, has been made for the purpose of paying the volunteers an extra price for coming forward and joining the army. Captain Stevens's

Greys from Willink and Captain Bemis's Greys from Hamburg have arrived in this village.

General P. B. Porter, we learn, is to take command of the volunteers. Dr. C. Chapin is appointed major, Samuel Pratt, Esq., adjutant, and J. E. Chaplin, Esq., quartermaster. The names of the other officers are not in our possession.

Many deaths have taken place in the hospitals at Lewiston and Schlosser, and four in the hospital in our village since our last.

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### Court Martial.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,  
November 15th, 1812.

At a general court martial, whereof Major Campbell was president, was tried Captain John Phillips of the volunteer troops in the service of the United States, on the following charges and specifications :

#### CHARGE 1ST.

Violating the 8th article of the rules and articles of war.

#### *Specification.*

In this that on the 4th day of this month at Buffalo 31 men of his company mutinied, stacked their arms and refused to do duty, and that he the said Captain Phillips, being present, did not use his *utmost* endeavors to suppress the same.

#### CHARGE 2ND.

Neglect of duty.

#### *Specification.*

That on a mutiny in his company on the 4th of November 1812, at Buffalo, he did not suppress it, use coercive measures to suppress it, or apply to his immediate commanding officer or any superior officer for aid to suppress it.

To which charges and specifications the prisoner plead *not guilty*.

The court found the prisoner *not guilty* of either of the charges or specifications alleged against him and therefore acquits him.

The General, believing that the *mind* of Captain Phillips was *not guilty*, confirms the sentence of the court and orders that he resume his sword and return to his duty.

But he will remark that unless greater endeavors to suppress mutiny when it appears are made than Captain Phillips exerted it would be impossible to keep an army together.

If when a company mutinies no effort is made by the commanding officer of the company, the battalion or regiment, to suppress it except reporting it to the General and leaving it to him to suppress it, *his* task is heavy.

An officer present at a mutiny, who never draws his sword and uses only words, cannot be said to use his utmost endeavors to suppress it.

By order,

JAMES BANKHEAD,

Captain and Brigade-Major.

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**Lieut.-Colonel George McFeeley to Brigadier-General Smyth.**

SIR,—I beg leave to inform you that on the morning of the 21st November at six o'clock a heavy cannonading opened on this garrison from all the batteries at and in the neighborhood, which lasted without intermission until sundown. They had five detached batteries, two mounting 24-pounders, one mounting a nine, and two mortar batteries, one 10½ the other 5½ inch. The batteries firing hot shot, which set some of our buildings on fire, but from the extraordinary vigilance of the officers and men, particularly Major Armistead of the United States Corps of Engineers, whose indefatigable exertions were extended to all parts of the garrison, the fires were got under without being observed by the enemy.

Our garrison was not as well provided with artillery and ammunition as I could have wished: however, the batteries opened a tremendous fire upon them in return, with hot shot, admirably well directed.

Several times during the cannonading the town of Newark was in flames, but was extinguished by their engines, as also the centre building in Fort George. Their mess-house and all the buildings near it were consumed. Captain McKeon commanded a twelve-pounder in the S. E. blockhouse and distinguished himself by his usual gallantry and skill. Captain Jacks of the 7th Regiment, Militia Artillery, commanded a six-pounder on the north blockhouse, and, together with a part of his own company, though placed in a situation the most exposed to the fire of the enemy, maintained their position like veterans.

Lieutenant Rees had command of an eighteen-pounder on the south-east battery, which was pointed at a battery *en barbette*, mounting a twenty-four pounder, and also at Fort George several well directed shots were made from this gun, which proved the skill of its commander. About ten o'clock Lieutenant Rees had his left

shoulder bruised by part of the parapet falling on him which, though it did not materially injure him, obliged him to retire, and Captain Leonard of the First Regiment, United States Artillery, at that moment arriving he took command of this battery for the remainder of the day. Lieutenant Wendel of the Second Regiment, Artillery, had command of an eighteen and four-pounder on the west battery, and Dr. Hooper, of Captain Jack's company of militia artillery, had the command of a six-pounder on the mess-house. Of these gentlemen and their commands I cannot speak with too much praise. They distinguished themselves highly, and from their shot, all of which was hot, the town of Newark was repeatedly fired and one of the enemy's batteries silenced for a time.

An instance of extraordinary bravery in a female (the wife of one Doyle, a private in the United States Artillery, made a prisoner at Queenston,) I cannot pass over. During the most tremendous cannonading I have ever seen, she attended the six-pounder on the mess-house with red hot shot, and showed fortitude equal to the Maid of Orleans. Lieutenants Gansevoort and Hains of the First Regiment United States Artillery had the command of the Salt Battery at Youngstown, mounting an eighteen and a four-pounder; these two guns played upon the garrison of Fort George and the buildings near it. From every observation I could make during their fire, I am happy to say they merited my warmest thanks for their skill in the service of these guns. Lieutenant Hains from his four-pounder sunk a schooner which lay at their wharf. She was one of those taken by the enemy at the mouth of the Genesee river a short time since. He also assisted in burning and destroying the buildings near the wharf. These two officers and their men in the warmest part of the cannonading having fired away all their cartridges cut up their flannel waistcoats and shirts, and the soldiers their trowsers, to supply their guns.

I cannot say too much in praise of all the officers and soldiers of the artillery immediately under my observation in this garrison. They merit the thanks and esteem of their country for the defence of it, and I believe it never sustained so sharp and continued a bombardment.

The enemy threw more than two thousand red hot balls into it and a number of shells, amounting to more than 180, only one of which did injury to our men.

Lieut.-Colonel Gray commanded the artillery. The unremitting attention paid to his duty proves him an officer whose zeal and science do honor to himself and country; to this gentleman I feel much indebted for the manner he acquitted himself.

To the officers of my regiment (particularly Captain Milligan)

and the soldiers who assisted the artillery, and those employed in extinguishing the fires and carrying off the killed and wounded, I am also much indebted. They merit my warmest thanks. To Dr. West of the garrison, Dr. Hogan of the 14th Regiment United States Infantry, and Dr. Craig of the 22nd Regiment United States Infantry, I offer my thanks. They were employed during the entire day in the most critical duties of their profession.

Our killed and wounded amount to eleven.

Killed—Sergeant Jones, First Regiment, United States Artillery; Salisbury, 2nd Regiment, United States Artillery; Privates Stewart, 22nd Regiment, United States Infantry; Lewis, First Regiment, United States Artillery.

Wounded—Officers—Lieut. Thomas, 22nd Regiment, United States Infantry; Privates—Bowman, 14th Regiment, United States Infantry; McEvoy, Campbell and Welsh, First Regiment, United States Artillery; Roy, third United States Artillery; Woodsworth, Seventh Militia, artillery.

From the number we saw carried off from the enemy's batteries I presume many more were killed and wounded on their side.

Only two of the above men were killed by the enemy's shot, the rest by the bursting of a 12-pounder in the S. E. blockhouse and by the spunges of the guns on the north blockhouse and at the Salt Battery.

*(From the Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II., pp. 116-8.)*

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**Monthly Distribution Return of the Troops in Upper Canada,  
Nov. 25th, 1812.**

York—Commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Shortt, 41st Regiment :

	Total
Staff, 2 officers.....	2
Royal Artillery, 4 rank and file.....	4
41st Regiment, 3 officers, 2 sergeants, 25 rank and file fit for duty, 6 sick.....	36
49th Regiment, 1 sergeant, 20 rank and file fit for duty, 5 sick.	26
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 1 officer, 1 private fit for duty.	2
Canadian Fencibles, 1 officer.....	1

## Fort George—Commanded by Captain Derenzy, 41st Regiment:

	Total
Staff, 10 officers.....	10
Royal Artillery, 1 officer, 17 rank and file fit for duty, 3 sick...	21
Royal Engineers, 1 officer.....	1
41st Regiment, 10 officers, 20 sergeants, 16 drummers, 155 rank and file fit for duty, 10 sick.....	211
49th Regiment, 4 officers, 7 sergeants, 4 drummers, 130 rank and file fit for duty, 17 sick.....	162
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 2 officers, 3 sergeants, 49 rank and file fit for duty, 4 sick.....	58
Glengarry Light Infantry, 1 officer.....	1
	<hr/> 464

## Landing (Queenston)—Commanded by Captain Chambers, 41st Regiment:

	Total
Royal Artillery, 10 rank and file fit for duty.....	10
41st Regiment, 3 officers, 4 sergeants, 9 drummers, 91 rank and file fit for duty, 7 sick.....	114
	<hr/> 124

## Chippawa—Commanded by Capt. Bullock, 41st Regiment:

	Total
Royal Artillery, 8 rank and file fit for duty.....	8
41st Regiment, 6 officers, 11 sergeants, 2 drummers, 322 rank and file fit for duty, 7 sick.....	348
49th Regiment, 2 rank and file fit for duty.....	2
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 2 rank and file fit for duty...	2
	<hr/> 360

## Fort Erie—Commanded by Major Ormsby, 49th Regiment:

	Total
Royal Artillery, 1 officer, 10 rank and file.....	11
8th Regiment, 1 officer.....	1
41st Regiment, 3 rank and file.....	3
49th Regiment, 7 officers, 16 sergeants, 5 drummers, 221 rank and file fit for duty, 2 sick.....	251
	<hr/> 266



Doing marine duty on the lakes :

Royal Newfoundland Regiment—2 lieutenants, 3 sergeants, 4 drummers, 117 rank and file.....	Total 126
<i>(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, pp. 56-7.)</i>	

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**General Order.**

BANKS OF THE NIAGARA, 8 o'clock at night,  
November 25, 1812.

Colonel Winder will pass over to the Canada shore with the troops, who are marched from camp this evening, and will superintend the attack of the enemies' batteries and parties, distributing his force in the following manner :

Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, with the detachment of the 14th Regiment, will attack the guard at the bridge opposite the upper point of Strawberry Island. Lieut.-Colonel Coles, with the companies of Captains Sangster, Taylor, Myers and the company, late Branches, will take the party at the Red House. Major Campbell, with the companies of Captains Buckner, Morgan, Stannard and Page will attack the guard house opposite the lower point of Squaw Island. Captain King and Lieutenant Angus of the navy (who is so good as to offer his services and those of the seamen under his command,) will with the companies of Captains Wool, Sproul and Martin attack the batteries opposite to Black Rock. Captain Bankhead, with the companies of Captains Brooke, Wharterby, Chambers and Dorman, will attack the enemy's batteries opposite to Fort Gibson.

The parties will support each other as circumstances may require and as Colonel Winder may order.

The enemy's guns are to be spiked and dismounted, the bridge rendered impassable, all boats brought off, and as many prisoners as possible taken.

Colonel Winder will bring off his detachment from the Canada shore by daylight to-morrow.

ALEXANDER SMYTH,  
Brigadier-General Commanding.

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**Colonel Winder to General Smyth.**

November 25, 1812.

SIR,—The indisposition of the officers to cross is such, and the real difficulties for the want of a little preparatory arrangement, that I fear the issue will be disgraceful and fatal. I would venture to recommend a delay of the expedition.

(From the *New York Evening Post*, Thursday, 10th December, 1812.)

*From the Hudson Whig.*

Extract of a letter from Mr. Abel M. Grosvenor of Buffalo to his brother in this city, dated

BUFFALO, November 25.

I have hardly time to give you a description of the mob in this village. It was composed of the same miscreants who were in the Baltimore riot. They are the volunteers from Baltimore, and their lieutenant is the editor of the *Baltimore Whig*. There arose a dispute between Pomeroy, who keeps the hotel, and some of these fellows. They became outrageous, and swore that they would tear down the house of every federalist in the village—that they “would kill all the federalists and damned tories.” They began about 4 o’clock on Pomeroy’s house, broke out all the windows, and broke his furniture, which was very valuable. They then cut down his sign and attempted to pull down his house. Not succeeding in this, they set fire to the house three or four times, which, if it had not been extinguished, would have destroyed the whole village. I saw the danger and ran down to the place immediately. Two of the fellows came at me with their bayonets. I stopped one of them with an andiron I held in my hand and then retreated. Two others then pursued me with their bayonets. I stumbled and fell, but just as they were attempting to plunge them into me I recovered and caught them in my hand. I succeeded in bringing them both to the ground, and should certainly have prevented their acting a part in any other mob, when others behind me plunged a bayonet into my side. I providentially succeeded in rescuing myself from the bloodthirsty miscreants without any very dangerous wound.

Colonel Porter (not Peter B. Porter) came up with his flying artillery and ordered a charge sword in hand. Three of the mob were mortally wounded. Colonel Porter, Colonel Mc Clure, Captain Babcock of your county (Columbia), Captain Maher of the Albany Greens, Lieut. Whitney, Adjutants Swartwout and Burn, and Major Noon, were prompt and decided in quelling the mob. They have done themselves great honor.

We are all yet in confusion, tho’ the mob is put down; we have a guard of three hundred regulars posted at the village, but they all cross to Canada to-morrow morning, and what our fate will be God only knows. I am confined with my wounds, but trust I will be out in a few days, when I shall write you more fully.

(From File in *New York Society Library*.)

**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 27th November, 1812.

There not being stoves sufficient for the troops in general on this frontier and at York, no stove is to be issued to or left in possession of an officer for his use.

By order,

THOS. EVANS,  
Brigade Major.

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,  
November 27, 1812.

The men for service in this camp and those in the vicinity will cook two days' provision and have it in their haversacks at retreat.

At reveille to-morrow every soldier will put on his knapsack, shoulder his musket, and prepare for battle with flints and cartridges, will march to the navy yard on his way to Canada.

The boats will be ready for the embarkation.

The tents and sick will be left under the care of guards of invalids until a convenient time.

Friends of your country! Ye who have "the will to do, the heart to dare," the moment you have wished for has arrived. Think on your country's honor lost, her rights trampled on, her sons enslaved, her infants perishing by the hatchet. Be strong! be brave! and let the ruffian power of the British king cease on this continent.

ALEXANDER SMYTH,  
Brigadier-General Commanding.

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**Brigadier-General Smyth to General Peter B. Porter.**

(Date torn off, 27th November, 1812?)

SIR,—Be pleased to attend to those volunteers and give them arms and necessaries, and if you can manage without sending such parties to me I will be glad, as I am excessively engaged.

*(Original in Library of Buffalo Historical Society.)*

**Major David Campbell, 12th Infantry, to General Smyth.**

CAMP NIGH BUFFALO, NEW YORK,  
November 27, 1812.

Major Campbell, field officer of the day, reports to Brigadier-General Alexander Smyth, commanding the United States army of the Center, that he has received no guard report from Captain Mills, commanding the guard.

Although it may not be strictly within the province of the officer of the day, yet he has been so forcibly struck with the melancholy and desponding state of the troops that he feels it a duty which he owes to the friendship of the commanding general to make him the following statement.

He has received from several captains reports or statements of the present state of their companies.

Capt. Stannard states that when he marched to Lewiston he had.....		92
Since that time he has lost by death.....	10	
Deserted.....	2	
Sick.....	30	42
		—
		50
		—

Having a company of fifty strong. He further states that many who are not reported sick are unfit for duty and that he is sure he will not be able to bring into the field more than thirty men.

Captain Taylor reports that he had 95 men. They were the best looking men in the regiment except Morgan's...		95 men
He has sick.....	47	
Deserted.....	2	
Absent without leave.....	1	
Unfit for service.....	2	
Dead.....	3	
Waiters, sick.....	4	59
		—
		36 men
		—

Five of whom are waiters, and two of the five are sick, leaving thirty-four men.

Lieutenant Peyton states that when they arrived at the present encampment Captain Branch had eighty-seven able bodied, effective men, now they have only thirty-eight and six waiters, making forty-four. Forty-three therefore are either sick or dead.

Captain Morgan arrived here with ninety-nine healthy, strong men, well calculated for fatigue, since which have died.....	4
Sick.....	28

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 32

Leaving sixty-seven for duty. But such is the situation of those reported for duty that he does not calculate on marching more than fifty men.

Captain Sangster's company is the most healthy. He will probably march seventy or eighty men, Captain Page about thirty. Our regiment will then, when in the field, be about 264 strong. From the information of the surgeon I am well persuaded none of those reported sick will be able to march.

The surgeon has now in hospital tents at camp about forty men, most of whom he is apprehensive will not survive. The balance of the sick he is obliged to permit in their tents, having no room for them. Some have the measles, others a fever which is becoming every day more alarming.

The field officer of the day has also taken a view of the hospital tent of the 13th Regiment. Five men were lying there dead. He was told they had been dead for twenty-four hours, and were not buried for want of coffins. The sides of the tent had been forced open by the wind, and the sick men were exposed to the weather. He made inquiries as to the state of the companies, and found them more distressing than those of the 12th Regiment.

The field officer of the day begs leave to assure the General that he has no view of paralyzing the operations of the army by making this report at this important period. He will only say that on this and every other occasion he will perform his duty.

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**Report on State of 14th Regiment of Infantry, Commanded by  
Colonel Wm. H. Winder, by Capt. Wm. King, Assistant  
Inspector.**

OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND PRIVATES.

The Colonel and Lieut.-Colonel appear to have taken great pains to acquire a knowledge of the duties of their stations. The company officers are almost as ignorant of their duty as when they entered service. The non-commissioned officers and privates are generally only tolerably good recruits.

## ARMS, ACCOUTREMENTS AND AMMUNITION.

The arms of this regiment are in infamously bad order. They appear to be old muskets that have probably been bought up at reduced prices by the contractors or other public agents, and are now placed in the hands of men who are almost within gun shot of the enemy. The inspector has no hesitation in giving it as his opinion that at least one-fifth of them are unfit for service, and he believes were they to undergo a critical inspection, a much larger proportion of them would be condemned. The cartridge boxes, bayonet scabbards and belts are good. The knapsacks are very bad. Neither gun slings, picks, nor brushes have been furnished, nor has a sufficient number of screw drivers and worms been supplied. This regiment has a large supply of ball cartridges, powder and lead, but a considerable proportion of it is very bad; some of the cartridges are said to have been made up in 1794. There is a scarcity of flints.

## CAMP EQUIPAGE, HOSPITAL STORES, ETC.

The tents never were good and have been so much abused on the march to this place that they afford little protection from the weather. Camp kettles and tin pans good, and complete; axes and spades very bad. No supply of stationery. The surgeon states that he is without medicine, hospital stores, and surgical instruments.

## CLOTHING AND PAY.

Though the month of October is partly gone, yet, strange to tell, this regiment has not received a single article of woolen clothing. All the men are without coats and many without shoes or stockings, and have been obliged to mount guard during the cold and stormy weather we have had for a week past barefooted and in their linen jackets and overalls. Unless immediate steps are taken to supply proper clothing the men must all fall victims to the neglect. Paid up to the 31st of July.

## PROVISIONS.

The Lieut.-Colonel states that the regiment is supplied with very bad provisions.

## DISCIPLINE.

The regiment is composed entirely of recruits. They appear to be almost as ignorant of their duty as if they had never seen a camp, and scarcely know on which shoulder to carry the musket. They are mere militia, and if possible even worse, and if taken into action in their present state will prove more dangerous to themselves than to their enemy.

Camp near Buffalo, New York, Oct. 5, 1812.



**Report on State of 12th Regiment of Infantry, Commanded by  
Colonel Thomas Parker, by Captain Wm. King, Assistant  
Inspector.**

OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND PRIVATES.

The character of Colonel Parker is too well known at the war office to require comment. Major Campbell will doubtless make a most valuable officer. The company officers are yet very ignorant of their duty, but they *generally* appear to be intelligent young men and *gentlemen*. The non-commissioned officers and privates are, with scarcely an exception, excellent recruits.

ARMS, ACCOUTREMENTS AND AMMUNITION.

The muskets are good but some few of them out of repair. No gun slings have been furnished, neither has there been a sufficiency of screwdrivers, worms, picks, or brushes supplied. The knapsacks are very bad as are likewise the canteens. The regiment has only about twenty-three rounds of ball cartridge and not two flints per man, and there is no ammunition at this place. The cartridges are many of them very bad.

CLOTHING AND PAY.

Though the month of October is partly gone, yet, strange to tell, this regiment has not received a single article of woollen clothing. All the men are without coats and have been obliged to mount guard during the cold and stormy weather which we have had for a week past in their linen jackets and overalls. Unless immediate steps are taken to furnish proper clothing the men must all fall victims to the neglect. Paid up to the 31st of August.

CAMP EQUIPAGE, STATIONERY, HOSPITAL STORES, ETC.

The tents are very bad. Camp kettles and tin pans good, and complete; axes and spades bad and incomplete. No stationery.

The surgeon complains that he is without medicine, hospital stores, or surgical instruments.

PROVISIONS.

Colonel Parker states that he receives good provisions for his regiment.

DISCIPLINE.

Captain Sangster's and Page's companies are very raw and ignorant of their duty. Taking into consideration that the men are recruits and have just come off a long and fatiguing march, the state of Captain Morgan's company does him credit, but its discipline is still very imperfect.

Buffalo, N. Y. October 5, 1812.

**General Smyth to Colonel Winder.**

November 27th, 1812.

SIR,—Captain King will communicate the order for to-morrow. Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, with the men fit for service of your regiment, will attack the guard at the bridge, take it, demolish the bridge, bring off or dismount any light artillery found, kill the horses, take the boats and return to our shore.

The Lieut.-Colonel with his party having done what is directed at the bridge, may proceed up the coast, his boats ascending the river to the Red House, to support Captain King and Lieut. Angus, or act according to circumstances.

It is not intended to keep possession. That is not to be attempted.

You will remain on the bank and give directions.

Let the wounded be hid from the public eye to-morrow.

Let a bright look-out be kept to-day and allow no one pass the bridge of Conajoquaty towards Tonawanda, except an officer of the army.

**General Smyth to Captain King and Lieutenant Angus.**

HEADQUARTERS, November 27, 1812.

The detachment under Captain King and Lieutenant Angus will go against the enemy's batteries to-night, and render them useless.

It is not intended they should keep possession, but they will return immediately, bringing off some prisoners and taking and destroying some light artillery and killing the horses if possible.

It is desirable that the movement of the detachment and that under Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler should be so timed that they might arrive at the same instant.

**James Selden, Jr., of Troy, to General Smyth.**

(Extract.)

November 27th, 1812.

I am informed from an undoubted source that the British have received a reinforcement of 800 regulars at Fort George: that is, that they are not exactly at Fort George but have encamped about one and-a-half miles up Chippawa Creek, where the enemy have been building barracks. A cousin of mine brought me this information who was in the British militia service and deserted.

**Captain Wm. King to General Smyth.**

FORT GEORGE, Nov. 28th, 1812.

DEAR GENERAL,—At the very moment that the boats, (probably coming to my relief,) made their appearance yesterday morning, Major Ormsby, at the head of the British army, arrived and halted in front of the house into which I had thrown myself, with an intention to defend it against any force not greatly superior, but against the troops under his command it would have been folly to resist, and I surrendered myself and thirty men prisoners.

To Captains Morgan and Sproul and Lieutenant Houston, (the only three officers who remained with me,) I refer you for an account of my conduct in the attempt on the batteries, as also of the partial success of the enterprise, which, when you receive and take into consideration that the boats carried off the implements for spiking the guns and destroying the gun carriages, I flatter myself you will be convinced I did my duty as far as circumstances rendered it possible.

May I flatter myself you will exchange the prisoners of the Forty-ninth I sent over, and which exceeds in number those taken with me, for the men now here, the names of which I enclose you. For myself I am less interested, but could I be exchanged for the surgeon I sent over, it would be highly gratifying. By releasing my prisoners I could have made my escape with all my men, but I deemed the measure I pursued more honorable and therefore adopted it, and flatter myself it will meet your approbation.

I received a shot in the foot at the Red House. The wound itself is trifling, but having been obliged to march the greater part of the way from where I was taken to Chippawa, it caused considerable swelling and to-day is painful. I also received a scratch on the cheek, but fear it is not even deep enough *to leave a scar*.

A trip to Quebec at this season of the year under any circumstances would be extremely disagreeable, but particularly as a prisoner of war, therefore if possible negotiate my exchange, but whatever you may do, my dear sir, let the men taken with me be released.

Should any letters come for me under cover, please keep them until you know what is to be my fate.

I am treated with a degree of politeness that entitles the officers of this garrison to my warmest gratitude.

**General Smyth to Colonel Parker.**

(About 30th November, 1812.)

Will Colonel Parker be so obliging as to state the number of the force shown by the enemy on Saturday?

ANSWER.

It is impossible for Colonel Parker to state the force of the enemy opposite the troops on Saturday, but he supposes there were not less than five or six hundred.

**General Smyth to the Commanding Officer at Fort Erie.**

November 28, 1812.

SIR,—You have seen a part of the hourly increasing force under my command. I propose to you the surrender of Fort Erie to spare the effusion of blood.

I take this opportunity to assure you that the devastations you have witnessed have been committed by some sailors, not under my authority and much against my will.

P. S.—I request that Captain King may be sent over on his parole according to treaty.

**General Tannehill to General Smyth.**

BUFFALO, 30th November, 1812.

SIR,—I am just informed by Major Mowry that you were told that I did not communicate your orders of yesterday to my brigade. Immediately after receiving them I had directed my Brigade-Major to take them to camp for the information of the brigade, but in a few minutes after I had given this order several of the field officers who had been ordered to command the men who had volunteered to cross into Canada came into my quarters, who each individually read the orders. I ordered one of the field officers to the navy yard to carry that part of your orders respecting the boats into effect. I beg leave to refer you to Major Douglass for a more minute detail.

**General Smyth to the Deputy-Quartermaster.**

HEADQUARTERS, BLACK ROCK, November 30, 1812.

The Deputy-Quartermaster will have four days' provisions for 2,500 men at the navy yard this evening by four o'clock. The liquor is not to be omitted.

## REPLY.

The contractor shall be called. Transportation is in readiness ; no delay.

JAMES THOMAS, Deputy-Quartermaster.

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**Colonel Schuyler to General Smyth.**

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, Dec. 1st, 1812.

SIR,—In conformity with your desire communicated to me by the Brigade-Major, I have the honor to state that I was not able yesterday morning to parade more than two hundred and fifty men exclusive of twenty-one men detailed the preceding night for guard. The number marched to the river was two hundred and seventy-one.

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**Statement of Bill Sherman.**

Bill Sherman, a native of Rhode Island but a resident of Canada for the last 20 years, having his family settled in the town of Barton, informs that he quitted Upper Canada in April last, and in consequence of the war being declared could not return, although he repeatedly applied to obtain a permit to pass over, he therefore took advantage of a favorable moment and made his escape in a boat from Buffalo on the night of the 2nd instant. He states that he thinks there are about 4,000 regular troops and have been as many militia, but the latter has been much reduced of late. Deponent says that great discontent prevails amongst the troops; that on Tuesday last 2,000 were embarked on board 113 boats; that in a short time afterward General Smyth ordered them out of the boats, which caused much ferment and dissatisfaction. General Smyth then said he would explain further would they meet him at Cook's tavern in Buffalo. They accordingly did, when General Smyth told them he could not depend on the militia and had not regular troops sufficient. Indignant at this, they fired twice at the General and shot the belt from his side at camp. The militia and volunteers then offered 200 dollars for his person, and fired off all their ammunition and disembodied themselves, that is, the greater part made their way home. They complain of having no hospital stores or comforts. They are still under canvas and have no barracks to retire to. From what he heard he does not think they will again try to cross this winter, but should they he suspects John Miller's as the most likely place where the attempt will be made.

There have been disturbances at Buffalo, and in consequence the editor of the paper had ceased to publish the *Gazette*. He informs that four men have been shot for desertion, that such has been the general feeling for the last four weeks that unless a change takes place they will have fighting enough amongst themselves without crossing into Canada. He mentions that General Porter, (*alias* Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relations,) was embarked with the troops on Tuesday last for the purpose of crossing over.

Taken before me this 3rd day of December, 1812.

THOS. EVANS,

Major of Brigade.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 677.*)

### Statement of Joseph Van Horne.

Joseph Van Horne of the 23rd Regiment says that he has been about three weeks on the lines and induced to desert from want of provisions and being too much exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and states that a great many of their regulars are anxious to desert to the British if opportunity is offered; knows nothing further than what has passed at his post in camp above Squaw Island, but that Colonel Winder commands at Black Rock and there are not more than three thousand regulars in the lines, composing part of the 12th, 13th, 14th, 20th and 23rd Regiments, and that they intended an attack about three or four nights ago. Men embarked for this purpose in 50 or 60 boats and were ordered back about daylight, but does not know for what cause. They had with them six 6-pounders, without horses. Afterwards part of the sailors and all of the militia and volunteers went away, he supposes for the winter only, and that his colonel, captain and lieutenant were sent recruiting and have taken sergeants with them this morning. He says that as far as he could learn no other attack is intended, and that last night some of the boats were moved up the creek which is situated there.

John Killeen, of the 23rd Regiment, being also examined cannot give any further information.

H. C. SAUNDERS,,

Captain 41st Regiment.

5th December, 1812.

Colonel Bisshopp.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 677.*)



### Statement of David Harvey.

David Harvey, a soldier in the United States army, a prisoner, and born in the State of Connecticut, informs and offers to swear to the following facts, viz.:

That the enemy have about 3,000 regular troops one mile and-a-half in rear of Black Rock, under camp at a place called Judge Granger's, where the General, (Smyth) his aide-de-camp and several officers of rank live. That their camp is unhealthy: that they die from 8 to 9 daily: that the place of burial is about 50 rods back of the camp and that two acres are covered with the buried dead, which he states are put into holes two or three of which are made every day, and into each put two to four dead men. The doctors say the disease is as bad as the plague. The patients are first taken with a pain in the head and in an hour and-a-half or two hours afterwards invariably die. Besides this disease he mentions their being afflicted with the pleurisy, dysentery and measles. He says in fact there are very few hale men among them, and if something is not done immediately they will all die. They have frequently expressed their discontent, and once stacked their arms, swore they would go home, and if their officers resisted would put them to death. Whenever they can desert they do. Four for desertion and one for mutiny have lately been shot at the camp, which nearly caused a rebellion. At Buffalo, in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia there have lately been the most alarming riots, particularly in the latter, where an officer and some soldiers were hacked and burnt to death. The soldiers are not allowed to see a single paper, but he understands the Federalists are burning the houses of the Democrats and are determined to have peace. They were the other day called in to quell a severe disturbance at Buffalo, where the people said they considered those on this side of the river as their brothers and sisters, with whom they had always been at peace, and were determined to remain so. A proclamation has been lately issued by General Smyth, telling the soldiers what a disgraceful thing it would be should England hear of their army being in a state of mutiny, and calling upon them to prevent it spreading abroad, as after declaring war against so powerful a nation as England, should it be known they would stand the scorn and derision of the nations of the earth. He says there are furnished from their camps 100 men, which are stationed near Black Rock, and two divisions of 500 men each back of Squaw Island for the protection of their boats, and three 18-pounders placed in batteries. About 150 men are at Schlosser and 150 at Fort Niagara. There are also in a field on the road between Black Rock and Buffalo

about 5 or 600 militia who will not act. The numbers of boats fit to be used about 40, six or eight of which are scows for the purpose of conveying their artillery. He says, that was the British army to cross over one-half of theirs would join them and the others run away. That he had heard his officers say, "what a hardy set of men the British soldiers were, and that they did not know their own strength; they would soon put them (the Americans) to their tramps." He says that Captain King is considered their great hero or rising leader, and looked up to by the soldiers more than the General is. He says Captain Ogilvie and several officers came across on the 28th, altho' on their parole of honor, and on finding their situation perilous, retreated to the boats, observing that should they be taken they would have their necks stretched. He says Captain Ogilvie has been for some time living with General Smyth, and is considered a brave and determined man. The army had received no pay for four months, and they were told that application had been made to France for money, but that France could not spare any, her own wants being so great. It was expected there would be a Federal Administration, and the whole of the soldiers are rejoicing at the prospect of peace with England. He mentions that Sergeant Helmbold, now a prisoner, killed a sergeant of the 49th Regiment after being wounded and a prisoner, at a time when the deceased was begging for God's sake to spare his life. Deponent declares his preference to be shot by the British rather than return to the United States. That he has a brother living in the Province, and that he is willing to do whatever is required rather than again become the victim of rascality and tyranny. Deponent says further that the boats were fired into before they landed, that upwards of 20 men were killed and thrown into the river, that altho' the captain and sergeants say they had only 150 men, they had more than 600; that near 60 had gone into the woods on this side to avoid going back, on which Captain King swore more than half their own army were Tories.

*(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)*

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**General Smyth to Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp.**

SIR,—You have seen a part of the hourly increasing force under my command. I propose to you the surrender of Fort Erie to spare the effusion of blood. I take this opportunity of assuring you that the devastations you have witnessed have been committed

by some sailors not under my authority and very much against my will.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
ALEXANDER SMYTH,  
Brig.-Genl.

28th Novr., 1812.

P. S.—I request Captain King may be sent over on parole, according to treaty.

A. S.

To The Commanding Officer }  
at Fort Erie. }

(*Canadian Archives, C. 677.*)

#### **Memorandum on General Smyth's Letter, by Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop.**

Captain Fitzgerald, 49th Regiment, was sent with my answer, refusing to surrender, and likewise to learn from General Smyth what treaty he meant, as I had no orders to deliver up prisoners or knowledge of any such treaty having taken place.

CECIL BISSHOP,  
Lieut.-Col. Commanding.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 677.*)

#### **Statement of Lieut. Thomas Lamont Relative to the Action of the 28th, Near Fort Erie.**

Between two and three o'clock in the morning one of the men came into my room and reported that boats of the enemy were crossing. I immediately turned out and perceived several boats approaching the beach opposite to my quarters (the Red House.) I formed my men with the utmost expedition and approached the boats, which had gained the shore, and fired a volley into them. (To the best of my recollection) while reloading I was charged by a party of the enemy, who had landed, and driven back to the Red House, when I, with much difficulty, rallied my men. I now saw a large party of the enemy advancing on me, upon which I fired a volley and charged them. This drove them back to their boats and I was informed that a number of the boats pushed off for their shore. I formed my men again at the Red House. A large party was now observed coming up on my left. They had on blanket

coats. Some of my men said they were militia and Indians coming up to our support. I, however, sent two men to reconnoitre, who returned and informed me that they were militia. As the party approached me they fired a volley and charged. I was wounded in the thigh and fell, and my men retreated, two of them conveying me towards our left battery. When I had nearly reached it a party of the enemy, which had possessed themselves of it, advanced and fired. I was here taken prisoner and lodged in the battery, the gun of which was dismounted. I remained here until about midday, when I was put into a wagon by our own people and conveyed to Fort Erie. My force consisted of about thirty men.

(Sgd)

T. LAMONT,

Lieut., 49th Regiment.

**Major-General Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

CHIPPAWA, 30th November, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of reporting to Your Excellency that very early in the morning of the 28th an attack was made on my batteries opposite to Black Rock. They were wrested from us for a time by superior numbers, but Major Ormsby of the 49th Regiment, with a body of troops from Fort Erie, having formed a junction with Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop, who had moved up with great celerity from Chippawa with reinforcements, those of the enemy who had not retired to their own shore, amounting to nearly forty, were made prisoners, with Captain King, who had commanded in the attack.

On receiving information of the attack I went up, having previously ordered a movement of some troops to strengthen those posts from which reinforcements had been detached to the right flank. On my arrival there I found the enemy in great force, of which he seemed to make an ostentatious display, some on shore and some in boats, and perhaps with the hope of giving effect to a summons which Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop had received to surrender Fort Erie. When I approached the ground opposite to Black Rock several large bodies of the enemy were seen moving downwards. I suspected their intention to be either to advance from the bottom of Squaw Island in aid of a direct attack above it in front of Black Rock or that a design against this post or some lower point was in contemplation. I thereupon caused some detachments I had passed on the road to be halted opposite to the foot of Squaw Island, and I remained there until night approached, when I set off for this post.

I continue here as being a central situation in which I can quickly receive intelligence from either extremity of the line.

It appears that in the affair of the 28th the loss on our part, if not the early success of the enemy, was chiefly owing to his having been mistaken for friendly succour coming from some neighboring quarter.

Captain Fitzgerald, of the 49th Regiment, was employed to carry to Black Rock Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop's answer to the summons he received. He saw Brigadier-General Smyth, who desired him to survey his force. He counted fifty-six large boats with men in them, and there was a great number of men on shore, in all he thought about five thousand, and he saw six scows with a field piece in each and horses with every appurtenance for field movements.

I have not yet received Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop's official report nor the return of the killed, wounded and missing. I wait for them to despatch an express.

Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop deserves high commendation for the spirit and activity he displayed, and great credit is due the officers and men who acted under his orders.

It was unfortunate for the service that those valuable officers, Lieut. King of the Royal Artillery and Lieut. Lamont of the 49th Regiment, were so early disabled, otherwise the most beneficial effects might have been expected from their exertions.

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**Lieut.-Colonel Cecil Bisshop to Major-General R. H. Sheaffe.**

FRENCHMAN'S CREEK, NEAR FORT ERIE,  
December 1st, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that on the morning of the 28th ulto., between four and five o'clock, a firing was heard at Chippawa on the right of the line under my command. I proceeded instantly in that direction, having given orders for Captain Kerby of the militia artillery with a light six-pounder, Captain Saunders's detachment of the 41st Regiment, and Capt. Hamilton's company of the 2nd Lincoln Regiment to march under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Clark to reinforce the right. On my arrival within six miles of Fort Erie I overtook Major Hatt, of the 5th Lincoln Regiment, with the militia under his command, intending to march to oppose the enemy, the 49th Regiment and the light company of the 41st Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant McIntyre, having retreated to this position.



Major Ormsby informs me that about two o'clock in the morning the enemy, consisting of about four hundred men, many of whom were sailors, effected a landing at the Red House, opposite the quarters of Lieut. Lamont, 49th Regiment, and succeeded in gaining possession of the batteries after having been most gallantly and warmly opposed by Lieut. King of the Royal Artillery, commanding two field pieces, and Lieut. Lamont with a party consisting of about 30 men only, the remainder of the detachment being stationed at the two batteries on his right. Both these officers were severely wounded, the former taken prisoner. Captain Bostwick, commanding the Norfolk Militia stationed at the ferry, on hearing the report of musquetry immediately ordered the men under his command to form and marched to the point of attack; after having exchanged a few rounds with the enemy and finding he was of superior force, he retired. Lieut. Bryson, of the militia artillery, finding the enemy gaining possession of the batteries and being unable to defend himself against such a superior force, spiked the 24-pounder in the half-moon battery, prior to its falling into the hands of the enemy.

The sentries at Fort Erie hearing a firing in the direction of the batteries, Major Ormsby marched at two o'clock with the detachment of the 49th Regiment, consisting of eighty men, to meet the enemy and support the batteries, leaving Captain Whelan, according to directions I had before given in case of an attack with the light company of the Newfoundland Regiment, to defend that fortress.

Major Ormsby advanced towards the batteries by the back road to support Lieut. Lamont, but having met with Lieut. Bryson, of the Militia Artillery, who informed him that the enemy were in possession of the batteries, it being then dark he changed his direction and moved to the right along the front road below the batteries, with a view of falling in with some of Lieut. Lamont's detachment, and likewise another party on the left stationed opposite to the end of Squaw Island, commanded by Lieut. Bartley, but who, it appears, had moved from thence early in the morning to the left, when the enemy had likewise landed their troops opposite to this place. Lieut. Bartley attacked the enemy, consisting of about 250 men, and kept up a fire upon the boats for about 15 or 20 minutes, when he observed a party coming towards him which he took to be our militia, but finding them to be a party of the enemy, and a number of his men being killed, wounded or missing, he retired, crossing Frenchman's Creek at the mill, a little above which he joined Major Ormsby having only 16 or 17 men left.

Major Ormsby, whose detachment continued their march



towards Frenchman's Creek, was fired on from a house above the bridge by a party of the enemy, and having returned their fire with two or three rounds from his detachment, he succeeded in passing the bridge, altho' partly destroyed by the enemy. He here halted to ascertain the force opposed to him, but as it still continued very dark he could neither see the enemy nor discover his movements.

He then proceeded about a mile further on the road downwards, when he was joined by Lieut. McIntyre of the light infantry, 41st Regiment, and remained there until daylight, when I arrived and immediately advanced with the whole of the force here, concentrated under Major Ormsby and Major Hatt, of the 5th Lincoln Militia, having under his command the different companies of militia on this line, consisting of about 300 men, towards this place, with a light six-pounder, where we took Captain King of the United States Infantry and about 30 rank and file prisoners. The enemy at this time were crossing the river with a considerable number of boats, having about 30 men in each, making towards the land. I ordered the six-pounder to open upon them, which was ably directed by Bombardier Jackson of the Royal Artillery, and acted with much execution. I formed the line on the bank, Major Ormsby and the 49th being on the right. After a few rounds from our musketry, the enemy retired to the American shore behind Squaw Island, having sustained considerable loss.

The Indian warriors under Major Givins having heard the report of our fire immediately joined us. I then marched with the light company of the 41st to ascertain the number and position of the enemy in our front, in which movement I received the greatest assistance from Major Givins and the Indians under his command. The enemy had dismounted the guns and left the batteries. I ordered the line to advance and took up a position in their rear, waiting his further operations. I had been joined by Lieutenant-Colonel Clark and his detachment from Chippawa. Capt. Whelan still continued in Fort Erie and had not been attacked during the absence of Major Ormsby and his detachment. The enemy kept up a strong fire on our lines from their batteries till one o'clock, when a flag of truce came over to summons Fort Erie and to demand the surrender of that post to the American army. A copy of General Smyth's letter accompanies this despatch. I sent Captain Fitzgerald of the 49th Regiment with my answer, which was that the troops under my command, being sufficient to repulse any attack from the enemy and having received reinforcements from below, I should not agree to his request. The six-pounder taken by the enemy in the morning, as likewise the three-pounders, were found without having sustained the least injury. Great credit is due to

Captain Kerby and the artillery for their exertions in getting up the guns on the batteries, which by the morning of the 30th we succeeded in, and have been ever since in expectation of an attack, but which the enemy do not think proper to make. To Captain Kerby, Lieuts. Bryson and Ball of the Militia Artillery and Bombardier Jackson of Royal Artillery, the greatest credit is due, as well as to Lieut.-Colonel Nichol, Q. M. General of Militia, and Lieut. Barnard, Acting Staff Adjutant.

I have also derived the greatest assistance from Lieut.-Colonel Clark, commanding the militia, Major Ormsby, commanding a detachment of the 49th Regiment, and Major Hatt of the 5th Lincoln Militia, and all officers in command of corps and companies under my orders.

The Norfolk Militia, under Captain Bostwick, gave a strong proof of the valor which has uniformly distinguished the militia of this country when called into action. I must likewise mention the names of Captain Whelan of the Newfoundland Regiment, Captains Chambers and Saunders of the 41st, Captain Fitzgerald, 49th, and Captain Hamilton of the 2nd Lincoln Militia, who first apprised me of the enemy's movements.

I enclose a list of the killed, wounded and missing. I have not been able to ascertain the loss of the enemy, but from the numbers left on the field and the boats that were sunk it must have been very great.

*(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)*

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**Memorandum by Captain Abram Rapelje.**

- 1 Richard Drake.
- 2 John Butler.
- 3 Elijah Williams.
- 4 Evi Adams.
- 5 Albert Berdan.
- 6 George Sergent.
- 7 Henry Medcalf.
- 8 Pinkney Mabee.
- 9 James Matthews.
- 10 Jacob Berdan.

Those whose names are above mentioned joined the Artillery on the 23rd November, 1812.

FORT ERIE, 28th November, 1812.

The Americans came over with a large number of boats. By examination of a prisoner we took, says they (the Americans) could not collect more than 3,000 men on the frontier: that 800 or 1,000 attempted to land on the 28th inst. but could not effect their purpose, and they suffered severely by the brave few that opposed them, who were rightly but few in number in comparison to the Americans, who made the best of their way back with their shattered boats after leaving a number dead and some prisoners, perhaps 50.

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List of killed, wounded and missing belonging to Captain A. Rapelje's company on 28th November, 1812, at Fort Erie:

- 1 John Wyckoff, killed.
- 2 John Bonnet, wounded, badly.
- 3 David Conrad, wounded slightly.
- 4 John Conrad, wounded slightly.
- 5 Reuben Allward, wounded severely.
- 6 Michael Croson, wounded badly.
- 7 James McQueen, wounded slightly.
- 8 John Mathews, wounded badly.
- 1 John Butler, missing.
- 2 Mathias Woodley, missing.
- 3 Wm. Sells, missing.
- 4 Samuel Troup, missing.

*(From a Note Book in Possession of Captain J. G. Spain.)*

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**Militia General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, CHIPPAWA,  
1st December, 1812.

Lieutenant Alexander McKee having tendered his resignation as lieutenant in Captain Powell's artillery company to His Honor Major-General Sheaffe, he is pleased to accept thereof and to direct that his rank and pay, &c., as such shall accordingly cease after the 2nd of this month.

By order,  
THOMAS EVANS,  
Brigade-Major.

**Lieut.-Colonel McFeeley to General Smyth.**

FORT NIAGARA, December 1st, 1812.

SIR,—I beg leave to inform you by Ensign Culverson of my regiment, (who takes charge of six deserters, arrived here this morning from the Canada side near the Thirty Mile Creek) of the situation of the force here.

By the different reports of this morning compared with those of several mornings back, I find that there has crept into this garrison a dreadful contagion, which upon an average carries off between three and five a day.

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**Probable Situation of Troops during the Winter, 1812, on the Niagara Frontier.**

Buffalo, about . . . . .	600
Black Rock, about . . . . .	400
Williamsville, about . . . . .	1300
Fort Niagara, about . . . . .	300
Fort Grey, unknown . . . . .	_____
Total . . . . .	2600

(*American State Papers.*)

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(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 1st December, 1812.)

PROGRESS OF THE WAR ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIERS.

From the time the armistice expired until Saturday last the weather, with the exception of one day, was inclement and extremely unfavorable to military movements and warlike operations. However, on Friday last a movement being resolved upon, the troops removed from their several encampments and concentrated their forces in the vicinity of Black Rock. On Saturday morning last about 3 o'clock a party of about 200 sailors and soldiers, under Captain King, made a descent on the enemy's shore, attacked and carried three several batteries, dismounted and spiked their cannon and destroyed gun carriages. The most determined, intrepid bravery was displayed upon this occasion. About 30 prisoners, among whom were two British officers, were captured. A large two-story house was burned, in which was a quantity of ammunition. A barn near the house was also fired and consumed, in which it is said were the enemy's light artillery; several horses,

already harnessed, were destroyed. The loss of the British in killed and wounded is uncertain—it is rated at between 20 and 30. Our loss consists of 4 or 5 killed and say 20 wounded, Captains King and Dox taken prisoners, the latter wounded and retaken. Sailing-master Watts was killed. The party returned to Black Rock about 6 o'clock. During this daring enterprise there were a few cannon shot fired from our batteries.

A short time after this achievement Colonel Winder with a column of 300 regulars from his regiment embarked (whether with an intention to cross the river or to reconnoitre, we know not.) at the mouth of Conjockety Creek behind Squaw Island, and after passing the foot of the island dropped a few minutes down the river on the enemy's shore, when the boats were furiously attacked with grape and musquetry from a considerable force, which had lain in ambush. The fire was very spiritedly returned from the boats for several minutes. Seeing, however, the danger of effecting a landing against a superior force on shore possessing every advantage, the boats returned with a small loss in killed and wounded.

A detachment of Colonel Porter's light artillery had now passed over to Squaw Island where two pieces played upon the enemy with some effect. From an early hour in the morning until nearly twelve o'clock the several batteries at Black Rock, mounting 24, 18, 12, and 6-pounders, played upon the opposite shore. The enemy returned but a few shot from a 6-pounder, which had escaped spiking.

Between 9 and 10 o'clock three sailors embarked in a boat, passed over to the enemy's shore and set fire to the dwelling house of B. Hardison and to the house and store of Mr. Douglas, which were consumed. After remaining upon that shore about two hours they returned with a boat loaded with articles taken from the houses. We understand that this act was unauthorized.

From 7 until 10 or 11 in the morning there was a constant embarkation of troops at the navy yard, and before the hour of 11 there were about 60 boats loaded and stationed in shore, awaiting the signal to make a descent. The day was fine, the troops were in excellent spirits; no opposing force *appeared* on the shore. A flag was now sent by General Smyth to the British commander. The flag returned. The troops in the boats were ordered to debark and the volunteers who were in readiness for embarkation were ordered back to their respective encampments. Since which period several movements have taken place, but as we are in possession of no official statements we can at present give no further account; perhaps, indeed, hereafter some satisfactory statement may appear.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)



Colonel Wm. H. Winder to Brigadier-General Alexander Smyth.

BLACK ROCK, Dec. 7th, 1812.

SIR,—I should before this have communicated the circumstances relative to the two enterprises of the night of the 28th, had not your presence enabled you at once to learn the general result so far as was necessary to predicate other movements on, and had not my incessant occupation since rendered it almost impossible to find the requisite time. I deem it, however, my duty in justice to the officers and men who formed a part of that expedition, to present to you such particulars as I have obtained from those engaged in it, which have been confirmed by the prisoners taken.

Agreeably to your orders of the 27th, Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler embarked with about 200 of the 14th Regiment in 11 boats, and Captain King of the army and Lieut. Angus of the navy embarked with 150 soldiers and 70 sailors in ten boats, between twelve and one o'clock of the morning of the 28th. The embarkation of both detachments was made with exemplary silence, order and promptitude.

The detachment of King having to ascend the river against the current to arrive at the point of attack, I directed him to move on first so that the detachment under Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, having in some degree the advantage of the current, each party might arrive as nearly as possible at the point of attack at the same time.

The detachment of King and Angus was discovered by the sentinels some time before it landed, and was assailed by a discharge of small arms from the sentinels and one or two discharges from a field piece at the Red House. Four boats out of ten nevertheless resolutely landed. The sailors under Lieut. Angus, with their characteristic impetuosity, rushed into the hottest fire before the infantry could be formed after landing, and sustained considerable injury. Captain King, however, seconded by Captains Morgan and Sproull, formed the infantry which did land as expeditiously as possible, and in conjunction with Lieut. Angus, Volunteer Swartwout and the brave naval officers soon overcame all resistance there. He then turned to the left and proceeded to storm the enemy's lower battery, which was vigorously assailed and soon carried and the cannon spiked. He then proceeded to the next battery above, which the trepidation of the enemy had by this time abandoned, and spiked the cannon there and broke the carriages. In the meantime Lieutenant Angus and Volunteer Swartwout and their party of sailors had spiked the field pieces at the Red House and had thrown them, together with two caissons, into the river, which, having accomplished, he returned to the place of landing,



where, finding only four boats and being ignorant that the others had not landed, and seeing nothing of the infantry, he concluded that either they had been made prisoners or had deserted him, and in consequence immediately embarked his men with his wounded prisoner, Lieut. King of the Royal Artillery, and returned round the lower end of Squaw Island to the navy yard. In consequence of this unfortunate mistake, which arose from the failure of six of the boats to make their landing, Captain King with Captains Sproull and Morgan and about 60 men were left on the other shore.

Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler with his detachment had in the meantime proceeded down the river to attack and destroy the party stationed at Frenchman's Creek and the bridge over it.

The discovery of the party under Captain King and Lieutenant Angus at so early a period, and the consequent firing, had alarmed the sentinels and a party of the enemy near Frenchman's Creek, and Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler immediately pushed to strike the shore at the nearest point, which in the want of knowledge of the localities of the place and the darkness of the night occasioned him to land from a quarter to half a mile above the bridge, not without having received the fire of the sentinels and a small party and having a picket-guard of about 30 men of the 49th drawn up and advancing upon them at the moment of landing. Four of his boats, misled by the darkness of the night or the inexperienced rowers being unable to force them across the current, fell below, near the bridge, and were forced to return by a party stationed there.

The companies of Captains Montgomery and Lane and a part of Sullivan's company under Lieut. Kearney, however, effected a landing with Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler. The boat in which Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler was, with Captain Lane and 20 men, first reached the shore. These were formed as well and as quickly as possible, were ordered to fire and charge the enemy, which was done with much gallantry, but not without some confusion inseparable from darkness, in the face of an enemy ready to receive them, of whose numbers they were ignorant and by men and officers for the first time engaged in a contest. The exertions of Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler to keep his party in order threw him somewhat in advance, and he was saved from the bayonet of one of the enemy by his presence of mind and promptitude in shooting him down with his pistol. An encouraging command at the same moment brought the bayonets of his party in contact with those of the enemy and they fled with precipitation leaving several dead and two prisoners. The pursuit was pressed to the bridge. Several of the axes were in the boats which had not landed and the necessity of encountering the enemy at the moment of landing occasioned those that were in the boats

to be left. A party, however, was detached under Lieut. Waring to break up the bridge by any means which they could find, and about one-third of the planks were actually removed.

At this time all was silent with the parties under Captain King and Lieut. Angus, and Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler supposed them either repelled or successful. At this moment Lieut. Woodward, commanding the boat-guard, made a corporal and a private of the 49th prisoner and learned that the whole force from Fort Erie was coming down upon them and that 200 were within a few minutes' march of the boats. He immediately despatched a messenger to inform Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, who formed his party and hastened up to the boats, where he discovered a considerable party of the enemy formed. Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, by a feint in giving the title of field officers to captains and battalions to companies in loud orders, endeavored to alarm the enemy by the apprehension of being out-numbered, ordered a fire and then a charge—the enemy fled without giving a chance to reach him.

The order being not to attempt to hold possession, Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler deemed it advisable to embark his troops to return, judging, as the fact has since been ascertained, that the whole force from Fort Erie was approaching.

The success of Captain King and Lieut. Angus had led the enemy to suppose that a large force was landed with them, and instead therefore of coming down the river they passed through the fields between the batteries and the woods and came out on the river road between the batteries and Frenchman's Creek, probably without knowing that Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler's detachment had landed below, and when they found their advance dispersed by what from Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler's feint they supposed a large party, they again turned off to the left through the fields, passed round the bridge and concentrated their force below.

Had Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler known that the party of Captain King had been successful, a juncture might have been made and everything accomplished. But he was justified in supposing that as the enemy's force had passed down by the point of King's attack he had been beaten off or taken, and that under that supposition it therefore became necessary for him immediately to embark.

Captain King with Morgan and Sproull, after accomplishing their object and finding the boats gone, proceeded down the river and near Frenchman's Creek found two of the enemy's boats, in which Morgan and Sproull with about half the detachment and their prisoners embarked, Captain King gallantly refusing to leave the shore unless all his men could accompany him.

Lieut. Waring with 8 men employed in breaking up the bridge

were left, notwithstanding Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, in the most pointed manner, inquired several times after the party were on board and before they put off whether every one was on board. You know the manner in which I saved him the next morning and of the manner in which my attempt to land with the 14th and part of the 23rd was frustrated.

I cannot close this communication without expressing my high sense of the cool, intrepid and collected manner in which Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler and the officers and men under them conducted themselves in this their first essay in practical war, under circumstances well calculated to have confused, distracted and intimidated veteran soldiers.

Captain King has placed his gallantry and magnanimity in a conspicuous point of view by his storming the enemy's batteries and refusing to desert his men.

Lieut. Angus and such of his officers and men as landed maintained the high character of the American tars. He was unfortunately and necessarily misled by the absence of so many boats, and from this cause it arose that we remained ignorant of the actual state of the enemy's shore until it was too late to profit by it. I think, however, there is no man who would not have acted under similar circumstances as Lieut. Angus did.

Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler has shown by this night that he is adequate to command in very trying circumstances, and Capt. King has maintained most fully his character for gallantry and courage.

I cannot pretend to particularize merits of others, where all who landed under the respective command of these gentlemen conducted themselves in the handsomest manner.

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(From the Independent Chronicle of Boston, 14th December, 1812.)

CANANDAIGUA, December 1.

From the best information there are at least 7,000 men at Buffalo, Black Rock and the Navy Yard within a distance of three miles; at Schlosser and Lewiston there are at least 500: at Youngstown or the Meadows about 300: at Fort Niagara 800, including militia but excluding volunteers. On the 22nd many of the volunteers had arrived and the road from Buffalo to Genesee was lined with them. Among others we particularly noticed Capt. Godfrey's company from Genesee, Captain Roseburgh's band of fine resolute men from Sparta, Captain Rochester's band of similar men from Dansville and Steuben, Captain Griffin's True Blues from several parts of this county, a detachment from the town of Ontario, a

number under Colonel Howell from Lyons, besides great numbers of individuals marching on without being attached. Sixty men from Seneca county passed through this village on Friday last on the same business. Companies are forming and men are moving from all quarters in the same direction.

*(From file in the Lenox Library, New York.)*

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**Colonel Winder to General Smyth.**

CAMP, CANAJOQUATY CREEK, Dec. 2nd, 1812.

SIR,—I have understood that the 12th and 20th Regiments have obtained permission to retire into the interior for the purpose of taking up their quarters for the winter. If a permission of that kind can be granted to any of the corps, I pray you to extend that indulgence to the 14th. They have encountered a series of fatigue and hardships so greatly beyond that of any other corps that they not only have a claim to be relieved, but the last eight or ten days have so shattered the regiment, both officers and men, that repose and comfort are absolutely necessary to them.

With respect to myself, if you should deem my services of importance anywhere I shall cheerfully yield them, but I beseech you to permit the balance of the regiment to retire into the interior, where vegetables and other food suited to recruit them can be procured.

I was extremely anxious to visit home this winter to have completed the adjustment of my private affairs, upon which, in the event of my death, a family will depend for a very slender pittance. But if objects of public service can be more effectually accomplished by my remaining here, in your judgment, I shall with the utmost cheerfulness devote myself to the accomplishment of your wishes.

What order will be taken with the 23rd? I have only understood that they were connected with my command in the field.

I called at General Tannehill's quarters after I saw you, but he was sick in bed and no meeting had or was to take place so far as I could hear.

*(American State Papers.)*

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**Colonel Parker to General Smyth.**

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, 2nd Dec., 1812.

There were marched from this encampment on the morning of the 30th November, 1812, to the River Niagara the following force

belonging to the consolidated 12th and 20th United States Infantry, viz.:

1 colonel, 1 lieut.-colonel, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 surgeon, 4 captains, 3 first lieutenants, 6 second lieutenants, 3 ensigns, 12 sergeants, 21 corporals, and 181 privates.

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**Return of Troops of Fourteenth Regiment Embarked on 29th November, 1812.**

November 29, 1812.

Fourteenth Regiment, 4 companies.....	221
Twenty-Third Regiment, 3 companies.....	79
Total officers and men.....	300

December 1, 1812.

Fourteenth Regiment, 4 companies.....	145
Twenty-Third Regiment, 3 companies.....	82
Total officers and men.....	227

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CHAS. G. BOERSTLER,  
Lieut.-Colonel, 14th Infantry.

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**Return of Men Under Command of Lieut.-Colonel McClure, who were Embarked on Tuesday, 1st December, 1812.**

Total, 20 commissioned officers, 276 non-commissioned officers and privates.

*(American State Papers.)*

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**Josiah Robinson to Colonel S. Van Rensselaer.**

BUFFALO, Dec. 2nd, 1812.

SIR,— . . . . .

That pompous proclamation brought volunteers from every quarter, and on the 27th November ult. his forces were more than eight thousand men, and his boats would carry three thousand eight hundred men, besides eleven pieces of artillery, with as many ammunition waggons and forty-eight horses. On the night of the same day three hundred sailors and regulars crossed the river, spiked all the British cannon, took thirty-one prisoners and returned. The morning following, Col. Winder with his regiment crossed the



river and were repulsed by about three hundred British. By twelve o'clock all the boats were filled and passed up to the Rock, and nothing to obstruct their landing in Canada but a six-pounder which did them no injury, neither could bear on them longer by means of our batteries. At the same time three sailors crossed the river, set two houses on fire, plundered a store, burned it, shot fowls, ducks and pigs, without opposition from the enemy, who, in attempting to approach, were driven back by the well directed fire from our batteries. Notwithstanding the ardor of the troops to pass the river they were ordered ashore (to disembark and dine) and a *flag* was sent to Canada.

Yesterday at three o'clock a. m. the troops were again ordered to embark, the American flag was raised with everything ready for a descent, when, lo! the coward appeared, and the remainder cannot be described but by the fallen countenances of the officers and the fury of the privates.

(From Bonney's *Historical Gleanings*, pp. 283-4.)

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### General Order.

The pleasure of His Excellency the President of the United States of America in relation to the case of Elijah Clark, who was tried and convicted of being a spy, under and by virtue of the General Order of August 1st ulto., and whose execution was suspended by General Order of August 13th ulto., having been this day made known to the Major-General, through the Hon. the Secretary at War, therefore in conformity to the decision of His Excellency the President it is hereby ordered "that the said Elijah Clark, being considered a citizen of the United States and not liable to be tried by a Court Martial as a spy, therefore unless he should be arraigned by the civil courts for *treason* or some *minor crime* under the laws of the State of New York, he must be discharged."

All officers and military authorities whatever in whose custody the said Clark shall or may happen to be for the cause aforesaid are hereby ordered to release him from his said arrest as a spy.

Lieut.-Colonel Philetus Swift is particularly charged with the execution of this order.

By order of Major-General Hall.

GEO. HOSMER, A. D. C.

Bloomfield, December 2nd, 1812.



(From the New York Statesman, 1st January, 1813.)

BUFFALO, December 2nd, 1812.

To General Alexander Smyth :

SIR,—The subscribers are a committee from the patriotic citizens of the western counties of this state, who have turned out (bearing all the inclemency of the season) in pursuance of your proclamation of the 12th November last. They confidently expected that your army would have invaded Canada as you promised they should. The events of the last week have thrown the country into a state of almost total distraction.

As citizens who have used our utmost exertions on this critical occasion for the prosecution of the war against our enemy, and affecting the happiness and quietude of our country, we think it our duty to propound to you certain questions, your answers to which will enable us to effect the great ends we have in view :

Why did you not cross the river on Saturday when every obstacle was removed and a landing might have been effected without the loss of a man ?

Had you not a force superior to that of the enemy and assurances of a powerful reinforcement on the same day ? If you had not why did you make the second attempt by again embarking your troops on Tuesday, and by again disembarking them disappoint the expectations of the brave men under your command and throw them into a state of disorder approaching to mutiny ?

Do you contemplate any further operations this fall ? If you do why order the arms of the brave volunteers to be returned ?

GEORGE McCLURE,  
LEWIS BIRDSALL,  
JOHN GRIFFIN,  
WM. B. ROCHESTER.

[Delivered by General George McClure.]

**Brigadier-General Smyth to Messrs. George McClure, Lewis Birdsall, John Griffin, and Wm. B. Rochester, a Committee of Patriotic Citizens of the Western Counties of New York.**

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,  
December 3rd, 1812.

GENTLEMEN,—Your letter of the 2nd December is before me, and I answer it in the following manner :

On the 26th October I ordered that twenty scows should be prepared for the transportation of artillery and cavalry, and put the carpenters of the army upon that duty.

By the 26th of November ten scows were completed, and by bringing some boats from Lake Ontario above the Falls the number was increased to seventy.

And I had on the 12th November issued an address to the men of New York, and perhaps 300 had arrived in Buffalo. I presumed that the regular troops and the volunteers under Colonels Swift and McClure would furnish 2,500 fit for duty, and of General Tannehill's brigade, (from Pennsylvania) reporting a total of 1,650, as many as 413 had volunteered to cross into Canada. My orders were "to cross with 3,000 men at once." I deemed myself ready to fulfil them.

Preparatory thereto, on the night of the 27th November, I sent over two parties, one under Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, the other under Captain King, with whom Lieut. Angus of the navy, at the head of a body of seamen, united. The first was to capture a guard and destroy a bridge about five miles below Fort Erie, the second party were to take and render useless the cannon of the enemy's batteries and some pieces of light artillery. The first party failed to destroy the bridge, the second, after rendering unserviceable the light artillery, separated by some misapprehension. Lieut. Angus, the seamen and part of the troops returned with all the boats, while Capt. King, Captain Morgan, Captain Sproule, Lieut. Houston and about 60 men remained. The party thus reduced, attacked, took and rendered unserviceable two of the enemy's batteries, captured 34 prisoners, found two boats in which Captain King sent the prisoners and about half his party with the other officers, he himself remaining with thirty men whom he could not abandon.

Orders had been given that all the troops in the neighborhood should march at reveille to the place of embarkation. A part of the detachment sent in the night having returned and excited apprehensions for the residue, about 250 men, under the command of Colonel Winder, suddenly put off in boats for the opposite shore; a part of this force had landed when a force deemed superior, with one piece of artillery, was discovered. A retreat was ordered and Colonel Winder's detachment suffered a loss of six killed and nineteen wounded, besides some officers.

The general embarkation commenced as the troops arrived, but this being the first embarkation the whole of the scows were occupied by about one-third of the artillery, while about 800 regular infantry, about 200 twelve months volunteers under Colonel Swift, and about 200 of the militia, who had volunteered their services for a few days, occupied all the boats that were ready. The troops then embarked, moved up the stream to Black Rock without loss; they were ordered to disembark and dine.

I had received from my commanding General an instruction in the following words: "In all important movements you will, I presume, consider it advisable to consult some of your principal officers." I deemed this equivalent to an order, and the movement important. I called for the field officers of the regulars and twelve months' volunteers embarked. Colonel Porter was not found at the moment. These questions were put: "*Is it expedient now to come over? Is the force we have sufficient to conquer the opposite coast?*"

The first question was decided in the negative by Colonel Parker, Colonel Schuyler, Colonel Winder, Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler, Lieut.-Colonel Coles and Major Campbell. Colonel Swift of the volunteers *alone* gave an opinion for their crossing over. The second question was not decided. Colonel Parker, Colonel Schuyler, Lieut.-Colonel Coles and Major Campbell were decidedly of opinion that the force was insufficient. Colonel Winder, Colonel Swift, Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler and Captain Gilman deemed the force sufficient.

I determined to postpone crossing over until more complete preparation would enable me to embark the whole force *at once*, the counsel prescribed by my orders. The next day was spent in such preparation, and the troops were ordered to be again at the place of embarkation at 8 o'clock in the evening of the 30th November. On their arrival they were sent into the adjacent woods, there to build fires and remain until 3 o'clock of the morning of the 1st December, when it was intended to put off two hours before daylight so as to avoid the fire of the enemy's cannon in passing the position which it was believed they occupied below, to land above Chippawa, assault that place, and if successful to march thro' Queenston for Fort George. For this expedition the contractor was called upon to furnish rations for 2,500 men for four days, but not the flour, the Deputy-Quartermaster called for 60 barrels and got but 35.

The embarkation commenced but was delayed by circumstances so as not to be completed until after daylight, when it was found the regular infantry, 688 men, the artillery, 177 men, Swift's volunteers estimated at 230, six companies of federal volunteers, under Captains Collins, Phillips, Allison, Moore, Maher and Marshall, amounting to 276 men, commanded by Colonel McClure, 100 men of Colonel Dobbins' militia and a few men in a boat with General Peter B. Porter, had embarked, the whole on board amounting, exclusive of officers, to 1,465 men or thereabouts, and it was now two hours later than had been contemplated.

There were some groups of men not yet embarked. They were

appealed to, requested and ordered by the Brigade-Major to get into the boats. They did not. The number of these the Brigade-Major estimated at 150. It was probably greater.

It then became a question whether it was expedient to invade Canada in open daylight with 1,500 men at a point where no reinforcements could be expected for some days. I saw the number of regulars was declining rapidly. I knew that on them chiefly I was to depend.

I called together the officers commanding corps of the regular army. Colonel Parker being sick, there were present: Colonel Porter of the artillery, Colonel Schuyler, Colonel Winder and Lieut.-Colonel Coles.

I put this question: "*Shall we proceed?*" They *unanimously* decided that we ought not.

I foresaw that the volunteers, who had come out for a few days, would disperse—several of them had on the evening of the 28th broke their muskets. I foresaw that the number of regular troops would decrease, the measles and other diseases being among them, and they were now in tents in the month of December. I informed the officers that the attempt to invade Canada would not be made until the army was reinforced, directed them to withdraw their troops and cover them with huts immediately.

You say that on Saturday every obstruction was removed, and that a landing might have been effected "without the loss of a single man." This proves you unacquainted with the occurrences of the day. Colonel Winder, in retiring from the enemy's shore in the morning, lost a tenth part of his force in killed and wounded. The enemy showed no more than 500 or 600 men, as estimated by Colonel Parker, and one piece of artillery, supposed to be a nine-pounder. That force we might no doubt have overcome but not without loss, and that from the great advantage the enemy would have had, might have been considerable.

To recapitulate, my orders were to pass into Canada with 3,000 men *at once*. On the first day of embarkation not more than 1,400 men were embarked, of whom 400, that is half the regular infantry, were exhausted with fatigue and want of rest. On the second embarkation only 1,500 men were embarked, and these were to have put off immediately and to have descended the river to a point where reinforcements were not to be expected. On both days many of the regular troops were men in bad health who could not have stood one day's march, who, altho' they were on the sick report, were turned out by their ardent officers.

The affair at Queenston is a caution against relying on crowds who go to the bank of Niagara to look on a battle as on a theatrical

exhibition, who if they are disappointed of the sight break their muskets, or if they are without rations for a day desert.\*

I have made to you this frank disclosure without admitting your authority to require it, under the impression you are patriotic and candid men, and that you will not censure me for following the cautious counsels of experience nor join in the scurrilous clamor excited against me by an interested man.

I have some reason to believe that the cautious counsel given by the superior officers of my command was good. From deserters we learn that 2,344 rations are issued daily on the frontier on the British side. Captain King, prisoner at Fort George, writes to an officer thus: "*Tell our friends to take better care of themselves than it appears I have done.*"

P. S.—It will be observed that the force ready could not otherwise be ascertained than by an *actual* embarkation, it being uncertain what portion of the volunteer force would embark.

(From file in New York Society Library.)

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**Buffalo Gazette, February 2nd, 1813.**

(From the *Huntingdon Gazette*.)

To the Public :

Having acted as Judge Advocate of General Tannehill's brigade on the late expedition to Buffalo, I think it my duty to state that the information communicated to the public by General Smyth, "that a court martial of said brigade had fined a volunteer twelve and-a-half cents for the crime of desertion" is entirely unfounded; no such decision was made,

The misrepresentation (if undesigned) must have arisen from the circumstance of a soldier having been fined in that sum for firing off his gun contrary to orders.

M. CANAN.

January 14th, 1813.

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**Lieut.-Colonel George Fleming to Governor Tompkins.**

BLACK ROCK, December 3rd, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—No doubt prior to Your Excellency's receiving this letter you will have received a particular account of the late military transactions at this place. All is confusion and bustle here.

From what I hear here and at Buffalo, General Smyth, I have

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\*Six hundred of General Tannehill's brigade deserted in 24 hours. A court martial of this brigade have fined a man *twelve and-a-half cents* for the crime of desertion.



reason to believe, has entirely lost the confidence of both the militia and United States troops. I understand he has directed the proclamation volunteers to return home, without thanking them for their patriotism. They are very much dissatisfied with him.

My last letter to Your Excellency was dated at Batavia, the 23rd ultimo. I arrived at Buffalo in the night of the 26th. The next day I waited on General Smyth. He received me very politely and told me he was pleased I had arrived. He immediately gave me a written order, a copy of which is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,  
November 27, 1812.

Lieut.-Colonel Fleming will take command of the artillerists of militia opposite to Fort Erie.

ALEXANDER SMYTH,  
Brigadier-General, Comd'g.

I immediately on receiving this order came to this place, and before peep of day got all ready in the battery. Captain Hart's company of militia artillery is stationed to assist in covering the landing of our troops in Canada. Captain Hart's company of 18 men is the only company of militia artillerists here. More are wanted, but at present I am not able to mention whether one or two companies.

(*Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 286-7, New York State Library.*)

Captain A. Gray, Acting Deputy-Quartermaster General, to Sir George Prevost.

KINGSTON, 3rd Dec., 1812.

SIR,—I feel it my duty to take the earliest opportunity of laying before Your Excellency such information as I have been able to collect, relative to the state of the marine in this Province

I was not prepared to meet with anything very consolatory in this branch of the service, and I am sorry to add that all the unfavorable reports I received of its state are confirmed in the fullest extent. The officers of the marine seem to be destitute of all energy and spirit and are sunk into contempt in the eyes of all who know them. The want of seamen is so great that the *Royal George* has only 17 men on board who are capable of doing their duty, and the *Moir* only 10 able seamen\*. On the other hand the efforts of the enemy are such that nothing can save our navy from destruction the moment that navigation opens in the spring.

\*Note by Sir George Prevost: "34 on the march, Dy. Q. M. Gen. to procure more."

They have already got the ascendancy in Lake Ontario by manning the *Oneida* brig and manning and arming six or seven of their merch[an]t craft. The force is at present an even match for our three vessels constituted *as they are at present*, but when to this force of the enemy is added the frigate they are now building at Sackett's Harbor we shall be completely at their mercy in every direction, and, what renders this state of affairs more mortifying, there does not appear the least chance of our being enabled by any exertion with our limited means of keeping pace with the enemy, so much has he got the start of us. Captain Brock has just arrived on parole from Sackett's Harbor and fully confirms the reports that had previously reached us of the exertions the enemy are making at that place. The frigate was expected to be launched in a fortnight or three weeks and another is to be laid down on the same slip. This he had from Commodore Chauncey himself, who it seems was very communicative and full of confidence in his strength.

When I arrived I found the *Royal George* and *Moir* here with the intention of wintering, as there is no force at present at York to protect them.

I have selected a station for them calculated on defensive measures only, as our object now, I conceive, is to prevent, if we can, the enemy from getting possession of our vessels. The *Prince Reg[en]t* is employed in transporting stores between York and Niagara.

As to the works of defence here but little can be said. About six or eight small ship guns are mounted on the batteries, and a block house is built upon the high ground for the protection of the harbor, mounting at present a 6 and a 9-pounder, the whole capable of making but a feeble resistance to the force the enemy has the power of bringing against us.

At the same time that I communicate to Your Excellency the unfavorable situation that we are placed in by the exertions of the enemy, and the total want of means on our part, I beg leave humbly to suggest the only mode left for us to recover at a blow what we have lost.

I find from the information I have been able to collect that Sackett's Harbor is not at present in a state to make any resistance against a *coup de main* if we were in sufficient force. There are but two batteries and these are upon points forming the harbor and lately appropriated to the marine defence of the place, and it does not appear that there are any blockhouses or enclosed works of any sort, nor any measures taken to defend the place against any attack by land.

The force at present in Sackett's Harbor consists of about 1,000 militia in a wretched state of equipment, much discontented and very sickly, one company of artillery (regulars) and about 200 ship carpenters and seamen. The distance from hence to Sackett's Harbor is about 45 miles, viz.: To Gravelly Point 14 miles; here the enemy has a post of 200 militia in a musket proof barrack (loopholed.) Between this point and Sackett's Harbor the distance is 31 miles, mostly through wood, with scattered settlements and partial clearings.

This road will be beaten in order to carry supplies between Sackett's Harbor and Gravelly Point, but from here to Gravelly Point the road must be beaten.

The force requisite for this service need not be very great. I should imagine one good regiment, exclusive of what may be collected here, would be sufficient. If Your Excellency approves of the suggestions I have taken the liberty of submitting, the necessary preparation may be made below, and the men destined for this service provided with snow shoes and trained to the use of them. I am aware that this enterprise is not without risk; there is, however, every prospect of success, as this part is very distant from succour. I believe Albany is the nearest point from whence they could be reinforced with effect, which is as far distant from Sackett's Harbor as Montreal is from hence. If the troops from the Lower Province are put in motion about the latter end of January they could reach this in good season for making the attack. They would not be more than 10 days in reaching this in light marching order.

They need not be above a month absent from Montreal. Either the King's Regiment (with its flank companies) or the flank battalion would be sufficient for this purpose. The principal thing to be apprehended would be the intelligence of our movements reaching the enemy, but if the enterprise is conducted with despatch the blow would be struck before he could avail himself of any information he might receive. We would require three or four pieces of artillery on sleighs to destroy any block houses or temporary works they may in the meantime run up.

If this measure is not adopted some efforts out of the common routine must be made. There are not shipwrights in this Province to execute half the work required. It might under those circumstances be advisable to engage *all* the master shipwrights in Lower Canada with their men, and send them up to work, by contract or otherwise.

The ships being laid up here is not choice but accident, as they

were sent with the view of returning, but the weather has been so severe that they could not get back to York.

It is, as I have already stated, perhaps the wisest policy to keep them here under the present circumstances.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 728, p. 135.*)

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**Militia General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 3rd Dec., 1812.

Appointment in the Lincoln Artillery: Daniel Spilman, Gent., to be Lieutenant in Captain Powell's company from this date, *vice* McKee resigned.

By order,  
THOS. EVANS,  
Brigade Major.

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**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 3rd Dec., 1812.

The light company of the 49th Regiment will march from Chippawa so as to arrive at Queenston early tomorrow morning. Captain Williams of the 49th will assume the command of the post at Queenston.

The detachment of the 49th Regiment at Fort George will march to Queenston as soon as the men have dined this day, those of the Light company will remain and join their company, to be quartered at that post; the remainder will proceed and join their company at Chippawa.

By order,  
THOS. EVANS,  
Brigade Major.

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**Circular.**

NIAGARA, 4th December, 1812.

SIR,—I think it proper to apprise you that the desertion from the First Regiment of Lincoln Militia has become so great that it is necessary to inform every officer of the regiment thereof. That such numbers can be absent without the knowledge of those officers of the regiment that are in the country I cannot conceive possible.

I therefore call on them in the most serious manner to exert themselves in bringing such absentees to their duty, and should

any officer know where deserters are and neglect bringing them in I assure them that when I find this to be the case such conduct will be reported to His Honor the President, and I shall strongly recommend such officers to be superseded.

W. CLAUS, Colonel,  
1st Regt. L. M.

*To Captain Jacob A. Ball,  
10 Mile Creek.*

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**Major-General R. H. Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

FORT GEORGE, 4th December, 1812.

SIR,—Some circumstances rendering my presence here necessary, I came down yesterday from Chippawa.

I have the honor of transmitting Lieut.-Colonel Bisshop's report of the operations of the 28th November, with a return of the killed, wounded and missing which I received yesterday evening. I also enclose sundry other documents, among them a proclamation by B. General Smyth; its character altogether is such as reflects the greatest discredit on those who could authorize its publication. It has not yet fully answered its purpose. From the information in some of the accompanying papers Your Excellency will perceive that a want of mutual confidence existed between the General and the troops. This is confirmed by intelligence I received this morning from Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, that Assistant-Surgeon Steele, who had been taken prisoner on the 28th, had returned, bringing the information that B. General Smyth had been forced to leave Buffalo because he declined moving his troops across the river.

The night before last I received a despatch from Colonel Procter, the substance of which is herewith transmitted. It was brought by Lieut. Merritt of the Provincial Dragoons, who was employed to convey the supply of cash and army bills to Deputy-Assistant Commissary General Gilmour, who writes to the Deputy-Commissary General that he feels confident of being supplied with provisions until the opening of navigation without further aid from him, which is fortunate, as a considerable quantity destined for Amherstburg has not been forwarded, circumstances having conspired to prevent it.

Our military chest is so nearly exhausted and there are so many demands on it that I have given my sanction to the Deputy-Commissary General to issue notes, a transcript of which is transmitted to the Commissary General.

*(Canadian Archives, C. 677.)*



## District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 4th Dec., 1812.

Adjutant Smith of the 41st Regiment until further orders will do the duty of Fort Major in addition to his own as adjutant of the 41st Regiment.

No. 2. It being extremely difficult to procure sufficiency of wood for the use of the troops, it is enjoined on all officers entitled to receive an allowance of that article to be as sparing in the consumption of it as possible, and it is expected that no wood will on any account be drawn from the public depots at the different stations except for the actual use of the individuals drawing it. The supplies which may be left in the woodyard will be paid for to individuals by the Deputy-Commissary General at the contract price.

By order,  
THOS. EVANS,  
Brigade-Major.

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(From the Quebec Mercury, 22nd December, 1812.)

NIAGARA, 5th December, 1812.

On the 21st about sunrise a cannonade was opened on Fort Niagara and was briskly kept up throughout the day. We made little impression on the stone buildings, which constitute its principal defence, but our fire was so well directed that we killed and wounded a good number of men stationed at the guns on top of them. These guns were several times dismantled, and one 12-pounder burst. They admit an officer and ten men killed and from thirty to forty wounded. The wooden buildings outside of Niagara were consumed by the fire from our red hot shot. Those inside were several times on fire but they succeeded in extinguishing the flames. It was supposed that an attack would have been made on the enemy's magazines and boats, but if so it was relinquished.

Since the rupture of the armistice our toils have been excessive, and we are almost worn out with watching and fatigue.

On the morning of the 28th ult., about two o'clock, the enemy crossed the river in fourteen boats, each conveying thirty soldiers, and rowed by ten sailors. They certainly effected their landing unperceived and came in rear of our three batteries at the rapids, the guns of which we were obliged to abandon after spiking them. They then proceeded in two parties, one by water the other by land, to attack our posts on the river. They were here met and opposed

by two weak companies of militia, by a detachment of the 49th Regiment under Lieut. Lamont, and two field pieces under Lieut. King of the Royal Artillery. Their superiority was so great that our troops, after having made a brave resistance and sustained some loss, were obliged to retreat and abandon their guns. On this occasion the enemy took thirty-three prisoners. Their boats in the meantime were very severely handled, and such part of the enemy as could get on board returned in them to their own shore. A detachment, however, under Captain King, aide-de-camp to the American General, continued its course down the river. On the first alarm Major Ormsby, stationed at Fort Erie, marched to his left to the point of attack, and after a slight action with Capt. King, whose force was by this time reduced to forty men, compelled him to lay down his arms. About seven o'clock the same morning another division of the enemy's boats, eighteen in number, attempted to cross the river two miles lower down. Colonel Bisshop, (who on being apprized of the enemy's landing, advanced with all possible expedition from Chippawa,) had assembled our whole force, consisting of Major Ormsby's detachment, about 150 of the 41st Regiment and the militia, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Clark and Major Richard Hatt. The approach of the boats was welcomed with three cheers, and when they had got within the proper distance a heavy fire was opened upon them from our whole line and a six-pounder under the command of Captain Kerby. The enemy soon after began to waver and in a short time rowed with all their might towards their own shore. Two of their boats were sunk by our fire, and in many of those which reached the land their numbers were so reduced that they had not the means of rowing more than three oars. On the first alarm I galloped from Niagara and arrived in time to witness a considerable part of the action. By this time we had assembled a force of eleven hundred men and some Indians and taken up a position in advance towards the Ferry, at which the enemy, after having burnt nearly all the houses, still kept up a heavy cannonade. On gaining the heights opposite Black Rock we had a full view of the enemy's whole force, consisting of about six thousand men. About three thousand of these were embarked in boats ready to push off and the remainder were drawn up on shore. They remained in this situation till about three o'clock, when, observing that we had unspiked the guns of the two twelve-pounder batteries and had got our six and three-pounders (which we had retaken) ready to open, they sent a flag of truce ostensibly to summon Fort Erie, but really to give them an opportunity of retiring from our fire. The night that followed this day was dreadful: the rain fell in torrents and we

were all exposed till morning "to the pelting of the pitiless storm," and remained for nearly thirty-six hours without a morsel to eat. Never did I witness such zeal, such devotion to the cause, and such determination as pervaded all ranks. In the course of next day arrangements were made for getting our troops under cover in the remaining houses and barns. On the night of the 30th the enemy were again observed to be in motion and we were all on the alert. We have subsequently ascertained that a large force had actually embarked, but had afterwards landed by order of the General. Disturbances have since then taken place, both in the camp and town of Buffalo. General Smyth has been shot at and burnt and buried in effigy. The militia and volunteers, who are principally from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, have been in a state of mutiny and many of them have returned home. Still, however, there is a great force opposed to us, and all our exertions will be requisite to preserve this province from falling under a foreign foe.

P. S.—It is ascertained that General Smyth has absconded. We have accounts from Detroit to the 26th November, at which time the Americans were starving at the Glaize. Detroit is safe for this winter.

*(File in Parliamentary Library, Ottawa.)*

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**(From the Quebec Mercury, 22nd December, 1812.)**

FORT GEORGE, Dec. 9, 1812.

Lest none of your troublesome friends in this neighborhood should have given you a sketch of our late operations on this frontier, I will briefly relate the occurrences of the 28th :

About two hours before daylight on that morning the enemy effected a landing at the upper end of Grand Island with about 400 men, and owing to his great superiority a party of the 49th under Lieut. Lamont, after gallantly opposing him for a considerable time, were obliged to retire, and were closely pursued into a battery which was taken by the enemy with that officer and many of his party, Lieut. Lamont having previously several wounds. Much about the same time the enemy, owing to the great superiority of his force, effected a landing at other points and carried several batteries. Lieut. King was severely wounded and made prisoner. As soon as day had sufficiently dawned to distinguish friends from foes our reinforcements, which had assembled from all points, were concentrated under the judicious arrangements of Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, who, after reconnoitering the enemy's force and position

and after a very sharp conflict, obliged him to make a precipitate retreat to his own shore, leaving their commanding officer and 38 prisoners behind and 18 dead on the field. It is supposed the enemy carried away nearly 100 killed and wounded in their boats during the morning.

This gallant achievement had not been performed without loss, which fell chiefly on the 49th. The return states 12 killed, 15 wounded and 28 prisoners. The latter I am happy to add have been already exchanged. The militia have also lost from 10 to 15 killed, wounded and missing. The enemy had the presumption to send over a summons to Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp during the morning requiring the surrender of Fort Erie, who of course returned the obvious answer: "*Come and take it.*" A second landing was attempted with about 600 men at the lower end of Squaw Island, but being promptly opposed by our troops and one 6-pounder they were compelled to retreat with great loss. It appears the troops have been in a decided state of mutiny at Black Rock, and General Smyth pronounced his lack of confidence in the American militia. He was fired at several times and very narrowly escaped with his life. I believe the militia have, generally speaking, "broken up for the *Christmas holidays* and gone to their country houses."

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### District General Order.

FORT GEORGE, 5th December, 1812.

- No. 1.—The order of the 16th October, attaching Lieut. Walter Kerr to Lieut.-Colonel Myers, is rescinded.
- No. 2.—Major-General Sheaffe understands from Colonel Procter that a verbal authority had been granted by the late Major-General Brock for Lieut. Troughton of the Royal Artillery and stationed in his command to draw forage for one horse from the 25th August. He is pleased to approve the same, on that officer furnishing the usual certificates.
- No. 3.—The attention of the officers commanding militia corps and detachments is required to No. 3 of the orders of the 12th November, whereby it is directed that men be furnished the Commissariat Department for the purpose of cutting wood and thrashing of straw.
- No. 4.—Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp will be pleased to order a nominal list of the killed and wounded and missing in the action of the 28th ulto. to be forwarded without delay.

(From the *New York Gazette*, December 15, 1812.)

Extract from a letter dated at Canandaigua, N. Y., 5th December, 1812:

When Smyth had given up his attempts to cross, the army were with difficulty kept quiet. On Sunday and Monday the officers waited upon him in a body upon the subject. He swore with tremendous imprecations that he would cross that night. The troops were under arms from 12 to 1 o'clock. All were embarked in good order and silence in the boats, the men all emulous to be in first. The boats pushed off and lay on their oars ready for the word. At that time two guns were heard to go off on our side, and soon after the morning signal was heard on the other. The boats were ordered ashore and a flag of truce sent over. He returned with an officer of General Sheaffe's. After a long conference the men were ordered to their quarters, the volunteers dismissed. The officers broke their swords, the men beat their muskets over stumps with rage. General Porter harangued the volunteers and concluded by calling Smyth a scoundrel and a coward, and that he should post him as such. Smyth for safety took lodgings in Buffalo, but the mob becoming dangerous the landlord desired him to depart. On the way a soldier snapped a pistol at him. He took refuge in his own camp, surrounded by guards and sentinels. During Tuesday night different parties came to Judge Granger's where he had lodged and swore they would have him dead or alive; \$1,500 is said to be offered for his head, and he is no more seen. In the course of Tuesday a council of a few officers was called: what passed is not known, but they were all seen to go away very dejected.

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(From the *New York Evening Post*, Tuesday, 13th December, 1812.)

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city dated,

LIMA, December, 5, 1812.

I have just time to inform you that General Smyth has had his troops several times under arms and in his boats in order to cross from Black Rock to Canada. On Monday last he had them again in his boats and ordered them back to camp. The troops were much incensed. He called together a number of his officers and made a statement which satisfied them. Among them was General Peter B. Porter. General Porter said that General Smyth had pledged his honor to go over on Tuesday morning and that all



things were ready. On Tuesday the troops were accordingly ordered down to the river and into the boats, but were soon ordered back again. Secret murmurs then broke out into loud complaints, threats and denunciations. General Peter B. Porter said publicly that Smyth was a scoundrel and a traitor. He was at the Rock and appointed to meet some of his officers at 12 o'clock at Landon's to explain. On his way there, while riding along the beach, he (General Smyth) was fired at. The ball passed through the clothes of his aid, who was by his side. The interview at Landon's was not satisfactory to his officers. General Smyth had spoken to Landon for lodgings. Landon heard threats from soldiers in the streets that they would commit violence upon his person and tear down Landon's house. He then went to Smyth and requested him to leave his house as being unsafe. The General then left the house and went to his camp. Double guards were set and every precaution taken to prevent surprise. The threats were made by some of the distant volunteers. In the course of the evening inquiries were repeatedly made for him by some suspicious persons at his former lodgings. Nothing further occurred that night. It is now said by everybody from headquarters that he is concealed somewhere and dare not appear in public. The volunteers who have been drawn out by his proclamation are dismissed and are continually passing here, much enraged at the noble Smyth who was to lead them on to "victory or death." With them he is now censured as a traitor and a coward. From what motives General Smyth has acted I know not, but I am confident that by omitting to go over he has saved his army.

The general opinion of those now on their return is that Gen. Smyth if found will be torn in pieces. At any rate there will be no invasion of Canada from this quarter, unless by the volunteers, which is talked of.

*(File in New York Society Library.)*

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**(From New York Evening Post, Thursday, 24th Dec., 1812.)**

*(From the Albany Gazette.)*

Extracts of a letter from Buffalo to Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer:

BUFFALO, December 6, 1812.

Nothing was done on the part of General Smyth which promised a continuance of the campaign until the 10th of November, when he issued a proclamation calling on the citizens of this State

to volunteer for the purpose of invading Canada. About 400 volunteers came in in consequence of that proclamation, and were organized into a brigade, under General Peter B. Porter.

On the 16th another proclamation appeared. After this nothing occurred until Wednesday, the 25th, when we witnessed a scene in this village similar to the tragedy in Baltimore last July. Mr. Pomeroy, who kept a public house, had by some imprudent and unjustifiable expressions given offence to the volunteer company from Baltimore and to a number of the Irish Greens from New York and Albany.

Pomeroy is a federalist, or in their language a *tory*, and of course by men of their principles, or rather no principles, would for the slightest offence be doomed to proscription. Frequent quarrels had arisen between him and them, and they had several times threatened to take a mob-like satisfaction upon him. Nothing serious, however, was apprehended until the day above mentioned, when upon some new provocation their ungovernable fury burst forth. They began by breaking in pieces whatever property of his they could lay their hands on, and seemed determined not to desist until they should have laid his house in ruins. A number of our citizens, (among whom was Mr. Grosvenor,) who endeavored to restrain the fury of the mob, narrowly escaped with their lives. Several officers used every exertion to quell and disperse them but without avail. Captain Allison's company of volunteers was brought forward and ordered to charge on them. But they appeared unwilling to shed the blood of those who for some time had lived in the same camp with themselves. The mob seemed conscious that they had nothing to fear from this company, and continued their operations without regarding them. The house at this time was empty and the men were drawn up before it merely with a design of preventing the villains from entering. Soon after, Colonel McClure, who had been indefatigable in his exertions to restore tranquility, was called away to attend to some important duty and requested *General Porter*, who was present, to see if possible that no further outrages were committed.

By some mistake or neglect the guard was removed, and immediately ten or twelve of the ring leaders entered the house and began to commit every violence that madness could suggest, while about thirty others stood without acting as a *corps de garde*. The house was three times on fire, and as often extinguished by the exertions of several officers and citizens, who had entered with the mob for the purpose of saving from destruction the movable property. Captain Leonard's company of flying artillery was at that time ordered by Colonel Porter of that corps to clear the house

of the mob, and if possible to do it without shedding blood. On rushing in they were opposed by the rioters with clubs or whatever arms their fury could supply. In the combat which followed three of the mob were severely wounded: one has since died, and another, it is thought, will soon follow him. Several others were made prisoners, but it was afterwards thought prudent to release them. As soon as Captain Leonard's company entered the house those of the mob who stood without ran to their camp, seized their arms and with increasing numbers were returning with a determination of charging upon those who were suppressing the riot. Fortunately they were met by Captain Maher, who with much difficulty prevailed upon them to turn back, under a promise that on next morning they would have satisfaction. Their rage was now directed against Colonel Porter and Captain Leonard's company, whom they threatened to exterminate. The flying artillery kept their encampment guarded under an expectation of being attacked. The next day was expected to be a day of tumult, but the officers managed to keep things tolerably quiet, and on the 27th General Smyth issued orders for all hands to prepare for an expedition to Canada. This of course swallowed up every other consideration, and happily we have received no more trouble from the mob.

There are several other circumstances attending this disgraceful affair which ought not to be passed over in silence. A connection of Mrs. Pomeroy's who lived in the house had the night before given birth to a daughter. The brutality of the mob rendered them totally regardless of her situation. She was carried from the house or it is not impossible that she might have fallen a victim to their fury. Dr. Blood, who was severely wounded at Detroit, was also in the house, and though he was scarcely able to move his situation gained him no compassion.

(From File in New York Society Library.)

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(From the New York Gazette, 15th December, 1812.)

Extract from a letter to Colonel Van Rensselaer, dated at Buffalo 6th December, 1812:

Early on the morning of the 27th a party of regulars and sailors were ordered to cross the river and storm the enemy's batteries, spike their cannon and return. This was intended to have been effected by surprise, but the boats had scarcely left the shore when an alarm gun was fired on the opposite shore, and it was for that time abandoned. But the next morning between 3 and 4

o'clock it was carried into effect. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the brave fellows who were engaged. It was commanded by Captain King, A. D. C. to General Smyth, and consisted of about 500, of whom 35 were sailors. Of these 35 only seven escaped without being killed or wounded, and of these seven two were made prisoners. Our loss in killed and prisoners, I am told, was 36, besides a great number wounded.

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**District General Orders.**

FORT GEORGE, 6th December, 1812.

The men belonging to the Grenadier company of the Newfoundland Regiment left at this post will proceed and join their company at Queenston without delay.

By order,  
THOS. EVANS,  
Brigade-Major.

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**Regimental Order.**

FORT GEORGE, 6th Decr., 1812.

Capt. McEwen, Capt. McLellan, Ensign Robertson, Ensign Clement, and Sergt. Lampman will, without delay, proceed to the country and endeavor to collect all the men of their respective companies that they possibly can. They will for the above purpose call on those old men to assist them who are on pass until required: a list of whose names will be given them.

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**General Tannehill to General Smyth.**

AT MR. WATSON'S, BUFFALO, December 7th, 1812.

SIR,—I feel happy to inform you that my health is greatly restored, although not sufficiently so as to venture much out of my quarters. Major Douglass waits on you with an inspection return of my *late* brigade; respectable a few days since, but now reduced by some unaccountable fatality to less than a single regiment. You will discover from the return that the officers, as well as the privates, are infected with the same dishonorable contagion—desertion. I am at a loss how to express my feelings on the present state of our little army.

I am at a loss to know what can or ought to be done with the brigade staff, field and regimental staff, and company officers who

have become supernumerary. I await your special orders how I am to act on the occasion generally. The expenses have been too great already, without any public benefits arising, and to hold them any longer would only be an accumulation of the same evil.

*(American State Papers.)*

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**Circular.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 7th December, 1812.

SIR,—I am commanded by Major-General Sheaffe to direct that you will be pleased to employ such officers and sergeants of your corps as are best qualified to effect it in bringing back absentees immediately, that the enemy may not gain an advantage for want of numbers to oppose him in any attempt he may venture to make before the state of the river will be such as to secure this frontier, at least for a time, from invasion.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adjutant-General, Militia.

To

Officers Commanding Militia Corps on the Niagara Frontier.

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**District Militia Orders.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
7th December, 1812.

As the enemy must in a short time be compelled by the state of the river and the rigor of the season to suspend active operations, the Major-General hopes to enjoy soon the satisfaction of permitting the battalion companies, as well as a portion of the flank companies, to retire to their homes. In the meantime he recommends the most vigilant and spirited perseverance in the defence of this frontier to secure it from any immediate renewed effort of the enemy and to preserve unsullied the reputation which the militia have acquired, in conjunction with the other troops, by their gallant and successful exertions.

By command of His Honor,

MAJOR-GENERAL SHEAFFE,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjutant-General, Militia.



**Militia General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE,  
7th December, 1812.

His Honor Major-General Sheaffe, taking into consideration that all the militia belonging to the regiments on and near the frontier were called out in the month of October, and that under the circumstances which have since existed no portion of them could be permitted to return to their homes, but the presence of every individual was of importance who could in any degree contribute to the defence of the Province from menaced invasions, and His Honor being further influenced by a due regard to the spirit and alacrity with which the officers generally came forward to oppose the enemy, he is therefore pleased to direct that all officers who were mustered in those regiments for the months ending the 24th of October and the 24th of November shall be paid at the regulated rates for the periods that they were actually present or doing duty, though the proportion of officers to the number of men should have exceeded on the day of muster that which was established by the militia general order of the 9th July, which is, however, still to be considered as a general regulation not to be departed from without a special authority from His Honor the Major-General.

By command,  
ÆNEAS SHAW,  
Adjutant-General, Militia.

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**Brigadier-General Smyth to Major-General Dearborn.**

CAMP NEAR BUFFALO, 8th December, 1812.

SIR,—The troops under my command having been ordered to hut themselves for the winter, it becomes my duty to report to you the proceedings had there since I took the command.

On or about the 26th of October I ordered that twenty scows should be prepared for the transportation of the artillery and cavalry, and put the carpenters of the army on that duty.

On the 26th of November ten scows were completed, and by bringing boats from Lake Ontario, the number was increased to seventy.

I had issued an address to the men of the State of New York, and perhaps 300 volunteers had arrived at Buffalo. I presumed that the regular troops and the volunteers under Colonels Swift and McClure would furnish 2,300 men for duty, and of General

Tannehill's brigade, reporting a total of 1,650, as many as 413 had volunteered to cross into Canada. I deemed myself ready to cross "with 3,000 men at once," according to your orders.

Preparatory thereto, on the night of the 27th November, I sent over two parties, one under Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler, the other under Captain King, with whom Lieutenant Angus of the navy at the head of a body of seamen united. The first mentioned party was to capture a guard and destroy a bridge about five miles below Fort Erie; the second party were to take and render useless the cannon of the enemy's batteries and some pieces of light artillery. The first party made some prisoners, but failed to destroy the bridge: the second party, after rendering unserviceable the light artillery, separated by some misapprehension. Lieutenant Angus, the seamen and part of the troops returned with all the boats, while Captains King, Morgan, Sproul, Lieutenant Houston and about 60 men remained. Captain King, notwithstanding, with those under his command advanced to the enemy's batteries, attacked and took two of them in succession, rendered unserviceable the cannon, and took a number of prisoners. In descending the Niagara some distance two boats were found, on board of which Captain King sent his prisoners, all his officers and half of his men. His high sense of honor would not allow him to quit the remainder. He was captured with them.

Orders had been given that all the troops in the neighborhood should march at reveille to the place of embarkation. A part of the detachment sent in the night having returned and excited apprehensions for the residue, about 350 men, under Colonel Winder, put off in boats for the opposite shore. A part of this force had landed, when a superior force with a piece of artillery appeared. A retreat was ordered, and Colonel Winder's detachment suffered a loss of six killed and twenty-two wounded, of whom six were officers.

A general embarkation commenced as the troops arrived, but this being the first time the troops had embarked, the whole of the scows were occupied by about one-third part of the artillery, while about 800 regular infantry, something upwards of 200 twelve months' volunteers, and perhaps 200 of those militia who had volunteered their services for a few days, occupied all the boats that were ready. The troops thus embarked moved up the stream to Black Rock without sustaining loss from the enemy's fire. It was now afternoon, and they were ordered to disembark and dine.

The enemy showed a force estimated at five or six hundred men, drawn up in a field at some distance from the river, and had

one piece of artillery, said to be a nine pounder, ready to fire on our troops.

There remained unembarked a part of the artillery, a few cavalry, the volunteers under Colonel McClure amounting on that day to 340 men, a detachment from General Tannehill's brigade number unknown and little relied on. There were also sundry crowds who might perhaps have followed the army had it been successful.

Recollecting your instructions "to cross with 3,000 men at once," and to consult some of my principal officers "in all important movements," I called for the field officers of the regulars and twelve months' volunteers embarked. Colonel Porter not being found at the moment, Captain Gibson was called as the senior officer of artillery.

These questions were put:—Is it expedient now to cross over? Is the force we have sufficient to conquer the opposite coast?

The first question was decided in the negative by Colonels Parker, Schuyler, Winder, Lieutenant-Colonels Boerstler and Coles and Major Campbell. Colonel Swift of the volunteers alone gave an opinion for their crossing over.

The second question was not decided. Colonel Parker, Colonel Schuyler, Lieutenant-Colonel Coles and Major Campbell were decidedly of opinion the force was insufficient. Colonel Winder, Colonel Swift, Lieutenant-Colonel Boerstler and Captain Gibson deemed the force sufficient.

I determined to postpone crossing over until more complete preparations would enable me to embark the whole force at once, according to your instructions.

The next day was spent in such preparations, and the troops were ordered to be again at the place of embarkation at eight o'clock on the 30th November. On their arrival they were sent into the adjacent woods to build fires and remain until three o'clock in the morning of the 1st December, when it was intended to put off two hours before daylight, so as to avoid the fire of the enemy's cannon in passing the position which it was believed they occupied below, to land above Chippawa, assault that place, and, if successful, march through Queenston for Fort George. The contractor was called on to furnish rations for 2,500 men for four days, when it was found he could furnish the pork but not the flour. Sixty barrels were required, and only thirty-five furnished.

The embarkation commenced, but was delayed by circumstances so as not to be completed by daylight, when it was found that the regular infantry, 688 men, the artillery, 177, Colonel Swift's volunteers, amounting to 230, six companies of Federal volunteers,

amounting to 276 men, about 100 militia of Colonel Dobbins' regiment, and a few men in a boat with Mr. P. B. Porter, contractor's agent, who was to pilot the enterprise, had embarked; the whole on board, without the commissioned officers, being 1,500 men or thereabouts, and it was now two hours later than the time fixed for setting out. There were some groups of men not yet embarked; they were applied to, requested and ordered by the brigade major to get into the boats. They did not. He estimated their number at 150—it was probably greater.

It then became a question whether it was expedient to invade Canada in open daylight with 1,500 men at a point where no reinforcements could be expected for some days. I saw that the number of regular troops was declining rapidly. I knew that on them chiefly I was to depend.

I called together the officers commanding corps of the regular army. Colonel Parker being sick, those present were Colonel Porter of the artillery, Colonel Schuyler, Colonel Winder and Lieutenant-Colonel Coles. I put to them this question: Shall we proceed? They unanimously decided that we ought not.

I foresaw that the volunteers who had come out for a few days would disperse. Several of them had on the evening of the 28th broken their muskets because they had not seen a battle. I foresaw that the number of regular troops would decrease, the measles affected them generally, the constant use of fresh meat had produced dysenteries, and they were now in tents in the month of December. I informed the officers that the attempt to invade Canada would not be made until the army was reinforced, and directed them to withdraw their troops and cover them with huts immediately.

The volunteers and neighboring people were dissatisfied, and it has been in the power of the contractor's agent to excite some clamor against the course pursued. He finds the contract a losing one, and would wish to see the army in Canada, that he might not be bound to supply it.

I am sorry the situation of the force under my command has not been such as to make the propriety of a forward movement obvious to all. Circumstanced as we were, I have thought it my duty to follow the cautious counsels of experience, and not precipitation, to add to the list of our defeats.

You will perceive my motives by my letter of the 30th of October, wherein I said: "I would cross in three days if I had the means. Without them it would be injustice to the nation and myself to attempt it. I must not be defeated."

Allow me to recommend to your attention and that of the

Secretary of War, Captain William King of the 13th Infantry as an officer of the first class. His dauntless bravery, refined mind, high sense of honor and ambition to distinguish himself render him a fit subject for promotion, and he is perhaps the best disciplinarian in the army.

(From the *Historical Register of the United States, 1814, Vol. II, pp. 119-22.*)

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, CANTONMENT, WILLIAMSVILLE,  
December 8th, 1812.

By a return of the brigade of General Tannehill of Pennsylvania volunteers it appears that five captains, four lieutenants, eleven ensigns, eighty-three sergeants, eighty-nine corporals, twenty-five musicians and nine hundred and thirty privates had revolted and deserted, leaving for duty only two hundred and sixty-seven privates.

In consequence thereof General Tannehill will be pleased to organize the remaining non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates in a battalion under the command of Major Harriett.

A furlough for the residue of the time for which he has been called into service is granted to Brigadier-General Tannehill and his brigade staff.

A furlough for the residue of this month is granted to the field officers of General Tannehill's brigade, except Major Harriett: from the expiration of which furlough they shall be considered as discharged the service of the United States.

By order,

HAROLD SMYTH,

Lieutenant 3rd Artillery, A. D. C.

(*American State Papers.*)

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**From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 8th December, 1812.**

*To the Editor of the Buffalo Gazette:—*

SIR,—A friend has just handed me the proof sheet of your paper of this morning, in which is contained what purports to be General Smyth's official account of the affairs of the 28th November and 1st of December.

I beg that you will suspend publication so long as to assure the public that in your next I will give a *true* account of some of the most prominent transactions of those days.



When our lives, our property, when the precious and dear-bought gift of our ancestors, the sacred honor of our country, when everything that we prize as men, or ought to hold dear as patriots, are falling and fading before us, it is time to speak out, whatever be the hazard.

In ascribing, as I shall not hesitate to do, the late disgrace on the frontier to the cowardice of General Smyth, I beg to be understood as not intending to implicate the characters of the officers whose opinions he has brought forward to bolster up his conduct. Several of them I know to be as brave men as ever wielded a sword, and their advice, if indeed they gave the advice imputed to them, may be accounted for in the obvious consideration with which every one who saw him must have been impressed that any military attempt under such a leader must in all human probability prove disgraceful.

Your very humble servant,  
PETER B. PORTER.

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NOTES OF THE TIMES.

The militia volunteers who came forward under the invitation of General Smyth have all returned home, cursing their stars because they had not "seen" or felt "a battle." The Pennsylvania volunteers, consisting of nearly 1700 men, have nearly all gone home for winter quarters. These troops were much dissatisfied. Since their arrival they have been exposed in tents. We understand that last week they were ordered to build huts, which they would not comply with. The United States twelve months' volunteers are to be stationed in this village, with the exception of Swift's regiment. Several families in this village have relinquished their houses for the comfort of the troops. The articles of provision and forage are now very dear and scarce.

FORT NIAGARA.

Extract of a letter from Fort Niagara to the editors, dated 25th November, 1812.

As doubtless you have seen the official report of the cannonading between Fort Niagara and Fort George on the 19th inst., I can add nothing to the particulars of the affair more than will be found in the report.

To prevent any wrong impression being made (none being intended) on the public mind as to Captain Leonard arriving at 10 o'clock, I must state that Captain Leonard had been ordered to the Genesee country to procure provisions for the army, and after a

rapid and severe ride arrived in time to share in the fatigues and dangers of the day.

Repeatedly have the enemy (*in terrorem*) threatened to take the earliest opportunity to reduce to ashes every building in Fort Niagara nor leave one stone standing on another. They took that opportunity by commencing a severe attack (every preparation made) immediately after the expiration of the armistice—the result speaks for itself: Fort Niagara has received but little injury, the houses stand to cover, the stonework remains to protect men with courage, officers with intrepidity and skill, and guns to repel, avenge, and under Providence to frustrate the next attempt of the enemy to carry their *terrible* threat into effect.

In no account that I have read of the battle of Queenston do I see the name of Lieut. Rathbone of Captain Leonard's company of United States Artillery. This young officer was selected for his known courage and skill to be of the expedition, was severely wounded (and now languishes under his wounds), and fell early in the day. He remained on the ground some time cheering and encouraging his men and alternately passed by the civilized and savage foe.

#### CASE OF CLARK, THE SPY.

Transcript of the sentence and subsequent proceedings in the case of *Elijah Clark*, who was convicted as a spy at a general Court-martial, holden in the court house in the village of Buffalo, on Wednesday, the 5th day of August, 1812, and continued by adjournment from day to day until Saturday, the 8th day of August, in the same year, whereof Lieutenant-Colonel Philetus Swift was President.

Majors George Smith, Parmenio Adams,	} Were represented as assistants.
Capt. Jos. McClure, Samuel Jennings, Daniel Curtiss, Elias Hull,	
Lieuts. Joel B. Clark, Levi Mooers and Jas. McNair,	

And Major George Hosmer was Judge Advocate.

#### SENTENCE.

The Court having heard all the evidence and the prisoner's defence, and very maturely and thoroughly considered the same, give the following opinion:

The charge specified is as follows: That the said Elijah Clark

is a spy within the meaning and according to the rules and articles of war and the laws of the United States.

1st. It appears that Elijah Clark, the prisoner, was born in the State of New Jersey, and that he continued to reside in the United States until within about 18 months last past, when he removed to Canada and there married, that his wife and property are yet in Canada, and within the dominion and allegiance of the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. For these reasons the Court are of opinion that (although the said Elijah Clark is a native born citizen of the United States and is yet holden under that allegiance, which as such citizen he owes to the United States,) he is nevertheless liable to be tried and convicted as a spy in the United States for his acts of a spy committed during the continuance of such temporary allegiance to the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with whom the United States are at war.

2. The Court are of opinion under the testimony before them that the prisoner did cross from the Canada shore to the United States, and did linger about the encampments and army of the United States for the purpose of spying out our state and condition, and of reporting the same to our enemies, and for this reason the Court are of the opinion that the said Elijah Clark is guilty of the crime whereof he stands charged, and falls under the 101st article of the Act, entitled "An Act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the army of the United States, passed on the 10th day of April, 1806."

And they do adjudge and sentence the said Elijah Clark to be continued in the present place of his confinement until the first Friday in September next, and that he be at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon taken from his said place of confinement and hung by the neck until he be dead.

GEORGE HOSMER,  
Judge Advocate.

PHILETUS SWIFT,  
President.

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HEADQUARTERS, MANCHESTER,  
NIAGARA FRONTIER, Aug. 13, 1812.

GENERAL ORDER.

Major-General Hall, having doubts how far the prisoner, Elijah Clark within named, comes within the description of a spy, by reason that he is within the *letter* of the 2d Section of the 101st Article of the Act, entitled "An Act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the army of the United States, passed

the 10th day of April, 1806," which exempts thereout "all persons not citizens of or owning allegiance to the United States of America," is pleased to order and doth hereby order a suspension of the execution of the within sentence until the pleasure of the President of the United States can be known thereon.

By order of the Major-General,

GEORGE HOSMER, A. D. C.

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**Opinion of the President.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, October 20th, 1812.

SIR,—The proceedings and sentence of the General Court-martial which was had in the case of Elijah Clark conformable to your orders of the 1st of August last, and which were by you transmitted to this department, have been received and laid before the President, and I have the honor to inform you that the said Clark, being considered a citizen of the United States and not liable to be tried by a court-martial as a spy, the President is pleased to direct that unless he should be arraigned by a civil court for treason or a minor crime under the laws of the State of New York, he must be discharged.

Very respectfully,

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. EUSTIS.

Major-General A. Hall, Niagara.

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**Earl Bathurst to Sir George Prevost.**

DOWNING STREET, 9th Dec., 1812.

(No. 16.)

SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your despatch No. 14, I cannot avoid expressing my doubts as to the expediency of the arrangement to which it principally relates. For, altho' I feel equally with yourself the desire of alleviating the miseries of war, I have some fears lest the indiscriminate release of all American prisoners upon parole may not tend to increase the difficulties of your situation without producing any corresponding advantage. Of this, however, from being on the spot, you will have the best means of judging, as you will be immediately able to ascertain whether the measure does not place at the disposal of the American Government means of recruiting their army which they would not otherwise possess.

For even if the prisoners should adhere to the engagement under which they have been released, and not join the army under General Dearborn, they may yet be employed with great advantage to the enemy in maintaining internal tranquillity and suppressing disturbance within the United States. At all events, however, I feel disposed to object to the port of Boston as the point to which such prisoners should be conveyed, since, from being situated at so small a distance from the headquarters of the American army, a greater temptation is held out to the violation of the parole, and in the event of their being exchanged they become more immediately applicable to the annoyance of the provinces under your charge.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 118, p. 307.)*

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, QUEBEC, 10th December, 1812.

(No. 28.)

MY LORD,—I beg leave to enclose for Your Lordship's information the copy of a treaty which has been entered into between Major-General Dearborn, commander-in-chief of the forces of the United States, and myself, for the release of prisoners upon parole and for their eventual exchange, which I have been induced to ratify to assuage as far as possible the evils attendant upon a state of warfare, and conceiving it to be consonant to the policy of forbearance recommended to be pursued towards the United States by command of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 104.)*

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**Major-General Æneas Shaw, Adjutant-General of Militia, to Colonel Talbot.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT GEORGE, 11th December, 1812.

SIR,—His Honor Major-General Sheaffe taking into his consideration the advanced season of the year and the many domestic calls on the militia who are now on the frontier, is pleased to direct that all those of your district, with the exception of such as are at Fort Erie, be permitted to return to their respective homes. As there are no public depots, the men will carry with them their arms, accoutrements, &c.

*(From the Talbot Papers.)*



**Brigadier-General Smyth to Governor Tompkins.**

WILLIAMSVILLE, 11th December, 1812.

SIR,—No lists of the militia captured at Queenston have come to my hands, or I presume been taken. The printed statute which you mention as being enclosed to me formerly I did not receive.

(*Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., p. 292, New York State Library.*)

**Capt. A. Gray, Acting Deputy-Quartermaster-General, to Sir George Prevost.**

YORK, 11th Decr., 1812.

SIR,—I had the honor to report to Your Excellency from Kingston upon certain points connected with the safety of this Province.

Since my arrival at this place, I have endeavored to acquire such additional information relative to the state and manning of our marine as to enable me to submit such ideas for Your Excellency's consideration as appears to me best adapted to meet the exigencies of the service.

The first consideration, I conceive, is to prevent, if possible, our ships from falling into the enemy's hands till we can procure officers to command and seamen to man them. This will be no easy task, as the moment navigation opens the first object of the enemy will be to destroy or capture our ships.

They feel so confident of effecting this object that they make no secret of their intentions. To guard against any attempt of this nature, I shall beg leave to recommend that 10 or 12 guns (18s or 12s\*) may be sent up immediately, one-half to Kingston and the other half to York, and placed in situations there calculated to guard the shipping laid up, and to protect such as it may be judged expedient to build. I imagine there is round shot enough of the weight above stated to supply the additional guns required. A few additional artillerymen would also be necessary to assist in working the guns. This, as a measure of prevention, is calculated upon the lowest scale, as I am aware of our limited means. I should not have proposed the measure if I did not see clearly what we have to expect in a few months.

In my last letter I had the honor of submitting a measure to Your Excellency, which if executed with promptitude might recover what we have lost.

The more I reflect upon that subject the more I see grounds for *hope* as well as *fear*. What I apprehend is the probability

\*Memo by Sir George Prevost—4-18, 2-12 from Quebec; 2-12 from Montreal.

there is of the enemy's strengthening his post by temporary means, which he has so much at his command, such as *abbatis* and barricades of wood, of which he has plenty, and axemen and carpenters in abundance. I know what an active enemy may do in that way, and they have an idea we may make the attempt. The only alteration I would propose in the means of attack is in some measure to the field artillery to break down any temporary defences (for such they must be, as the season will not admit of any other,) which they may in the meantime erect.

The other mode of proceeding, should this fail or not be adopted, is to endeavor to secure in part what we have, and build, so as to keep pace with the enemy. For this purpose, I should submit that a ship corvette, mounting 30-32 pd. carronades, should be laid down at York, and two vessels of the class of the *Royal George* built, one at Kingston and the other at Amherstburg. If such vessels are built of fir, or, in short, of such timber as comes first to hand, they may be got ready by the time their guns, stores and crews arrive in the spring.\*

To carry this plan into effect, about 50 or 60 ship carpenters would be required, or if that number could not be found, axemen might be substituted for a part of them, as all idea of neatness in the execution of the work must be given up. Strength and despatch are the objects at present.

I have called upon the master builder for an estimate of the articles required to be sent up for the hulls. But Captain Steel can make that calculation with equal accuracy. The difference of expense in the carriage of stores by land or water is not a material object compared with that which is now at stake. I shall only add that at Kingston there is but little protection afforded the vessels from the works on shore. Here there is none.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 728, p. 119.*)

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### The Duke of York to Sir George Prevost.

HORSE GUARDS, 11th December, 1812.

SIR,—I have received by the hands of your aide-de-camp, Captain Fulton of the 98th Regt., your despatch of the 22nd October last, and while I express my satisfaction at the very favorable report it conveys of the gallant and successful conduct of His Majesty's regular and militia forces, aided by the Indians stationed on the Niagara frontier, in completely defeating an enemy so superior in number in a second attempt to invade the Province of

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\* Memo by Prevost. Blockhouse for Prescott, Kingston and Chippawa.

Upper Canada, I cannot but lament the loss His Majesty's service has sustained on that occasion by the death of an officer so deservedly distinguished as Major-General Sir Isaac Brock.

I very gladly avail myself of this opportunity of expressing my approbation of the able and judicious arrangements, &c., adopted by his successor in command, Major-General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe, which led to a result so honorable to himself and to the troops employed under him.

I have great pleasure in acquainting you that Captain Holcroft of the Royal Artillery and Captains Dennis and Williams of the 49th, who are particularly mentioned on this occasion, have received the brevet rank of major, and that the same rank has also been conferred upon the bearer of your despatches.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 677.*)

**Colonel Robert Nichol to Colonel Talbot.**

Decr. 12, 1812.

DEAR COLONEL,—I am so busy that I cannot write you as I could wish. I, however, enclose you General Smyth's proclamation. I shall write you by the next opportunity a very long, and, I trust, a *very satisfactory letter*.

P. S.—I have got the General to pass your estimates. Couche \* should be hanged.

(*From the Talbot Papers.*)

**Colonel Talbot to Major-General Sheaffe.**

DOVER MILLS, 12 Decr., 1812.

MY DEAR GENERAL,—Mr. Ross † arrived here yesterday and delivered me your letter, dated the                      also the copies of the General Orders of 9th July, 1st and 3d Augt., and 16th, 19th and 25th Novr. Mr. Ross further informs me that he did not receive pay for some of the officers, whose services were included in the estimate he took down to headquarters, viz: Lieut.-Colonel Burwell, 1st Regiment, Middlesex; Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick, 1st Regiment, Oxford; Major Bowen, 1st Regiment, Norfolk; Major Salmon, 2d Regiment, Norfolk; and Adjutant Eakins of the 1st Oxford Regiment. I must beg leave to explain the reasons and authority by which those officers were placed on duty, trusting

\* Edward Couche, Deputy-Commissary-General.

† Probably Daniel Ross, Paymaster of the 2d Regiment Norfolk Militia.

that they will be considered sufficient to enable you to issue an order that they may receive pay for the time specified in the estimate. Lieut.-Colonel Burwell I ordered on duty in consequence of receiving information of parties from General Hull's army having penetrated into the Province to within a few miles of Port Talbot, being myself on duty at Long Point and Fort George with General Brock, to whom I reported the particulars. Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick was put on duty by a verbal order to me from Major-General Brock on the day of his sailing with the expedition from this place to Detroit, and the last time I had the pleasure of seeing that lamented general he expressed to me his desire that Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick should be continued on duty. Major Salmon was likewise placed on duty by Major-General Brock, and was ordered to proceed down the River Thames under Captain Chambers of the 41st, and afterwards served in the expedition against Detroit. Major Bowen, from being an exceedingly good drill officer, was ordered to be stationed at Turkey Point by approbation of General Brock, for the purpose of instructing the quotas of militia that were assembled at that station, and I can with great justice assure you that Major Bowen has been indefatigable in his attention and exertions to form the militia for service. Adjutant Eakins was also put on duty by order of Major-General Brock. Should those deserving officers be refused pay after devoting their time for the good of the Province, much to the prejudice of their private affairs and exposed to considerable expense, I am confident it would have a very unfavorable tendency in lessening the unquestionable loyalty and ardor at present manifested and destroying all faith and confidence in the Government for the future.

As there cannot be any apprehension entertained of an attack on this part of the country during the winter season, I will beg leave to recommend the propriety of allowing the detachment stationed in this neighborhood to be dismissed, as the men are most wretchedly provided with clothing, so much so as to render their marching to a distance almost impossible, and their families are suffering the utmost distress, being chiefly new beginners in the woods and dispersed through a great extent of country.

As far as I can collect from the information of some of our men that have been prisoners with the enemy, I am disposed to hope that the enemy have given up the idea of further disturbing the Province during the winter. I hope that you will strongly urge Sir George Prevost to strengthen you by every means that he can spare from below so that we may be prepared to meet the foe in the spring, should no accommodation take place between the two Governments previous to that time, but which I most ardently pray

may be the case. What a neglect and infatuation has been in our rulers at home not having immediately on receiving the declaration of war expedited a force sufficient for the defence of these Provinces. Such a measure would have effectually supported the powers vested in Sir John Warren's mission.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

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**Cyrenus Chapin to Colonel S. VanRensselaer.**

BUFFALO, December 13th, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—This part of the country seems destined to be the theatre of events both strange and new. You will hardly believe me when I tell you that our two doughty generals, Smyth and Porter, got into a boat yesterday with something like 20 men, and with flying colors went over to Grand Island, burnt a charge of powder at each other, shook hands, and came "back again" without staining the ground with even one drop of their precious blood. The challenge was given by General Smyth, who, finding that no "ungathered laurels" were to be plucked on the Canadian shore this winter, even condescended to seek them on a little island, the claim to which is in dispute between the two Governments. The combatants were to have met between the hours of eleven and one, but it seems they were not willing or ready to quit this world until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when they met. The cause of this truly important and warlike movement appeared in the *Buffalo Gazette* of last week, I mean Porter's letter to the editors in which he directly calls Smyth a coward and indirectly a liar. The conqueror of Canada at first took this in high dudgeon, but one shot from his antagonist that just whistled over his head completely satisfied him "that Gen. Porter was a man of honor" and had doubtless labored under some mistake or misrepresentation when he wrote the offensive paragraph.

Captain Fitzgerald of the 49th Regt. was over on Saturday after Gen. Smyth had taken Canada by his white flag, and told a number of our officers who were collected round him that the United States would never conquer Canada until some of their old generals rose from their graves. But when he hears how General Smyth has the courage to be shot at, he will no doubt consider the situation of Canada as desperate.

(From Bonney's *Historical Gleanings*, pp. 284-5.)



**Return of Ordnance at Military Posts, Mounted on Garrison and Travelling Carriages.**

QUEBEC, 15th Decr., 1812.

York :

Brass—Two light six-pounders.

Iron—Six six-pounders, four twelve-pounder carronades.

Fort George—Captain Holcroft :

Brass—One twelve-pounder, two light six-pounders, one 5½-inch howitzer, two 5½-inch mortars, two 4 2/5-inch mortars.

Iron—One 24-pounder, two 18-pounders, one twelve-pounder, nine nine-pounders, one six-pounder, one ten-inch mortar, two eight-inch mortars.

Dependencies :

Brass—Two three-pounders, three 4 2/5-inch mortars.

Iron—Two 24-pounders, one 18-pounder, one twelve-pounder, six nine-pounders, five 18-pounder carronades, one eight-inch mortar.

Mountain Battery :

Iron—One 18-pounder, one nine-pounder.

Chippawa :

Iron—Two nine-pounders, one six-pounder.

Fort Erie—Conductor Bryson :

Brass—Three light six-pounders, two three-pounders.

Iron—One 24-pounder, two twelve-pounders, one six-pounder.

(*Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, p. 62.*)

**From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 15th December, 1812.**

DIED.

In this village, on the 7th inst., Alexander Sisson, sailing master in the United States Navy, about 30 years of age, of a wound he received on the night of the 27th November in an attack on the British shore opposite Black Rock. He was a brave, valuable and meritorious officer.

On the 3d inst., near Fort Niagara, in consequence of a wound received in the battle of Queenston, on the 13th October, Lieut. S. Rathbone, of the 1st Regiment United States Artillery. The courage and skill of this young officer demanded and obtained for him a conspicuous station in the front rank of danger. At the storming of the battery of Queenston he was unfortunately wounded and fell early in the day, remained on the ground for some time

encouraging his men as they passed him. He was removed to the American side, where he languished until death relieved.

#### DUEL.

[We are happy to have it in our power to give the official account of the recent affair on Grand Island; it will tend to counteract the numerous falsehoods which are in circulation respecting the meeting. The challenge, we understand, was given by General Smyth.]

A meeting took place between General Smyth and General Porter yesterday afternoon on Grand Island, in pursuance of previous arrangements.

They met at Dayton's tavern and crossed the river with their friends and surgeons. Both gentlemen behaved with the utmost coolness and unconcern. A shot was exchanged in as intrepid and firm a manner as possible by each gentleman, but without effect. It was then represented by General Smyth's second that General Porter must now be convinced that the charge of cowardice against General Smyth was unfounded, and should in honor be retracted, which, after mutual explanations as to the matters which had given rise to the charge, was accordingly done by him. General Smyth then explained that his remarks on General Porter were the result of irritation, and were intended as provocatives, he having been assailed by General Porter, and that he knew nothing derogatory to General Porter's character as a gentleman and an officer.

The hand of reconciliation was then offered and received.

We congratulate the friends of these gentlemen upon the fortunate termination of a difference arising from too much precipitation, but which has been adjusted in a manner honorable to both.

WM. H. WINDER,  
SAMUEL ANGUS.

Black Rock, December 13, 1812.

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**From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 15th December, 1812.**

#### TO THE PUBLIC.

In the *Gazette* of last week I promised to give an account of some of the most "prominent transactions of the 28th November and the 1st of December." Having since that received from General Smyth assurances which, as a man of honor I am bound to believe, that the course pursued by him on both of these days was such as was required by his orders and instructions from the Secretary of

War and General Dearborn, this communication will assume a character quite different from the one then contemplated. I am pledged, however, to the public to give facts, which I shall proceed to do without comment, leaving it to time to develop the object of military movements which have appeared to me and others not only extraordinary but inexplicable.

On the 27th of November there was collected at this point a military force of about 4,500 effective men, consisting of regular troops, New York, Pennsylvania and Baltimore volunteers, under the command of General Smyth.

There were then lying at the navy yard near Black Rock, which had been previously prepared for the purpose of transporting the troops across the river:—

70 public boats, calculated to carry 40 men in each . . . . .	2,800
5 long boats belonging to individuals, which had been taken into the public service, calculated to carry 100 men each.	500
10 scows for artillery and 25 men each . . . . .	250
	3,550

Besides a number of small boats.

At two o'clock on that day I received a copy of General Smyth's order for the march of all the troops the succeeding morning at reveille to the navy yard to embark for Canada. I immediately gave orders for the New York volunteers who had been placed under my command to parade at 4 o'clock in the morning at their encampment, about one and a half miles from the navy yard. In the evening I learnt that the parties mentioned in General Smyth's despatch were to cross the river at 11 o'clock at night to attack the enemy's batteries opposite Black Rock. General Smyth, not being here, I waited on Lieut. Angus and suggested to him the propriety (if within the scope of his orders) of postponing the enterprise until nearly morning, to give as little time as possible before the passage of the army for the enemy's troops to collect from the stations down the river. They landed at 3 in the morning under a severe fire of musketry and grape-shot from two pieces of flying artillery. Lieut. Angus with his little band of sailors, assisted by Captain King and a few of his party, attacked the principal force of the enemy, consisting of about 250 at the Red House (the seamen charging with their pikes and swords against muskets and bayonets) and routed them in all directions. Captain Dox, who took a distinguished part in this affair, was severely wounded. After a hard and destructive engagement, the enemy were completely dispersed, the two field pieces spiked and the

house in which the enemy quartered fired. The seamen returned to our shore, bringing off their wounded and several prisoners. Out of twelve naval officers who embarked in this enterprise, nine of them, with more than half their men, were killed or wounded. If bravery be a virtue—if the gratitude of a country be due to those who gallantly and desperately assert its rights—the Government will make ample provision for the heirs of those brave tars who fell on this occasion, as well as for those who survived. Captain King proceeded to spike and dismount the guns in the batteries. Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler dispersed the enemy lower down the river, making a number of prisoners.

By sunrise in the morning most of the troops had arrived at the place of embarkation, and the day was fine. I marched 340 of the volunteers, who had rallied under General Smyth's invitation, well armed and provided and in high spirits. About 150 more who came in the evening before were at Buffalo drawing their arms, with orders to join us as soon as possible. I stationed my men, as instructed by General Smyth, in a field at the navy yard, with directions to wait for further orders. The parties who had crossed in the night, aided by our batteries, which at daylight opened a powerful and well directed fire, and a piece of flying artillery on the island, under charge of Captain Gibson, had driven everything from the opposite shore. Colonel Winder, an officer of great intelligence, zeal and bravery, under the mistaken apprehension that the party under Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler were in danger of being cut off, made an unsuccessful attempt, (although his own boat landed,) to land with 250 men at a different point down the river, and had returned as stated by General Smyth. The general embarkation now commenced, but it went on so tardily that at twelve o'clock the whole of the regular troops and Colonel Swift's regiment were not in the boats. A considerable number of boats were lying on the shore of the river and creek, having been thrown up by the high water of the preceding day. Several were in the creek half filled with water and ice. I called on General Smyth and proposed to occupy those boats with my volunteers, many of whom were impatient to embark. Being, however, at this moment informed by Colonel Porter that the boats which had been used by Colonel Winder were lying about a mile below, Major Chapin and myself, with about 30 men, went down the river, brought up five boats, filled them with men and arrived at Black Rock, the point from which it was proposed to put off as soon as many of the regular troops. At about 2 o'clock all the troops which it appeared were intended to be crossed at first were collected in a group of boats at Black Rock, under cover of the batteries. I have seen no

official account of the number of men in the boats. My opinion was that the number exceeded 2,000. Most men of observation who were present estimated it at 2,600. The men were in fine spirits and desirous of crossing.

General Tannehill's volunteers, Colonel F. McClure's regiment, some riflemen, cavalry, &c., amounting to about 2,000, were still paraded on the shore, and, as I am informed, were ready to cross. Several boats, of sufficient capacity to carry about 1,000, were still lying at the navy yard unoccupied. I have not been able to learn that any order or request was made for the embarkation of any of the troops other than the regulars and Colonel Swift's regiment. The enemy, estimated at about 500, were drawn up in a line about half a mile from the shore.

After remaining in the boats till late in the afternoon, an order was received to disembark. It produced among officers and men generally great discontent and murmuring, which was, however, in part allayed by assurances that the expedition was only postponed for a short time until our boats could be better prepared.

On Sunday another order was issued by General Smyth for the march of the troops to the navy yard, to embark at 9 o'clock on Monday morning. I was at Buffalo when it was received, and found that it was generally as to time and manner disapproved by the officers of the volunteers. I saw General Smyth in the evening at Black Rock with Colonel Winder, and stated my objections to his plan. The enemy had re-mounted his guns on his batteries so as to render it inexpedient to cross at the favorable point which had been taken on Saturday, above the island which covers the navy yard. Immediately below the island the enemy lay in force much augmented in consequence of the affair of Saturday, occupying a line of shore of about a mile, where the current is rapid and the shore abrupt. I did not believe it possible to effect a landing with raw troops in any tolerable order, if at all, in the face of the flying artillery and infantry, which a full view of our movements in the daytime would enable them to oppose to us. I proposed to postpone the expedition to night, to march and embark the troops silently, to put off about an hour and a half before daylight so as to pass this dangerous line of shore in the dark, when we should suffer less from their fire, and to land about five miles below the navy yard, where the stream and banks were particularly favorable to a safe and orderly landing. Colonel Winder seconded my proposal with great earnestness and force, and it was adopted. The army was to be embarked at 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning, and to proceed at half-past 4 according to the order of a line of battle submitted a few days before by General Smyth; the regulars on the



right or in the front boats, General Tannehill's troops in the centre, the New York volunteers on the left. I was to go in the first boat with a chosen set of men, direct the landing, and join the New York volunteers on their arrival.

On Monday evening seven boats for Colonel Swift's regiment and eight for the State Volunteers were brought some distance up the river and left at different points, to avoid the noise and confusion of embarking the whole army at one place. At half-past 3 on Tuesday morning the eight boats were filled with volunteers (Colonel Swift's regiment being higher up) and dropped down, taking their stations above the navy yard. On our arrival, I found that about half of the artillery (a corps which has on every occasion while on the lines shown great exactness of discipline, promptitude and zeal for the service,) had embarked and the residue were embarking. Not a man of the regular infantry was in the boats for about half an hour, when Colonel Winder's regiment entered their boats with great order and silence.

About three-quarters of an hour after this the remaining regiments commenced their embarkation, when I dropped down to the front of the line with a flag in my boat to designate it as the leading boat. I was accompanied by Majors Cyrenius Chapin and John W. Macomb, Captain Mills of the cavalry, Adjutant Chace and Quartermaster Chaplin, and about 25 volunteers from Buffalo under Lieut. Haynes.

I mention the names of these gentlemen because they had the day before decidedly objected to passing at the proposed point by daylight, but when daylight appeared and one of the men raised some difficulty on that account, he was induced to remain, and it was unanimously agreed to incur the additional hazard and patiently wait the orders of the General to put off. At daylight we discovered the troops disembarking, and were informed that the invasion of Canada had been abandoned for this season, and that the troops were ordered to winter quarters. A scene of confusion ensued which it is difficult to describe—about 4,000 men, without order or restraint, discharging their muskets in every direction.

About 1,000 volunteers came in under General Smyth's proclamation, but owing to the state of the roads, which was bad beyond example, many did not arrive till after the 1st of December.

It is impossible for me to form any estimate of the number of troops embarked at any one time this morning: it was yet scarcely light and I was at one end of a line of boats occupying a distance of half a mile. When the volunteers first arrived at the navy yard, and it was found that the regular troops had not yet appeared, their officers were instructed to permit them to land and keep themselves

warm by exercise, as the boats were covered with snow which had fallen during the night, but they were instructed not to leave the side of the boats that they might immediately re-enter.

PETER B. PORTER.

Black Rock, December 14, 1812.

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**From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 15th December, 1812.**

Respecting our situation—that is not to be envied. Since the failure of the expedition the citizens have been in constant alarm—some from the enemy, some from fear of the famine, and others from fear of an epidemic disorder, said to be contagious. The superstitious say, “What the sword spares the pestilence will destroy, and what pestilence spares will be overwhelmed with famine.” As to the enemy, we do not believe their force sufficient to invade us; their policy has hitherto been defensive: the only thing we need fear from them is *retaliation*, which might be effected by small parties of the enemy, and which might be prevented by a strong line of centinels on our exposed coast. Lieutenant-Colonel Boerstler, with a detachment of regulars, is stationed at Black Rock. While the roads remain in their present almost impassable state, there will unquestionably be a scarcity of provisions. Flour is now selling at 6 dollars per hundred, butter at 2 shillings and 6 pence per pound. The taverns and groceries are completely dried up. Even the whiskey distilleries are very hard run. The disease which has proved fatal to so many of our citizens and very many of the soldiers we hope is beginning somewhat to abate. Those volunteers who came out for a few days have suffered much, but the regular troops have suffered more. Not accustomed to the steady fare of the soldier or the solid lodging of tents, the new recruits and volunteers were much exposed to violent colds, &c.

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**From the National Intelligencer of Washington, D. C., February 1st, 1813.**

28th January, 1813.

*To the Editors:*

A publication signed Peter B. Porter has appeared in sundry prints, in which the writer professes to give a true account of the prominent transactions of the 28th November and 1st of December at Black Rock. Some facts are truly stated, but wherever the writer gives *numbers* are (I must presume wilfully) incorrect.

He states that on the 27th November there were collected near Black Rock 4,500 *effective* men under my command, that on the

28th 2,000 or 2,600 were embarked, that on the morning of the 1st December 4,000 men, without order or restraint, were discharging their muskets.

I affirm that on the 27th November there were collected in the neighborhood of Black Rock not more than 3,500 effective men, non-commissioned officers and privates of every corps under my command, not more than 1,500 of those were liable to be ordered to cross the Niagara, according to opinions generally received.\* On the 28th there was 1,050 good troops embarked, and also so many irregular volunteers as occupied five boats, estimated at 150. On the morning of the 1st December the number of men armed with muskets who were at the navy yard, embarked or not embarked, did not exceed 2,000 men.

This statement is as correct as I can make, and is essentially correct.

He says he is informed that General Tannehill's volunteers were ready to cross. I had in my possession a return showing that of 150 officers of that brigade only 36 were willing to cross, that only 211 men volunteered unconditionally and 165 on various conditions. A part of General Tannehill's volunteers (I have been told 360) marched to the navy yard by a route I had prescribed and were prepared to embark. The remainder went to Black Rock by the way of Buffalo, I presume to be spectators. If they ever intended to cross the river that intention was not communicated to me.

If there were 4,500 effective men near Black Rock, how will General Porter in his capacity of *contractor* answer to his country for having only 35 barrels of flour on hand—*not two pounds of flour to each man?*

The hostility of General Porter to myself grew out of the *contract*. The troops were starving for provisions,† the officers complained of unfair practices, that damaged flour was forced upon them,‡ that the lean beef was stripped of every morsel of fat,§ that vinegar, candles and soap was not furnished, and in the sickly state of the camp those wants were severely felt.

Under such circumstances, after making ineffectual requisitions, I was compelled to order purchases made.

If Congress desires that our armies should conquer, they will

\* It is an error to rely on any troops except those who are *bound to obey*. Of Capt. Richardson's company of riflemen and the companies of Greens under the commands of Capts. Powers, Dillon, Tate and Walker, there were embarked on the 1st of December only Capt. Tate, two lieutenants and 8 men of the Greens.

† For this fact I refer to Col. Winder.

‡ To Lieut.-Col. Boerstler.

§ To Col. Parker.

consider that "an army is an edifice, of which the basis is the belly," and they will prescribe some effectual remedy of honesty, and amply supplying our armies with good and wholesome provisions. They will consider that "the principle of victories is discipline," and subject to court-martial of regular officers all the irregulars who join an army.

Respectfully your most obedient,

ALEXANDER SMYTH.

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From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 29th December, 1812.

COUNTER STATEMENT.

*To the Public:*

The disgraceful attempt of General Smyth to invade Canada has everywhere excited astonishment, and though much has been said and written respecting it, yet no statement has been laid before the public calculated to make that impression which the public ought to feel. The official despatch of General Smyth is in many instances erroneous, and so far from being a dignified statement of facts, is but a pitiful attempt at personal abuse, containing little more than the suggestions of humbled arrogance and pride. From General Porter a statement was expected that would enable the public to form a correct opinion of the shameful transactions of the 28th November and the 1st inst. But the *affair* of Grand Island has induced General Porter to deviate from his original intention, and he has merely given a detail of facts so far as they came within his knowledge, without once referring to the causes of the extraordinary conduct of General Smyth. The public therefore ought to expect a statement of somewhat different features from some one whom whose pen has not been shackled by "*an affair of honor*." Under this impression, the writer of the following article feels that he need not further apologize to his fellow citizens for thus intruding upon their attention.

The publication of General Porter contains, with few exceptions, a correct history of the most prominent proceedings of the army under General Smyth, but many things are therein omitted which ought to be known in order to guide the public opinion and enable those at a distance to judge correctly of the conduct that was pursued. Without repeating what has been already told, it is sufficient to mention those facts which have been passed over in silence.

On the morning of the 27th a party was ordered by General Smyth to cross the river and storm the batteries of the enemy opposite Black Rock. This was intended to have been effected by

surprise, but the boats had just got under way when an alarm gun was fired from the opposite shore and the expedition was abandoned. On the same day the following general orders were issued :

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,  
November 27, 1812.

The men for service in this camp and those in the vicinity will cook to-day two days provisions and have it in their haversacks at retreat.

At reveille to-morrow every soldier will put on his knapsack, shoulder his musket, and prepared for battle with flint and cartridges, will march to the navy yard on his way to Canada.

The boats will be ready for embarkation.

The tents and sick will be left under the care of guards of invalids until a convenient time.

Friends of your country! Ye who have the will to do, the heart to dare, the moment you wished for has arrived. Think on your country's honor torn, her rights trampled on, her sons enslaved, her infants perishing by the hatchet; be strong, be brave, and let the ruffian power of the British King cease on this continent.

ALEX. SMYTH,  
Brigadier-General Commanding.

The terms of the above orders were so strong and positive that some did even suppose that the Government of the United States would soon extend to the frozen ocean.

The events that took place on the evening of the 28th at the time the enemy's batteries were stormed and their cannon rendered useless have been amply detailed in the publication of General Porter, tho' from the official despatch of General Smyth it would be impossible to form any but an incorrect opinion of that brilliant achievement.

From a perusal of it one would suppose that Captain King alone distinguished himself and was alone entitled to the need of praise, and so far from giving due credit to the gallant tars who were concerned in the expedition, the manner in which he mentions them would induce a belief that they basely fled in the moment of trial.

This gross misrepresentation of General Smyth doubtless arose from a pitiful desire to revenge himself on Lieut. Angus, who commanded the seamen, and who had expressed his decided disapprobation of the conduct of the General in the subsequent transactions of the day. The fact is that Lieut. Angus had under his command about 40 seaman, including officers. Of these 31 were killed and wounded, and, what is remarkable, not a single one of them was



wounded except when fronting the enemy. From this the public can judge with what bravery they encountered danger, and how little they merit the shameful treatment they have received from the hands of General Smyth.

Captain Dox too, of the regular army, had not even the consolation to find his name mentioned in the official report of the general, tho' he was severely wounded the moment he reached the hostile shore, and yet continued to fight with the most determined bravery until the object of the expedition was accomplished. He also disapproved of the measures of the general, and this was his punishment.

At the time the cannonading commenced on that morning, General Smyth was comfortably lying in his bed at his quarters, about 3 miles distant from the scene of action. He arose, and after delaying some time to enjoy the comforts of a breakfast, he and his suite proceed to the navy yard. During the whole way General Smyth is said to have manifested every mark of fear, and strictly charged his attendants not to utter a single word. On arriving at the navy yard he found that Lieut. Angus with most of his men had returned, and in a few minutes after Lieut.-Colonel Boerstler arrived with information that the enemy's batteries were taken and their cannon spiked. At this information General Smyth could not restrain his joy. "Huzza," he exclaimed, "Canada is ours! Canada is ours! Canada is ours! This will be a glorious day for the United States!" On being informed that Captain King was left behind, he ordered Colonel Winder to go with his regiment and bring him over, but Colonel Winder found that a considerable force was ready to oppose him, and returned without effecting his object. Immediately the countenance of General Smyth fell, and, to say the least, *irresolution* marked his conduct during the remainder of the day.

On that morning, by the smallest calculation, more than 3,000 men anxiously awaited the signal that should direct them to invade the hostile shore. Every heart beat high with expectation—every bosom glowed with an enthusiastic courage that would not have shrunk from a far superior foe. The enemy were confounded and appalled. Their batteries were silenced, their cannon harmless. A handful of our brave seamen and soldiers had taught them a lesson of terror. They had retired from the point of invasion apparently uncertain what to do and how to act. The day was mild and pleasant, and everything seemed to conspire to cover the American arms with glory and wipe from our standard every stain of disgrace.

Instead of seizing upon all these advantages, General Smyth suffered the auspicious moment to pass indolent and inactive, and

at length ordered his troops to disembark. "Shame, where is thy blush!" Well may the patriot "think upon his country's honors torn, and frown indignant on the man whose hand has done the shameful deed."

*'Tis here proper to notice that between 10 and 12 o'clock on the morning of that day three sailors crossed over in a boat, burnt three houses, plundered as much property as they could bring away, and after remaining two hours returned without the slightest molestation.* This is a convincing proof that General Smyth might have crossed over without meeting an opposing foe.

But here the scene of disgrace did not terminate. The next day the following General Orders again excited a belief that Canada was yet to be invaded:—

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP NEAR BUFFALO,  
29th November, 1812.

Tomorrow at 8 o'clock all the corps of the army will be at the navy yard ready to embark. Before 9 the embarkation will take place. The General will be on board. Neither rain, snow or frost will prevent the embarkation.

It will be effected with more order and silence than yesterday. Boats will be allotted to the brave volunteers. Fifty men will go in each red boat, forty in each white boat: a piece of cannon and caisson in each scow, the artillery men and about 20 of some other corps.

Seats will be put in the boats to-day, and oars added to the long boats, each of which will carry 80 or 100 men. Ropes will be provided that boats may take the scows in tow. A field officer of each corps will attend to-day to see preparations made and the boats arranged in order. They will cause seats to be made and other preparations.

The cavalry will scour the fields from Black Rock to the bridge, and suffer no idle spectators.

While embarking the music will play martial airs. *Yankee Doodle* will be the signal to get under way.

The regiments will act together, but without being scrupulously attentive to keep their places in the line. When we pull for the opposite shore every exertion will be made. The landing will be made in despite of cannon. The whole army has seen that cannon is little to be dreaded.

The information brought by Captain Gibson assures us victory. But the enemy are as brave as we are and will fight.

Hearts of war: To-morrow will be memorable in the annals of the United States.

ALEX. SMYTH,  
Brigadier-General Commanding.

But "to-morrow" came and passed away without witnessing a single effort on the part of the General to meet the high expectations he had raised. The day was spent in doing nothing that could very materially promote the project of invasion. General Smyth held a council with his officers, both of the regular and volunteer corps, and it was resolved to postpone the time of crossing until 3 or 4 o'clock on the morning of the 1st of December. At this council some of the officers expressed their doubts as to General Smyth's really intending to invade Canada, alleging that he had already twice deceived them. But he swore a most solemn oath that he would go to Canada next morning, let what would oppose him.

Orders were issued for all the troops of the various corps to be at the navy yard by 3 o'clock, and in general they were punctual to the hour. But everything seemed to be paralyzed. One hour after another passed away and nothing was effected. The troops were in the boats waiting the signal to get under way, when daylight appeared in the east. The bugle horn sounded on the opposite shore. The General started when he heard it, and immediately after again ordered the army to debark.

It is impossible to describe the rage that prevailed among the troops at this second disgrace. General Smyth prudently kept himself out of sight, or it is more than probable that he would have fallen a victim to their honest indignation. The volunteers who had come in under the proclamation of the General were ordered to return their arms and were sent home. The man who had betrayed them to disgrace under a sacred promise of conducting them to honor and glory, did not even tender them his or his country's thanks for their well meant services; neither did he even render the most trifling assistance in their organization.

The following extract of a letter from Major Douglass to General Porter will serve to throw some light on the shameful conduct of General Smyth:

"The Pennsylvania volunteers became in a few days after their arrival at Buffalo dissatisfied with their situation. The long concealment of General Smyth's intentions excited uneasiness and conspired, with the confinement to their tents at this inclement season of the year, to produce in their minds the worst effects. For, although nine-tenths of the brigade upon its arrival would

have cheerfully crossed over into Canada in defiance of danger, yet these causes, added to the indisposition of their own General, prevented more than about four hundred and thirty from volunteering agreeable to a requisition made to ascertain the number that would cross. I waited upon General Smyth with an official return, and expressed my regret that so few had volunteered, but the General observed that the number was sufficient, and that the rest would be useful at Schlosser, and would tend to divert the enemy. Early on the morning of the 28th, agreeably to orders, I marched to the navy yard with a battalion of infantry, commanded by Major Harriott. Upon our arrival I waited upon General Smyth, informed him a detachment of Pennsylvania volunteers had arrived, that the remainder of the brigade would soon be at hand, and requested to know if Colonel Purviance might take command of the infantry provided a sufficient number of his regiment would volunteer. The General said it would be better to keep the brigade in a safe place, and the Colonel need not try to get more volunteers unless he was sure to get a sufficient number for his command, for 'we have more men than we want; we are now in confusion.' The regulars were at this time embarking and the General remained on the bank of the river an idle spectator, evidently unfit to accelerate any movement.

"The Pennsylvania volunteers, with the exception of less than one hundred who remained in camp, were, before half the boats were filled, in the edge of the woods awaiting their return to embark. No troops could be more anxious to cross than three-fourths of the brigade. Upwards of fourteen hundred eagerly looked for a debarkation on the enemy's shore, but the General, believing that it was not yet time to adorn his brow with the 'ungathered laurels,' ordered his troops to camp, although he had even, agreeable to his own statement, double the enemy's number, treble his force of flying artillery, and the cannon in his batteries spiked.

"I will pass over for the present the transactions of the second day, as it was known by his inattention to the embarkation and by his spending the morning, except a few minutes, in Captain Wallace's camp and Mr. Kinzor, our brigade quartermaster's tent, that he did not then intend the conquest of Canada. Permit me to turn from this disgusting scene and to close these observations by remarking that the order of embarkation invariably proposed by General Smyth was that the regular infantry, artillery and twelve months' volunteers should cross in the first boats and make good their landing, and the Pennsylvania and New York volunteers in the second. Yet he reflects on these volunteers for not embarking, and

attributes to them the cause of his inglorious retreat—made still more inglorious by the attempt to cover it.”

Thus have I endeavored to give a sketch of the most prominent transactions of the army under this gasconading general. Those who were present called out with one voice that he was a coward, and to that cause was universally ascribed the failure of the expedition.

Before discussing this sickening subject, I will say a word respecting that part of General Smyth's despatch which relates to the strength of his forces. It appears from his own acknowledgement that on Saturday “he deemed himself ready to cross with 3,000 men at once,” and his answer to Major Douglass certainly deprives him of the least color of excuse for not crossing at that time for want of sufficient force. The General has, however, with the most *wonderful* ingenuity, extricated himself from the difficulty by saying that only 1,200 troops, together with “about one-third part of the artillery, were embarked in the boats:” the remainder of the forces, amounting, of course, to nearly 1,800, must have remained idle spectators on the shore. The boats and scows would have carried over near 4,000 men *at once* besides the artillery. Yet, because the General had neglected to order more than about 1,200 into the boats, he attempts to justify his conduct on the ground that 3,000 were not embarked ready to cross *at once* agreeably to the orders he says he had received from Major-General Dearborn. This logic may do at headquarters, but we reason rather different on the *frontiers*. It is, however, to be remarked that, though the General estimated the force actually embarking at only 1,200 men, all who were present were confident it was much greater.

As to the numbers of the troops that were embarked on the morning of the 1st inst., it is difficult to form a correct opinion. General Smyth estimates the whole number at 1,512, but in asserting that there were only 30 men with General Porter or under his command he has been guilty of a gross deviation from fact, for the volunteers under General Porter amounted to at least 250 or perhaps 300 men.

CYRENIUS CHAPIN.

Buffalo, December 28, 1812.

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**From the Buffalo Gazette, 15th February, 1813.**

MESSRS. EDITORS:—It is with much repugnance that I step forward to interfere in an affair of a public nature, and that feeling is more peculiarly excited because I am constrained to correct an



erroneous statement of a gentleman who holds a high and responsible station in our national administration, but an inherent regard for the just distribution of applause to distinguished merit, and to restore to the disparaged the well-earned laurel, impels me to the task. I refer to the affair of the 27th and 28th Nov., 1812, noticed in a communication published in your *Gazette* of the 15th Dec., signed by Peter B. Porter, Esq. Although the following extract from Mr. Porter's address proves to be extremely incorrect, yet I am convinced that he relied (in that instance) on the representations of others who have greatly deceived him. Mr. Porter says :

“In the evening I learnt that the parties mentioned in General Smyth's despatch were to cross the river at 11 o'clock at night to attack the enemy's batteries opposite Black Rock. General Smyth not being here I waited on Lieut. Angus and suggested to him the propriety (if within the scope of his orders) of postponing the enterprize until nearly morning, to give as little time as possible before the passage of the army for the enemy's troops to collect from the stations down the river. They landed at 3 in the morning under a severe fire of musketry and grape shot from two pieces of flying artillery. Lieut. Angus, with his little band of sailors, assisted by Captain King and a few of his party, attacked the principal force of the enemy, consisting of about 250 at the Red House, (the seamen charging with their pikes and swords against muskets and bayonets) and routed them in all directions. Captain Dox who took a distinguished part in this affair was severely wounded. After a hard and destructive engagement the enemy were completely dispersed, the two field pieces spiked and the house in which the enemy quartered fired. The seamen returned to our shore bringing off their wounded and several prisoners. Out of twelve naval officers who embarked in this enterprize, nine of them, with more than half their men, were killed or wounded. If bravery, be a virtue—if the gratitude of a country be due to those who gallantly and desperately assert its rights, the Government will make ample provision for the heirs of those brave tars who fell on this occasion, as well as for those who survived. Captain King proceeded to spike and dismount the guns in the batteries.”

The following statement contains a correct account of the affair, &c.—each particular item can be substantiated by thirty witnesses :

On the 27th of November last, Captain King marched from the encampment at Flint Hill with about 150 regulars, who had volunteered to go with him on a hazardous and honorable enterprize. Owing to the badness of the path through the woods several men did not join the advance and embark with them. At one

o'clock in the morning of the 28th of November about 120 soldiers embarked in boats manned by sailors (6 sailors and a naval officer in each boat), the whole detachment under the immediate command of Captain King. The little squadron proceeded with great order and intrepidity until a landing of several of the foremost boats was effected under a brisk fire from two field-pieces stationed at the Red House, the two batteries, the musketry of two flank companies of the British 49th Regiment, a small detachment of artillery and a party of Canadian militia, their total force amounting to about 200. In despite of all these formidable obstacles, Captain King completed the landing of a considerable part of his men, in which he was ably supported by Captains Sproull and Dox and *some* of the naval officers and sailors. Many of the gallant tars formed with the regulars, raised three cheers and rushed forward in a superior style of gallant intrepidity and routed the British at the point of the bayonet, and boarding pike. While those officers, soldiers and sailors who had adhered to Captain King were landing and forming, some unknown person called out to the sternmost boats to retreat, in consequence of which several of them returned to the American shore without landing a man. Undismayed by this unforeseen diminution of his force, the intrepid King rushed on, frequently 8 or 10 paces in advance of his men, called out to them to follow him to the charge, and often precipitated himself into the thickest ranks of his foes, performing prodigies of valor. The two field-pieces and the Red House were taken and maintained against the British, who were routed in every effort they made to rally their dismayed forces.

After the Red House and cannon were completely in Captain King's power the British rallied their forces on an eminence, above the Red House and between it and the lower battery. At this juncture an order to "*retreat to the boats or you will all be cut off*" was given by some unknown person, the consequence of which was that about 20 out of the 80 soldiers who had landed, with all the sailors except 5 or 6, precipitately rushed into the boats, and by carrying them off deprived their remaining brethren in arms (then reduced to about 50) of the contemplated means of returning with the captured artillery after they should have fully executed the objects of the expedition. Disregarding this unexpected defection, the brave King and his Spartan band charged the British again, and soon drove them from their new position, and finally carried both batteries by dint of the bayonet.

The guns in the batteries were dismounted and one spiked. Not an enemy (except a few straggling parties with not more than two or three men in each and who generally surrendered themselves

prisoners when hailed) was to be seen on the shore from the upper battery down to French Creek, a distance of more than three miles. The detachment then left the batteries and Red House and as the unexpected deprivation of his boats frustrated Captain King's wishes to convey the cannon, prisoners and his men to the American shore, the gun carriages were rendered useless and the ammunition thrown into the river. Captain King then marched down the river in quest of a re-conveyance across it, and at French Creek found two British boats in a leaky condition, into which he embarked the prisoners and a guard, gallantly resolved that as he had been the first to land on the British shore that night, so would he be the last man to quit it. Lieut. Huston was charged with the first boat, Captain Sproull with the second, whose conduct at this juncture merits special notice. He urged Captain King not to hazard being made a prisoner but to suffer him to participate the fate of his remaining men, whom it was impossible to crowd into the boats, or if Captain King was determined to remain he would not leave him. Captain King rejected Captain Sproull's propositions and ordered him to cross the river.

Captain King, with the residue of his detachment, took post in the first house above French Creek, where they remained unmolested for more than four hours. When the sun had risen about an hour's height above the horizon, a detachment of the 49th, about 300, and another of Canadian militia about 400 strong, marched up, to whom Captain King was reduced to the necessity of surrendering himself and men prisoners of war.

The British have subsequently avowed to the writer of this, and to several others of his fellow prisoners, that they lost 52 regulars killed and upwards of 80 wounded in the affair.

In this brilliant exploit Captains Sproull and Dox bravely seconded the gallant exertions of Captain King. Each of these gentlemen richly merits the laurel of renown for their intrepid conduct.

A YOUNG SOLDIER.

### Organization of the Loyal and Patriotic Society.

At a meeting of the principal inhabitants of the Town of York and its vicinity, held at York on Tuesday the 15th day of December, 1812, pursuant to public notice, The Honorable Chief Justice SCOTT, Chairman, it is resolved,

1st.—That a select society be established by annual subscription throughout the Province to be called THE LOYAL AND

PATRIOTIC SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA, for the following specific purposes :

- 1st.—To afford aid and relief to such families of the militia in all parts of the Province as shall appear to experience particular distress in consequence of the death or absence of their friends and relations employed in the militia service in defence of the Province.
- 2d.—To afford like aid and relief to such militiamen as have been or shall be disabled from labor by wounds or otherwise in course of the service aforesaid, provided that it shall appear to the Committee, hereafter to be named, that over and above the aid afforded by the Legislature to some of the cases above mentioned some further relief is necessary.
- 3d.—To reward merit, excite emulation and commemorate glorious exploits, by bestowing medals or other honorary marks of public approbation and distinction for extraordinary instances of personal courage and fidelity in defence of the Province by individuals, either of His Majesty's regular or militia forces or seamen.
- 2d.—That the society shall continue during the present war with the United States of America, and shall be under the special protection and patronage of His Honor Major-General SHEAFFE or the person administering His Majesty's Government in the Province for the time being.
- 3d.—That every person throughout the Province whose annual subscription shall amount to one pound or upwards, shall be admitted to the honor of being a member of the Society and have the privilege of recommending objects to its charitable bounty, and also of voting at all general meetings and deliberations of the subscribers, and that the members of His Majesty's Executive and Legislative Councils, Judges of the King's Bench, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Clergymen of the Established Church, together with every other person whose annual subscription shall amount to ten pounds or upwards, shall be directors of the society for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, and all general and field officers of His Majesty's regular forces serving in the Province are invited to be honorary members of the society.
- 4th.—That the affairs of the society be governed and its business conducted by a General Board of Directors, to assemble quarterly, that is, on the first day of the Quarter Sessions in the Town of York, which board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any number not less than five of the other directors, and that the Chief Justice and the

members of His Majesty's Executive Council for the time being shall be President and Vice-President of the society, without the presence of one or more of whom such General Board cannot be held or business transacted.

5th.—The General Board of Directors shall, by the Secretary and Treasurer, make regular entries of their proceedings and statements of their receipts and disbursements in books to be kept for that purpose, in order that the same be occasionally published and submitted to the inspection of the subscribers; and to facilitate the objects of the society the said Board shall appoint Committees of their own members, residing in the different districts, who may apply to the relief of cases of distress arising therein the whole amount of the subscriptions obtained in such districts, except three per cent. on the said amount to be appropriated by the directors towards effecting the third object of the society: and that the said Committee shall from time to time transmit to Secretary of the General Board at York an account of their proceedings and expenditures that unity may be preserved in the society throughout the Province, and a full statement of its transactions may be prepared for the satisfaction of all the subscribers and the public at large.

6th.—That the respective sums at first to be subscribed shall be considered the sum to be paid annually by each subscriber during the continuance of the society (unless in cases of leaving the Province or some material alteration in the circumstances of the subscriber), and shall for the present year be paid within one month after the subscription, and in the following years at such periods as the General Board of Directors shall appoint, in order to enable the Board to provide supplies best adapted for relief of distress on the most advantageous terms: and that the money accruing from such subscriptions shall be considered as constituting the funds for the purposes of the society.

7th.—That, exclusive of the annual subscriptions, the society will accept of donations of any extent whatsoever from those who may not choose to become annual subscribers or members of the society, and the names of such benefactors and the sums they have given shall be published quarterly in the *York Gazette*.

8th.—And whereas it is the opinion of this society that no personal merit whatever in military service can compensate for insubordination and breach of discipline, it is hereby particularly resolved, That the Board of Directors shall not be at liberty to bestow medals or other honorary marks of distinction upon



any militiaman or soldier who shall be convicted of desertion or absenting himself from his duty without leave from his superior officer or to afford any relief whatever from the funds of this society to the family of such person.

*(From a printed handbill in Talbot Papers.)*

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**Major-General R. H. Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

FORT GEORGE, 16th December, 1812.

SIR,— Captain Gray arrived here on the 14th and delivered to me Your Excellency's despatch of the 15th November. Lieut.-Colonel Myers will set out as speedily as possible for the Lower Province, and will take with him all the information that can be collected of the means which this Province can furnish for aiding in the execution of the plan which is proposed for the improvement of our marine establishment, to such an extent as shall at least raise it to an equality with the force preparing by the enemy, but for this important purpose it must be owned that assistance of the most essential kind must be drawn from sources that are not even under Your Excellency's control. Besides shipwrights, rigging, guns, and equipment of various sorts which the Lower Province may be able to supply, officers and seamen from the Royal Navy will be required. An addition of some heavy guns will be necessary for the defence of the posts of Kingston and York. It is desirable, too, to have some gun-boats, carrying guns of a large calibre, but the construction of these must probably be deferred as a secondary consideration, as it is not to be expected that we shall be able to engage at once in preparing every kind of vessel which may be deemed useful. Captain Gray will return to York and Kingston to give the necessary directions for commencing the work and for putting in a state of active operation all the aids that we can command for contributing to its progress.

The details of the proposed plan will be taken down by Lieut.-Colonel Myers. I have the honor of enclosing a general sketch of it.

It mortifies me extremely to have to report to Your Excellency that both sickness and desertion increased among the militia after the date of my last despatch: indeed the desertion was chiefly owing, I believe, to the distress in their families from sickness, &c., the want of assistance in various ways either for providing for their comfort or their subsistence during the winter. It must be confessed, too, that the militia were but ill-prepared for such cold weather as we have experienced. The clothing for them came up so late that with our defective means we could not get it made in

time, and it unfortunately happened that but a small part of the shoes provided for them had arrived at Kingston when Lieut.-Colonel Nichol sailed from thence with the supplies he brought up. The aid that we could obtain in shoes and leather from the neighboring posts of the Province was too scanty to answer the demand, especially as a considerable number of Indians, too, were to be supplied. The consequence was that a deficiency of shoes was rapidly increasing, and some men were disabled from doing duty for want of them. Under all these circumstances, it became necessary to adopt the means of giving my sanction to the absence of the battalion companies and to one flank company of each regiment, in order to prepare the way for an arrangement for rendering the militia force on this frontier more numerous and efficient at a short distance of time. I hope to have it effected in the course of two or three weeks, and that the enemy in the meantime will not be in a state to make an attack in such force as to overpower the resistance that can be opposed to them. I ought not, however, to conceal from Your Excellency my opinion that we must continue to be befriended by good fortune as well as by the defective plans and organizations of the enemy to enable us to maintain this position through the winter, even with all the aid that the best exertions of the militia may afford us, for it appears probable that the efforts of the enemy will be directed to this point, where it must be known that we are weak in number, with but little hope of reinforcement.

B. General Smyth is reported to have returned to Buffalo.

Captain King, who commanded the American troops in the attack on our batteries near Fort Erie, and is now a prisoner here, has applied to be liberated on his parole, which I have declined granting until it shall be authorized by Your Excellency. He is a bold and enterprising spirit, and appears to be held in high estimation on the other side. A private of the 49th pretends that he saw him some years since at Portsmouth under sentence of transportation, that he is an Irishman and his true name Mafrey. The soldier is at Fort Erie. I have sent for him that I may interrogate him myself on the subject.

I have ordered a General Court Martial to be assembled for the trial of three deserters, taken in arms against us: one at Michilimackinac, one at Queenston, and one with Captain King.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 677*)

**General Alexander Smyth to Governor Tompkins.**

WILLIAMSVILLE, 16th Dec., 1812.

SIR,—I understand that *Mills*, the person you sent to instruct

cavalry, has gone over to the British at Schlosser. He took in company the keeper of a public house there and a dragoon.

The conduct of this man at Black Rock from the 28th Nov. to the 1st Dec., was suspicious. Nothing but my great respect for Your Excellency could have induced me to give an order recognizing him as an instructor, a man in whose looks and demeanor *the villain* was so plainly visible.

I now mention this as affording a ground for being cautious in sending strangers to situations where they have the most complete opportunities to see our force and learn our intentions.

(*Tompkins Papers, Vol. VIII., pp. 302-3, New York State Library.*)

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### Militia General Orders.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,        )  
FORT GEORGE, 16th Dec., 1812.]

His Honor Major General Sheaffe being pleased to permit the flank companies of the 1st and 2d York Militia to return for a time to their respective homes, a muster of them will be taken on their arrival at York, previous to their dismissal. They will be given to understand that their services may again be required at the shortest notice, but one-third of the number of each company will be relieved by an equal number from their respective battalions previous to their again being called out, and the non-commissioned officers and private men who may be ballotted from the battalions for this service will be allowed credit for the time they have been out in the battalion companies.

The officers of the respective companies will once in a fortnight make an inspection of the state of the arms, ammunition and accoutrements which the men have in their possession.

By command,

ÆNEAS SHAW,

Adjutant-General Militia.

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**Sir George Prevost to Earl Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, QUEBEC, 17th December, 1812.

(No. 30.)

MY LORD,—I have the honor to transmit herewith for Your Lordship's information the copy of despatches I have just received express from Major General Sheaffe commanding in Upper Canada containing a report of another attack made by the enemy on the 28th ulto. upon the Niagara frontier between the posts of Chippawa

and Fort Erie, which I have the satisfaction of announcing, to have been repulsed in a manner highly creditable to His Majesty's army and the militia employed upon the occasion, with trifling loss.

The enemy has suffered considerably in killed and wounded, and one captain, (King,) and 38 men were taken prisoners.

The particulars of this affair are detailed in General Sheaffe's despatches, and the report accompanying them from Lieut.-Colonel Bisshopp, who, with the force under his orders, was more immediately engaged with the enemy, and to which I beg leave to refer Your Lordship.

I have to lament that Lieutenant King of the Royal Artillery and Lieutenant Lamont of the 49th Regiment have been wounded severely; the former fell into the hands of the enemy, but I trust will have been released.

I annex for Your Lordship's further information a copy of the general order which I have in consequence directed to be published to the army under my command.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 112.)*

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### General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
HEADQUARTERS, QUEBEC, 17th Dec., 1812.

#### GENERAL ORDER,

His Excellency, the Commander of the Forces, has great satisfaction in announcing to the troops under his command that he has received a report from Major General Sheaffe, communicating the details of a partial action with the main body of the enemy's army, under the command of Brigadier-General Smyth on the 28th of November, on the Niagara frontier between Chippawa and Fort Erie, which terminated with distinguished honor to a very small division of the British army under Lieut.-Col. Bisshopp, who, in a most spirited and gallant manner, defeated and repulsed an invading enemy so vainglorious in the great superiority of his force that he had, with an ostentatious pretence of humanity, proposed the surrender of Fort Erie to avoid an useless effusion of British blood, and which was instantly rejected by Lieut.-Col. Bisshopp with the contempt it merited.

The enemy was gallantly opposed in landing at two o'clock in the morning by the parties under Lieut. King of the Royal Artillery and Lieuts. Bartley and Lamont, commanding detachments of 30

and 35 men each of the 49th Regiment. Lieut. Bartley prevented for a considerable time the landing of a force more than ten times his number, and did not relinquish the contest until his party, reduced to 17 effective men, was threatened by a strong detachment of the enemy, who had landed, on his flank. He made good his retreat and joined Major Ormsby. Lieut. King and Lieut. Lamont resisted with spirit the advance of the enemy until both those officers, being severely wounded, they were under the necessity of giving way to an overwhelming force. The wounded officers fell into the enemy's hands.

Major General Sheaffe expresses in the strongest terms his entire approbation of the celerity and decision evinced by Lieutenant-Colonel Bisshopp, who moved with reinforcements from Chippawa and met Major Ormsby, who had marched with the detachment of the 49th Regiment from Fort Erie, and also detachments of the 41st Regiment and militia, under Lieut.-Colonel Clark and Major Hatt. At daybreak this force advanced to meet the enemy, and made prisoner a captain and 38 men of the enemy's artillery and recovered the guns which had fallen into their hands and re-mounted them on the batteries.

This force formed to receive the threatened attack, but the enemy, being much galled by the musquetry, and suffering considerably from a six-pounder, most ably served by Bombardier Jackson of the Royal Artillery, turned their boats to their own shore after a vain display for several hours of their numerous armament. From the numbers left on the field and the boats which were sunk, the enemy's loss must have been very great.

A heavy cannonade was kept up from all the enemy's batteries during the day, but with little effect.

His Excellency cannot express in sufficient strong terms his approbation of the steady discipline and intrepid firmness displayed by the troops on this occasion, who, undaunted by the superior force of the enemy in numbers, have evinced a brilliant and glorious example of the pre-eminence of British discipline.

Major General Sheaffe reports the assistance rendered by Major Ormsby and the officers of the 49th Regiment and 41st Regt., and the light infantry company of the Royal Newfoundland Regt. under Captain Whelan, and of the militia under Lieut.-Col. Clark and Major Hatt, and Captain Kerby of the artillery, and of the Indian warriors under Major Givins, as having been gallantly and judiciously displayed, reflecting the highest honor on every individual engaged.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 119, p. 130.)*



## Colonel Robert Nichol to Colonel Talbot.

NIAGARA, Dec. 18, 1812.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—You must think me the worst of men for the apparent neglect of you since my return from Montreal, but when you know that I have not had time even to see my own wife you will not, I am sure, think me much to blame. This cursed office, to which for my sins I have been appointed, engrosses *all* my time, and if I don't soon get leave to resign it I believe I shall go crazy. I have not had it in my power to attend either to your affairs or my own.

Alas! my dear Colonel, we are now no longer commanded by Brock, and our situation is most materially changed for the worse. Confidence seems to have vanished from the land, and gloomy despondency has taken its place. I dare not trust myself to write you all. I feel the field officers of the troops and militia have saved the country for a time, *but their efforts will be unavailing against bad management and despondency in those who are at our head and who ought to be better qualified to fill energetically the high and important situations they hold.* You may, however, depend upon it that those on this line will not relax in their exertions to save the country. I enclose you the only scrap of a paper I have. I have no longer access to the staff papers. I, however, learn that by the mail just arrived that a body of about 700 of the enemy attempted to surprise one of our pickets at Odell Town. They retired without doing us any damage, losing 60 or 70 in killed and wounded. We took five prisoners.

It is a long time since we had any Continental intelligence, but there is no doubt our affairs will continue to prosper in Spain. In Russia I fear matters are not so favorable. Gray, the Assistant, but now acting Deputy-Quartermaster General, arrived here a few days ago. He goes off this morning to lay down the keel of a frigate at York and a sloop of war at Kingston; the one to carry 30 guns, viz: 24 32-pound carronades and 6 long eighteens; the other of the class of the *Royal George*. An establishment from the Royal Navy is to man them, so I hope we shall yet hold up our heads. I have really had no time to attend to your concerns. Your coat is with my baggage at Kingston, for which I have sent by land. Young Rolph, just come in, will tell you all the American news.

P. S.—Madison re-elected. Lord Wellington at Burgos. The Russians, according to the French bulletins, defeated with immense loss—say 50,000; they (the French) acknowledge to have lost 10,000. Several generals killed on both sides.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

**Major-General George Glasgow to Sir George Prevost.**

QUEBEC, 18th December, 1812.

The present strength of this detachment, consisting of four companies of artillery and thirty gunner-drivers, is by no means adequate to the duties they have been called to perform in so extended a line of operations.

A reinforcement consisting of a field officer and three companies of artillery and a corps of drivers sufficient for five or six brigades appears to me essentially necessary to carry on the various services of this country with any prospect of effect. A field officer and two companies and a troop of gunner-drivers would be required for the service of Upper Canada.

Two companies of artillery, with a troop of drivers, are necessary for the brigades in the District of Montreal, and three companies should be stationed at Quebec, with half a troop of gunner-drivers for purposes of instruction.

The field-train department, on its present establishment, is unequal to perform the services now carrying on.

I beg also to submit the necessity of a permanent depot in Upper Canada, with artificers for carrying on the various branches of the service, without depending on Quebec for all their wants.

(*Canadian Archives, C.*)

**Major-General Sheaffe to Colonel Talbot.**

FORT GEORGE, 19th Decr., 1812.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—In consequence of the explanation furnished by you and L. Colonel Nichol, I shall authorize the payment of the sums disallowed in the estimate of the 24th Septr. for the pay of the Norfolk, Middlesex and Oxford regiments.

I received despatches yesterday from headquarters to the 6th Decr. A superintendent and storekeeper for our dock-yard arrived at Kingston, a Mr. Plucknett, who has been in one of our dock-yards at home. From 100 to 120 shipwrights and 30 seamen are by this time near Kingston. *Naval* officers and seamen are *expected* from Halifax. A frigate and a sloop of war are to be built on this lake and another vessel like the *Lady Prevost* on Lake Erie. Some gunboats with heavy guns are to be added to the list.

The *Royal George* and *Moir* winter at Kingston. There has been a ridiculous affair near Champlain: 6 or 700 Americans attempted to surprise a picquet of ours of 20 *voyageurs* and 12 Indians, who were placed in a ditch by Mr. McCoy, command'g.

The Americans so completely surrounded the post that had been occupied by our people that in firing on them they only injured one another, and our men joined in the fire, without having a man hurt. The enemy retired after having 50 or 60 killed and wounded. A few of the latter were taken.

I. Coffin is appointed temporary Acting Assistant Commissary General.

Lord Wellington has taken Burgos. The French say they have beaten the Russians on the River Moskwa, 25 leagues from Moscow. They own the loss of 10,000, and estimate that of the Russians at 40 to 50,000. It is said that the latter were joined after the battle by 40,000 from Moscow, which city an uncredited report states to have been taken by the French.

Madison has been re-elected by 47. Rumor says that the *United States* frigate has been taken. Parliament is dissolved.

Massena advancing with 10,000 men towards Spain. Suchet and Joseph have retired from Valentia. Seville taken by assault with little loss. One of the large French mortars employed against Cadiz, and deserted by the Gauls, has been sent to England as a present to the Prince of Wales. The Government of Spain has published a declaration of freedom to all who had acted with the French.

If you knew but all I have to say, to write, and to do, you might be able to estimate the value of so long a letter.

Local intelligence I leave to L. Colonel Bostwick.

*(From the Talbot Papers.)*

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**Daniel Dobbins to the Secretary of the Navy.**

ERIE, December 19th, 1812.

SIR,—

. . . . .

In regard to the vessels cut down and in an unfinished state at Black Rock, there can be but little confidence placed in their safety. The yard is within reach of the enemy's batteries, and, if finished, the vessels could be cut to pieces in passing up the rapids into the lake.

. . . . .

*(From Dobbins's History of the Battle of Lake Erie, pp. 10-11.)*

**Return of Ordnance Between York and Fort Erie—Dec. 19, 1812.**

## York :

Iron—Six six-pounders, four twelve-pounders on ship carriages.

Brass—Two six-pounders.

## Eight batteries on the left of Fort George :

Iron—One 24-pounder, three nine-pounders on garrison carriages, two 18-pounder carronades on ship carriages, one eight-inch mortar on an iron bed.

Brass—One twelve-pound field gun, one six-pounder field gun, five 4  $\frac{2}{5}$ -inch howitzers on wooden beds.

## Fort George :

Iron—Two 24-pounders, one 12-pounder, one six-pounder, three 18-pounder carronades, one eight-inch mortar, one 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch howitzer.

## Four batteries between Fort George and Queenston :

Iron—One 12-pounder, two nine-pounders, two 18-pounder carronades.

## Queenston :

Iron—One 18-pounder, two nine-pounders.

Brass—Two three-pounders.

## Chippawa :

Iron—Two nine-pounders, one six-pounder.

## Fort Erie batteries :

Iron—One 24-pounder, two twelve-pounders, one six-pounder.

Gunboats—Four twelve-pound carronades.

*(Canadian Archives, Freer Papers.)*

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

WAR DEPARTMENT, December 19th, 1812.

**(Abstract.)**

Directing him to sanction Brigadier-General Smyth's retirement. The President feels great anxiety for the vessels at Black Rock, as the enemy may seize the opportunity to destroy them.

**Sir George Prevost to Captain A. Gray.**

CASTLE ST. LEWIS, QUEBEC, 19th Dec., 1812.

SIR,—I have rec'd your letters of the 3d and 11th inst., containing your report upon the state of the marine of the Upper

Province, together with your suggestions upon the most effectual mode of obtaining and preserving a naval superiority on the lakes.

I am fully aware both from your representation and from what I have heard from other quarters of the low and inefficient state of our naval establishment in the Upper Province, and of the necessity of the most vigorous exertions to place it upon the footing that shall enable us with any hope or prospect of success to meet the enemy in that q[uar]te[r].

I have therefore made the strongest representations to His Majesty's Gov't. at home what has been said by Sir John Warren of the necessity of an immediate supply of officers and men for the ships now on the lakes and those to be built. Mr. Plucknett, an experienced officer in the King's naval yards, has been appointed as superintendent of the dockyards, and the work to be carried on for the construction of the new vessels, and has already proceeded, together with 120 shipwrights and carpenters, to Upper Canada. Thirty-four seamen are also on their way to you, and the Asst. Qr.-Master General has been directed to procure as many more as can be obtained, and g. a. for the supply of shipwrights and carpenters will also be sent to you if required.

With these aids you will be enabled to enter upon the execution of the plan you have submitted, and of which I approve, of laying down at York a ship — burthen and mounting 30-32 pr. carronades, and two vessels of the class of the *Royal George*—the one at Kingston and the other at Amherstburg.

For the security of the vessels now on Lake Ontario and to guard ag[ain]st any attempt of the enemy to destroy them when the navigation opens, I have directed a long 18 pr. and 2-12 to be forwarded from Quebec and two, twelves from Montreal as soon as it can be done consistent with the other services going on, Mr. Clark having this day commanded the transporting for that port of the ordnance stores necessary for the two 18-gun vessels. [Erased] a company of the 49th, with a proportion of artillery, have been ordered for Kingston and York, and their places will be supplied by a company of the Glengarrys and a detach[men]t of artillery from Montreal.\*

These precautionary measures will, I think, be sufficient to ensure the safety of our shipp[in]g on the lake until the expected reinforcements of naval officers and men arrive from England or Halifax.

With regard to your plan for the destruction of the enemy's naval force in Sackett's Harbor, it will require some consideration

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\*I have also given instructions for the building of blockhouses at Kingston, Prescott, and Chippawa.



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

The object is certainly highly important, but whether it can be effected must depend upon the force which I shall have at my disposal at the time when you think it can be accomplished, and the number of the enemy on the frontiers.

For the corvette of 30 guns you propose building, you will, of course, make an immediate requisition for the supply of iron, anchors, stores, &c., in order that they may be forwarded as soon as they can be procured. I rely upon your best exertion for forwarding this important branch of the public service, and I trust that, with the assistance we can afford during the winter and spring, you will at least be able to keep the enemy at bay until . . . . .  
(Seven lines illegible.)

*(Canadian Archives, C. 728, p. 125.)*

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**Sir Howard Douglas to Earl Bathurst.**

HIGH WYCOMBE, Decr. 20th, 1812.

MY LORD,—A long residence in Canada and a knowledge of my father's services in that country lead me on referring to the speech of the President of the United States to the liberty I take of obtruding an observation to Your Lordship on the extraordinary measures it is necessary to take to defeat the attempts which will be made to gain a naval superiority on the lakes of Upper Canada.

Your Lordship is well aware what effect an ascendancy gained over us there would produce on the safety of Upper Canada, as well as the facilities it would give to prepare from that quarter a combined attack on the lower settlements. Nor, will it have escaped Your Lordship's observation, that so long as Fort Niagara is commanded, together with the power of destroying the town of Newark and of commanding Fort George. If the capture of that post (an enterprise which will require considerable means to accomplish and retain) cannot be looked for, the communication with Lake Erie by Queenston, Fort Chippawa and Fort Erie for the transport of stores must be abandoned and a new line opened by the River LaTranche (or Thames), which, becoming considerable not far distant from the head of Lake Ontario, falls into a small lake (St. Clair) between Huron and Erie. The land carriage on this line would, it is true, be considerable, but the river once gained, an excellent communication would be possessed, which is extremely convenient for the establishment of a depot on Lake St. Clair, or as a naval arsenal either for Lake Erie or Lake Huron.

But in either case the possession of the upper and the protection of the lower province depend upon our maintaining a decided superiority on Lake Ontario, which, I conceive, is in some danger of being lost unless extraordinary measures be resorted to without delay to secure it.

The vessels by which we maintained a superiority on Lake Champlain in 1776 were prepared in England, the frames, &c., being sent out in the squadron which my father commanded. The pieces were sent up the rapids in batteaux, and were put together and the vessels launched in an astonishingly short time on the lake.

By resorting to such means our command of Lake Ontario may be insured. The frames may be made here during the winter, whilst the masts, plank, spars and slips may be prepared in Canada. Vessels with the frames and such other parts and stores as are sent from England may arrive at Quebec by the 10th or 12th of May, and their contents reach Lake Ontario by the first of June. Thus by the month of August such a plan might create a sufficient force to hold the command of the lower lake.

The Provincial Marine should be put upon a better establishment and encouragement held out to entice the voluntary service of regularly bred naval officers.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 120, p. 197.)*

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### Distribution of Forces in Upper Canada.

#### Fort George :

Royal Artillery—3 officers, 41 rank and file.

Royal Engineers—1 officer.

8th Regiment—1 officer.

41st Regiment—10 officers, 21 sergeants, 16 drummers, 169 rank and file.

49th Regiment—4 officers, 7 sergeants, 4 drummers, 153 rank and file.

Royal Newfoundland Regt.—4 officers, 5 sergeants, 2 drummers, 104 rank and file.

Glengarry Light Infantry—1 officer.

#### Queenston :

Royal Artillery—3 rank and file.

41st Regiment—3 officers, 4 sergeants, 98 rank and file.

#### Chippawa :

Royal Artillery—5 rank and file.

41st Regiment—8 officers, 11 sergeants, 2 drummers, 329 rank and file.

Fort Erie :

Royal Artillery—6 rank and file.

49th Regiment—7 officers, 10 sergeants, five drummers, 223 rank and file.

Militia not included, no return having been received.

Adjutant General's Office, }  
Quebec, 21st Decr., 1812. }

EDWD. BAYNES.

(*Canadian Archives, Freer Papers, 1812-13, p. 102.*)

**Major General R. H. Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.**

FORT GEORGE, 22d December, 1812.

SIR,—I have had the honor of receiving Your Excellency's despatches of the 23d of November and 3d of December. I derive the greatest satisfaction from learning that we are to have the aid of so many shipwrights, &c., immediately with the addition of the number of workmen that the country can furnish; there will no doubt be sufficient to prepare the hulls, masts and ironwork quite as early as the other essential parts will be in readiness. I hope that Your Excellency will soon have favorable intelligence with respect to the officers and crews.

I have not yet heard of the arrival of the *Lady Prevost* at Amherstburg. If Captain Hall has escaped the tempestuous weather that succeeded her departure from Fort Erie and has reached his destined port, he will be directed to repair to Quebec unless it should appear that his presence at Amherstburg cannot be dispensed with.

Besides a vessel similar to the *Lady Prevost*, it is proposed to add two gun-boats on Lake Erie, Colonel Procter having represented that they would be of great utility. The general sketch of the plan proposed for the increase of the Provincial navy, to which I alluded in my letter of the 16th, was not enclosed with it, Captain Gray having told me that he was sending down a full report of it.

Mr. Deputy-Commissary General Couche's representation may prove just, though I think it improbable that there will be to such an extent a failure of supplies as to make us dependent on the Lower Province. The peculiar situation in which this has been placed for many months will no doubt have the effect of diminishing its resources; a restriction on its exports will become necessary, but whether it will provide sufficiently for the probable increased

consumption will depend on a variety of contingencies that may baffle the most plausible calculation.

I beg leave to congratulate Your Excellency on the success of your arrangements for frustrating the designs of the enemy on the Lower Province, and also on the efficient support which you have received from its militia.

(*Canadian Archives, C. 677.*)

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(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 22d December, 1812.)

To the Editor of the Buffalo Gazette:

SIR,—In the account which I gave last week of the proceedings of the first of December, I find I was under a mistake in stating that Colonel Winder's regiment embarked three-quarters of an hour before *any* other of the regular infantry.

I saw one regiment only, which I understood to be Colonel Winder's, enter their boats at the navy yard. There lay alongside a large number, and I supposed the whole, of the other boats intended for the regular troops, and which were unoccupied for about three-quarters of an hour. I have since learnt that the boats for one regiment had been taken a little distance up the creek, and that Colonel Parker's regiment (then commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Coles) and Colonel Winder's regiment *embarked about the same time*—one at the navy yard and the other in boats up the creek. It was a "mistake of the night," which, in justice to Lieut.-Colonel Coles, I most cheerfully correct.

Yours,

PETER B. PORTER.

Dec. 21.

NEW ARRANGEMENT.

Brigadier-General Alexander Smyth has given up the command on this frontier to Colonel Moses Porter of the United States Artillery. General Smyth has proceeded for Washington.

PENNSYLVANIA TROOPS.

Such of the Pennsylvania Line as had not previously discharged themselves were discharged by General Smyth (in pursuance of orders from General Dearborn) when he resigned the command. In the order for discharge General Smyth "thought proper to add an expression of his satisfaction with those men who had continued faithful to the standard of their country." General Tannehill has left this for Pennsylvania.

The fever which has made such dreadful havoc among our soldiers and citizens continues to rage. The physicians are taking unwearied pains to ascertain the character of the disease and to prescribe an effectual remedy for it; blood-letting is generally fatal in violent cases.

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From the Buffalo Gazette, 5th January, 1813.

FORT NIAGARA, 24th Dec., 1812.

A number of heavy guns were heard this afternoon in the direction of York. Disease continues to make sad havoc through the country; it has mitigated with the soldiery. From deserters we learn that the mortality is great on the other side. Numbers die daily.

THE WEATHER

During the last two months has been variable. The most part of November was cold and stormy. December was more tolerable. A few of the last days of December were mild and pleasant. A rain storm succeeded, which ended with snow and frost. A few days of such weather will shut the lake.

UPPER CANADA.

Several soldiers and others lately *deserted* from Canada represent that Province to be in a most deplorable condition. Their supplies from Montreal are cut off by reason of Commodore Chauncey occupying the outlet of Lake Ontario; that *flour* and *salt* were not to be bought at any price. The inhabitants of U. Canada depended altogether upon our saltworks for a supply of that article, previous to the declaration of war. The British have lately been very actively employed in removing several pieces of field and flying artillery, ammunition waggons, &c., to Fort Erie from the positions below.

(File in Buffalo Public Library.)

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Sir Roger H. Sheaffe to Sir George Prevost.

FORT GEORGE, 29th December, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of Your Excellency's despatches of the 17th and 19th of this month by Mr. McGillivray, with a copy of the treaty for the release of prisoners on their parole and for their eventual exchange.



Captain Gray has reported his having commenced the preparations for building a ship at York, and has proceeded for Kingston to give the necessary directions for the work to be executed there; he will send down a report from thence if an additional number of artificers should be deemed necessary from the Lower Province.

An express has been sent to Amherstburg with instructions for constructing there a ship of the class of the *Queen Charlotte*, and it is proposed to build two gun-boats for Lake Erie, or to purchase or hire two vessels for the purpose, as may be found most advantageous for the service.

I regret exceedingly that I have to communicate the death of Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster General Dewar. Colonel Procter, in a letter to Lieut.-Colonel Myers, recently brought down by a private opportunity, reports his having died suddenly in consequence of the bursting of a blood vessel. Colonel Procter has appointed Lieut. Troughton of the Royal Artillery to act in his stead (of which I have approved until Your Excellency's pleasure be known). I hope that Lieut. King's services will soon be restored to that department. The last report I received of him was favorable. In case of his return a new appointment for Amherstburg may be unnecessary, if that of Brevet-Major Clerk should be confirmed, of which, however, a doubt has occurred to me, founded on there being already two captains of the 49th Regiment on the staff. Lieut. Troughton's appointment I consider as merely temporary, as his active services as an artillery officer may be required after a short interval.

The proceedings of the General Court-Martial on the trial of three prisoners are transmitted by this opportunity with my orders thereon, which I hope will meet with Your Excellency's approbation.

The sentence on Private Murphy was executed yesterday. He confessed his guilt, acknowledging that he had given the enemy all the aid in his power, and had perhaps caused the death of one or more of his old comrades, for which he declared his penitence and sorrow.

P. S.—Lieut.-Colonel Myers has had a violent indisposition from which he is not yet sufficiently recovered to go out, and there is reason to apprehend that he would be exposed to great danger in going down at this rigorous season to such a climate as that of the Lower Province. I hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to permit his remaining in the Upper Province during the winter, or at least until the severity of it be past.

**Major General Sheaffe to Lord Bathurst.**

FORT GEORGE, 31st December, 1812.

No. 1.

MY LORD,—Having been so many weeks constantly in presence of an enemy of greatly superior numbers, will, I hope, apologize for me if I have not done myself the honor of addressing Your Lordship so often on the affairs of this Province as may have been expected.

During the season for active operations a great proportion of the male population was necessarily brought forward to aid His Majesty's troops in the defence of the Province. On this frontier from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie the enemy assembled so great a force that all the militia of the neighboring district were called out. Liberal supplies of clothing, blankets, &c., had been purchased for them in the Lower Province, but unfortunately various causes combined to delay their arrival at Kingston to a late period and to prevent them being all forwarded from thence before the close of navigation. The militia were therefore deprived of the early and extensive benefit which it had been intended to afford to them, and they were exposed to wants and privations, which many bore for some time with a most commendable constancy. In their absence, too, from their homes, their farms were suffering from neglect, much of their produce was lost, and many of their families were in distress. This state of things caused desertions before the close of the campaign, but after the feeble and unsupported attempt made by the enemy on the 28th November, near Fort Erie, his militia and a considerable number of his other troops having disbanded themselves, and a large portion of the rest having retired to winter quarters, I dismissed the militia from this frontier, with the exception of a small body. In being thus permitted to return to their homes it at the same time affords relief to them and to their families and enables them to prepare future supplies of various kinds for His Majesty's troops. The effective force of the militia which has served on this frontier has been reduced by losses in the field and also by sickness, which, not confined to them, has generally prevailed in the Province. On the enemy's side it has raged to a much greater extent, and has not a little contributed to weaken his efforts against us.

The vigorous measures which have commenced under the direction of His Excellency Sir George Prevost for the increase of the Provincial Marine force have produced a happy effect on the public mind, which began to be depressed on finding that the St. Lawrence had closed without bringing reinforcements from Europe,

and that the Americans were making most formidable exertions to wrest from us the superiority on the lakes.

I propose going soon to York, where I shall consult the Executive Council on the expediency of summoning the Legislature to assemble before the expiration of the winter.

(*Canadian Archives, Q. 315, pp. 219-221.*)

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**Augustus Porter to Peter B. Porter.**

SCHLOSSER, Dec. 31st, 1812.

SIR,—I received your letter written at Avon, and was very happy to learn that you was recovering your health and spirits. I hope on your arrival at Washington you will lose no time in making application for my relief. In case you should obtain an addition to the price for the rations, I should prefer that the supply for N. W. army should not be included, as that has been supplied at a most enormous expense, and it is impossible to say what it has or will cost. Whatever it does should be allowed by the Government. On this river it should be at least 22 cts. To shew you what it will now cost, I enclose you a statement of the price here of provisions, &c. As it is now purchased and must be supplied during the residue of my contract, you may say I have put articles high, particularly transportation, I grant it is so, but *it is what it now actually costs*, and the waggoning is good, but owing to the scarcity of forage, it cannot be promised done less. It is, therefore, in vain to talk of it being too high; it will not be lower.

And as to think of fetching it by water, it cannot be done before the first of June to supply the troops, excepting them at Niagara garrison. As there is neither teams nor forage in this part of the country to transport from Niagara to Schlosser, therefore by saying it could be done by water would be only deceiving ourselves, as it would be impossible to do it.

On the whole, unless you can promise for me such relief as will cover the cost of supplies, I would much rather have none, for the loss of one cent on a ration would ruin me. It would take all my property to pay it, and the Government can only take all I have if I am ever so much indebted, and while I have not been considered at all, I might stand on better ground to obtain a discharge from the whole debt than if I had some allowance made me.

My purchases which I have made will require at least 30,000 dollars more than I have received to pay them. I am therefore

under the necessity of making a draft to that amount, which I shall this day send forward to G. A., Washington. I am sorry to do it, but what is to be done? I have purchased the articles for the army: the army have them. I have to depend on the Government to furnish money to pay for them. If they protest this order I cannot supply. Do if possible learn what number of troops I am to supply until June. I have yet no idea as to the number.

P. S.—You can state to the S[ecretary] of W[ar] that the supplies I am now purchasing will last sometime, and that it is necessary it should be laid in now; of course money must be advanced.

## MEMORANDUM ENCLOSED.

Pork in Ontario, pr bbl.....	\$ 14 25
Flour " " .....	8 25
Whiskey, pr gallon, 5/	
Transportation in sleighs thro' the winter, owing to the scarcity of forage, 16/ pr cwt.	

At this rate then calculate for 100,000 rations, viz:—

375 bbls pork, @ \$14.25.....	5,343 75
Transportation of do., 1,125 cwt., at \$2.....	2,250 00
574 bbls flour, @ \$8.25.....	4,735 50
Transportation, 1,145 cwt., @ \$2.....	2,296 00
3,125 galls. whiskey, @ 5/.....	1,953 12½
100 bbls for do., @ 8/.....	100 00
Transportation of do., @ \$5.....	500 00
4,000 cwt. soap, @ 1/.....	500 00
1,000 galls. vinegar, @ 2/.....	250 00
1,500 cwt. candles, @ 1/4.....	250 00

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\$18,177 87½

12½ pr ct., the old allowance for leakage and wastage..... 2,272 23

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\$20,450 10

1 cent per ration for issuing, as formerly allowed 1,000 00

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\$21,450 10

100,000 rations, @ \$0.20..... 20,000 00

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A loss of..... \$ 1,450 00

(From MSS. of Hon. P. B. Porter.)

From Poulson's American Daily Advertiser of Philadelphia, 2d  
January, 1813.

Captain McKeon of the United States Artillery arrived in New York on Tuesday last from the lines. He informs us that he left the army in comfortable winter quarters at Eleven Mile River. The sickness which had prevailed having considerably abated, General Smyth left the camp for Washington City the same day Captain McKeon came away. The weather previous to the sickness of the troops had been most remarkably unfavorable, the sun having scarcely been seen once in twenty-four days. There is now good sleighing from Utica outwards. A sufficient garrison is left at Fort Niagara.

COLUMBIAN.

(File in Philadelphia Library.)

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**Baptist Irvine to General Porter.**

BUFFALO, January 6th, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—I returned from a fruitless jaunt the evening of the day on which I learned you had set off for Congress. I regret that I had not the pleasure of seeing you, for various reasons, but doubt not your advice may render more service in our councils than your presence could (under existing circumstances) on this great theatre of *paper war* and *countermarches*. Good God! how sick I am of this dull, inactive, miserable, inglorious life! Nothing here to delight or cheer in a military sense. The lake is now frozen over, but instead of proposing enterprizes or expeditions against the enemy, we are watching him lest he steal a march upon us. So petty is the force we have in Buffalo that to anything like an army it is only a *picket guard*. Two hundred men might destroy everything here if they surprised us. Many, if not all, agree that it was wrong to place the regulars so far off as Eleven Mile Creek, where they could afford us no assistance in case of attack. But if it is true that the British force is at present reduced very small by detaching a part of it to act above, I think that with 500 or 800 men *we* could cross over and destroy their cannon and works, disabling them from troubling us until we behold the flowers of May, when, if our administration act wisely and zealously, and there be any patriotism left in the country, we may do more than make promises of invasion. However, I find that your namesake, who commands this *consumptive* army, is not regarded as a man of enterprise, though an excellent *police* officer in garrison or camp.



Of late they have brought up many pieces of light artillery towards Fort Erie. Whether they mean to act on the offensive or defensive I know not.

I write this hasty scrap for the special purpose of drawing your attention to the *staff department* of the army. All perfection is chiefly dependent on its perfection—all deficiency seems ascribable to its faults. It is the great regulator of the machine, and ought therefore itself to be constructed on the best principles. I cannot say that I know much more of it than from a little reading and some trifling experience of its incompleteness. To you and to your associates belongs the task of surveying and perfecting it.

How is it that soldiers do not and cannot enjoy (in this quarter) one-half of the articles to which they are entitled by law? That they cannot procure them from the quartermaster here (Thomas), after repeated solicitations, is a fact—at least as relates to the *volunteers*. These seem to be proscribed on all hands. Denied their rights and treated with *contempt* after they rallied round the American eagle from motives of patriotism, is it strange that half-companies sometimes desert, together from mere indignation at finding their motives derided and their finest feelings insulted? I know you will vindicate them against unjust aspersions so often thrown on them by those who cannot relish any other than an army of *mercenaries*.

I would be more particular in detailing facts and circumstances if we had it not in contemplation to draw up a remonstrance to the President on the subject. Whether he would regard it is, perhaps, doubtful, yet the public could thus learn the disease and Congress devise a proper remedy. Our condition would be most deplorable if the *contractors* and *commissaries* should act as bad as the *quartermaster*, but the former seem to comply with their duty as far as possible.

*Nothing is trivial now that relates to the army.* Government, I think, ought to bend all their attention to it. The Canadas are not to be overrun by debates on *merchants' bonds*, nor by sage questions put to Albert Gallatin (about the *benefits* of importing British goods); by sage committees of Congress, nor even by the 4-74's and 4-44's to be built—sometime. No; it must be done by an army, and ought we to deter others from enlistment by maltreating those already in the service? To give a collected resistless blow, I think we ought not attempt to strike *two* blows at once. Even *Crib* or *Molyneux* knows better than to do so. Then, let the navy alone *till another day*. The army is and ought to be considered as our mainstay.

I made free to make known to you what might do injury if

made public. We are very unhealthy at present. A putrid sort of fever prevails too generally among the volunteers. Among the regulars I am told it is abating. If leisure allows, I wish you would drop me a line now and then in the same freedom and confidence I do to you. If we have no prospect of some capable distinguished man to command here next spring *without going by the way of Quebec*, as I wished. In truth, I am afraid that J. M-d-n (Madison) cannot manage a war as *ably* as he can conduct an electioneering campaign.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Quarterly Return of the 1st Regiment of Middlesex Militia, 24th December, 1812.**

One colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, one major, five captains, five lieutenants, five ensigns, one adjutant, one quartermaster, 11 sergeants, 187 rank and file, 100 stand of arms:

Colonel—Thomas Talbot.

Lieut.-Colonel—Mahlon Burwell.

Major—John Eakins.

Captains—David Secord, Daniel Springer, Gilman Willson, Leslie Patterson, Samuel Edison.

Lieutenants—William Bird, William Saxton, Gideon Tiffany, Moses Rice, Samuel Axford.

Ensigns—Daniel McIntyre, David Davis, Joseph Defields, Benjamin Willson, Samuel Harris.

Adjutant—John Potts.

Quartermaster—Sylvanus Reynolds.

(From the Talbot Papers.)

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**Statement of the Number of Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of the 1st Norfolk Regiment of Militia on Active Duty in the Year 1812.**

From 30th June to 24th July.....	34
From 25th July to 24th August.....	74
From 25th August to 24th September.....	64
From 25th September to 24th October.....	32
From 25th October to 24th November.....	64
From 25th November to 24th December.....	54

(Compiled from a Return in the Talbot Papers.)

**Statement of the Number of Non-Commissioned Officers and  
Privates of the 2nd Norfolk Regiment of Militia on Active  
Duty in the Year 1812.**

From 30th June to 24th July.....	45
From 25th July to 24th August.....	80
From 25th August to 24th September.....	74
From 25th September to 24th October.....	16
From 25th October to 24th November.....	69
From 25th November to 24th December.....	42

*(Compiled from a Return in the Talbot Papers.)*

**Statement of the Number of Non-Commissioned Officers and  
Privates of the 1st Regiment of Middlesex Militia on  
Active Duty in the Year 1812.**

From 30th June to 24th July.....	16
From 25th July to 24th August.....	16
From 25th August to 24th September.....	10
From 25th September to 24th October.....	10
From 25th October to 24th November.....	84
From 25th November to 24th December.....	64

*(Compiled from a Return in the Talbot Papers.)*











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N5L9	the campaign upon the Niagara
pt.4	frontier

