

ble we did not arrive off Oswego until noon the following day. The ships lay to within long gun shot of the battery, and the gun boats under Captain Collier, were sent close in for the purpose of inducing the enemy to show his fire, and particularly the number and position of his guns; this service was performed in a most gallant manner, the boats taking a position within point blank shot of the fort, which returned the fire from four guns, one of them heavy. The enemy did not appear to have any guns mounted on the town side of the river.

Having sufficiently reconnoitred the place, arrangements were made for its attack, which, it was decided should take place at eight o'clock that evening, but at sun-set a very heavy squall blowing directly on the shore, obliged the squadron to get under weigh, and prevented our return until the next morning; when the following disposition was made of the troops and squadron by Commodore Sir James Yeo and myself. The Princess Charlotte, Wolfe and Royal George to engage the batteries, as close as the depth of water would admit of their approaching the shore; the Sir Sidney Smith schooner to scour the town, and keep in check a large body of Militia who might attempt to pass over into the fort; the Moira and Melville brigs to tow the boats with the troops, and then cover their landing by scouring the woods on the low point towards the foot of the hill by which it was intended to advance to the assault of the fort.

Captain O'Connor had the direction of the boats and gun boats destined to land the troops, which consisted of the flank companies of De Watteville's regiment, the company of the Glengarry light infantry, and the 2d battalion of the Royal Marines, being all that could be landed at one embarkation. The four battalion companies of the regiment of Watteville, and the detachment of artillery remaining in reserve on board the Princess Charlotte and Sir Sidney Smith schooner.

As soon as every thing was ready, the ships opened their fire, and the boats pushed for the point of disembarkation, in the most regular order. The landing was effected under a heavy fire from the fort, as well as from a considerable body of the enemy drawn up on the brow of the hill and in the woods. The immediate command of the troops was entrusted to Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer, of the regiment De Watteville, of whose gallant, cool and judicious conduct, as well as of the distinguished bravery, steadiness and discipline of every officer and soldier composing this small force, I was a witness, having, with Commodore Sir James Yeo, the Deputy Adjutant-General, and the officers of my staff, landed with the troops. I refer your Excellency to Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's letter, inclosed, for an account of the operations. The place was gained in ten minutes from the moment the troops advanced. The fort being every where almost open, the whole of the garrison, consisting of the 3d battalion of artillery, about 400 strong, and some hundred militia, effected their escape, with the exception of about 60 men, half of them severely wounded.

I inclose a return of our loss, amongst which I have to regret that of Captain Holtaway, of the Royal Marines. Your Excellency will lament to observe in the list the name of that gallant, judi-

icious and excellent officer Captain Mulcaster, of the Royal Navy, who landed at the head of two hundred volunteers, seamen from the fleet, and received a severe and dangerous wound, when within a few yards of the guns, which he was advancing to storm, which I fear will deprive the squadron of his valuable assistance for some time at least.

In noticing the co-operation of the naval branch of the service, I have the highest satisfaction in assuring your Excellency that I have, throughout this, as well as on every other occasion, experienced the most zealous, cordial and able support from Sir James Yeo. It will be for him to do justice to the merits of those under his command; but I may nevertheless be permitted to observe, that nothing could exceed the coolness and gallantry in action, or the unwearied exertions on shore, of the Captains, officers and crews of the whole squadron.

I inclose a memorandum of the captured articles that have been brought away, in which your Excellency will perceive with satisfaction seven heavy guns, that were intended for the enemy's new ship. Three thirty-two pounders were sunk by the enemy in the river, as well as a large quantity of cordage and other naval stores. The loss to them, therefore, has been very great; and I am sanguine in believing that, by this blow, they have been deprived of the means of completing the armament, and particularly the equipment of the large man of war—an object of the greatest importance.

Every object of the expedition having been effected, and the captured stores embarked, the troops returned, in the most perfect order, on board their respective ships at four o'clock this morning, when the squadron immediately sailed, the barracks in the town, as well as those in the fort, having been previously burnt, together with the platforms, bridge, &c. and the works in every other respect dismantled and destroyed, as far as was practicable.

I cannot close this dispatch without offering to your Excellency's notice the admirable and judicious manner in which Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer formed the troops, and led them to the attack, the cool and gallant conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm, at the head of the 2d battalion Royal Marines; the intrepidity of Captain De Bersey, of the regiment De Watteville, who commanded the advance; the zeal and energy of Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, Inspecting Field Officer, who, with Major Smelt, of the 103d regiment, had obtained a passage on board the squadron to Niagara, and volunteered their services on the occasion; the gallantry of Captain M'Millan, of the Glengarry Light Infantry, who covered the left flank of the troops in the advance; and the activity and judgment of Captain Cruttenden, Royal Artillery; Brevet-Major De Courten, of the regiment De Watteville; Lieutenant Stevens, of the rocket company; Lieutenant Gossett, Royal Engineers; each in their respective situations.

Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm has reported in high terms the conduct of Lieutenant Lawrie, of the Royal Marines, who was at the head of the first men who entered the fort, and I had an opportunity of witnessing the bravery of Lieutenant Hewett, of that corps, who climbed the flag staff, and pulled down the American ensign which was nailed to it.