

I expected to have found occupying this position; I found it almost in the occupation of the enemy, whose columns were within six hundred yards of the top of the hill, and the surrounding woods filled with his light troops. The advance of Major-General Riall's division, consisting of the Glengarry Light Infantry and Incorporated Militia, having commenced their retreat upon Fort George, I countermanded these corps, and formed the 89th regiment and the Royal Scots detachments and 41st light companies in the rear of the hill, their left resting on the great road; my two twenty-four pounder brass field guns a little advanced in front of the centre on the summit of the hill; the Glengarry Light Infantry on the right, the battalion of Incorporated Militia and the detachment of the King's Regiment on the left of the great road; the squadron 19th Light Dragoons in the rear of the left on the road. I had scarcely completed this formation, when the whole front was warmly and closely engaged. The enemy's principal efforts were directed against our left and centre. After repeated attacks, the troops on the left were partially forced back, and the enemy gained a momentary possession of the road. This gave him, however, no material advantage, as the troops which had been forced back formed in rear of the 89th regiment, fronting the road, and securing the flank. It was during this short interval that Major-General Riall, having received a severe wound, was intercepted as he was passing to the rear, by a party of the enemy's cavalry, and made prisoner. In the centre, the repeated and determined attacks of the enemy were met by the 89th regiment, the detachments of the Royals and King's, and the light company 41st regiment, with the most perfect steadiness and intrepid gallantry, and the enemy was constantly repulsed with very heavy loss. Of so determined a manner were these attacks directed against our guns, that our artillerymen were bayoneted by the enemy in the act of loading, and the muzzles of the enemy's guns were advanced within a few yards of ours. The darkness of the night, during this extraordinary conflict, occasioned several uncommon incidents: our troops having for a moment been pushed back, some of our guns remained for a few minutes in the enemy's hands; they were, however, not only quickly recovered, but the two pieces, a six-pounder and a five and half inch howitzer, which the enemy had brought up, were captured by us, together with several tumbrils, and in limbering up our guns at one period, one of the enemy's six-pounders was put, by mistake, upon a limber of ours, and one of our six-pounders limbered on one of his; by which means the pieces were exchanged; and thus, though we captured two of his guns, yet, as he obtained one of ours, we have gained only one gun.

About nine o'clock (the action having commenced at six) there was a short intermission of firing, during which it appears the enemy was employed in bringing up the whole of his remaining force, and he shortly afterwards renewed his attack with fresh troops, but was every where repulsed with equal gallantry and success. About this period the remainder of Major-General Riall's division, which had been ordered to retire on the advance of the enemy, consisting of the 103d

regiment, under Colonel Scott; the head-quarter division of the Royal Scots; the head-quarter division of the 8th or King's; flank companies 104th. Some detachments of militia, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, Inspecting Field-Officer, joined the troops engaged, and I placed them in a second line, with the exception of the Royal Scots, and flank companies 104th, with which I prolonged my front line on the right, where I was apprehensive of the enemy's outflanking me. The enemy's efforts to carry the hill were continued until about midnight, when he had suffered so severely from the superior steadiness and discipline of His Majesty's troops, that he gave up the contest and retreated with great precipitation to his camp beyond the Chippawa. On the following day he abandoned his camp, threw the greatest part of his baggage, camp equipage and provisions, into the Rapids; and having set fire to Street's-Mills and destroyed the bridge at Chippawa, continued his retreat in great disorder towards Fort Erie. My light troops, cavalry, and Indians are detached in pursuit, and to harass his retreat, which I doubt not he will continue until he reaches his own shore.

The loss sustained by the enemy in this severe action, cannot be estimated at less than fifteen hundred men, including several hundreds of prisoners left in our hands; his two commanding Generals Brown and Scott, are said to be wounded, his whole force, which has never been rated at less than five thousand having been engaged. Enclosed I have the honour to transmit a return of our loss, which has been very considerable. The number of troops under my command did not for the first three hours exceed sixteen hundred men; the addition of the troops under Colonel Scott, did not increase it to more than two thousand eight hundred of every description.

A very difficult but at the same time a most gratifying duty remains, that of endeavouring to do justice to the merits of the officers and soldiers by whose valour and discipline this important success has been obtained. I was very early in the action, deprived of the services of Major-General Riall, who, I regret to learn, has suffered the amputation of his arm\* in the enemy's possession: his bravery, zeal, and activity have always been conspicuous.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, Deputy Adjutant-General, I am so deeply indebted for his valuable assistance previous to, as well as his able and energetic exertions during this severe contest, that I feel myself called upon to point your Excellency's attention to the distinguished merits of this highly deserving officer, whose services have been particularly conspicuous in every affair that has taken place since his arrival in this province. The zeal and intelligence displayed by Major-Glegg, Assistant Adjutant-General, deserve my warmest approbation. I much regret the loss of a very intelligent and promising young officer, Lieutenant Moorsom 104th regiment, Deputy Assistant-Adjutant-General, who was killed towards the close of the action. The active exertions of Captain Elliot, Deputy Assistant-Quarter-Master-General, of whose gallantry and conduct I had occasion, on two for-

\* It has been since ascertained that Major-General Riall, though severely wounded has not lost his arm.