

heavy fire, but the determination of the troops which I had the honour to command, to overcome all difficulties, compelled him to a rapid and disorderly flight, leaving in our possession his redoubts, batteries, and position, with 16 pieces of ordnance, and the colours of the New Orleans regiment of militia.

Of the ordnance taken, I enclose the specific return of Major Mitchell, of the royal artillery, who accompanied and afforded me much assistance, by his able directions of the firing of some rockets, it not having been found practicable in the first instance to bring over the artillery attached to his command.

I shall have the honour of sending you a return of the casualties that have occurred, as soon as it is possible to collect them, but I am happy to say they are extremely inconsiderable when the strength of the position, and the number of the enemy are considered, which our prisoners (about thirty in number) agree in stating from fifteen hundred to two thousand men, commanded by General Morgan.

I should be extremely wanting both in justice and in gratitude, were I not to request your particular notice of the Officers whose names I have mentioned, as well as of Major Blanchard, of the royal engineers, and Lieutenant Peddie, of the 27th regiment, Deputy-Assistant-Quarter-Master-General, whose zeal and intelligence I found of the greatest service.

The wounded men are meeting with every degree of attention and humanity by the medical arrangements of Staff-Surgeon Baxter.

The enemy's camp is supplied with a great abundance of provisions, and a very large store of all sorts of ammunition.

On moving to the attack, I received a wound, which shortly after my reaching the redoubt, occasioned me such pain and stiffness, that I have been obliged to give over the command of the troops on this side to Lieutenant-Colonel Gubbins, of the 85th light infantry; but as he has obtained some reinforcement, since the attack, of sailors and marines, and has taken the best precautions to cover and secure his position, I will be answerable, from my knowledge of his judgment and experience, that he will retain it, until your pleasure and further orders shall be communicated to him.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. THORNTON, Colonel,  
Lieut.-Col. 85th Reg.

To Major-General the Honourable  
Sir E. M. Pakenham, K. B. &c.

*Extract from the Journal of the Movements of the Army employed on the Southern Coast of North America.*

ON the evening of the 25th December 1814, Major-General Sir E. Pakenham arrived and assumed the command of the army.

On the 26th at day-light our batteries opened on the enemy's schooner, then lying on the opposite bank of the river, and which had occasionally cannonaded our line the two preceding days. The effect was such as soon to set her on fire, and at 9 A. M. she blew up. A ship armed with 16 long 24

pounders, which came down the day before to a position abreast of our advance, no sooner saw the fate of the schooner than she got under weigh, and ran up the river.

On the 27th at day-light the troops moved forward in two columns, driving in the enemy's picquets to within six miles of the town, where their main body was discovered strongly posted behind a canal, having a breast work in their front, the extent from right to left being about one thousand yards; their right rested on the Mississippi, and further protected by the armed ship moored in a position to enfilade our columns as they advanced; their left touched the wood. This wood extends in a parallel direction with the river, and is in general distant from it, one thousand to one thousand five hundred yards, the intermediate space is intersected by strong horizontal railings and a wet ditch or drain, and is principally planted with sugar canes. Considerable houses with large out-buildings and negro huts attached, are scattered at irregular distances along this tract.

The left column under Major-General Keane advanced along the main road to within about eight hundred yards of the enemy's right, when he opened from two guns upon the head of our column; upon this it was moved off the road to the right, under cover of some houses. The ship at the same time opened an enfilading fire upon our left, and kept up an incessant cannonade for above an hour. The columns were now deployed, and the line ordered to lie down, our right picquets touching the wood. The enemy cannonaded us from four guns in his line, and from the ship during the day, but with little effect. In the evening the troops were retired beyond reach of the enemy's guns, and directed to hut themselves. Ground was also marked out for a redoubt on our right flank, and the guns on our left covered from the enemy's fire.

From the 28th to the 31st every exertion was made to get up from the ships ten eighteen-pound, and four twenty-four pounder carronades, with the ammunition and stores. These were brought up the canal in boats to within a quarter of a mile of the main road, and thence transported on carriages of the country or our own limbers, by the seamen, with incredible labour. The weather was fortunately fair, and the road consequently good.

The enemy, during this period, established two batteries of one gun each on the opposite bank of the river, and occasionally threw shot into our camp with some effect.

Four eighteen-pounders were placed in a battery formed with hogsheds of sugar on the main road, to fire upon the ship if she dropped down the river.

Preparations were also made to establish batteries, one of six eighteen-pounders to break the enemy's line, and of the four twenty-four-pounder carronades, and the field-gun and howitzers were to keep the fire of the enemy under, whilst the troops were to be moved forward to storm the works so soon as a practicable breach was effected.

On the night of the 31st December, working parties were employed in throwing up the batteries and getting in the guns. In this they were most materially assisted by the seamen under Captain Sir Thomas Troubridge; before day light the whole was completed, and the batteries ready to open.