



Wares are the plans of fair, delightful Peace, Unwarped by party rage, like live like Brothers

THE WAR.

Washington City, September 2.  
Copy of a letter from Lt. Col. Croghan to the Secretary of War, dated U. S. Sloop of War Niagara, off Thunder Bay, 9th August, 1814.

SIR—We left Fort Gratiot (head of Straits St. Clare) on the 12th ult. and imagined that we should arrive in a few days at Malchadash Bay.— At the end of a week, however, the Commodore, from the want of pilots acquainted with that unfrequented part of the Lake, despaired of being able to find out a passage through the island into that bay; and made for St. Joseph's, where he anchored on the 20th day of July. After setting fire to the Fort of St. Joseph, which seemed not to have been recently occupied, a detachment of infantry and artillery, under Major Holmes, was ordered up to Sault St. Mary's, for the purpose of breaking up the enemy's establishment at that place.— For particulars, relative to the execution of this order, I beg leave to refer you to Maj. Holmes' report herewith enclosed. Finding, on my arrival at Michilimackinac, on the 26th ult. that the enemy had strongly fortified the heights overlooking the old Fort of Mackinac, I at once despaired of being able, with all my force, to carry the place by storm, and determined, (as the only course remaining) on landing and establishing myself on some favorable position, whence I could be enabled to annoy the enemy by gradual and slow approaches, under cover of my artillery, in which I should have the superiority in point of material. I was urged to adopt this step by another reason, not a little cogent; could a position be taken and fortified on the Island, I was well aware that it would either induce the enemy to attack me in my strong holds, or force his Indians and Canadians (his most efficient, and only disposable force) off the Island, as they would be very unwilling to remain in my neighborhood after a permanent footing had been taken. On enquiry, I learned from individuals who had lived many years on the island, that a position as desirable as I might wish, could be found on the west end, and therefore immediately made arrangements for disembarking. A landing was effected on the 4th inst. under cover of the guns of the shipping, and the line being quickly formed, had advanced to the edge of the field spoken of for a camp, when intelligence was conveyed to me, that the enemy was a-head, and a few seconds more brought us a fire from his battery, of four pieces firing shot and shells. After reconnoitering his position, which was well selected; his line reaching along the edge of the woods, at the further extremity of the field and covered by a temporary breast work; I determined on changing my position, (which was now two miles, the militia forming the front) by advancing Maj. Holmes' battalion of regulars on the right of the militia, thus to outflank him, and by a vigorous effort to gain his rear. This movement was immediately ordered, and before it could be executed a fire was opened by some Indians posted in a thick wood near our right, which proved fatal to Maj. Holmes and severely wounded Capt. Desha, (the officer next in rank.) This unlucky fire, by depriving us of the services of our most valuable officers, threw that part of the line into confusion, from which the best exertions of the officers were not able to recover it. Finding it impossible to gain the enemy's left, owing to the impenetrable thickness of the woods, a charge was ordered to be made by the regulars immediately against the front. This charge although made in some confusion, served to drive the enemy back into the woods, from whence an annoying fire was kept up by the Indians.

Lieut. Morgan was ordered up with a light piece to assist the left now particularly galled; the excellent practice of this piece brought the enemy to fire at a longer distance. Discovering that this disposition from whence

the enemy had just been driven, (and which had been represented to me as so high and commanding) was by no means tenable, from being interspersed with thickets, and intersected in every way by ravines; I determined not longer to expose my force to the fire of an enemy deriving every advantage which could be obtained from numbers and a knowledge of the position, and therefore ordered an immediate retreat towards the shipping.

This affair, which cost us many valuable lives leaves us to lament the fall of that gallant officer Major Holmes, whose character is so well known to the War Department. Capt. Vanhorn, of the 19th infantry and Lt. Jackson, of the 24th infantry both brave intrepid young men, fell mortally wounded at the head of their respective commands. The conduct of all my officers on this occasion merits my approbation.— Capt. Desha of the 24th infantry, although severely wounded, continued with his command until forced to retire from faintness through loss of blood. Capt. Saunders, Hawkins and Sturgess with every subaltern of that battalion acted in the most exemplary manner. Ensign Bryan, 2d rifle regt. acting adjutant to the battalion, a highly rewarded the wishes of the commanding officer. Lieut. Hickman, 28th infantry, and Hyde of the U. S. marines, who commanded the reserve, claim my particular thanks for their activity in keeping that command in readiness to meet any exigency. I have before mentioned Lieut. Morgan's activity; his two assistants, Lieut. Pickett and Mr. Peters conductor of artillery, also merit the name of good officers.

The militia were wanting in no part of their duty. Col. Cotgreave, his officers and soldiers deserve the warmest approbation. My Acting Assistant Adjutant Gen. Capt. N. H. Moore, 28th infantry; with volunteer Adjutant M'Comb, were prompt in delivering my orders. Capt. Gratiot of the engineers, who volunteered his services as Adjutant on the occasion, gave me valuable assistance.

On the morning of the 5th I sent a flag to the enemy, to enquire into the state of the wounded (two in number) who were left on the field and to request permission to bring away the body of Major Holmes, which was also left owing to the unpardonable neglect of the soldiers in whose hands he was placed. I am happy in assuring you, that the body of Major Holmes is secured and will be buried at Detroit with becoming honors.

I shall discharge the militia tomorrow, and will send them down, together with two regular companies, to Detroit. With the remaining three companies I shall attempt to destroy the enemy's establishment in the head of *Naw-taw-wa-sa ga* river, and if it be thought proper, erect a post at the mouth of that river.

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

G. CROGHAN,  
Lt. Col. 2d Rife Regiment,  
Hon. John Armstrong,  
Secretary of War.

Copy of a letter from Maj. A. H. Holmes, to Lt. Col. Croghan, dated

On board U. S. Scorpion,  
27th July, 1814.

SIR—Pursuant to your orders of the inst. I left the squadron with Lt. Turner of the navy, and arrived at the Sault St. Mary's at noon the day after; two hours before, the North Western Agent had received notice of our approach and succeeded in escaping with a considerable amount of goods after setting fire to the vessels above the falls. The design of this latter measure was frustrated only by the intrepid exertions of Mr. Turner, with his own men and a few of Capt. Saunders company. The vessel was brought down the falls on the 25th, but having bilged, Mr. Turner destroyed her. Much of the goods we have taken were found in the woods, on the American side, and were claimed by the agent of John Johnson an Indian trader.

I secured the property because it was good prize by the maritime law of nations, as recognised in the English courts, (witness the case of Admiral Rodney adjudged by Lord Mansfield). Further, because Johnston had acted the infamous part of a traitor, having been a citizen and a magistrate of the Michigan territory, before the war and its commencement, and now discharging the functions of magistrate under the British government. Because his agent-armed the Indians from his store house at our approach; and lastly, because those goods or a considerable part were designed to be taken to Michilimackinac. Pork, salt and groceries compose the chief part.— Johnson himself passed to Michilimackinac since the squadron arrived at St. Joseph.

With high respect,  
A. H. HOLMES,  
Major 32d Infantry.  
Lt. Col. CROGHAN,  
2nd Rifle, Commanding.  
A true copy from the original report.  
N. H. MOORE,  
Acting Adj't General.

Return of the killed, wounded and missing of a detachment commanded by Lieut. Col. G. Croghan, in the affair of the 4th of August 1814. On board U. S. Sloop of War Niagara 11th August, 1814.

Artillery.  
Wounded, 3 privates  
Infantry.  
17th Regiment—Killed, 5 privates, wounded, 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, 15 privates, missing 2 privates. Two privates since dead.  
19th Regiment—Wounded, 1 capt. 9 privates. Capt. J. Vanhorn since dead—one private since dead.  
24th Regiment—Killed, 5 privates, wounded 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 3 sergeants, 1 corporal, 1 musician, 5 privates. Capt. Desha severely; Lieut. H. Jackson since dead; one sergeant since dead.  
32d Regiment—Killed, 1 major. Major A. H. Holmes.  
United States Marines.  
Wounded 1 sergeant.  
Ohio Militia.  
Killed 2 privates, wounded, 6 privates—One private since dead of his wound.  
Grand Total.—1 major, 12 privates, killed. 2 captains, 1 lieutenant, 6 sergeants, 3 corporals, 1 musician, 38 privates, wounded. 2 privates missing.  
The above return exhibits a true statement of the killed, wounded and missing in the affair of the 4th inst.  
N. H. MOORE, Capt. 23th Inf.  
Acting Assistant Adjutant Gen.

Copy of a letter from Com. Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy, dated U. S. S. Superior, off Kingston, August 10th, 1814.

SIR—Great anxiety of mind and severe bodily exertions have at length broken down the best constitution and subjected me to a violent fever that confined me for eighteen days. This misfortune was no more to be foreseen than prevented, but was particularly severe at the moment it happened, as it induced a delay of five or six days in the sailing of the fleet.

In the early part of July, I expected the fleet would be made ready for sailing by the 10th or 15th; but many of the mechanics were taken sick, and amongst them the blockmakers and blacksmiths, so that the Mohawk could not be furnished with blocks and iron work for her gun and spar decks before the 24th or 25th ultimo, when she was reported ready by Capt. Jones. As considerable anxiety had been manifested by the public to have the fleet on the Lake, I should have asked Capt. Jones to take charge of it and go out, but I was then recovering my health, and was confident I should be able in three or four days to go on board myself. There was an additional reason for submitting to this delay in the difficulty I found in making the changes of commanders, neither of them being willing to be separated from his officers and men, and a change of crews through the fleet being inadmissible.

In the afternoon of the 31st July, I was taken on board, but it was calm, and I did not sail before the next morning. To satisfy at once whatever expectations the public had been led to entertain of the sufficiency of this squadron to take and maintain the ascendancy on this lake, and at the same time to expose the futility of promises, the fulfilment of which had been rested on our appearance at the head of the lake, I got under way

at 4 o'clock in the morning of the 1st inst. and steered for the mouth of the Niagara. Owing to light winds, I did not arrive off there before the 5th. There we intercepted one of the enemy's brigs running over from York to Niagara with troops, and ran her on shore about six miles to the westward of Fort George. I ordered the Sylph in, to anchor as near to the enemy as she could with safety, and to destroy her. Capt. Elliot ran in in a very gallant manner to within from 300 to 500 yards of her and was about anchoring, when the enemy set fire to her and she soon after blew up.— This vessel was a schooner the last year, and called the Beresford—since they altered her to a brig they changed her name, and I have not been able to ascertain it. She mounted 14 guns, 12 24 pound carronades and 2 long 9 pounders.

Finding the enemy had two other brigs and a schooner in the Niagara river, I determined to leave a force to watch them, and selected the Jefferson, Sylph and Oneida for that purpose, and placed the whole under the orders of Captain Rigdely. Having looked into York without discovering any vessel of the enemy, I left Niagara with the remaining of the squadron on the evening of the 7th, and arrived here on the 9th. We found one of the enemy's ships in the offing, and chased her into Kingston.

My anxiety to return to this end of the lake was increased by the knowledge I had of the weakness of Sackett's Harbor, and the apprehension that the enemy might receive large reinforcements at Kingston, and, embarking some of the troops on board his fleet, make a dash at the Harbor and burn it with all my stores during our absence. When I left the Harbor there were but about 700 regular troops fit for duty. It is true a few militia had been called in, but little could be expected of them should an attack be made. My apprehension, it seems, was groundless, the enemy having contented himself with annoying in some trifling degree the coasters between Oswego and the Harbor in his boats.

I cannot forbear expressing the regret I feel that so much sensation has been excited in the public mind, because this squadron did not sail so soon as the wise heads that conduct our newspapers have presumed to think I ought. I need not suggest to one of your experience, that a man of war may appear to the eye of a landsman perfectly ready for sea, when she is deficient in many of the most essential points of her armament, nor how unworthy I should have proved myself of the high trust reposed in me, had I ventured to sea in the face of an enemy of equal force, without being ready to meet him in 1 hour after my anchor was weighed.

It ought in justice to be recollected, that the building and equipment of vessels on the Atlantic are unattended by any of the great difficulties which we have to encounter on this Lake; there every department abounds with facilities. A commander makes a requisition, and articles of every description are furnished in twelve hours; but this fleet has been built and fitted in the wilderness, where there are no agents and chandlers shops and founderies, &c. &c. to supply our wants, but every thing is to be created; and yet I shall not decline a comparison of what has been done here, with any thing done on the Atlantic, in the building and equipment of vessels. The Guerriere, for instance has been building and fitting upwards of twelve months in the City of Philadelphia, and is not yet ready. The President frigate went into the Navy Yard at New-York for some partial repairs, a few days after the keel of the Superior was laid; since then two frigates of a large class, and two sloops of war of the largest class, have been built and fitted here, and have sailed before the President is ready for sea, although every article of their armament and rigging has been transported from New York in

despite of obstacle almost insurmountable. I will go farther, sir, for it is due to the unremitted and unsurpassed exertions of those who have served the public under my command, and will challenge the world to produce a parallel instance, in which the same number of vessels of such dimensions have been built and fitted in the same time by the same number of workmen.

I confess that I am mortified in not having succeeded in satisfying the expectations of the public, but it would be infinitely more painful, could I find any want of zeal or exertion in my endeavors to serve them, to which I could in any degree impute their disappointment.

I have the honor to be, sir, with the utmost respect, your most obedient and very humble servant.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.  
Hon. WM. JONES,  
Secretary of the Navy.

Copy of a letter from Major General Brown, to Commodore Chauncey—Head Quarters, Queenstown, July 13th 1814.

MY DEAR SIR—I arrived at this place on the 10th, as I assured you, that with the blessing of God I would.

All accounts agree that the force of the enemy in Kingston is very light—meet me on the Lake shore, north of Fort George with your fleet and we will be able, I have no doubt, to settle a plan of operation that will break the power of the enemy in Upper Canada, and that in the course of a short time. At all events let me hear from you; I have looked for your fleet with the greatest anxiety since the 10th. I do not doubt my ability to meet the enemy in the field and to march in any direction over his country; your fleet carrying for me the necessary supplies. We can threaten Forts George and Niagara, and carry Burlington Heights and York and proceed to Kingston and carry that place. For God's sake let me see you; Sir James will not fight, two of his vessels are now in Niagar a River.

If you conclude to meet me at the head of the Lake and that immediately, have the goodness to bring the guns and troops that I have ordered from the Harbor; at all events have the politeness to let me know what aid I am to expect from the fleet of Lake Ontario.

There is not a doubt resting in my mind, but that we have between us the command of sufficient means to conquer Upper Canada within two months, if there is a prompt and zealous co-operation and a vigorous application of these means, now is our time before the enemy can be greatly reinforced. Yours truly,  
(Signed) JACOB BROWN.  
Commodore CHAUNCEY.

Copy of a letter from Com. Chauncey to Maj. Gen. Brown dated U. S. S. Superior, off Kingston, August 10, 1814.

SIR—Your letter of the 13th ult. was received by me on a sick bed, hardly able to hear it read and entirely unfitted to reply to it. I, however, requested, Gen. Gaines to acquaint you with my situation, the probable time of the fleets sailing, and my views of the extent of the co-operation with the army.

From the tenor of your letter, it would appear that you had calculated much upon the co operation of the fleet. You cannot surely have forgotten the conversation we held on this subject at Sackett's Harbor, previous to your departure for Niagara. I then professed to feel it my duty as well as inclination to afford every assistance in my power to the army, and to co-operate with it whenever it could be done without losing sight of this great object, for the attainment of which this fleet had been created, to wit—the capture or destruction of the enemy's fleet; but I then distinctly stated to you, that this was a primary object, and would be first attempted; and that you must not expect the fleet at the head of the lake, unless that of the enemy should induce us to follow him there.