

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE

[VOL. 1.] SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1796. [No. 542.]

FROM THE BALTIMORE GAZETTE, of May 9.

Negotiations of governor imbec, with the savages, on the North West of the Ohio. In the Maryland Journal of the 16th of April last, it was mentioned that some documents on the above subject were soon to be laid before our readers. The following interesting dispatch from General Wayne, has not hitherto been published in any newspaper in the United States. A very mutilated abridgment only, consisting of thirty or forty lines, appeared at the time of its arrival at Philadelphia, in the public prints. The writer of this paragraph considered it as of too much importance to be suffered to sink into oblivion. By the kindness of a gentleman who is a clerk in one of the public offices, he obtained access to this and some other papers on the same topic, of which the following affords a singular sample.

Copy of a letter from Major General Wayne, to the Secretary of War, dated Headquarters, Grenville, 7th July, 1794.

SIR,

At seven o'clock in the morning of the 20th ultimo, one of our escorts, consisting of ninety rifle-men and fifty dragoons, commanded by Major M'Mahan, was attacked by a very numerous body of Indians under the walls of Fort Recovery, followed by a general assault upon that post and garrison, in every direction.

The enemy were soon repulsed with great slaughter; but immediately rallied and reiterated the attack, keeping up a very heavy and constant fire, at a more respectable distance, for the remainder of the day, which was answered with spirit and effect by the garrison, and that part of Major M'Mahan's command that had regained the post.

The savages were employed during the night, which was dark and foggy, carrying off their dead by torch light; which occasionally drew a fire from the garrison. They nevertheless succeeded so well, that there were but eight or ten dead bodies left upon the field, and those close under the influence of the fire from the fort.

The enemy again renewed the attack on the morning of the 21st instant, but were ultimately compelled to retreat with loss and disgrace, from that very field where they had, on a former occasion, been proudly victorious.

In order to give particular general return of the killed, wounded, and missing. Among the killed, we have to lament the loss of our gallant and brave officers, viz. Major M'Mahan, Captain Bartolome, and Lieutenant Craig, of the rifle corps, and cornet Lorry, of the cavalry, who all fell in the first charge. Among the wounded are the intrepid Captain Taylor of the dragoons, and Lieutenant Drake of the infantry.

It would appear, that the real object of the enemy was to have carried that post by a coup de main, for they could not possibly have received intelligence of the escort under Major M'Mahan, which only marched from this place on the morning of the 20th ultimo, and deposited the supplies the same evening at Fort Recovery, from whence the escort was to have returned at reveille the next morning, therefore their being found at that post, was an accidental, perhaps a fortunate event. By every information, as well as from the extent of their encampments which were perfectly square and regular, and their line of march in seventeen columns, forming a wide and extended front, their numbers could not have been less than from fifteen hundred to two thousand warriors.

It would also appear that they were rather short of provisions, as they killed and ate a number of pack horses in their encampment, the evening after the assault, as also at their next encampment on their retreat, which

was but seven miles from Fort Recovery, where they remained two nights, probably from being much incumbered with their dead and wounded; a considerable number of the pack horses were actually loaded with the dead.

Permit me now, Sir, to express my highest approbation of the bravery and conduct of every officer and soldier of the garrison and escort upon this trying occasion, and as it would be difficult to discriminate between officers equally meritorious and emulous for glory, I have directed the adjutant general to annex the names of every officer of the garrison and escort, who were fortunate enough to remain uninjured, being equally exposed to danger with those who were less fortunate.

But I should be wanting in gratitude were I to omit mentioning in particular captain Alexander Gibson of the 4th sublegion, the gallant defender of fort Recovery.

Here it may be proper to relate certain facts and circumstances, which almost amount to positive proofs, that there were a considerable number of the British, and the militia of Detroit, mixed with the savages, in the assault upon Fort Recovery, on the 30th ultimo and 1st instant.

I had detached three small parties of Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians, a few days previous to that affair, towards Grand Glaize, in order to take or obtain prisoners for the purpose of gaining intelligence. One of those parties fell in with a large body of Indians, at the place marked Girty's town in Harmer's route, on the evening of the 16th ultimo, apparently bending their course towards Chikatoke on the Great Miami. This party returned to Grenville on the 28th, with this further information, "that there were a great number of white men with the Indians."

The other two parties got much scattered in following the trails of the hostile Indians, at some distance in their rear, and were close in with them when their assault commenced on fort Recovery. These Indians all mist that there were a considerable number of armed white men in the rear, whom they heard frequently talking in our language, and encouraging the savages to persevere in the assault; that their faces were generally blacked, except three British officers, who were dressed in scarlet, and appeared to be men of great distinction, from being surrounded by a large party of white men and Indians, who were very attentive to them. These kept a distance in the rear of those that were engaged.

Another strong corroborating fact that there were British, or British Militia in the assault is, that a number of ounce balls and buckshot were lodged in the blockhouses and stockades of the fort. Some were delivered at so great a distance as not to penetrate and were picked up at the foot of the stockades.

It would also appear that the British and Savages expected to find the artillery that were lost on the 4th of November, 1791, and hid by the Indians in the beds of the old fallen timber, or logs, which they turned over and laid the cannon in, and then turned the logs back into their former birth. It was in this artful manner we generally found them deposited. The hostile Indians turned over a great number of logs during the assault, in search of those cannon and other plunder which they had probably hid in this manner after the action of the 4th of November, 1791.

I therefore have reason to believe that the British and Indians depended much upon this artillery to assist in the reduction of that post. Fortunately they served in its defence.

The enclosed copy of the examination of the Putawatime and Shawanoe prisoners, will demonstrate this fact, that the British have used every possible exertion to collect the

Savages from the most distant nations, with the most solemn promises of advancing and co-operating with them against the legion; nor have the Spaniards been idle upon this occasion.

It is therefore more than probable, that the day is not far distant, when we shall meet this Hydra in the vicinity of Grand Glaize in Roche de Bout, without being able to discriminate between the white and red savages. In the interim, I am in hourly expectation of receiving more full and certain intelligence of the number and intention of the enemy.

I have no further or other information respecting the mounted volunteers of Kentucky, than what you will observe in the enclosed copies of the correspondence between Major-General Scott and myself. I hope they may be completed to their full number, because it would appear that we shall have business enough for the whole of them.

You will herewith receive the general and field return of the legion, the quarterly return of ordnance and stores at this place, the Quarter-master General's return, and the return of the hospital department.

The horses that were killed, wounded and missing in the assault against Fort Recovery, will not in the least retard the advance of the legion after the arrival of the mounted volunteers, because I had made provision for these kinds of losses and contingencies, which from the nature of the service, must be expected and will unavoidably happen.

I have the honor to be,
With every sentiment of
Respect and esteem,
Your most obedient, and
Very humble servant,
ANTHONY WAYNE.

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, of a detachment under the orders of Major M'Mahan, in the action near Fort Recovery, the 29th of June, 1794. Killed; cavalry, cornets, 1; privates, 8; total, 9. Wounded; captains, 1; serjeants, 2; corporals, 1; musk, 2; privates, 6; total, 12. Britishmen, killed; majors, 1; captains, 1; lieutenants, 1; serjeants, 1; privates, 6; total, 10. Wounded; serjeants, 1; privates, 5; total, 6.

Carrion of Fort Recovery; killed; privates, 1. Wounded; lieutenants, 1; serjeants, 3; privates, 7; total, 11. Contractors department; killed, privates, 2. Wounded, 1. Missing, 3. Total, killed, 22. Wounded, 30. Missing, 3.

Horses, killed, 59. Wounded, 22. Missing, 221.

Names of the officers killed and wounded. Major William M'Mahan, 4th sublegion, killed.

Captain Asa Hartshorn, 1st ditto, do. Lieutenant Robert Craig, 3d do. do. Cornet Daniel Lorry, dragoons, 3d do. do.

Captain James Taylor, do. wounded. Lieutenant Samuel Drake, 2d sub legion, wounded.

Names of the officers in the attack on Fort Recovery, who were not wounded.

Captain Gibson, Lieutenants Covington, Dunn, Michael, Shanklin; Ensigns Dangerfield, Dodd.

THE subscriber informs his customers, and the public in general, that he has removed from near the court-house, and carries on the

BOOT & SHOE-MAKING BUSINESS in Craven-Street, opp. site Mr. BYRNE'S store; those that please to favour him with their custom, their demands will be punctually and speedily complied with.—Masters of vessels and tea-trading men, may be supplied on the shortest notice.

FREDERICK CLEMENTS.
May 25.