

THE WAR.

BATTLE OF FORT ERIE.

Copy of a letter from Brig. Gen. Gaines to the Secretary of War, dated August 15, 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to communicate for the information of the Department of War, the particulars of the battle fought at this place on the 15th inst. between the left wing of the Northern Army, under my command, and the British forces in the Peninsula of Upper Canada, commanded by Lieut. General Drummond, which terminated in a signal victory in favor of the United American Arms.

Our position on the margin of the Lake at the entrance of the Niagara River, being nearly a horizontal plain twelve to fifteen feet above the surface of the water, possessing few natural advantages, had been strengthened in front by temporary parapet breastworks, entrenchments and abatis, with two batteries and six field pieces. The small unfinished Fort Erie, with 24 18 and 12 pounders, forms the North East, and the Douglas Battery, with an 18 and 6 pounder near the edge of the Lake, the South-East angle of our right. The left is defended by a redoubt battery with six field pieces just thrown up on a small ridge. Our rear was left open to the Lake, bordered by a rocky shore of easy ascent. The battery on the left was defended by Capt. Towson; Fort Erie by Capt. Williams, with Maj. Trimble's command of the 19th infantry; the batteries on the front by Captains Biddle and Fanning; the whole of the artillery commanded by Major Hindman. Parts of the 11, 19th, and 22d infantry (of the late veteran brigade of Major Gen. Scott) were posted on the right under the command of Lieut. Col. Aspinwall. Gen. Ripley's brigade, consisting of the 21st and 23d, defended the left of General Porter's brigade of New York and Pennsylvania Volunteers, with our distinguished riflemen, occupied the centre.

I have heretofore omitted stating to you, that during the 13th and 14th the enemy had kept up a brisk cannonade, which was sharply returned from our batteries, without any considerable loss on our part. At 6 P. M. one of their shells lodged in a small magazine in Fort Erie which was fortunately almost empty. It blew up with an explosion more awful in appearance than injurious in its effects, as it did not disable a man or derange a gun. It occasioned but a momentary cessation of the artillery on both sides; it was followed by a loud and joyous shout by the British army, which was instantly returned by our part, and Capt. Williams amidst the smoke of the explosion renewed the contest by an animated roar of his heavy cannon.

From the supposed loss of our ammunition, and the consequent depression such an event was likely to produce upon the minds of our men, I felt persuaded that this explosion would lead the enemy to assault, and made my arrangements accordingly. The annexed paper no. 1. is a copy of Lieut. Gen. Drummond's order and plan of attack.

The night was dark and the early part of it raining, but the faithful centinel slept not; one third of the troops were at their posts. At half past 2 o'clock the right column of the enemy approached, and though enveloped in darkness, black as his designs and principles, was distinctly heard on our left and promptly marked by our musquetry under Maj. Wood and cannon under Capt. Towson. Being mounted at the moment, I repaired to the point of attack, where the sheet of fire rolling from Towson's battery and the musquetry of the left wing of the 21st infantry under Major Wood, enabled me to see the enemy's column of about 1500 men approaching on that point; his advance was not checked until it had approached within ten feet of our infantry. A line of loose brush representing an abatis only intervened; a column of the enemy attempted to pass round the abatis through the water where it was nearly breast deep. Approaching that this point would be carried, I ordered a detachment of riflemen and infantry to its support, but, having met with the gallant commander Major Wood, was assured by him that he could defend his position without reinforcements. At this moment the enemy were repulsed, but instantly renewed the charge and were again repulsed. My attention was now called to the right, where our batteries and lines were soon lighted by a most brilliant fire of cannon and musquetry; it announced the approach of the centre and left columns of the enemy, under Colonels Drummond and Scott; the latter was received by the veteran 9th under the command of Capt. Foster, and Captains Boughton and Harding's companies of New York and Pennsylvania volunteers, aided by a 6 pounder judiciously posted by Major McKee, chief engineer, who was most active and useful at this point; they were repulsed. That of the centre led by Col. Drummond was not long kept in check; it

approached at once every available point of the Fort, and with scaling ladders ascended the parapet, but was repulsed with dreadful courage. The assault was twice repeated, it was often checked, but the enemy having moved round in the ditch covered by darkness added to the heavy cloud of smoke which had rolled from our cannon and musquetry, enveloping surrounding objects, repeated the charge, re-ascending the ladders; their pikes, bayonets and spears fell upon our gallant artilleryists. The gallant spirits of our favorite Captain Williams and Lieut. McDonough and Watson, with their brave men, were overcome. The two former and several of their men received deadly wounds. Our bastion was lost. Lt. McDonough, being severely wounded, demanded quarter. It was refused by Colonel Drummond. The Lieut. then seized a hand-spike, and nobly defended himself until he was shot down with a pistol by the monster who had refused him quarter, who often reiterated the order—"give the damned Yankees no quarter." This officer, whose bravery, if it had been seasoned with virtue, would have entitled him to the admiration of every soldier—this hardened murderer soon met his fate. He was shot through the breast by a bullet of the regt. while repeating the order "give no quarter."

The battle now raged with increased fury on the right, but on the left the enemy was repulsed and put to flight. Thence and from the centre I ordered reinforcements. They were promptly sent by Brig. Gen. Ripley and Brig. Gen. Porter. Capt. Fanning, of the corps of artillery, kept up a spirited and destructive fire with his field pieces on the enemy attempting to approach the fort. Maj. Hindman's gallant efforts, aided by Major Trimble, having failed to drive the enemy from the bastion with the remaining artilleryists and infantry in the fort, Capt. Birdsall of 4th rifle regiment, with a detachment of riflemen, gallantly rushed in through the gateway to their assistance, and with some infantry charged the enemy; but was repulsed the Captain severely wounded. A detachment from the 11th, 19th and 22d infantry, under Capt. Foster of the 11th, were introduced over the interior bastion, for the purpose of charging the enemy. Major Hall, Assistant Inspector General, very handsomely tendered his services to lead the charge. The charge was gallantly made by Capt. Foster and Maj. Hall, but owing to the narrowness of the passage up to the bastion admitting only two or three men abreast, it failed. It was often repeated, and as often checked. The enemy's force in the bastion was, however, much cut to pieces and diminished by our artillery and small arms. At this moment every operation was arrested by the explosion of some cartridges deposited in the end of the stone building adjoining the contested bastion. The explosion was tremendous—it was decisive: the bastion was restored. At this moment Capt. Biddle was ordered to cause a field piece to be posted so as to enfilade the exterior plain and salient glacis. The Captain, though not recovered from a severe contusion in the shoulder, received from one of the enemy's shells, promptly took his position, and served his field piece with vivacity and effect. Capt. Fanning's battery likewise played upon them at this time with great effect. The enemy were in a few moments entirely defeated, taken or put to flight, leaving on the field 221 killed, 174 wounded, and 186 prisoners, including 14 officers killed and 7 wounded and prisoners. A large portion are so severely wounded, that they cannot survive; the slightly wounded, it is presumed, were carried off.

Here Gen. Gaines details the communications of Generals Ripley and Porter, Colonel Aspinwall; Majors McKee, Hindman, Jones, Hall and Wood; Captains Towson, Marston, Ropes, Williams, Biddle, Fanning, Foster, Harris, and Birdsall; Lieutenants Riddle, Hall, McDonough, Watmough, Bird, Zantlinger, Chiles, Cushman, Foot, Belton, Brown, Belknap and Douglas; Ensigns Bean, Jones, Cummings, Thomas, Keally and Green; Doctors Gale, Fuller, Troubridge, Everitt and Allen.

Lieut. Fontaine of the artillery, who was taken prisoner, writes from the British camp, that he fortunately fell into the hands of the Indians, who, after taking his money, treated him kindly. It would seem, then, that these savages had not joined in the resolution to give no quarter.

I have the honor to be, sir, your very obedient servant, E. P. GAINES, Brig. Gen. Commanding.

Hon. John Armstrong, Secretary of War, Washington.

Report of the killed, wounded and prisoners taken at the battle of Erie, U. C. Aug. 15, 1814. Killed left on the field, 221—wounded left on the field, 174—prisoners, 186—grand total 582.

Two hundred supposed to be killed on the left flank near Snake Hill (in the water) and permitted to float down the Niagara. The number on the right flank near the woods could not be ascertained.

Lieutenant General Drummond's arrangement and order for attack.

[Secret.] Head Quarters, camp before Fort Erie, 14th Aug. 1814.

ARRANGEMENT. Right column—Lieut. Col. Fischer, King's Regiment, (Volunteers) De Watteville's,

Light companies, 99th and 100th regts. Detachments Royal Artillery—1 officer 13 men, and a rocketeer, with a couple of 12 pound rockets.

Capt. Eugene's picket of cavalry—Capt. Powell's Assiat. Q. M. Gen. will conduct this column, which is to attack the left of the enemy's position. Major Court. Centre column—Lt. Col. Drummond. Flank companies, 41st regiment.

Dino 104th Royal Marines 50 Seaman 90

Detachments of Royal Artillery, 1-50b. and 12 men—Capt. Barney, 99th regt. will guide this column, which is to attack the forts.

Left column—Col. Scott, 103 regt. Capt. Elliott, Deputy Q. M. Gen. will conduct this column, which will attack the right of the enemy's position towards the lake and endeavor to penetrate by the openings, betwixt the forts and entrenchments, using the short ladders at the same time, to pass the entrenchment, which is reported to be defended only by the enemy's 9th regt. 250 strong.

The infantry pickets on Backs Road, will be pushed on with the Indians, and attack the enemy's picket on that road. Lt. Col. Nichol, Q. M. Gen. of militia will conduct this column. The rest of the troops, viz.

1st Battalion Royal. Remainder of De Watteville's regiment, Glen-gary light infantry and incorporated militia will remain in reserve, under Lieut. Col. Tucker, are to be posted on the ground at present occupied by our pickets and covering parties.

Squadron of the 19th light dragoons, in the ravine, in the rear of the battery, nearest to the advance, ready to receive charge of prisoners and conduct them to the rear.

The Lieut. General will station himself at or near the battery, where reports are to be made to him. Lieut. Col. Fischer commanding the right column, will follow the instruction which he has received. Copies of which are communicated to Col. Scott and Lt. Col. Drummond, for their guidance.

The Lieut. General most strongly recommends a free use of the bayonet.

The enemy's force does not exceed 1500 fit for duty, and those are represented as much dispirited.

The ground on which the columns of attack are to be formed will be pointed out; and the orders for their advance, will be given by the Lieut. Gen. commanding.

J. HARVEY, D. A. G. Parole "Steel" Countersign, "Twenty"

State of North Carolina, LINCOLN COUNTY.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, July Sessions, 1814. John Hovis, Original attachment levied on a tract of land, 230 acres, and John H. Mann summoned as a garnishee.

IT appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Peter Hovis, the defendant in this suit, is an inhabitant of another State—it is therefore ordered that publication be made three weeks in the Star, unless the said Peter Hovis appear, reply and plead at the next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the County of Lincoln, at the Court-House in Lincoln, on the 3d Monday of October next, judgment will be entered against him. Witness, Y. M'Bea, Clerk of said Court, 3d Monday of July, 1814. 34 3d pd VARDRY M'BEA, C. G.

State of North Carolina, BENTLE COUNTY COURT.

August term, 1814. Samuel Hobbs, Attachment returned levied on David Collins, Land &c.

IT appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant resides without the limits of this State—it is ordered that notice be given the said defendant by advertisement for six weeks successively in the Star newspaper, published in Raleigh, that unless he appear at the next term of this Court, to be held on the second Monday in November next, reply his property and plead to issue, final judgment will be entered up against him. 34 6t pd Test, SOL. CHERRY, Jun. Clk.

DESERTED FROM my service on the 6th inst my Negro man SPENCER, a Hat ter by trade, stout and well built of common height, very slick and black, round shoulders and a down look, wears a large brown hat, made of rancor and wool; he is quite humble and pliant in conversation, wears his hair neatly combed, is a very neat and decent looking Negro. His intention will be to pass for a free-man, and will alter his name. I rather expect he will make his way for the Catawba river, in the extremity of this State, where he has a brother and sister, the property of old Kitchen Prince or his heirs. Spencer formerly belonged to the said Kitchen Prince, and was purchased of said Prince by Gen. Arrington, about 15 or 18 years since, at which time the said Prince was a resident of this county. Any person who will apprehend said Negro and secure him in any jail within this State or the U. States, so I get him again, or deliver him to me in Nash county, will be handsomely rewarded and expenses paid. LAWRENCE BATTLE, Nash county, Swift Creek, August 13, 1814. 34 3t

NOTICE. At a meeting of the Stockholders of the Deep and New River Navigation Company at Pittsborough, on the 9th day of August, 1814, it was ordered that notice be given three weeks in the Star, for delinquent Stockholders in said Company to make payment of arrears due on their shares, on or before the 24th day of September next, and that all such persons making payment of such arrears shall be entitled to the same privileges and rights as those Stockholders who have made full payment—and this privilege shall be extended to those Stockholders whose shares have been sold for arrears due thereon. A meeting of the Stockholders will be held at Pittsborough on the 29th of September next, where all Stockholders are requested to attend. H. BRANSON, President. Fayetteville, 15th August, 1814. 34 3t

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FOR SALE.

550 Acres of LAND, on a pleasant and healthy situation, with excellent water, light soil, and a fine view of the mountains, and the sea, and is well adapted for planting and raising of all sorts of fruit, and is well watered, and is a most valuable property. As I wish to move to the West, I will sell this land, a great bargain may be had in this land, either for cash or Negatives, and possession given by the 1st of November. W. L. THOMAS, Franklin county, August 25, 1814.

A Tract of Land for Sale.

CONTAINING about eleven hundred and fifty acres in the County of Stokes, N. C. on Sandy Creek, and from Harrison's Ferry on Dan River. The land is divided into the following tracts, the first containing 450 acres, 50 of which is cleared—has a good mill race, and is well watered, and is a most valuable property. The 2d tract contains 250 acres, 50 of which is cleared, and has a good house, kitchen, and a good well, and is a most valuable property. The 3d tract contains 250 acres, 50 of which is cleared, and has a good house, kitchen, and a good well, and is a most valuable property. The 4th tract contains 250 acres, 50 of which is cleared, and has a good house, kitchen, and a good well, and is a most valuable property. The 5th tract contains 250 acres, 50 of which is cleared, and has a good house, kitchen, and a good well, and is a most valuable property. 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