



berated from their oppressors, from committing acts of violence at St. Benoit.

The several departments under my orders have at this critical period, by their great exertions, enabled me to assemble the troops promptly.

I have to assure the General Commanding in Chief, that from the time that the rebels appeared in position, no opportunity has been lost in attacking them constantly, as soon as a sufficient force could be collected to march against them, without exposing or leaving unprotected the important stations of Montreal, Chambly, St. John's, and Sorel.

I have received on every occasion, a zealous assistance from the Deputy Adjutant-General Lieutenant-Colonel Eden, and the Deputy Quartermaster-General Colonel Gore, and the officers of my personal staff, and from Captain Foster, Royal Engineers, and Majors Jackson and Macbean, Royal Artillery, and the respective officers.

The Commissary-General has by his able arrangement, greatly facilitated the movement of the troops in this district, and of the reinforcements on the march from New Brunswick.

On my return from the county of the Lake of the Two Mountains, I ordered part of the 24th regiment to proceed in sleighs, to Kingston and Toronto. I find, however, from my reports from Toronto, that the loyal Upper Canadians are fully prepared to defend their institutions, and to ensure the preservation of public peace, without the aid of Her Majesty's troops.

I cannot close this dispatch without mentioning that all the corps of volunteers of Montreal have occasionally taken the duties of this garrison, and thus enabled me to leave the town under their protection.

From the reports and communications from every district, order has been restored.

Montreal Barracks, Lower Canada,
SIR, December 20, 1837

I have the honour to report to your Excellency the course of proceedings of the 1st brigade under my command, consisting of the 32d regiment, commanded by Brevet Major Reid, and the 83d regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable Henry Dundas.

The troops having assembled at St. Martin's on the 13th instant, on the morning of the 14th the 1st brigade took the advance of the troops to be employed under your Excellency against the rebels assembled in force at St. Eustache. We left Saint Martin's at eight A. M., and about eleven o'clock crossed the river, on the ice, without opposition, about half a league below St. Eustache: the light company of the 32d regiment, with two guns, under the command of Major Jackson, Royal Artillery, covering the advance of the troops. On our near approach, the rebels were seen crossing the ice in divisions, to an Island opposite the town, when orders were given by your Excellency for the two guns to open a fire upon them, which had the effect of making them retire back into the town.

The brigade again advanced, in the same order, and the guns took up a position and opened a fire from the church, as I perceived, with my glass, that they appeared to occupy the church in considerable force. The guns still continued to cannonade the church. I then, agreeable to the directions of your Excellency, changed direction to the right with the brigade, the 32d regiment leading, covered by its light company, and followed by the 83d regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable Henry Dundas; with a view of securing the roads and bridges from the opposite side of the town, leading to the Grand Brule Road, where it was supposed that the rebels would eventually make a stand; the troops, at this movement, were within musket shot of the town, and found the greatest

difficulty in their advance, owing to the ruggedness of the ploughed fields, the depth of snow, and the strong fences they had to break through, they exerted themselves for this purpose with the greatest energy; and, having taken possession of the roads and bridges, succeeded in taking a number of prisoners, who were running in great confusion from the town. My object being here accomplished, I left detachments of the 83d to secure these places, and pushed in advance with the whole of the 32d regiment towards the church, and occupied houses close to it on that side of the town. After remaining there some time, firing on the rebels in the church, I found myself obliged to withdraw from that advanced situation, as the regiment was then unavoidably exposed to the fire of our own artillery from the opposite side of the town, as well as that of the rebels, but detached the grenadiers, 1st and 2d companies, to favourable positions, to intercept any of the rebels attempting to escape from the church; and which answered effectually, as, upon the taking of that building, a number of the rebels fell under the fire of part of these companies. On an attack like this upon a town, much remains with the individual superintendance of commanding officers of battalions, and, about this time, the 83d regiment were, by your Excellency's orders, directed to enter the town in another direction, in support of the 2d battalion of the royal regiment; fortunately we experienced no loss, owing to the favourable cover afforded the troops by the number of houses in this neighbourhood; the 32d regiment had only one man severely wounded.

I beg leave to recommend to your notice Brevet Major Reid, who commanded the 32d regiment the greater part of the day, my time being necessarily occupied in command of the brigade. The soldiers conducted themselves with steadiness and coolness, and shewed great forbearance to the captured rebels. The church being soon taken, and the town in possession of the troops under your Excellency, and quartered there for that night, the brigade marched with the remainder of the division the following morning to St. Benoit, a distance of twelve miles from St. Eustache, and meeting no opposition, entered the town, and remained there for that night. On the morning of the 16th, in obedience to your Excellency's orders, I marched to St. Scholastique, with two guns, under the command of Captain Howell, Royal Artillery, and the 32d regiment. On my approach to the town I was met by the inhabitants of it with white flags; they surrendered up to me their arms and ammunition. I remained in this village for the night, and marched the following morning to St. Therese, where I halted for the night of the 17th; at this place also a number of arms were surrendered to me by the inhabitants. In the course of the evening I received information that W. H. Scott, of St. Eustache, one of the rebel chiefs, was concealed in a farm-house about five miles from the village.

I immediately dispatched five of the cavalry who were attached to me in pursuit of him, and I am happy to say they succeeded in taking him prisoner.

The measure of your Excellency, in directing this force to march through this part of the country, appeared to me to have the most beneficial effect in restoring good order and tranquilizing the minds of the people.

On the morning of the 18th I marched to St. Martin's, on my return to Montreal, where I arrived the following day, at one o'clock.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JOHN MAITLAND, Lieut.-Col.
commanding the 32d Regiment,
Col. commanding 1st Brigade.

His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir John Colborne, K. C. B. and G. C. H. Commanding the Forces, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, Montreal-Barracks, Dec. 21, 1837

In obedience to the orders of the Lieutenant-General commanding, I have the honour to report the progress of the brigade under my command, comprised as per margin,* in the operations against St. Eustache and St. Benoit.

The brigade assembled at St. Martin on the 13th instant.

On the following morning, the 14th, Globinsky's Volunteers were detached on the upper road to St. Eustache, the woods bordering on which were occupied by some picquets of the rebels, and which the volunteers drove in or dispersed.

The other troops of the brigade proceeded with the rest of the force by the La Rose-road, crossing the Ottawa on the ice, about three miles below the village of St. Eustache.

At about six or seven hundred yards from Saint Eustache the artillery were found in position, battering the church and adjoining houses.

I was here directed to follow the 1st Brigade, which was making a detour of the village for the purpose of cutting off the retreat of the rebels by the St. Benoit Road; but on arriving opposite the centre of the village, I was directed to enter it, which I did, and having advanced up the main street, occupying the most defensible houses, and meeting with no opposition, I reported the circumstance to the Lieutenant-General, who desired me to detach an officer to bring up the artillery; in executing this duty the officer was driven back by a fire from the church, and the artillery entered the village by the rear, and opened their fire on the church door, at the distance of 280 yards, while some companies of the Royal Regiment and the rifles occupied the houses nearest to the church; after about an hour's firing, and the church doors remaining unforced, a party of the Royal Regiment assaulted the Presbytery, killed some of its defenders, and set it on fire.

The smoke soon enveloped the church, and the remainder of the battalion advanced; a straggling fire opened upon them from the Seigneur's house, forming one face of the square, in which the church stood, and I directed the Grenadiers to carry it, which they did, killing several, taking many prisoners, and setting it on fire.

At the same time part of the battalion, led by Major Gagy, Provincial Assistant Quartermaster-General, and commanded by Major Warde, entered the church by the rear, and drove out and slew its garrison and set the church on fire: 118 prisoners were made in these assaults.

Lieutenant Ormsby's conduct was very conspicuous; Major Gagy was severely wounded, and the Royal Regiment had one man killed, and four wounded; and no other casualty occurred in the brigade.

On the morning of the 15th, Globinsky's corps was left at St. Eustache, in charge of prisoners and the remainder of the brigade, with the force under his Excellency's orders, marched to St. Benoit, where no opposition was offered.

On the 17th the brigade returned to Montreal, bringing with it the prisoners.

I have the honour to be, &c.

G. W. WETHERALL, comd.
2d Batt. the Royal Regt.

The Deputy Quartermaster-General, &c. Montreal.

Return of Killed and Wounded of the Troops under the Command of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir John Colborne, K. C. B. and G. C. H. in the Operation against St. Eustache, on the 14th December 1837.

Montreal, December 20, 1837.

Royal Artillery—1 corporal, 2 privates, wounded. 2d Batt. 1st or Royal Regt.—1 private killed; 4 privates wounded. 32d Regt.—1 private wounded. Total—1 private killed; 1 corporal, 7 privates, wounded. N. B. Major B. C. A. Gagy, Provincial Assistant-Quartermaster-General, was also severely wounded.

JOHN EDEN, Dy. Adj. Gen.

*2d Battalion the Royal Montreal Rifles, Globinsky's Volunteers.