

Barney, who was wounded and taken prisoner. The artillery I directed to be destroyed.

Having halted the army for a short time, I determined to march upon Washington, and reached that city at eight o'clock that night. Judging it of consequence to complete the destruction of the public buildings with the least possible delay, so that the army might retire without loss of time, the following buildings were set fire to and consumed—the Capitol, including the Senate-house and House of Representation, the arsenal, the dock-yard, treasury, war-office, President's palace, rope-walk, and the great bridge across the Potowmack: in the dock-yard a frigate nearly ready to be launched, and a sloop of war, were consumed. The two bridges leading to Washington over the eastern branch had been destroyed by the enemy, who apprehended an attack from that quarter. The object of the expedition being accomplished, I determined, before any greater force of the enemy could be assembled, to withdraw the troops, and accordingly commenced retiring on the night of the 25th. On the evening of the 29th we reached Benedict, and re-embarked the following day. In the performance of the operation I have detailed, it is with the utmost satisfaction I observe to your Lordship, that cheerfulness in undergoing fatigue and anxiety for the accomplishment of the object were conspicuous in all ranks.

To Sir Alexander Cochrane my thanks are due, for his ready compliance with every wish connected with the welfare of the troops, and the success of the expedition.

To Rear Admiral Cockburn, who suggested the attack upon Washington, and who accompanied the army, I confess the greatest obligation for his cordial co-operation and advice.

Colonel Thornton, who led the attack, is entitled to every praise for the noble example he set, which was so well followed by Lieutenant-Colonel Wood and the 85th Light Infantry, and by Major Jones, of the 4th Foot, with the light companies attached to the light brigade. I have to express my approbation of the spirited conduct of Colonel Brooke, and of his brigade, the 44th regiment, which he led, distinguished itself under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Mullens; the gallantry of the 4th Foot, under the command of Major Faunce, being equally conspicuous.

The exertions of Captain Mitchell, of the royal artillery, in bringing the guns into action, were unremitting; to him, and to the detachment under his command, including Captain Deacon's rocket brigade, and the marine rocket corps, I feel every obligation. Captain Lempriere, of the royal artillery, mounted a small detachment of the artillery drivers, which proved of great utility.

The assistance afforded by Captain Blanchard, of the royal engineers, in the duties of his department, was of great advantage. To the zealous exertions of Captains Wainwright, Palmer, and Money, of the Royal Navy, and to those of the officers and seamen who landed with them, the service is highly indebted; the latter, Captain Money, had charge of the seamen attached to the marine artillery. To Captain M'Dougall, of the 85th foot, who acted as my Aide-de-Camp, in consequence of the indisposition of my Aide-de-Camp,

Captain Falls, and to the officers of my staff, I feel much indebted.

I must beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to the zeal and indefatigable exertions of Lieutenant Ewins, Acting-Deputy-Quarter-Master-General. The intelligence displayed by that officer in circumstances of considerable difficulty, induces me to hope he will meet with some distinguished mark of approbation. I have reason to be satisfied with the arrangements of Assistant-Commissary-General Lawrence.

An attack upon an enemy so strongly posted, could not be effected without loss. I have to lament that the wounds received by Colonel Thornton, and the other officers and soldiers left at Bladensburg, were such as prevented their removal. As many of the wounded as could be brought off were removed, the others being left with medical care and attendants. The arrangements made by Staff Surgeon Baxter for their accommodation have been as satisfactory as circumstances would admit of. The agent for British prisoners of war, very fortunately residing at Bladensburg, I have recommended the wounded officers and men to his particular attention, and trust to his being able to effect their exchange when sufficiently recovered.

Captain Smith, Assistant Adjutant-General to the troops, who will have the honour to deliver this dispatch, I beg leave to recommend to your Lordship's protection, as an officer of much merit and great promise, and capable of affording any further information that may be requisite.

Sanguine in hoping for the approbation of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and of his Majesty's Government, as to the conduct of the troops under my command,

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROB. ROSS, Major-Gen.

I beg leave to inclose herewith a return of the killed, wounded, and missing in the action of the 24th inst. together, with a statement of the ordnance, ammunition, and ordnance stores taken from the enemy between the 19th and 25th August, and likewise sketches of the scene of action and of the line of march.

*Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Troops under the Command of Major-General Ross, in Action with the Enemy, on the 24th August 1814, on the Heights above Bladensburg.*

*Washington, August 25, 1814.*

- General Staff—4 horses killed.
- Royal Artillery—4 horses killed; 6 rank and file, 8 horses, wounded.
- Royal Marine Artillery—1 rank and file killed; 1 serjeant wounded.
- Royal Sappers and Miners—1 serjeant, 1 rank and file, killed.
- 4th Regiment—1 lieutenant, 2 serjeants, 21 rank and file, 1 horse, killed; 5 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 6 serjeants, 50 rank and file, wounded.
- 21st Regiment—2 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 11 rank and file, wounded.
- 44th Regiment—1 serjeant, 13 rank and file, killed; 35 rank and file wounded.
- 2d Batt. Royal Marines—5 rank and file killed.