



Carry on the plans of fair, delightful Peace,
Unwarp'd by party rage, to live like Brothers

THE WAR.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF FROST'S DEFEAT.

Copy of a letter from Brig. Gen. Ma-
comb to the Secretary of War, dated
Head-Quarters,
Plattsburg, Sept. 15th, 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to commu-
nicate to the information of the war
department, the particulars of the ad-
vance of the enemy into the territory
of the United States, the circumstan-
ces attending the siege of Plattsburg,
and the defence of the posts entrusted
to my command.

The Governor General of the Can-
ada, Sir George Prevost, having
collected all the disposable forces in
Lower Canada, with a view of con-
quering the country as far as Crown
Point and Ticonderoga, entered the
territory of the United States on the
first of the month, and on the 4th
of the same day there arrived the
British army, and issued orders and
instructions to the commanding gen-
eral to furnish his army with
provisions. He immediately be-
gan to transport the wagons and teams in
the vicinity, and I aided them with
his heavy baggage and stores. From
this I was persuaded he intended to
attack this place. I had but just re-
turned from the line, where I had
commanded a fine brigade, which
was broken up to form the division
under Maj. Gen. Izard ordered to
the westward. Being senior officer
he left me in command; and, except
the four companies of the 6th regt.
I had not an organized battalion
among those remaining. The garrison
was composed of convalescents
and recruits of the new regiments—
all in the greatest confusion, as well
as the ordnance and stores, and the
works in no state of defence.

To create an emulation and zeal
among the officers and men in com-
pleting the works, I divided them into
detachments, and placed them
near the several forts, declaring to
orders, that each detachment was the
garrison of its own work, and bound
to defend it to the last extremity.

The enemy advanced cautiously
and by short marches, and our sol-
diers worked day and night; so that
by the time he made his appearance
before the place, we were prepared
to receive him.

Gen. Izard named the principal
work Fort Mifflin, and to remind the
troops of the actions of their brave
countrymen, I called the redoubt on
the right Fort Brown, and that on the
left Fort Scott. Besides these three
works, we have two block houses
strongly fortified.

Examining the returns
of the garrisons, that our force did
not exceed fifteen hundred men for
duty, and well informed that the ene-
my had as many thousands, I called
on Gen. Mooers, of the New-York
militia, and arranged with him plans
for bringing forth the militia en masse.
The inhabitants of the village fled
with their families and effects, except
a few worthy citizens and some boys,
who formed themselves into a party,
received arms, and were exceedingly
valuable. By the fourth of the month
Gen. Mooers collected about 700
militia, and advanced seven miles on
the Beckmantown road, to watch the
movements of the enemy, and to skirmish
with him as he advanced; also to ob-
struct the roads with fallen trees, and
to break up the bridges.

On the lake road at Dead creek
bridge, I posted 200 men under Capt.
Sprout of the 13th regt. with orders
to abatis the woods, to place obstruc-
tions in the road, and to fortify him-
self; to this party I added two field
pieces. In advance of this position,
was Lieut. Col. Appling with 110 ri-
flemen, watching the movements of
the enemy, and procuring intelligence.
It was ascertained, that before day-
light on the 6th, the enemy would
advance in two columns on the two
roads beforementioned, dividing at

Sampson's, a little below Chazy vil-
lage. The column on the Beckman-
town road proceeded most rapidly;
the militia skirmishing with his ad-
vanced parties, and, except a few
brave men, fell back most precipitately
in the greatest disorder, notwithstand-
ing the British troops did not deign
to fire on them, except by their flank-
ers and advanced patrols. The
night previous I ordered Maj. Wool
to advance with a detachment of 250
men to support the militia, and set
them an example of firmness. Also
Capt. Leonard, of the light artillery,
was directed to proceed with two
pieces to be on the ground before day,
yet he did not make his appearance
until 8 o'clock, when the enemy had
approached within two miles of the
village. With his conduct therefore,
I am not well pleased. Maj. Wool,
with his party, disputed the road with
great obstinacy, but the militia could
not be prevailed on to stand, notwith-
standing the exertions of their Gen-
eral and staff officers; although the
fields were divided by strong stone
walls, and they were told that the
enemy could not possibly cut them
off. The state aragoons of New-
York wear red coats, and they being
on the heights to watch the enemy,
gave constant alarm to the militia,
who mistook them for the enemy, and
feared his getting in their rear.—
Finding the enemy's columns had p-
enetrated within a mile of Plattsburg,
I dispatched my aid-de-camp Lieut.
Koot, to bring off the detachment at
Dead Creek, and to inform Lieut.
Col. Appling that I wished him to fall
on the enemy's right flank. The
Colonel fortunately arrived just in time
to save his retreat and to fall in with
the head of a column debouching
from the woods. He re-joined in a de-
structive fire from his riflemen at rest,
and continued to annoy the column
until he formed a junction with Maj.
Wool. The field pieces did consid-
erable execution among the enemy's
columns. So undaunted, however,
was the enemy, that he never de-
ployed in his whole march, always
pressing in column. Finding that
every road was full of troops crowd-
ing on us on all sides, I ordered the
field pieces to retire across the bridge
and form a battery for its protection,
and to cover the retreat of the infan-
try, which was accordingly done, and
the parties of Appling and Wool, as
well as that of Sprout, retired alter-
nately, keeping up a brisk fire until
they got under cover of the works.
The enemy's light troops occupied
the houses near the bridge, and kept
up a constant firing from the win-
dows and balconies, and annoyed us
much. I ordered them to be driven
out with hot shot, which soon put the
houses in flames, and obliged these
sharpshooters to retire. The whole
day, until it was too late to see, the
enemy's light troops endeavored to
drive our guards from the bridge, but
they suffered dearly for their perse-
verance. An attempt was also made
to cross the upper bridge, where the
militia handsomely drove them back.

The column which marched by the
lake road was much impeded by the
obstructions, and the removal of the
bridge at Dead Creek, and, as it passed
the creek and beach, the gallees kept
up a lively and galling fire.
Our troops being now on the south
side of the Saranac, I directed the
planks to be taken off the bridges and
piled up in the form of breastworks
to cover our parties intended for dis-
rupting the passage, which afterwards
enabled us to hold the bridges against
very superior numbers.

From the 7th to the 11th, the ene-
my was employed in getting on his
battering train, and erecting his bat-
teries and approaches, and constantly
skirmishing at the bridges and fords.
By this time the militia of New York
and the volunteers of Vermont were
pouring in from all quarters. I ad-
vised Gen. Mooers to keep his force al-
ong the Saranac to prevent the ene-
my's crossing the river, and to send
a strong body in his rear to harass

him day and night, and keep him in
continual alarm.

The militia behaved with great
spirit after the first day, and the volun-
teers of Vermont were exceedingly
serviceable. Our regular troops, not-
withstanding the skirmishing and re-
peated endeavours of the enemy to
cross the river, kept at their work day
and night, strengthening the defenses,
and evinced a determination to hold
out to the last extremity.

It was reported that the enemy only
waited the arrival of his flotilla to
make a general attack. About eight
in the evening of the eleventh, as was
expected, the flotilla appeared in sight
round Cumberland Head, and at nine
bore down and engaged our flotilla at
anchor in the bay off the town. At
the same instant the batteries were
opened on us, and continued throw-
ing bomb-shells, sharpshooters, balls and
congre rockets until sun-set, when
the bombardment ceased, every bat-
tery of the enemy being silenced by the
superiority of our fire. The naval
engagement lasted but two hours in
full view of both armies. Three ef-
forts were made by the enemy to pass
the river at the commencement of the
cannonade and bombardment, with a
view of assaulting the works, and had
prepared for that purpose an immense
number of scaling ladders. One at-
tempt to cross was made at the vil-
lage bridge, and another was made at
the upper bridge, and a third at a
ford about 3 miles from the works.—
At the two first he was repulsed by
regulars—at the ford by the brave vol-
unteers and militia, where he suffered
severely in killed, wounded and pris-
oners, a considerable body having
crossed the stream, but were either
killed, taken or driven back. The
woods at this place were very favour-
able to the operations of the militia.
A whole company of the 76th regt.
was here destroyed, the three lieuten-
ants and 27 men prisoners, the cap-
tain and the rest killed.

I cannot forego the pleasure of here
stating the gallant conduct of Captain
McGlassin, of the 15th regt. who
was ordered to ford the river, and
attack a party constructing a battery on
the right of the enemy's line, within
500 yards of Fort Brown, which he
handsomely executed at midnight,
with 50 men; drove off the working
party, consisting of 150, and defeated
a covering party, of the same num-
ber—killing one officer and 6 men in
the charge, and wounded many.

At dusk the enemy withdrew his
artillery from batteries, and raised
siege—and at 9, under cover of the
night, sent off in great hurry all the
baggage he could find transport for
and all his artillery. At 2 the next
morning the whole army precipitately
retreated, leaving the sick and wound-
ed to our generosity—and the gov-
ernor left a note with a surgeon, re-
questing the humane attention of the
commanding general.

Vast quantities of provisions were
left behind and destroyed, also an im-
mense quantity of bomb shells, cannon
balls, grape-shot, ammunition, flints,
&c. intrenching tools of all sorts, also
tents and marquees. A great deal
has been found concealed in the ponds
and creeks, and buried in the ground
and a vast quantity carried off by the
inhabitants. Such was the precipi-
tance of his retreat, that he arrived
at Chazy, a distance of eight miles,
before we discovered he had gone.—
The light troops, volunteers and mi-
litia pursued immediately on learning
of his flight; and some of the moun-
ted men made prisoners five dragoons
of the 19th regt. and several others
of the rear guard. A continual fall of
rain and a violent storm prevented
further pursuits. Upwards of three
hundred deserters have come in and
many are hourly arriving.

We have buried the British officers
of the army and navy, with the honors
of war, and shown every attention and
kindness to those who have fallen into
our hands.

The conduct of the officers, non-
commissioned officers, and soldiers of

my command, during this trying oc-
casion, cannot be represented in too
high terms. I feel it my duty to re-
commend to the particular notice of
government, Lieut. Col. Appling of
the 1st rifle corps; Major Wool of the
29th; Major Totten of the corps of
engineers; Capt. Brooks of the arti-
llery; Capt. McGlassin of the 15th;
Lieuts. de Russy and Trescott, of the
corps of engineers; Lieuts. Smyth,
Montford, and Cromwell, of the arti-
llery; also my aid-de-camp, Lt. Root,
who have all distinguished themselves
by their uncommon zeal and activity,
and have been greatly instrumental in
producing the happy and glorious re-
sult of the siege.

I have the honor to be, with senti-
ments of profound respect, sir, your
most obedient humble servant.

ALEX. MACOMB.

The loss of the enemy in killed,
wounded, prisoners, and deserters,
since his first appearance, cannot fall
short of 2500—including many offi-
cers, among whom is Col. Wellington
of the Buffs.

Report of the killed, wounded and missing at
Plattsburg, from the 6th to the 11th Septem-
ber, 1814.

Killed—1 subaltern, 1 sergeant, 1 musi-
cian, 4 privates; total 37.

Wounded—2 subalterns, 1 sergeant major,
4 sergeants, 2 corporals, 4 musicians, 49
privates; total 62. Total killed and wound-
ed, 99.

Missing—2 sergt. 19 privates; total 20.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

6th regiment—1st Lieut. George W. Runk
wounded on the 7th and died the 8th Sept.

13th regiment—3d Lieut. Robert M. Har-
rison, wounded in the shoulder.

34th regiment—3d Lieut. Henry Taylor,
wounded in the knee.

DEFENCE OF BALTIMORE.

Copy of a letter from Com. Rodgers to
the Secretary of the Navy, dated,
New-Castle, Sept. 13, 1814.

SIR—From the time of my ar-
rival at Baltimore until my departure,
the various duties I had to perform,
and the different situations in which I
was placed, must plead my apology
for not furnishing a report of the ser-
vices of the naval force employed
there under my command at an ear-
lier period; and more particularly as
my situation, a large portion of the
time, was such as to deny me the use
of pen, ink or paper.

The advance and retreat of the e-
nemy you have been made acquainted
with from other sources, and it now
only remains for me to make known
to you the dispositions made of, and
the services rendered by the force un-
der my command, and which I feel a
pleasure in doing, as the conduct of
all was such as to merit my entire ap-
probation.

In the general distribution of the
forces employed in the defence of
Baltimore, with the concurrence of
the commanding general, I stationed
Lt. Gamble, 1st of the Guerriere, with
about 100 seamen in command of a
7-gun battery, on the line between the
roads leading from Philadelphia and
Sparrow's Point.

Sailing-Master De La Rouch of the
Erie, and Midshipman Field, of the
Guerriere, with 20 seamen, in
command of a 2-gun battery, fronting
the road leading from Sparrow's
Point.

Sailing-master Ramage, of the
Guerriere, with 20 seamen in com-
mand of a 5-gun battery, to the right
of the Sparrow's Point road.

And midshipman Salter, with 12
seamen, in command of a 1-gun bat-
tery a little to the right of Mr. Ramage.

Lt. Kuhn, with the detachment of
marines belonging to the Guerriere,
was posted in the entrenchment be-
tween the batteries occupied by Lt.
Gamble and sailing master Ramage.

Lt. Newcomb, third of the Guer-
riere, with 80 seamen, occupied Fort
Lovington, on the Ferry Branch, a
little below Spring Gardens.

Sailing-master Webster, of the flo-
tilla, with 20 seamen of that corps,
occupied a 6 gun battery, on the Fer-
ry Branch, known by the name of
Babeock.

Lieut. Frazier, of the flotilla, with
45 seamen of the same corps, occu-
pied a 3-gun battery near the Laza-
retto.

And Lieut. Rutter, the senior offi-
cer of the flotilla, in command of all
the barges, which were moored at the
entrance of the passage between the
Lazaretto and Fort M'Henry, in the
left wing of the water battery, which
was stationed sailing master Redman
and 54 men of the flotilla.

To the officers, seamen & marines
of the Guerriere, considering the priv-
ations they experienced and the
cheerfulness and zeal with which
they encountered every obstacle, every
acknowledgement is due, and it
would be as impossible for me to say
too much in their praise, as it would
be unworthy of the station I hold, not
to mention that their discipline and
good conduct is owing in a pre-em-
inent degree, to the indefatigable at-
tention and exertions of that highly
estimable officer Lieutenant Gamble.

The enemy's repulsion from the
Ferry Branch on the night of the
13th inst. after he had passed Fort
M'Henry with his barges and some
light vessels, was owing to the warm
reception he met from Forts Covin-
gton and Babeock, commanded by Lt.
Newcomb, and sailing master Web-
ster, who with all under their com-
mand performed the duty assigned
them to admiration.

To Lt. Frazier commanding the
3 gun battery at the Lazaretto, great
praise is due for the constant and ani-
mated fire with which he at times as-
sailed the enemy during the whole
bombardment, although placed in a
very exposed situation to rockets and
shells.

Similar praise is due to the officers
and men, in the several barges of the
flotilla which were immediately un-
der his command, who, without re-
gard to the enemy's rockets and shells
maintained their position with firm-
ness in the passage between Fort
M'Henry and the Lazaretto.

Sailing master Rodman, stationed
in the water battery of Fort M'Henry
with 60 seamen of the flotilla, did his
duty in a manner worthy of the ser-
vice to which he belongs.

To master's mate Stockton, my aid
I am greatly indebted for the assid-
and promptitude with which he con-
veyed my orders from post to post, and
wherever I had occasion to commu-
nicate, although in some instances he
had to pass thro' showers of shells and
rockets.

To Mr. Allen (brother of the late
gallant Capt. Allen of the navy) who
acted as my aid and remained near
my person, I am much indebted for
the essential assistance he rendered
in the capacity of a secretary, and
conveying my orders wherever I found
the same necessary.

It now becomes a duty to notice
the services of that gallant and meri-
torious officer, Capt. Spence of the
navy, by whose exertions, assisted by
Lt. Rutter with the barges, the en-
trance into the basin was so obstructed
in the enemy's presence, and that
too in a very short time, as to bid de-
fiance to his ships, had he attempted
to force that passage. In fine, owing
to the emergency of the service, al-
though no definite command could be
assigned Capt. Spence, his services
were nevertheless of the first order,
and where danger was to be expected
there he was to be found animating
with his presence and encouraging
his conduct, all to do their duty. On
my leaving Baltimore, Com. Perry
being absent, the command of the na-
val forces devolved on this excellent
officer.

That justly distinguished officer,
Com. Perry, I am sorry to say, was
so indisposed and worn out with the
fatigue he had experienced on the Po-
somatic, and having arrived at Balti-
more but a short time before the bom-
bardment commenced, excluded his
taking an active command; as the
moment, however, when the enemy
threatened to attack our lines, I found
he was with us and ready to render
every assistance in his power. In a