

port the batteries; leaving Captain Whelan, according to directions I had before given in case of an attack, with the light company of the Newfoundland regiment, to defend that fortress: Major Ormsby advanced towards the batteries, by the back road, to support Lieutenant Lamont, but having met with Lieutenant Bryson, of the militia artillery, who informed him, that the enemy were in possession of the batteries, it being then dark, he changed his direction, and moved to the right along the front road, below the batteries, with a view of falling in with some part of Lieutenant Lamont's detachment, and likewise another party on the left, consisting of thirty-five men, stationed opposite to the end of Squaw Island, commanded by Lieutenant Bartley, but who it appears had moved from thence, early in the morning, to the left, where the enemy had likewise landed their troops, opposite to this place.

Lieutenant Bartley attacked the enemy, consisting of about two hundred and fifty men, and kept up a fire upon the boats for about fifteen or twenty minutes, when he observed a party coming towards him, which he took to be our militia; but finding them to be a party of the enemy, and a number of his men being killed, wounded, or missing, he retired, crossing Frenchman's Creek at the mill, a little above which he joined Major Ormsby, having only sixteen or seventeen men left. Major Ormsby, whose detachment continued their march to Frenchman's Creek, was fired on from a house above the bridge by a party of the enemy, and having returned their fire with two or three rounds from his detachment, he succeeded in passing the bridge, although partly destroyed by the enemy. He here halted to ascertain the force opposed to him; but as it still continued very dark, he could neither see the enemy, nor discover his movements. He then proceeded about a mile further on the road downward, where he was joined by Lieutenant M'Intyre, of the light infantry 41st regiment, and remained there until daylight, where I arrived, and immediately advanced with the whole of the force here, concentrated under Major Ormsby and Major Hatt, of the 5th Lincoln militia, having under his command the different companies of militia on this line, consisting of about three hundred men, towards this place, with a light six-pounder, where we took Captain King, of the United States infantry, and about thirty rank and file, prisoners. The enemy at this time were crossing the river with a considerable number of boats, having about thirty men in each, making towards the land. I ordered the six-pounder to open upon them, which was ably directed by Bombardier Jackson, of the royal artillery, and acted with much execution. I formed the line on the bank, Major Ormsby and the 49th being on the right: after a few rounds from our musketry, the enemy retired to the American shore behind Squaw Island, having sustained considerable loss. The Indian warriors under Major Givens having heard the report of our fire, immediately joined us; I then marched with the light company of the 41st to ascertain the number and position of the enemy in our front, in which movement I received the greatest assistance from Major Givens, and the Indians under his command; the enemy had dismounted the guns and left the batteries: I ordered

the line to advance, and took up a position in their rear, waiting his further operations; I had been joined by Lieutenant-Colonel Clark, and his detachments from Chippawa; Captain Whelan still continued in Fort Erie, and had not been attacked during the absence of Major Ormsby and his detachment; the enemy kept up a strong fire on our lines from their batteries, till one o'clock, when a flag of truce came over, to summons Fort Erie, and to demand the surrender of that post to the American army. A copy of General Smyth's letter accompanies this dispatch: I sent Captain Fitzgerald, of the 49th regiment, with my answer, which was, "that the troops under my command being sufficient to repulse any attack from the enemy, and having received reinforcements from below, I should not agree to his request." The six-pounder taken by the enemy in the morning, as likewise the three-pounders, were found without having sustained the least injury. Great credit is due to Captain Kirby and the artillery, for their exertions in getting up the guns on the batteries, which by the morning of the 30th we succeeded in, and have been ever since in expectation of an attack, but which the enemy do not think proper to make: to Captain Kerby, Lieutenants Bryson and Ball, of the militia artillery, and Bombardier Jackson, of the royal artillery, the greatest credit is due, as well as to Lieutenant-Colonel Nichol, Quarter-Master-General of militia, and Lieutenant Bernard, Acting Staff-Adjutant: I have also derived the greatest assistance from Lieutenant-Colonel Clark, commanding the militia, Major Ormsby, commanding a detachment of the 49th regiment, and Major Hatt, of the 5th Lincoln militia, and all officers in command of corps and companies under my orders. The Norfolk militia, under Captain Bostwick, gave a strong proof of the valour which has uniformly distinguished the militia of this country when called into action. I must likewise mention the names of Captain Whelan, of the Newfoundland regiment, Captains Chambers and Saunders, of the 41st, Captain Fitzgerald, 49th, and Captain Hamilton, of the 2d Lincoln militia, who first apprised me of the enemy's movement.

I enclose a list of the killed, wounded, and missing. I have not been able to ascertain the loss of the enemy; but from the numbers left on the field, and the boats there were sunk, it must have been very great.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) CECIL BISSHOPP,
Lieutenant-Colonel commanding.
(True copy.)

NOAH FREER, Military Secretary.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the following Corps of the Division of the Army serving in Upper Canada, under the Command of Major-General Sheaffe, in an Affair with the Enemy on the 21st and 28th November 1812.

21st November.

Royal Artillery—1 rank and file wounded.
49th Foot—1 rank and file killed.

28th November.

Royal Artillery—1 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 rank and file, wounded.