

loss was trifling indeed, consisting only of three privates killed; but I have to lament Lieutenant Talbot of the 82d regiment, an officer of the most extraordinary bravery and good conduct, and Lieutenant Colville of the Black Chasseurs, the only persons wounded, and since dead. My most pleasing task, Sir, is to bear testimony of the courage, alacrity and spirit with which all the troops distinguished themselves in the various combats, particularly *Monf. de Brueil*, commanding the artillery, whom I beg leave to recommend to your favour and protection.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *GEO. CHURCHILL*. Brig. Gen.  
*Lieut. Gen. Simcoe*.

SIR,

Port-au-Prince, June 20, 1797.

I do myself the honour of informing you, that on various considerations of great military importance, I determined to re-possess myself of the post of Mirebalais: In consequence, I collected the forces, and calling Brigadier-General Churchill from the Grand Anse, gave him the command, with directions to execute a plan that Colonel La Pointe, from whom I have experienced the most friendly and active assistance, had ably digested.

The Brigadier General's letter, which I beg permission to inclose, will inform you of the success of this expedition; but I have to regret, that, from some delay of the columns, they did not move with that exactitude and concert I had hoped, by which circumstance a considerable object of the expedition failed of success; for it was my intention to accord the protection of his Majesty's arms, in the best manner possible, to the inhabitants of these districts, by directing the troops, in their different routes, to march with a secrecy and rapidity that might ensure on all sides the surprisal of the enemy, compel them to a hasty retreat, and, driving them before them, might prevent their having an opportunity of burning the plantations, as had recently happened at *Jeremie*, or from carrying off the negroes and property beyond the *Artibonite*, at this time so swollen by the rainy season, as to render any passage over it difficult and precarious. But I have reason to believe, from the report of Colonel *Depestre*, who commands in that quarter, that many of the negroes will escape and return to their plantations; many were left upon them; and I learn with pleasure that the enemy had not the time or means to remove the coffee from the plantations in the *Grand Bois*, which is daily coming into *Port au Prince*.

As the troops were on their march to their destined cantonments in the *Arcahay* mountains to protect *St Marc's* from an attack preparing against it at *Gonaives*, I received information of that town's being besieged. The greater part of the army assembled under the command of General Churchill, by forced marches, proceeded to its assistance; and as the retaking the *Mirebalais* was unexpected by the enemy, it had not only a tendency to disconcert their measures, but, as I had foreseen, gave me an opportunity of sending a considerable detachment by sea from the plain of the *Cul de Sac* to the immediate assistance of *St Marc's*, without hazard.

At the same time Colonel the Count de *Rouvray*, with a detachment of 300 men, was detach-

ed to strike at a camp of the brigands in the mountains on the side of *Leogane*. The energy and activity of this officer overcame the difficulties of the situation; he effectually burned the camp and beat the enemy from their several posts, killing between 40 and 50; and he returned to *Grenier* with the loss of two men killed and seven wounded.

The enemy, having attacked and carried so of the out-posts of *St Marc*, began the siege of that important place, but were fortunately driven from before it with very considerable loss. In the successful defence of *St Marc*, the undaunted and active courage, and the military conduct of the *Marquis de Cocherell*, have merited my fullest approbation.

I have the honour to be,

With the utmost respect, &c.

*J. G. SIMCOE*.

SIR,

Mirabalais, June 2, 1797.

I have the honour to inform you, that, after giving previous orders to Colonel *Deffources* to proceed with his column, in the morning of the 30th ult. to his destined post of *La Selle*, where, according to your Excellency's instruction, he was enabled to take post, I moved forward with the center column, under Colonel *Depestre*. We arrived, after two very hot days march, at *Port Mitchell*, not quite completed, and occupied by about 50 of the enemy, who retired on our approach. In the evening we discovered a column of troops descending the hills on our left, where they encamped. A detachment of cavalry was immediately sent to reconnoitre them; they proved to be Colonel *Deffource's* column. This Officer was unable, from the badness of the roads and the heavy rains which we have had every evening, to proceed to the place of his destination; he therefore in a very proper and soldier-like manner, marched and joined us, which in some measure defeated your original plan of cutting off the enemy's retreat by *La Selle*; but I cannot help deeming this junction rather a fortunate circumstance, as it enabled us to drive the enemy from a very advantageous position they had taken the next day, to dispute our passage, which, from their superiority of numbers, (about 1200 men, with three pieces of cannon) must in all probability, have cost us a number of valuable lives to have carried; but this additional strength gave us an easy victory; for no sooner did they perceive a detachment of infantry and cavalry, which I sent to gain the heights and turn their right flank; than they immediately fled in the utmost confusion, and with such precipitation, that though Lieutenant-Colonel *Carter*, with the detachments of the 14th, 18th, and 21st British Light Dragoons, pursued them with that alacrity and spirit which has ever distinguished him, he could only come up with a very few. He succeeded, however, in driving a great many into the river *Artibonite*, most of whom perished, and he had the good fortune to take two of their guns, with their ammunition, mules, &c. The third was most probably lost in the river, the carriage being left behind. We found the fort in the *Bourg* of *Mirebalais* as perfect as it had ever been, and in no manner destroyed.

We did not see Colonel *Bazil* and his column till near an hour after we were in possession of