

# THE WAR.

## Capture of York.

Copies of letters from Major General Dearborn, to the Secretary at War.

Head-Quarters, York, Capital of Upper Canada, April 27th, 1813.

8 o'clock P. M.

Sir—We are in full possession of this place after a sharp conflict, in which we lost some brave officers and soldiers.

General Sheaffe commanded the British troops, militia and Indians in person.

We shall be prepared to sail for the next object of the expedition the first favorable wind.

I have to lament the loss of the brave and active Brigadier General Pike.

I am with the highest respect, &c.

H. DEARBORN.

The Hon. Gen. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Head-Quarters, York, capital of Upper Canada, April 28th, 1813.

Sir—After a detention of some days by adverse winds, we arrived at this place yesterday morning, and at eight o'clock commenced landing the troops about three miles westward from the town, and one and a half from the enemy's works. The wind was high and in an unfavorable direction for the boats, which prevented the landing of the troops at a clear field, the site of the ancient French fort Tarento. It prevented also many of the armed vessels from taking positions, which would have most effectually covered our landing—but every thing that could be done was effected.

The riflemen under Major Forsyth first landed, under a heavy fire from Indians and other troops. Gen. Sheaffe commanded in person. He had collected his whole force in the woods near the point where the wind compelled our troops to land. His force consisted of seven hundred regulars and militia, and one hundred Indians. Major Forsyth was supported as promptly as possible; but the contest was sharp and severe for nearly half an hour, and the enemy were repulsed by a number far inferior to theirs. As soon as General Pike landed with seven or eight hundred men, and the remainder of the troops were pushing for the shore, the enemy retreated to their works. Our troops were now formed on the ground originally intended for their landing, advanced through a thick wood, and after carrying one battery by assault, were moving in columns towards the main work; when within sixty rods of his, a tremendous explosion took place from a magazine previously prepared, and which threw out such immense quantities of stone as most seriously to injure our troops. I have not yet been able to collect the returns of the killed and wounded; but our loss will I fear exceed one hundred, and among these I have to lament the loss of that brave and excellent officer Brig. Gen. Pike, who received a contusion from a large stone, which terminated his valuable life within a few hours. His loss will be severely felt.

Previously to this explosion the enemy had retired into the town, excepting a party of regulars, to the number of forty, who did not escape the effects of the shock, and were destroyed.

General Sheaffe moved off with the regular troops and left directions with the commanding officer of the militia to make the best terms he could. In the mean time all further resistance on the part of the enemy ceased, and the outlines of a capitulation were agreed on.

As soon as I learned that Gen. Pike had been wounded, I went on shore. To the General had been induced to confide in the immediate attack, from a knowledge that it was his wish and that he would have felt mortified had it not been given to him.

Every movement was under my view. The troops behaved with great firmness and deserve much applause, particularly those first engaged, and under circumstances which would have tried the steadiness of veterans.

Our loss in the mounting and carrying the first battery was not great, perhaps forty or fifty killed and wounded, and of them a full proportion of officers.

Notwithstanding the enemy's advantage in position and numbers in the commencement of the action, their loss was greater than ours, especially in officers. It was with great exertion that the small vessels of the fleet could work into the harbor against a gale of wind, but as soon as they got into a proper position, a tremendous cannonade opened upon the enemy's batteries and was kept up against them, until they were carried or blown up, and had no doubt a powerful effect upon the enemy.

I am under the greatest obligations to Com. Chauncey for his able and indefatigable exertions in every possible manner which could give facility and effect to the expedition. He is equally estimable for sound judgment, bravery and industry. The government could not have made a more fortunate selection.

Unfortunately the enemy's armed ship Prince Regent, left this place for

Kingston a few days before we arrived. A large ship on the stocks, and nearly lanked up, and much naval stores were set fire to by the enemy soon after the explosion of the magazine. A considerable quantity of military stores and provisions remain, but no vessels fit for use.

We have not the means of transporting the prisoners, and must of course leave them on parole.

I hope we shall so far complete what is necessary to be done here, as to be able to sail to-morrow for Niagara, whither I send this by a small vessel, with notice to Gen. Lewis of our approach.

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

HENRY DEARBORN.

Hon. Gen. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Secretary of War, Washington.

Copies of letters from Com. CHAUNCEY, to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. ship Madison, at anchor off York, 8 o'clock P. M. 26th April, 1813.

Sir—I have the satisfaction to inform you that the American flag is flying upon the fort at York. The town capitulated this afternoon at 4 o'clock. Brigadier General Pike was killed.

I have the honor to be, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. WILLIAM JONES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

U. S. SHIP MADISON.

At anchor off York, 28th April, 1813.

Sir—Agreeably to your instructions and arrangements made with Major Gen. Dearborn, I took on board of the squadron under my command the general and suite, and about 1700 troops, and left Sackett's Harbor on the 25th inst. for this place. We arrived here yesterday morning and took a position about one mile to the South and Westward of the enemy's principal fort, and as near the shore as we could with safety to the vessels. The place fixed upon by the major-general and myself for landing the troops was the site of the old French Fort Tarento.

The debarkation commenced about eight o'clock A. M. and was completed about 10. The wind blowing heavy from the Eastward, the boats fell to leeward of the position fixed upon and were in consequence exposed to a galling fire from the enemy, who had taken a position in a thick wood near where the first troops landed; however, the cool intrepidity of the officers and men, overcome every obstacle. Their attack upon the enemy was so vigorous that he fled in every direction, leaving a great many of his killed and wounded upon the field. As soon as the troops were landed I directed the schooners to take a position near the forts in order that the attack upon them by the army and navy might be simultaneous. The schooners were obliged to beat up to their position, which they did in a very handsome order under a very heavy fire from the enemy's batteries and took a position within about six hundred yards of their principal fort and opened a heavy cannonade upon the enemy, which did great execution and very much contributed to their final destruction. The troops as soon as landed were formed under the immediate orders of Brig. General Pike, who led in a most gallant manner, he attacked the forts, and after having carried two redoubts in his approach to the principal work (the enemy having previously laid a train) blew up his magazine, which his effects upon our troops was dreadful having killed and wounded a great many and amongst the former, the ever to be lamented Brig. Gen. Pike, who fell at the head of his column by a contusion received by a heavy stone from the magazine. His death at this time is much to be regretted, as he had the perfect confidence of the Major General; and his known activity, zeal and experience make his loss a national one.

In consequence of the fall of General Pike, the command of the troops devolved for a time upon Colonel Pierce, who soon after took possession of the town. At about two P. M. the American flag was substituted for the British, and at about 4, our troops were in quiet possession of the town. As soon as Gen. Dearborn learnt the situation of Gen. Pike he landed and assumed the command. I have the honour of inclosing a copy of the capitulation which was entered into, and approved by General Dearborn and myself.

The enemy set fire to some of his principal stores, containing large quantities of naval and military stores, as well as a large ship upon the stocks nearly finished—the only vessel found here is the Duke of Gloucester under going repair—the Prince Regent left here on the 24th for Kingston. We have not yet had a return made of the naval and military stores, consequently can form no correct idea of the quantity, but have made arrangements to have all taken on board that we can receive, the rest will be destroyed.

I have to regret the death of midshipmen Thompson and Hatfield, and several seamen killed—the exact number I do not know, as the returns from the different vessels have not yet been received.

From the judicious arrangements made by General Dearborn, I presume that the public stores will be disposed of, so that the troops will be ready to re-embark to-morrow and proceed to execute other objects of the expedition the first fair wind.

I cannot speak in too much praise of the cool intrepidity of the officers and men generally under my command, and I feel myself particularly indebted to the officers commanding vessels for their zeal in seconding all my views.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, sir,

Your most obdt. servt.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. WILLIAM JONES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Terms of Capitulation entered into on the 27th April, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, for the surrender of the town of York, in Upper Canada, to the army and navy of the United States under the command of Major Gen. Dearborn and Com. Chauncey:

That the troops, regular and militia at this post, and the naval officers and seamen, shall be surrendered prisoners of war. The troops, regular and militia, to ground their arms immediately on parade, and the naval officers and seamen be immediately surrendered.

That all public stores, naval and military, shall be immediately given up to the commanding officers of the army and navy of the United States—that all private property shall be guaranteed to the citizens of the town of York.

That all papers belonging to the civil officers shall be retained by them—that such surgeons as may be procured to attend the wounded of the British regulars and Canadian militia shall not be considered prisoners of war.

That one lieutenant colonel, one major, thirteen captains, nine lieutenants, eleven ensigns, one quarter-master, one deputy adjutant general of the militia, namely—

Lt. Col. Chewitt	Lieut. Jno. H. Shults
Major Allen	George Kink
Capt. John Willson	Barnet Vanderburgh
John Button	Robert Stanton
Peter Robinson	George Ridout
Reuben Richardson	Wm. Jarvis
John Arnold	Edward M'Mahon
James Fenwick	John Willson
James Mustard	Ely Playter
Duncan Cameron	Ensigns And. Thompson
David Thomson	Alfred Senally
John Robinson	Donald M'Arthur
Samuel Ridout	William Smith
Thomas Hamilton	Andrew Mercer
John Burn	James Chewett
William Jarvie	George Kink

Quarter-Master, Charles Baynes  
Nineteen sergeants, four corporals and two hundred and four rank and file.  
Of the Field Train Department, Wm. Dunbar  
Of the Provincial Navy, Capt. Frs. Gouvéaux.

Midshipmen  
John Ridout  
Louis Baupre  
One Boatswain  
Fifteen Naval Artificers  
Of his Majesty's Regular troops, Lieut. De Koven

One Sergeant Major  
And of the Royal Artillery, one bombardier and three gunners, shall be surrendered as prisoners of war and accounted for in the exchange of prisoners between the United States and Great Britain.

[Signed] G. S. MITCHELL, Lieutenant Colonel 3d A. U. S.  
SAMUEL S. CONNER, Maj. & A. D. C. to Maj. Gen. Dearborn.  
WILLIAM KING, Major 15th U. States' Infantry.  
JESSE D. ELLIOT, Lieutenant United States' Navy.  
W. GHEWITT, Lt. Col. comdg. 3d Reg. York Militia.  
W. ALLAN, Major 3d Regiment York Militia.  
F. GAURRAU, Lieutenant M. Dpt.

### Possession taken of Mobile.

PROCLAMATION  
Issued by General Wilkinson on the debarkation of the troops at l'Ance Mouville.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of MOBILE.

Be not alarmed by appearances, but rest tranquil within your dwellings, and take no part in the scenes which may ensue the display of the American standard in your vicinity.

I visit you under the order of the President, to enforce the laws of the United States and give effect to the civil institutions of the Mississippi Territory.

The public faith is pledged for the protection of your persons and property; and those which may be disposed to retire from the place or from the country, will be permitted to depart in safety, with their goods and chattels.

Done at Camp near the town of Mobile, April the twelfth, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirteen.

JA. WILKINSON.

From the Mobile Gazette.

The eyes of the nation will be diverted a moment from the horrors of war, which desolate our northern borders, to enjoy the glad prospect which presents itself in the south. Knowing

well the interest which the full possession of the eastern section of Louisiana will excite in the U. States, we have obtained from a correct source the particulars which enables us to state the following detail of the military movements in relation to that event.

Orders for taking possession were received by Major General James Wilkinson at Head-Quarters, about the first of last month. It was foreseen that the only danger which could attend the effectuation of the object, would arise from the communication of information to the enemy who might be hovering off the coast, or to the Spaniards at Pensacola: secrecy and celerity were therefore the necessary characteristics of the movements.

The general had to collect troops, and prepare the materials for the expedition. He ordered a battalion of the 8d Regt. from the English Turn, to the Pass of Christian, under the pretence of preserving the health of the troops; and he ordered from N. Orleans a company of Artillery and a battalion from the 2d Regt. to the Petite Coquille, as if to assist in building the works in hand at that place. These movements were completed about the 26th of last month; and on the 27th the General required of Commodore Shaw to send a squadron of gun-boats to take possession of the bay, and cut off all communication with Pensacola. Lieut. Col. Bowyer, then stationed near Fort Stoddert, with a respectable force, had been previously ordered to be in readiness to march on a day's notice.

The General left New-Orleans on the 29th, embarked on board the schr. Alligator, and pushed out of the Bayou St. John, into lake Ponchartrain, on the evening of the same day; the next morning it fell calm, and to expedite the rendezvous of the troops at the Pass Christian, he got on board a barge which upset in fifteen feet water opposite the Petite Bais (near where he had been wrecked in November last,) and he lay on the keel of the boat some time without a hope of deliverance, for the several vessels passed, none discovered his forlorn situation; at length the wreck was eried by a party of Spanish fishermen, from the shore, who came to the relief of the half drowned party, and helped to tow the boat to shore, where she was righted & cleaned & the General at sunset again embarked and got to the Petite Coquille about midnight, having made a traverse of three leagues across an arm of the lake. The troops here destined for the enterprise, were mustered the next day, and embarked for the general rendezvous, the 1st of April, under the convoy of gun boat No. 27, which running aground in the Regulets, then almost sunset, the General ordered the transports to make the best of their way to their destination—he followed the next morning, and in the evening run on shore on Grand Isle. He then left the gun boat, got on board a shallop, and reached the Pass at night-fall, having received two shot from gun boat No. 22, as he passed the bay of St. Louis, one of which went between the masts.

The next morning the 3d, an express was dispatched to order Lieut. Colonel Bowyer to fall down the Mobile river, and occupy the bank on the opposite side of the bay, finding at the same time that Commodore Shaw's orders had not reached the gun boats first intended for the blockade, (they having been previously ordered by Lieut. Bainbridge to his relief at the mouth of the Mississippi where he was aground) the general pushed forward the armed boat Alligator into the bay, under the command of Mr. Shepherd, with a sergeant, corporal and twelve men. On the 4th Com. Shaw reached the Pass, and the next day dispatched Lieut. Roney in a gun boat to enter the bay. Every thing being arranged, and completely equipped, with thirty scaling ladders, the troops embarked on the 7th, the wind ahead, on the 8th at night under a little shift of wind the transports beat out of the Pass of Christian, and contending with adverse winds reached the Pass of Heron, on the evening of the 10th. A party under Captain Atkinson was dispatched to bring off a Spanish guard and the next morning, the Spanish corporals and six men embarked on board a schooner bound for Pensacola. Three of the transports were behind at ten o'clock; the general determined, nevertheless, to push forward, and accordingly the transports were piloted through the very narrow pass, several of them grounding for a short time. Com. Shaw had left the flotilla and passed out to sea, the evening before, between the islands La Corne and Petit Bois; he was now seen cruising in the bay, with a number of vessels brought to under the Alligator and Lieut. Roney's boat, among them a transport, with a Lieut of artillery and a party of troops, provisions and other articles destined to Fort Charlotte. In the mean time, Lieut. Col. Bowyer, with great diligence, had descended the Tensaw and pitched his camp opposite the town with five pieces of brass ordnance.

Our flotilla after getting into the bay, cast anchor, and the general and the Commodore had a conference respect-

\* It is proper to remark that the ladders made at Pass Christian were as exactly fitted to the service intended, as if the walls of the fort had been measured by a rule.

ing the plan of debarking. The arrangements being made and the necessary orders given, he made sail in a beautiful order and reached l'Ance Mouville, just after night fall; the wind died away, the air was serene and the moon shone with the great lustre, a profound silence ensued and the troops were on shore and formed before two o'clock, and the music which followed was the first information the Commandant had of the general's approach.

The next day about noon, six hundred men advanced in column, and took post in front of the Fort in a neighboring wood, in the mean time Major H. D. Pierre, an aid de camp of the General, bore a summons to the Commandant, demanding the evacuation of the place, which was delivered up on the 15th, and the stripes and stars took the place of the insignia of despotism, under the discharge of cannon, to the unspeakable joy of every American, and every friend to human rights.

Let us enjoy the rich blessing in such a manner, as to prove to the world, we merit it; let us look to the mildness, the beneficence and justice of our government, and let kindness, benevolence, forbearance and charity, succeed tyranny, cruelty, injustice & persecution.

We learn that Col. Carson, to whom was assigned the duty of reconnoitering the Easterly frontier of Florida, arrived at Perdido river on the 17th inst. on the western bank of which he found a Spanish post occupied by a sergeant and seven men. He caused them to take a hasty leave of the territory of the U. States; they moved towards Pensacola.

Major General Wilkinson and Commodore Shaw reached town on Sunday morning from the Capes, where they had been on a reconnoitering party, with a view to the defence of the country. They brought in company, the Spanish schooner San Pedro, Captain Dupuyre, nine days from Jamaica. On Saturday forenoon this vessel was discovered standing into the Bay, but soon after was observed to haul her wind and stand to the Eastward. Com. Shaw immediately dispatched Captains Alexis and Jones in two armed cutters to pursue and examine her, which service was performed with the characteristic promptitude of our navy, by these gallant officers, who finding the vessel without a clearance, and laden with British manufactures, ordered her in for adjudication.

### FORT MEIGS.

Chillicothe, 4th May, 1813.

"DEAR SIR,  
The event which I informed you was apprehended has happened. Fort Meigs is besieged by the enemy! An express has this moment (7 o'clock P. M.) arrived from the rapids, bearing dispatches from Governor Meigs to Gen. McArthur. The Governor is on his way to Sandusky, with a reinforcement to the garrison there, and was met by the express, to whom he had been sent by Gen. Harrison, with the information that the enemy had besieged Fort Meigs; and requiring reinforcements, to be mounted and marched with all possible dispatch to the relief of the fort. A detachment of fifteen hundred men from Kentucky are said to be at Portage river, unable to proceed on account of the besiegers. When the express left Fort Meigs, (Friday 30th ult.) the cannonading had lasted 22 hours & the fire of the enemy had been partially silenced. No mention is made of any loss on our side, nor any supposition of the loss of the enemy. Gov. Meigs has instructed Generals M'Arthur & Cass, upon the requisition of Gen'l Harrison, to march instantly all the recruits who have been raised and all the men who can be procured (all to be mounted) to proceed with all possible dispatch to the relief of Harrison.

"While I am writing, the drums are beating along the streets for volunteers, and Secretary McLane is busied in hurrying off expresses to different parts of the country for the same purpose."

Delaware, (O.) May 3, 1813.

Sir—By the return of an express from this to Upper Sandusky, it is ascertained that Fort Meigs is besieged. General Harrison has sent to Fort Finley, to sink a boat loaded with cannon ball, and not have any Mail attempt to pass.

The British and Indians, &c. &c. are commuted at 3000. I understand that General Clay and the Kentucky troops, had not arrived when the bombardment commenced on the 30th ult. I have just returned from Norton, and I am calling out mounted volunteers in every contiguous direction to rendezvous at this place and Norton immediately. With respect to the advancing of the one year's troops, raising under your and General Cass's superintendance, you will dispose of them as you may judge best. Forage and provisions can be furnished at this, and in advance, by the U. States. On this occasion, you are desired to exert your authority and influence to bring or send all the mounted men you can. My object is to attempt to force through to Fort Meigs, if necessary, and in any event, to secure the public stores at Upper Sandusky, and relieve the frontier inhabitants from a panic which has seized them. In case Gen. M'Arthur is absent, Gen. McLane is directed to raise the men.

J. R. MEIGS.

General M'Arthur.