

wounded. Captain Millett had Orders to leave One Company in Fort Trumbull, to detach One to the Redoubt we had taken, and to join the with the other Two Companies. No Time, on my Part, was lost in gaining the Town of New London. We were opposed by a small Body of the Enemy, with One Field Piece, who were so hard pressed, that they were obliged to leave the Piece, which, being Iron, was spiked and left.

As soon as the Enemy were alarmed in the Morning, we could perceive they were busily employed in bending Sails, and endeavouring to get their Privateers and other Ships up Norwich River, out of our Reach; but the Wind being small, and the Tide against them; they were obliged to anchor again. From Information I received, before and after my Landing, I had Reason to believe that Fort Griswold, on Groton Side, was very incomplete; and I was assured, by Friends to Government, after my Landing, that there were only 20 or 30 Men in the Fort, the Inhabitants in general being on Board their Ships, and busy in saving their Property. On taking Possession of Fort Trumbull, I found the Enemy's Ships would escape unless we could possess ourselves of Fort Griswold: I therefore dispatched an Officer to Lieutenant Colonel Eyre, with the Intelligence I had received, and requested him to make an Attack upon the Fort as soon as possible, at which Time I expected the Howitzer was up, and would have been made Use of. On my gaining a Height of Ground in the Rear of New London, from which I had a good Prospect of Fort Griswold, I found it much more formidable than I expected, or than I had formed an Idea from the Information I had before received. I observed, at the same Time, that the Men who had escaped from Fort Trumbull had crossed in Boats, and thrown themselves into Fort Griswold, and a favorable Wind springing up at the same Time, the Enemy's Ships were escaping up the River, notwithstanding the Fire from Fort Trumbull, and a Six-Pounder which I had with me. I immediately dispatched a Boat with an Officer to Lieutenant Colonel Eyre, to countermand my first Order to attack the Fort; but the Officer arrived a few Minutes too late.

Lieutenant Colonel Eyre had sent Captain Beckwith with a Flag to demand a Surrender of the Fort, which was peremptorily refused, and the Attack had commenced. After a most obstinate Defence of near Forty Minutes the Fort was carried by the superior Bravery and Perseverance of the Assaultants. The Attack was judicious and spirited, and reflects the highest Honor on the Officers and Troops engaged, who seemed to vie with each other in being first in Danger. The Troops approached on three Sides of the Work, which was a Square with Flanks, made a Lodgement in the Ditch, and under a heavy Fire, which they kept upon the Works, effected a second Lodgement upon the Fraizing, which was attended with great Difficulty, as only a few Pickets could be forced out or broke in a Place, and was so high that the Soldiers could not ascend without assisting each other. Here the Coolness and Bravery of the Troops were very conspicuous, as the First who ascended the Fraize were obliged to silence a Nine-pounder, which enfiladed the Place on which they stood, until a sufficient Body had collected to enter the Works, which was done with fixed Bayonets through the Embrasures, where they were opposed with great Obstinacy by the Garrison with long Spears. On this Occasion I have to regret the Loss of Major Montgomery, who was killed by a Spear in entering the Enemy's Works; also of Ensign Whillock of the 40th Regiment, who was killed in the Attack. Three other Officers of the same Regiment were wounded: Lieutenant Colonel Eyre, and Three other Officers of the 54th Regiment were also wounded; but I have the Satisfaction to inform your Excellency, that they are all in a fair Way to recover.

Lieutenant Colonel Eyre, who behaved with great Gallantry, having received his Wound near the Works, and Major Montgomery being killed immediately after, the Command devolved on Major

Bromfield, whose Behaviour on this Occasion does him great Honor. Lieutenant Colonel Baskirk, with the New Jersey Volunteers and Artillery, being the second Debarcation, came up soon after the Work was carried, having been retarded by the Roughness of the Country; I am much obliged to this Gentleman for his Exertions, although the Artillery did not arrive in Time.

I have inclosed a Return of the Killed and Wounded, by which your Excellency will observe that our Loss, though very considerable, is very short of the Enemy's, who lost most of their Officers, among whom was their Commander Colonel Ledyard. Eighty-five Men were found dead in Fort Griswold, and Sixty wounded, most of them mortally; their Loss on the opposite Side must have been considerable, but cannot be ascertained. I believe we have about Seventy Prisoners, besides the wounded, who were left paroled.

Ten or Twelve of the Enemy's Ships were burned, among them three or four armed Vessels, and one loaded with Naval Stores; an immense Quantity of European and West-India Goods were found in the Stores, among the former the Cargo of the Hannah, Captain Watson, from London, lately captured by the Enemy; the Whole of which was burnt with the Stores, which proved to contain a large Quantity of Powder unknown to us: The Explosion of the Powder and Change of Wind, soon after the Stores were fired, communicated the Flames to Part of the Town, which was, notwithstanding every Effort to prevent it, unfortunately destroyed.

Upwards of Fifty Pieces of Iron Cannon were destroyed in the different Works, (exclusive of the Guns of the Ships); a particular Return of which I cannot do myself the Honor to transmit to your Excellency at this Time.

A very considerable Magazine of Powder, and Barracks to contain 300 Men, were found in Fort Griswold, which Captain Lemoine of the Royal Artillery had my positive Directions to destroy; an Attempt was made by him, but unfortunately failed; he had my Orders to make a second Attempt; the Reasons why it was not done, Captain Lemoine will have the Honor to explain to your Excellency.

I should be wanting in Justice to the Gentlemen of the Navy, did I omit to acknowledge, that upon this Expedition I have received every possible Aid from them. Captain Bazely has made every Exertion to assist our Operations, and not only gave up his Cabin to the sick and wounded Officers, but furnished them with every Assistance and Refreshment that his Ship afforded.

Lord Dalrymple will have the Honour to deliver my Dispatches. I beg Leave to refer your Excellency to his Lordship for the Particulars of our Operations on the New London Side; I feel myself under great Obligations to him for his Exertions upon the Occasion.

Captain Beckwith, who was extremely serviceable to me, returns with his Lordship; his spirited Conduct in the Attack of Fort Griswold does him great Honor, being one of the first Officers who entered the Works. I beg Leave to refer your Excellency to him for the Particulars of our Operations on that Side, and to say I have the highest Opinion of his Abilities as an Officer.

I am greatly indebted to Captain Stapleton, (who acted as Major of Brigade) for his spirited Conduct and Assistance, in particular on the Attack upon Fort Trumbull, and his Endeavours to prevent plundering, (when the public Stores were burnt) and the Destruction of private Buildings.

The Officers and Troops in general behaved with the greatest Intrepidity and Firmness.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

B. A. R. N. O. L. D.  
*Return of Ordnance, Ammunition, &c. taken in Fort Griswold and its Dependencies, by a Detachment of His Majesty's Troops under the Command of Major-General B. A. R. N. O. L. D.*