

his immediate Command, particularly Lieutenant Gilman, of the 17th Regiment of Foot, of whom he speaks in Terms of high Approbation. I am happy to inform you that the Major-General, who was wounded in the above gallant Defence of the important Quarter under his Command, is perfectly recovered.

This important Defeat of the Enemy assures the Tranquility of Jeremie, and particularly as it is certain Rigaud, the Chief of the Blacks to the Southward, has decidedly declared against Santhonax and the Republic, and has caused almost all the White People in his Power to be massacred..

*Government House, Jeremie House,
September 3, 1796.*

S I R,

FROM the Intelligence you will probably have received from other Quarters, you will not be surprized to hear of the Posts on the Extremities of this Dependency, both East and West, being attacked in Force on the same Day. On the 8th of August I ordered Lieutenant Bradshaw, with Twenty-two of the 13th Light Dragoons, mounted, to march for Du Centre; and Captain Whitby, Two Subalterns, and Sixty Privates of the 17th Light Dragoons, with Non-commissioned Officers in Proportion, embarked the same Evening for Caymites, from whence they arrived, without any Accident, at Du Centre and Raimond, which was a fortunate Circumstance, as the next Day, the 11th, the Enemy appeared before Post Raimond, and, after keeping a very heavy Fire on the Block House, with little Effect, they attempted to storm it in considerable Force Four different Times, and were each Time repulsed with great Loss, and their Chief killed. In this Business only One British and Two Chasseurs were wounded. On Captain Whitby's Arrival at Du Centre he detached Lieutenant Gilman, of the 17th Light Dragoons, with Twenty Men, to Post Raimond, who immediately placed himself in the Block House with his Detachment and a larger Party of Chasseurs. On the 12th the Enemy still continued before the Block House, which is situated on a small Height about One Hundred Yards from the Fort, keeping up a Fire with Musquetry with as little Effect as before, when Lieutenant Gilman made a successful Sortie with the whole of the 17th, and some Chasseurs, driving the Enemy before him into the Woods, who left Sixteen Whites and Forty-seven Blacks dead on the Spot, and many dead and wounded were afterwards found in the Woods and Road leading over the Mountains to Aux Cayes. Some Four-Pound Shot, a Two-Pounder mounted, several Firelocks, and other Articles, were left by the Enemy in their Retreat. I am happy to report, that in this gallant Affair the 17th Regiment had only Two Privates wounded. The Chasseurs had One Officer, Captain Dutoya, and Three Chasseurs killed, and Fourteen wounded. It is supposed the Loss of the Enemy must have been very considerable indeed, as from every Account of Spies and Deserters, above Forty Whites are among the Killed and those dead of their Wounds and found in the Woods, which I can easily conceive, as the Assault of the Block House was made by about Two Hundred Whites, formerly Soldiers in the Regiment of Berwick, assisted by the Brigands.

Captain Whitby reports, that the Honor of the British Service was never more ably maintained than in the Engagement at Post Raimond, and expresses himself highly grateful to Lieutenant Gilman and the Soldiers of the 17th, as well as those of the Colonial Corps, for their active Exertions in so bravely checking the Enemy in the Attempt on this Post.

Indeed Lieutenant Gilman's Intrepidity and cool Conduct on this Occasion appear to me so praiseworthy, that I should not do Justice to him or my own Feelings on this Occasion, if I did not strongly recommend him to you, Sir, for Promotion.

I am also happy to have it in my Power to report that the Enemy has been under the Necessity of raising the Siege of Irois, before which they lay Eighteen Days. On the 11th Ultimo General Rigaud, with Three or Four Thousand Brigands, appeared before it, and sent a Summons to Captain Beamish to surrender the Fort to the Republic of France. Captain Beamish very properly answered, he should defend it to the last Extremity. The Enemy had in the Night landed a Sixteen-Pounder and a Mortar, which, with incredible Labour, they got up, and opened on the Fort the next Day, within about Four Hundred and Fifty Yards. The Moment I heard Irois was invested I ordered One Hundred Privates, Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers in Proportion, with Lieutenant-Colonel Hooke of the 17th, to embark for that Place, where they arrived safe. Lieutenant-Colonel Hooke took the Command of the Fort and Troops, in which Station he has rendered very meritorious Services.

Finding the Enemy had advanced a considerable Force between Irois and L'Ance Eros, which shut up by Land the Communication with Jeremie, I determined, with what Force I could collect, to attack them on the Morne Gautier. On my Arrival at L'Ance Eros, the 16th, a Plan was agreed upon to march in Three Columns on the 19th, so as to arrive before Morne Gautier at Day-Break. Observing on my Approach that a few Men of the 17th Dragoons were killed and wounded, and that firing at a Distance answered no Purpose, I determined to attempt to carry the Hill by Assault, had formed the 17th Dragoons for that Purpose, ordered the 13th to dismount, and was endeavouring to rally the Negroes, who had been thrown into some Confusion, when I received a Shot in my Left Breast, which caused me to fall from my Horse: Afterwards I knew nothing of what passed, except by Report; and I was sorry to hear that we were under the Necessity of retreating, with the Loss of the Three-Pounder we had with us.

Fortunately this little Check did not affect the Safety of the Fort; on the contrary the Enemy, who must have suffered more than ourselves, evacuated Gautier, and retired the next Day to Rigaud, on the other Side of Irois; and on the 29th Lieutenant-Colonel Hooke wrote me, he had raised the Siege entirely: So that, Sir, I may now congratulate you on this Dependency being wholly freed from the Enemy, and on your having it in your Power to acquaint His Majesty's Ministers, that he has been beaten and failed in every Quarter of this Island under your Command.

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