



SUPPLEMENT

TO

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Colonial-Office, Downing-Street, December 26, 1837.

A DISPATCH has been received from Lieutenant-General Sir John Colborne, K. C. B. Commander of the Forces in Canada, dated 29th November 1837, of which and of its inclosures the following are copies:

*Head-quarters, Montreal,
November 29, 1837.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the General Commanding in Chief, that, since my dispatch of the 20th instant, the revolt has been rapidly extending, and that the Law Officers of the Crown, and the Magistrates of Montreal having applied to me for military force to assist the civil power in apprehending Mr. Papineau, and other traitors, who were supposed to be at the villages of Saint Denis and Saint Charles, I ordered strong detachments to support the Civil Authorities in the execution of their duty.

Saint Denis is seven miles to the northward of Saint Charles, on the right bank of the River Richelieu; the former sixteen miles from Sorel; the latter about seventeen from the ferry of Chambly, opposite Pointe Oliviere.

Colonel Gore and Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes, with five companies and howitzer, were ordered to proceed from Sorel to Saint Denis, and five companies and two guns to move from Chambly on Saint Charles, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Wetherall, of the Royal Regiment, accompanied by

two Magistrates, to execute the warrants against those individuals, charged with high treason; and it appeared probable, that the sudden appearance of the troops, at these points, and entering the villages nearly at the same time, would afford an opportunity of taking into custody the leaders of the revolt.

The Sorel detachment, under the superintendance of Colonel Gore, marched at ten o'clock on the night of the 22d, by a back concession road, to avoid the village of Saint Ours, occupied by the rebels, which increased the distance of the march.

The incessant rain, and almost impassable roads, so impeded the progress of the detachment, that he did not reach Saint Denis until half past nine on the morning of the 23d; the rebels on the approach of Her Majesty's troops commenced a heavy fire on them, from all the houses on the north side of the village, some of these were immediately taken by the light company of the 32d regiment, commanded by Captain Markham, but the fire from the howitzer having made little impression for several hours on a large stone building, strongly occupied, and the whole of the companies of the detachment being much exhausted, from the very long and difficult march of the previous night, Colonel Gore considered it necessary to return to Sorel.

Colonel Wetherall, with four companies of the Royal Regiment, and a detachment of the 66th regiment, and two six-pounders, passed the Richelieu by the upper ferry, at Chambly; the bad state of the roads, however, impeded his march, and prevented him proceeding further than Saint Hilaire, at

which place he halted till another company of the Royals joined him; he then advanced on Saint Charles, attacked the rebels, carried an enclosed work, defended by fifteen hundred men, and completely dispersed them.

The advanced period of the season and the constant expectation of the navigation, becoming impracticable, the passage of the river being interrupted, it became necessary to use the utmost exertion, with a view of restoring order in the revolted district.

The troops which have been called to act in the disturbed districts, and to put down this sudden and extensively combined revolt, have had to contend with great difficulties; their communications with head-quarters having been completely interrupted by the armed peasantry assembled on the line of march.

Many of the deluded inhabitants are returning to their homes, and I trust that the affairs which have taken place may be the means of quickly restoring tranquillity to the country.

I am much indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Wetherall, for his active zeal, and judicious conduct on many occasions in which he has been employed at this critical period.

I forward the reports of Colonel Gore and Lieutenant-Colonel Wetherall, which will afford the General Commanding in Chief full information of the proceedings of the detachments under their command, and returns of killed and wounded.

Captain Markham, an intelligent and zealous officer, has received several severe wounds.

I cannot close my dispatch without mentioning the exertions of Captain David and the Montreal Volunteer Corps of Cavalry, who accompanied the troops on the service in which they have been engaged.

I have the honour to be, &c.

J. COLBORNE, Lieut.-Gen.

Major-General the Right Hon. Lord
Fitzroy Somerset, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, Montreal, November 25, 1837.

IN obedience to your commands, I left this garrison with the flank companies of the 21th regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes, the Light Company of the 32d regiment, commanded by Captain Markham, one howitzer twelve-pounder, under Lieutenant Newcomen, Royal Artillery, and a party of the Montreal Cavalry, under Cornet Sweeney, on board the St. George steamer, at three o'clock P. M. on the 22d instant, on route to Sorel, where I disembarked at six o'clock, and placed the men in the Barrack-square; I directed Captain Crompton to be prepared to march at ten o'clock, when, according to my instructions, I proceeded on the road to St. Denis, on the River Richelieu, which I was directed to carry, and then move on rapidly to assist Lieutenant-Colonel Wetherall, of the Royal Regiment, in his attack on St. Charles.

The roads being deep, the march was severe (although the distance was only eighteen miles), it having rained violently all night, the mud and water reaching to the knees; I did not reach the small

but rapid river which crosses the road four miles and a half from St. Denis, until sometime after daylight; in order to arrive at my destination with as little delay as possible, I took the back road, to avoid the village of St. Ours, and pass the small river by a bridge, higher up than the one by the main road, also for the purpose to take on an intelligent guide, who had volunteered to lead.

After passing the bridge I observed an armed party leaving the lower one, who had been sent to oppose our crossing, and who flanked our line of march, but I did not waste time in dispersing them, but moved on to my point, which was now frequently impeded by the breaking up of the bridges. Several, however, were saved by Cornet Sweeney's detachment of Cavalry, who took two armed peasants, but could gain no positive information as to the intentions of the rebels. On approaching St. Denis, a strong body of armed men, moving along a wood, skirted my left flank; all the houses along the road were deserted, and on nearing St. Denis, I was attacked by skirmishers occupying the houses and barns on the road, and along the banks of the River Richelieu; these were rapidly driven in by Captain Markham to the main entrance. I found the place was strongly occupied, and the entrance defended by a large fortified stone house, and a barricado crossing the road, and flanked from a building and houses, from which a severe fire was commenced. I immediately reinforced the advance with Captains Crompton's, Maitland's, and Harris's companies, and placing the howitzer in a position off the right of the road, at a range of three hundred and fifty-yards, directed Lieutenant Newcomen to fire round shot into it, and batter it down, if possible; on examining the house, I found it too well secured and flanked, and the incessant firing shewed it to be well occupied. The armed force of the rebels, from what I can ascertain, was full fifteen hundred men, but report said nearer three thousand; during these operations the rebels were crossing the Richelieu in large bateaux, from St. Antoine, but I could not spare shot from the fortified house to obstruct their passage; Captain Markham got possession of a house immediately opposite to the fortified house, driving out the occupants at the point of the bayonet, but was almost immediately wounded in three places; the day was now advancing, it was evident that the whole country was in arms, and no important effect was made on the fortified house, and sixty round shot expended, and only six left; and the ground we occupied could hardly have been maintained during the night; it was necessary to come to some decision, either to assault the house so well defended, and flanked by others loop holed, or to fall back, before the bridge in my rear could be broken down. The hazard of a failure under such circumstances, and the jaded condition of the men, frost having succeeded the rain and snow, and their clothes freezing on them, determined me to fall back; and having collected the wounded and placed them in such carts as we had, and the howitzer in the centre; I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes to take the direction of the rear guard, and fell back. I was immediately followed by strong bodies of the rebels in rear and on my right flank, who were checked by the rear guard, and having observed that a strong force had been

detached in the direction of the upper bridge, by which I had passed in the morning. On arriving where the road branched off to the two bridges, I turned to my left to the lower bridge, having ascertained that St. Ours was not fortified, and rid myself of the rebels, who were skirting my right flank. On crossing the bridge the artillery horses gave up altogether, and two of them fell; the infantry went immediately to the gun, and every exertion was made to get it on; the officers' horses and those of the ammunition waggon were put to the gun, but without effect; the wheels clogged with mud were now frozen, and after seven hours of severe toil, and during which Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes never left the gun; the medical officer declared that a half an hour more would freeze the men. The gun was spiked and abandoned. I then moved to St. Ours, where I was in hopes of finding the steam boat Varennes, ordered to meet us with provisions, but she had been attacked by two hundred armed persons, and forced to cut her cable and return.

I passed through the village, and halted at some farm houses, a mile on, to refresh the men, and proceeded, in the morning, at daylight, to Sorel, where I arrived at eleven o'clock in the morning of the 21th. My loss in killed and wounded, by the accompanying returns, is, one officer severely wounded (Captain Markham) and nineteen killed and wounded, and four missing; the loss of the rebels must have been about one hundred, which has since been confirmed. I have not yet received a correct return of the two companies of the 66th regiment, but I do not think they lost more than one or two. I enclose a detailed report from Lieutenant Newcomen, on the loss of the howitzer, who deserves much praise for his conduct.

In this arduous march, and during the whole of the operation, the officers and men displayed the highest courage and steadiness, although exposed to extreme suffering.

I was much indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes, of the 24th Regiment, for the advice and assistance I received from him, and his exertions to extricate the gun; and also to Lieutenant Lysons, of the Royal Regiment attached to the Quarter-Master-General's Department, for his zealous and active conduct; in Captain Markham, of the 32d regiment, who led the advance with great judgment, and was severely wounded, the service will be deprived for some time of a most valuable officer; Surgeon Farndon, of the Royal Regiment, and Assistant-Surgeon MacGrigor, of the 32d regiment, rendered every assistance in their power, and made the best arrangements for the wounded.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CHARLES GORE, Col.

Lieutenant-General Sir John Colborne,
K. C. B. and G. C. H. &c. &c. &c.

Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing.

Killed.

24th Regiment—1 serjeant, 2 rank and file.
32d Regiment—2 rank and file.
66th Regiment—1 rank and file.

Wounded.

24th Regiment—2 rank and file, severely; 2 rank and file, slightly.
32d Regiment Captain Markham, severely, but not dangerously; 3 rank and file, severely; 2 rank and file, slightly.

Missing.

24th Regiment—1 rank and file.
32d Regiment—4 rank and file (1 wounded).

Total.

Killed—1 serjeant, 5 rank and file.
Wounded—1 captain, 9 rank and file.
Missing—6 rank and file.

(Extract.)

SIR, St. Charles, November 27, 1837.

I HAD the honour, yesterday, to report the successful result of my attack on the stockaded post of the rebels at this place.

In my letter of the 25th November, I stated the circumstances which induced me to suspend my march towards Saint Charles, and to order a company from Chambly to my support, and I then said that I should wait at Saint Hilaire for his Excellency's further orders: this dispatch was sent by Doctor Jones, of the Montreal Cavalry, and I hoped for his Excellency's answer during the following night. Not having received it, at nine yesterday morning, I concluded that my messenger had been interrupted, and having learned that the basin, at Chambly, was frozen over, and every probability of a retreat being cut off, should such an event occur, I resolved on the attack.

The march was accomplished without opposition or hindrance, except from the breaking down of the bridges, &c., &c., until I arrived one mile from this place, when the troops were fired at from the left, or opposite bank of the Richelieu, and a man of the Royal Regiment wounded; several rifle shots were also fired from a barn immediately in our front. I burnt the barn.

On arriving at two hundred and fifty yards from the rebel works, I took up a position, hoping that a display of my force would induce some defection among these infatuated people; they, however, opened a heavy fire, which was returned. I then advanced to another position, one hundred yards from the works, but, finding the defenders obstinate, I stormed and carried them, burning every building within the stockade, except that of the Honourable Mr. Debartsch, which, however, is much injured. The affair occupied about one hour. The slaughter on the side of the rebels was great; only sixteen prisoners were then made. I have counted fifty-six bodies, and many more were killed in the buildings and their bodies burnt.

I shall occupy this village until the receipt of his Excellency's orders.

My killed and wounded are as follows:

The Royal Regiment—1 serjeant, 1 rank and file, killed; 3 rank and file severely wounded; 7 rank and file slightly wounded.

66th Regiment—1 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file severely wounded; 1 rank and file slightly wounded.

Total—1 serjeant, 2 rank and file, killed; 10 rank and file severely wounded; 8 rank and file slightly wounded.

Every man and officer behaved nobly yesterday. Major Warde carried the right of the position in good stile, and Captain Glasgow's artillery did good execution, he is a most zealous Officer. Captain David's troop of Montreal cavalry rendered essential service during the charge, and I regret that more are not attached to my force.

My horse was shot under me, and the chargers of Major Warde and Captain David severely wounded, since dead.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. W. WETHERALL, comg.
2d Batt. the Royal Regt.
The Deputy Adjt.-General,
&c. &c. &c. *Montreal.*

(Copy.)

SIR, Chambly, November 28, 1837.

I HAVE the honour to report my return to Chambly this evening, with the troops under my command.

Having received authentic information, at Saint Charles, on Sunday night, that a considerable body of the rebels had assembled near Point Oliviere, under Saniere, for the purpose of cutting off my retreat from Saint Charles, I resolved upon attacking them

in preference to marching on Saint Denis; my march was so delayed by the difficulty of procuring conveyance for the wounded men, that it was too late to proceed when I arrived at Saint Hilaire.

This morning I continued my march, leaving the sick and wounded at Saint Hilaire, in the house of Colonel DeRonville, and a guard of one serjeant and fifteen men, in charge of Doctor Sewell, of the Montreal Cavalry, where I propose that they shall remain until the ice on the river will admit of their being transported in sleighs.

About a mile from Saint Oliviere, the rebels were discovered in a position well adapted to check my progress; they had protected themselves with an abattis, and two contemptible guns mounted on carts, they fled as soon as I formed to attack, relinquishing their guns, which are in my possession; a few shots were exchanged by which two men of the rebels were killed. I burnt a house from which they fired on their retreat. With the exception of a few straggling shot from the opposite side of the Richelieu, I reached this station without further opposition.

I have brought in twenty-five prisoners, and propose marching with them to Montreal, via Saint John's and the Railway, the day after to-morrow, should I not receive counter orders.

The party assembled at St. Denis, have broken up since the affair of Saint Charles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. W. WETHERALL, Lieut.-
Col. the Royal Regiment.

The Deputy Adjt.-General,
Montreal.

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Tuesday, December 26, 1837.

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