

neral's command. A copy of Major-General De Watteville's report, and the return of killed, wounded, and missing on the occasion, are annexed; and although in this affair we have suffered a considerable loss, it will be satisfactory to your Lordship to learn that Lieutenant-General Drummond represents the conduct and spirit displayed by the officers and men engaged, as deserving of his highest commendation.

*Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Drummond to Lieutenant-General Sir G. Prevost, Bart. dated Camp before Fort Erie, September 19, 1814.*

MY letter to your Excellency of the 17th, gave a short account of the result of an attack made by the enemy on my batteries and position on that day. I have now the honour to transmit a copy of Major-General De Watteville's report, together with a return of killed, wounded, and missing on that occasion.

To the information which your Excellency will derive from those documents, I have to add, that as soon as the firing was heard I proceeded towards the advance, and found the troops had moved from camp, and the Royals and 89th had been pushed by Major-General De Watteville into the wood on the right towards No. 3 battery, and that the 82d was moving to the support of the batteries on the left. At this moment it was reported to me that the enemy had gained possession of batteries No. 2 and 3, and that our troops were falling back; a report which the approach of the fire confirmed (your Excellency will have in recollection that the whole line of operations lay in a thick wood); I immediately directed Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell to detach one wing of the 6th regiment to support the 82d, in an attack which I ordered to be made for the recovery of battery No. 2. I directed Major-General De Watteville to superintend this movement; Major-General Stovin took the direction of the troops and guns left in reserve. I threw forward the Glengarry light infantry into the wood in front of the centre, to check the advance of the enemy and support the troops retiring from that point; both these movements were executed to my entire satisfaction, and being combined with a judicious attack made by Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, with part of the 1st brigade, consisting of the 1st battalion of the Royal Scots, supported by the 89th; the enemy was every where driven back, and our batteries and entrenchments regained, not however before he had disabled the guns in No. 3 battery and exploded its magazine. The enemy did not again attempt to make a stand, but retreated in great disorder to the fort, and was followed by our troops to the glacis of the place.

To Major-General De Watteville's report I must refer your Excellency for the cause of the enemy's success in the first instance, viz. the overwhelming number of the enemy, to which we had only the King's and De Watteville's regiments to oppose. The spirit which the troops displayed in all the subsequent operations, deserves the highest commendations, and entitles them to my warmest approbation. I have only to regret that the scene of

action (a thick wood) was so unfavourable to the display of the valuable qualities which are inherent in British troops. The charge made by the 82d regiment, under Major Proctor, and detachment of the 6th, under Major Taylor, led to the recovery of the battery No. 2, and very much decided the precipitate retrograde movement made by the enemy from the different points of our position, of which he had gained a short possession.

Major-General De Watteville reports most favourably of the steadiness evinced by the 1st battalion Royal Scots, under Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon (commanding 1st brigade), and the remains of the 2d battalion, 89th, under Captain Basden. I myself witnessed the good order and spirit with which the Glengarry light infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, pushed into the wood, and by their superior fire drove back the enemy's light troops. Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, Inspecting Field-Officer, accompanied this part of his demi-brigade, and I am sorry to say received a severe, though I hope not a dangerous wound. To Major-General De Watteville, who commanded in camp, and by whom the first directions were given and arrangements made, I am under great obligations for the judgment displayed by him, and for his zeal and exertions during the action. My acknowledgements are also due to Major-General Stovin, who arrived at my head-quarters a few hours before the attack, for the assistance I received from him. I cannot sufficiently appreciate the valuable assistance which I have received from Colonel Myers, Deputy Quarter-Master-General, and Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, Deputy Adjutant-General, during the present service, and which have been of the more importance as, from my own state of health of late (in consequence of my wound), I have not been able to use those active exertions which I otherwise might. I avail myself of this opportunity of again expressing my sincere concern at the loss which this division of the army sustained, by the accident which deprived it of the services of Major-General Conran, from whose energy and ability much was justly to be expected.

To Major Gleg, Assistant Adjutant-General, and to Captains Chambers and Powell, Deputy Assistants Quarter-Master-General; to Captain Foster Military Secretary; Lieutenant-Colonel Hagerman, Provincial Aide-de-Camp; and to Lieutenant Nesfield, 89th regiment, Acting Aide-de-Camp; who have rendered me every assistance in their respective situations, my best acknowledgments are due; they are likewise due to Major D'Alton, Brigade-Major with the right division, for his uniform correctness, zeal and attention to his duty.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, of the 6th regiment, I am also much indebted, as well in his capacity of commanding officer of that excellent corps, as in that of senior officer of the reserve of this division. Colonel Fischer, of De Watteville's regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Ogilvie, of the King's, are entitled to my thanks. The zeal and exertions of Major Phillof, commanding royal artillery; Captains Walker and Sabine, and the officers and men of that corps, have been unremitting, and merit every commendation. I have reason to be pleased with the activity and zeal