

detached 1250 picked men, with scaling ladders, for the purpose of storming this Fort. We once more had an opportunity of opening our batteries, and kept up a continual blaze for nearly two hours, which had the effect again to drive them off.

In justice to Lieut. Newcomb of the U. States' Navy, who commanded at Fort Covington with a detachment of sailors, and Lieut. Webster, of the flotilla, who commanded the Six Gun Battery near that Fort, I ought to state, that during this time they kept up an animated, and I believe a very destructive fire, to which I am persuaded we are much indebted in repulsing the enemy. One of his sunken barges has since been found with two dead men in it—others have been seen floating in the river. The only means we had of directing our guns, was by the blaze of their rockets, and flashes of their guns. Had they ventured to the same situation in the day time, not a man would have escaped.

The bombardment continued on the part of the enemy until, 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning, when it ceased; and about nine, their ships got under weigh, and stood down the river. During the bombardment, which lasted 25 hours (with 2 slight intermissions) from the best calculation I can make, from fifteen to eighteen hundred shells were thrown by the enemy. A few of these fell short. A large proportion burst over us, throwing their fragments among us, and threatening destruction. Many passed over us, and about four hundred fell within the works. Two of the public buildings are materially injured—the others but slightly. I am happy to inform you (wonderful as it may appear) that our loss amounts only to four men killed, and 24 wounded. The latter will all recover. Among the killed, I have to lament the loss of Lieut. Clagget, Sergeant Clemm, both of Capt. Nicholson's volunteers; two men whose fate is to be deplored, not only for their personal bravery, but for their high standing, amiable demeanor, & spotless integrity in private life. Lt. Pennington, received early in the attack a severe contusion in the heel; notwithstanding which he remained at his post during the whole bombardment.

Were I to name any individual who signalized himself, it would be doing injustice to others. Suffice it to say, that every officer and soldier under my command did their duty to my entire satisfaction.

I have the honor to remain, respectfully your obedient servant.

G. ARMSTRONG,
Lt. Col. U. S. A.

Hon. JAMES MONROE,
Secretary of War.

Official Account

OF THE
BATTLE AT PLATTSBURG.

Copy of a letter from Brigadier General Macomb, to the Secretary of War, dated

Head Quarters, Plattsburgh,
September 15th, 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to communicate, for the information of the War Department, the particulars of the advance of the enemy into the territory of the United States, the circumstances attending the siege of Plattsburgh, and the defence of the posts entrusted to my charge.

The Governor General of the Canadas, Sir George Prevost, having collected all the disposable force in Lower Canada, with a view of conquering the country as far as Crown Point and Ticonderoga, entered the territories of the United States on the first of the month, and occupied the village of Champlain; there avowed his intentions, and issued orders and proclamations tending to dissuade the people from their allegiance, and inviting them to furnish his army with provisions. He immediately began to impress the waggons and teams in the vicinity, and loaded them with his heavy baggage and stores. From this I was persuaded he intended to attack this place. I had but just returned from the lines, where I had commanded a fine brigade, which was broken up to form the division under Major General Izard, ordered to the westward. Being senior officer, he left me in command; and, except the four companies of the 6th regiment, 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 completing the works, I divided them into detachments, and placed them near the several forts; declaring in 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 soldiers worked day and night; so that by the time he made his appearance before the place, we were prepared to receive him.

General Izard named the principal work *Fort Moreau*, 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 had two block houses strongly fortified.

Finding, on examining the returns of the garrison, that our force did not exceed fifteen hundred effective men for duty, and well informed that the enemy had as many thousands, I called on General 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 rifles, and were extremely useful. By the fourth of the month, General Mooers collected about seven hundred militia, and advanced seven miles on the Beckman Town road, to watch the motions of the enemy, and to skirmish with him as he advanced; also to obstruct the road with fallen trees, and to break up the bridges.

On the Lake Road, at Dead Creek Bridge, I posted two hundred men under Captain Sproul of the 13th regiment, with orders to *abbatis* the woods, to place obstructions in the road, and to fortify himself; to this party I added two field pieces. In advance of that position, was Lieutenant Colonel Appling, with one hundred and ten riflemen, 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 before mentioned, dividing at Sampson's a little below Chazy village. The column on the Beckman Town road proceeded most rapidly: the militia skirmishing with his advanced parties, and except a few brave men, fell back most precipitately in the greatest disorder, notwithstanding the British troops did not design to fire on them, except by their flankers and advanced patrols. The night previous I ordered Major Wool to advance with a detachment of two hundred and fifty men to support the militia, and set them an example of firmness. Also, Captain 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 eight o'clock, when the enemy had approached within two miles of the village. With his conduct, therefore, I am not well pleased. Major Wool, with his party, disputed the road with great obstinacy, but the militia could not be prevailed on to stand, notwithstanding the exertions of their general 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 dragoons 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 penetrated within a mile of Plattsburgh, I dispatched my aid de camp, Lieutenant Root, to bring off the detachment at Dead Creek, and to inform Lieutenant Colonel 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. Here he poured in a destructive fire from his riflemen at rest, and continued to annoy the column until he formed a junction with Major Wool. The field pieces did considerable execution among the enemy's columns. So undaunted, however, was the enemy, that he never deployed in his whole march, always pressing on in column. Finding that every road was full of troops crowding 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 infantry, which was accordingly done, and the parties of Appling and Wool, as well as that of Sproul, retired alternately, 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 windows 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 endeavoured to drive our guards from the bridge, but they suffered dearly for their perseverance. 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 gallies kept up a lively and galling fire. Our troops being now all 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 disputing the passage, which afterwards enabled us to hold the bridges against very superior numbers.

From the 7th to the 11th, the enemy was employed in getting on his battering train, and erecting his batteries 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 advised Gen. Mooers to keep his force along the Saranac to prevent the enemy'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 volunteers of Vermont were exceedingly serviceable. Our regular troops notwithstanding the constant skirmishing, and repeated endeavours of the enemy to cross the river, kept at their work day and night strengthening the defences, 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 9 bore down and engaged our flotilla at anchor in the bay off the town. At the same instant the batteries were opened upon us, and continued throwing bomb-shells shrapnells, balls and congreve rockets until sun set, when the bombardment ceased, every battery 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 efforts 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 attempt to cross was made at the village bridge, another at the upper bridge, and a third at a ford about three miles from the works.—At the two first he was repulsed by the regulars—at the ford by the brave volunteers and militia, where he suffered severely in killed wounded and prisoners; a considerable body having crossed the stream, but were either killed taken or driven back. The woods at this place were very favourable to the operations of the militia. A whole company of the 76th regiment was here destroyed, the three Lieuts. and twenty-seven men prisoners, the Capt. and the rest killed.

I cannot forego the pleasure of here stating the gallant conduct of Captain McGlassin of the 15th regiment, who was ordered to ford the river, and attack a party constructing a battery on the right of the enemy's line, within five hundred yards of fort Brown, which he handsomely executed at midnight with fifty men; drove off the working party, consisting of one hundred and fifty, and defeated a covering party of the same number—killing one officer and six men in the charge and wounding many.

At dusk the enemy withdrew his artillery from the batteries, and raised the siege; and at nine, under cover of the night, sent off in a great hurry all the baggage he could find transport for, and also his artillery.—At two the next morning the whole army precipitately retreated, leaving the sick and wounded to our generosity—and the Governor left a note with a surgeon, requesting the humane attention of the commanding General.

Vast quantities of provision were left behind and destroyed, also an immense quantity of bomb shells, cannon balls, grape shot, ammunition, flints, &c. &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 precipitancy of his retreat, that he arrived at Chazy, a distance of eight miles, before we discovered he had gone. The light troops, volunteers and militia pursued immediately on learning of his flight; and some of the mounted men made prisoners five dragoons of the 19th regiment and several others of the rear guard. A continual fall of rain and a violent storm prevented further pursuit. 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 occasion cannot be represented in too high terms, and I feel it my duty to recommend to the particular notice of Government, Lieutenant Colonel Appling of the first rifle corps, Major Wool of the 29th, Major Totten of the corps of Engineers, Captain Brooke of the artillery, Captain McGlassin of the 15th, Lieutenants de Russy and Trescott of the corps of Engineers, Lieuts. Smith, Mountford and Cromwell of the artillery, also my Aid-de-camp, Lieutenant Root, who have all distinguished themselves by their uncommon zeal and activity, and have been greatly instrumental in producing the happy and glorious result of the siege.

I have the honor to be with sentiments 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 two thousand five hundred—including many officers, among whom is Col. Wellington of the Buffs.

No 1. A report of the killed, wounded, and missing on our part.

No 2. An exhibit of the force brought against us.

No 3. List of prisoners taken from the British army—total 75.

NO I.

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

6th Regt.—Killed—1 subaltern, 4 privates; total 5. Wounded—1 sergeant, 1 musician, 15 privates; total 17—total killed and wounded 22.

29th Reg.—Killed—1 sergeant, 14 privates; total 15. Wounded—1 sergeant major, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 1 musician, 11 privates; total 16—total killed and wounded, 31. Missing—1 sergeant, 8 privates, total 9.

30th and 31st reg'ts.—Killed—1 private; total 1. Wounded—1 musician, 6 privates; total 7; total killed and wounded 8—Missing—4 privates; total 4.

33d and 34th reg'ts.—Killed—2 privates; total 2. Wounded—1 subaltern, 3 privates; total 4; total killed & wounded 6. Missing—1 private; total 1.

Captain Sproul's command—3 privates killed—Wounded—1 subaltern, 3 privates; total 6; total killed and wounded 9. Missing—3 privates; total 3.

4th reg.—Killed—1 private; total 1. Wounded—1 private; total 1; total killed and wounded 2.

1st rifle reg.—Killed—1 musician, 3 privates; total 4. Wounded—2 sergeants, 1 musician, 6 privates; total 9; killed and wounded 13. Missing 3 privates; total 3.

Light Artillery.—Killed—3 privates total 3. Wounded 1 private; total 1; total killed and wounded 4.

Corps of Artillery.—Killed—3 privates; total 3. Wounded—1 private; total 1: total killed and wounded 4.

Aggregate—Killed—1 subaltern, 1 sergeant, 1 musician, 34 privates; total 37. Wounded—2 subalterns, 1 sergeant major, 4 sergeants, 2 corporals, 4 musicians, 49 privates; total 62; total killed and wounded 99. Missing—1 sergeant, 19 privates; total 20.

Commissioned officers.

5th Regiment—Lieutenant George W. Runk, wounded on the seventh, & died the eighth September.

13th Regiment—3d Lieutenant Robert M. Harrison, wounded in the shoulder.

34th Regiment—Lieutenant Henry Taylor, wounded in the knee.

NO 2.

A list of the principal officers of the British army, and an exhibit of the several regiments and corps under the command of Lt Gen. Sir Geo. Prevost at the siege of Plattsburgh.

Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost, Commander in Chief.

Major General De Rottenburg second in command.

Major General Robertson, commanding first brigade.

Major General Powers, commanding second brigade.

Major General Brisbane, commanding third brigade.

Major General Baynes, Adjutant General.

Sir Sidney Beckwith, Quarter Master General.

Colonel Hughes, Chief Engineer.

Major Sinclair, commanding officer of Artillery.

Lieut. Col. Tryall, Asst Adj. Gen.

Capt. Burke, Deputy Asst. Adj. Gen.

Capt. Murray, Asst. Qr. Mr. Gen.

Major Montgomery, do. do.

Capt. Davis, Dep. Asst. Qr. Master Gen.

List of the Regiments, and Corps.

4 Troops, 19th Lt Dragoons, 300

4 Comp's Royal Artillery, 400

1 Brigade of Rocketters, 25

1 Brigade Royal Sappers and Miners, 75

1st Brigade—27th regt. 1st

battalion 900

53th 900

5th 1000

3d or buff's 900

—3700

2d Brigade 88th 1000

39th 900

76th 3d bat. 900

27th 3d bat. 800

—3690

3d Brigade—8th or kings

2d bat. 900

13th 600

49th 600

6th 1000

—3100

Lt. Brigade—Muron's reg.

(Swiss) 1200

Canadian Chasseurs 900

Voltigeurs 550

Frontier Light Inf'y 150

—2800

14,000

British Account

OF THE BATTLE ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

From the Montreal Herald of Sept. 17.

PARTICULARS OF THE DISASTROUS AFFAIR ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN, &c.

The brave and lamented Capt. Downie, in the *Confiance*, led our small flotilla to battle in a gallant style, and as far as talents, the valor of British tars, and enthusiastic devotion to their country, could command victory, the most successful event was reasonably expected. That noble officer fell in his

country's cause, the second shot, but his place was ably filled by his Lieut. who continued the engagement with unabated vigor, and was in the act of laying along side the largest ship of the enemy, when the rudder of the *Confiance* was unshipped by the enemy. The *Linnet*, a small brig, which with the *Confiance*, was the only vessel of any size in our flotilla went ashore;—in this state, lying like a log on the water, the *Confiance* maintained the unequal contest with the whole flotilla of the enemy, in which were four vessels of a large size. History produces nothing superior to the valor and gallantry of the officers and crew of the *Confiance*; suffice it to say that she was literally fought to the water's edge, and if accounts are true, there remained but thirty of her men unhurt at the end of five hours' fighting. Such men will bring down the Americans, as their fathers have heretofore the Dutch, who, without disparagement, were better sailors than our unnatural foe.

Would that a veil could be drawn over the scene on shore! but it could afford but a sad tale in the page of British history! The scientific brave generals, officers and soldiers of the Duke of Wellington's army, and the others who have before fought in our cause in the Canadas, did every thing which depended upon them to support the noble efforts of their brothers on the water. That distinguished officer, Gen. Robinson, who has been twice wounded this year on the other continent, with part of his brigade, had braved all danger in an assault. Some of the pickets off the fort were torn away, and a few minutes more would have given up the fortifications, with an immense train of artillery, into our hands, and every American must have fallen or been made prisoner. It was tho't necessary to check the ardor of the troops, and we must now instantly redouble our energies to obtain the command of the Lake, or with humility await our future destiny.

The gentleman who gave the above Extra Paper, left Plattsburg on Monday, and Burlington on Tuesday. Com. McDonough and his officers, and Gen. Macomb and suit, were at Burlington, on an invitation to a public dinner—to which Gov. Chittenden and General Strong were invited. A public dinner had also been given at Plattsburg. The American Fleet and the Prizes were repairing.

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3.

Mr. Lacock submitted the following motion for consideration:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire and report to the Senate the extent of the injury done the Capitol and other public buildings of the U. States by the enemy, the best means of preserving from further damage by the weather the remains of these edifices, and the expediency of an appropriation for repairing the same.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The following message was received from the President of the U. States by Mr. Coles his secretary:

To the Senate of the United States.

I transmit to the Senate a report from the department of State complying with their resolution of the 26th ultimo.

JAMES MADISON.

October 3d, 1814.

The undersigned, acting as Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate, requesting the President to cause to be laid before the Senate such information in his possession, respecting the existing state of the relations between the U. State and the continental powers of Europe as he may deem not improper to be communicated, has the honor to report:

That the relations of the U. State with the continental powers of Europe continue to be those of peace and amity; nor is there, so far as is known in this department, reason to believe that an unfavorable change is about to take place.

Measures have been taken to continue our diplomatic relations with France under the existing government and to renew those with Spain, which have been for a time interrupted by peculiar circumstances of that country. Diplomatic relations are also renewed with the United Provinces of the low countries. The new government has sent an envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the U. States, who has been received.

With the other powers of the continent of Europe, our relations have undergone no change since the last session of Congress.

All which is respectfully submitted,
JAMES MONROE,
Department of State, Oct. 1, 1814.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 29.

The Speaker laid before the House the copy of a resolution, transmitted under cover to him from Philadelphia, passed by the select & Common Council of that city, offering to the Congress and government, the use of build-