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Lieutenant-Colonel Armistead's report to the Secretary of War

".....On the night of Saturday the 10th instant, the British fleet, consisting of ships of the line, heavy frigates and bomb-vessels, numbering in all thirty sail, appeared at the mouth of the river Patapsco, with every indication of an attempt on the city of Baltimore. My own force consisted of one company of U. S. Artillery under Captain Frederick Evans, and two companies of Sea Fencibles, under Captains M. S. Bunbury and Wm. H. Addison. Of these three companies, thirty-five men were, unfortunately, on the sick list and unfit for duty. I have been furnished with two companies of volunteer artillery from the city of Baltimore, under Captain John Berry (Washington Artillery), and Captain Charles Pennington (Baltimore Independent Artillerists). To these I must add another very fine company of volunteer artillerists, under Judge J. H. Nicholson (Baltimore Fencibles), who had proffered their services to aid in the defence of this post whenever an attack might be apprehended; also a detachment from Commodore Barney's Flotilla, under Lieutenant Rodman. Brigadier-General Winder had also furnished me with about six hundred infantry, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart and Major Lane, consisting of detachments from the 12th, 14th, 36th, and 38th regiments of U. S. troops----the total amounting to one thousand effective men.

On Monday morning early it was perceived that the enemy was landing troops on the east side of the Patapsco, distant about

ten miles. During that day and the ensuing night he had brought sixteen ships (including five bomb-ships) within about two miles and a half of the fort. I had arranged my force as follows: The regular artillerists under Captain Evans, and the volunteers under Captain Nicholson, manned the bastions in the star fort. Captains Bunbury's, Rodman's, Addison's, Berry's and Pennington's commands were stationed in the lower works, and the infantry under Lieutenant-Colonel Steuart and Major Lane were in the outer ditch, to meet the enemy at his landing should he attempt one.

On Tuesday morning, about sunrise, the enemy commenced the attack from his five bomb-vessels, at the distance of about two miles, when, finding that his shells reached us, he anchored and kept up an incessant and well-directed bombardment. We immediately opened our batteries, and kept a brisk fire from our guns and mortars, but unfortunately our shot and shells all fell considerably short of him. This was to me a most distressing circumstance, as it left us exposed to a constant and tremendous shower of shells, without the most remote possibility of our doing him the slightest injury. It affords me the highest gratification to state that although we were left thus exposed, and thus inactive, not a man shrunk from the conflict.

About two o'clock p. m., one of the 24-pounders on the southwest bastion, under the immediate command of Captain Nicholson, was dismounted by a shell, the explosion of which killed his second-lieutenant, and wounded several of his men; the bustle necessarily produced in removing the wounded and remounting the gun probably induced the enemy to suspect that we were in a state of confusion, as he brought in three of his bomb-ships to what I believed to be a good striking

distance. I immediately ordered a fire to be opened, which was obeyed with alacrity through the whole garrison, and in half hour those intruders again sheltered themselves by withdrawing beyond our reach. We gave three cheers and again ceased firing. The enemy continued throwing shells, with one or two slight intermissions, till one o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, when it was discovered that he had availed himself of the darkness of the night, and had thrown a considerable force above to our right; they had approached very near to Fort Covington, when they began to throw rockets, intending, I presume, to give them an opportunity of examining the shores, as I have since understood they had detached 1250 picked men, with scaling ladders, for the purpose of storming the fort. We once more had an opportunity of opening our batteries, and kept up a continued blaze for nearly two hours, which had the effect again to drive them off.

In justice to Lieutenant Newcomb, of the U.S. Navy, who commanded at Fort Covington, with a detachment of sailors, and Lieutenant Webster, of the flotilla, who commanded the six-gun battery near that fort, I ought to state that during this time they kept up an animated, and I believe a very destructive fire, to which, I am persuaded, we are much indebted in repulsing the enemy. One of his sunken barges has since been found with two dead men in it--- others have been seen floating in the river. The only means we had of directing our guns was by the blaze of the rockets and flashes of their guns. Had they ventured to the same situation in the day time, not a man would have escaped.

The bombardment continued, on the part of the enemy,

until seven o'clock on Wednesday morning, when it ceased; and about nine, their ships got under way and stood down the river. During the bombardment, which lasted twenty-five hours (with two slight intermissions), from the best calculations I can make, from fifteen to eighteen hundred shells were thrown by the enemy. A few of these fell short. A large proportion burst over us, throwing their fragments among us and threatening destruction. Many passed over and about four hundred fell within the works. Two public buildings were materially injured, others but slightly. I am happy to inform you (wonderful as it may appear) that our loss amounts to only four men killed and twenty-four wounded. The latter will all recover. Among the killed I have to lament the loss of Lieutenant Claggett, and Sergeant Clemm, both of Captain Nicholson's volunteers, two men whose fate is to be deplored, not only for their personal bravery, but for their high standing, amiable demeanor and spotless integrity in private life. Lieutenant Russel, of the company under Lieutenant Pennington, received early in the attack a severe contusion in the heel; notwithstanding which he remained at his post during the whole of the bombardment."

(From Niles' Register in The Citizen
Soldiers at North Point and Fort
McHenry, p. 77)

Copies of letters from Major General Smith of the Maryland
militia, to the Secretary of War.

H. QUARTERS, HAMPSTEAD-HILL,
Balt., Sept. 14, 1814---10 A.M.

Sir---I have the honor of informing you, that the enemy, after an unsuccessful attempt both by land and water, on this place, appear to be retiring.

We have a force hanging on their rear---I shall give you further particulars in the course of the day.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

(Signed) S. SMITH, Major General Commanding.

P.S. The enemy's vessels in the Patapsco are all under way going down the river. I have good reason to believe that General Ross is mortally wounded.

Honorable James Monroe, acting Secretary of War.

(From Niles' Register in The Citizen Soldiers at North Point and Fort McHenry, p. 77).

HEAD-QUARTERS, Baltimore, 15th September,
1814.

Sir---I have been so incessantly occupied, that it has been impossible for me to convey to you the information respecting the enemy, which it would have been proper for you to have received from me. A detailed statement will be forwarded as soon as it can be made out; in the mean time, I have the pleasure to inform you that the enemy embarked their rear guard about 1 o'clock, and that their ships, a few excepted, are out of the river; their destination unknown.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL SMITH, Major General Com'g.

Colonel James Monroe, Acting Secretary of War.

HEAD-QUARTERS, Baltimore, September 15th, 1814.

Sir---I have the honor to enclose to you, for your disposal, two letters from British officers, received by Dr. McCulloh (garrison surgeon,) whom I had sent to the battle ground to attend our wounded.

I have also the honor to send you enclosed a list of our wounded who were made prisoners, and of the agreement made by Doctor McCulloh respecting them.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant.

SAMUEL SMITH, Major General Com'g.

Colonel James Monroe, acting Secretary of War.

In consequence of the humanity shewn the following American prisoners of war, I do promise upon honor that they shall not directly or indirectly serve against the British until regularly exchanged.

James H. McCulloh, Henry Brice, George Repert, Jacob Noyle, John Robinson, James N. Marriott, Charles Goddard, Walter Muskett, Bryan Allen, George Reintzell, Jacob Hubbard, Benjamin Fleetwood, Thomas Brengman, John Pidgeon, Luther A. Norris, David Davis, William Collings, John Lamb, James Davidson, Wm. Keane, jr., James Gibson, Richard K. Cook, Robert Smith, John Jephson, George Bennett, Conrad Euler.

And I do further engage to get the above twenty-six Americans exchanged as soon as possible for a like number of British left at Bladensburg.

JAMES H. McCULLOH, Jr.,
Garrison Surgeon, U.S. Army.

Copy of a letter from Major Gen. Smith to the Secretary of War,
dated

HEAD-QUARTERS, Baltimore, September 19, 1814.

Sir---In compliance with the promise contained in my letter of the 15th instant, I have now the honor of stating, that the enemy landed between seven and eight thousand men on Monday, the 12th instant, at North Point, fourteen miles distant from this town. Anticipating this debarkation, General Stricker had been detached on Sunday evening with a portion of his brigade on the North Point road. Major Randal, of the Baltimore county militia, having under his command a light corps of riflemen and musketry taken from General Stansbury's brigade and the Pennsylvania volunteers, was detached to the mouth of Bear creek, with orders to co-operate with General Stricker, and to check any landing which the enemy might attempt in that quarter. On Monday, Brigadier General Stricker took a position at the junction of the two roads leading from this place to North Point, having his right flanked by Bear creek, and his left by a marsh. He here awaited the approach of the enemy, having sent on an advanced corps under the command of Major Heath of the 5th regiment. This advance was met by that of the enemy, and after some skirmishing it returned to the line, the main body of the enemy being at a short distance in rear of their advance. Between two and three o'clock, the enemy's whole force came up and commenced the battle by some discharges of rockets, which were succeeded by the cannon from both sides, and soon after the action became general along the line. General Stricker gallantly maintained his ground against a great superiority of numbers during the space of an hour and twenty minutes, when the regiment on his left (the 51st) giving way, he was under the necessity of retiring to the ground in his rear, where he had stationed one regiment as a reserve. He here formed his brigade; but the enemy not thinking it advisable to pursue, he, in compliance with previous arrangements, fell back and took post on the left of my entrenchments, and half a mile in advance of them. In this affair the citizen soldiers of Baltimore,

(From Niles' register in The Citizen Soldiers at North Point and Fort McHenry, pp. 78-81)

(p. 2 of letter from Smith to Monroe, Sept. 19, 1814)

with the exception of the 51st regiment, have maintained the reputation they so deservedly acquired at Bladensburg, and their brave and skilful leader has confirmed the confidence which we had all so justly placed in him. I take the liberty of referring you to his letter for the more particular mention of the individuals who, new to warfare, have shown the coolness and valor of veterans; and who, by their conduct on this occasion, have given their country and their city an assurance of what may be expected from them when their services are again required. I cannot dismiss the subject without expressing the heartfelt satisfaction I experience in thus bearing testimony to the courage and good conduct of my fellow townmen. About the time General Stricker had taken the ground just mentioned, he was joined by Brigadier General Winder, who had been stationed on the west side of the city, but was now ordered to march with General Douglas's brigade of Virginia militia and the United States' Dragoons under Captain Bird, and take post on the left of General Stricker. During these movements, the brigades of Generals Stansbury and Foreman, the seamen and marines under Commodore Rodgers, the Pennsylvania volunteers under Colonels Cobean and Findley, the Baltimore artillery under Colonel Harris, and the Marine artillery under Capt. Stiles, manned the trenches and the batteries---all prepared to receive the enemy. We remained in this situation during the night.

On Tuesday the enemy appeared in front of my entrenchments at the distance of two miles, on the Philadelphia road, from whence he had a full view of our position. He manoeuvred during the morning towards our left, as if with the intention of making a circuitous march and coming down on the Harford or York roads. Generals Winder and Stricker were ordered to adapt their movements to those of the enemy so as to baffle this supposed intention. They executed this order with great skill and judgment by taking an advantageous position, stretching from my left across the country, when the enemy was likely to approach the quarter he seemed to threaten.

(From Niles' Register in The Citizen Soldiers at North Point and Fort M'Henry, pp. 78-81) (p. 3 of letter from Smith to Monroe Sept. 19, 1814)

This movement induced the enemy to concentrate his forces (between one and two o'clock) in my front, pushing his advance to within a mile of us, driving in our videttes and showing an intention of attacking us that evening. I immediately drew Generals Winder and Stricker nearer to the left of my entrenchments and to the right of the enemy, with the intention of their falling on his right or rear should he attack me; or, if declined it, of attacking him in the morning. To this movement and to the strength of my defences, which the enemy had the fairest opportunity of observing, I am induced to attribute his retreat, which was commenced at half past one o'clock on Wednesday morning. In this he was so favored by the extreme darkness and a continued rain, that we did not discover it until day-light. I consented to General Winder's pursuing with the Virginia brigade and the United States Dragoons; at the same time Major Randal was dispatched with his light corps in pursuit on the enemy's right, whilst the whole of the militia cavalry was put in motion for the same object. All the troops were, however, so worn out with continued watching, and with being under arms during three days and nights, exposed the greater part of the time to very inclement weather, that it was found impracticable to do anything more than pick up a few stragglers. The enemy commenced his embarkation that evening, and completed it the next day at one o'clock. It would have been impossible, even had our troops been in a condition to act offensively, to have cut off any part of the enemy's rear guard during the embarkation, as the point where it was effected was defended from our approach by a line of defences extending from Back River to Humphrey's creek on the Patapsco, thrown up by ourselves previous to their arrival.

I have now the pleasure of calling your attention to the brave commander of Fort M'Henry, Major Armistead, and to the operations confided to that quarter. The enemy made his approach by water at the same time that his army was advancing on the land, and commenced a discharge of bombs and rockets at the Fort as soon as he got within range of it. The situation of Major Armis-

(From Niles' Register in The Citizen Soldiers at North Point and Fort McHenry, pp. 78-81) (P. 4 of letter from Smith to Monroe Sept. 19, 1814)

tead was peculiarly trying---the enemy having taken his position at such a distance as to render offensive operations on the part of the Fort entirely fruitless, whilst their bombs and rockets were every moment falling in and about it---the officers and men being at the same time entirely exposed. The vessels, however, had the temerity to approach somewhat nearer---they were as soon compelled to withdraw. During the night, whilst the enemy on land was retreating, and whilst the bombardment was most severe, two or three rocket vessels and barges succeeded in getting up the Ferry Branch; but they were soon compelled to retire, by the Forts in that quarter, commanded by Lieut. Newcomb, of the navy, and Liet. Webster, of the flotilla. These Forts also destroyed one of the barges, with all on board.---The barges and battery at the Lazaretto, under the command of Liet. Rutter of the flotilla, kept up a brisk, and it is believed, a successful fire during the hottest period of the bombardment. Maj. Armistead being seriously ill in consequence of his continued exposure to the weather, has rendered it impossible for him to send in his report. It is not therefore, in my power to do justice to those gallant individuals, who partook with him the danger of a tremendous bombardment, without the ability of retorting, and without that security, which in more regular fortifications is provided for such occasions. The only loss sustained in the Fort is, I understand, about 27 killed and wounded---amongst the former I have to lament the fall of Liets. Claggett and Clemm, who were both estimable citizens and useful officers.

From General Stricker's brigade, the return of the killed and wounded has not yet come in. It is supposed, however, to amount to about 150---among the former, this city has to regret the loss of its representative in the State Legislature, James Lowry Donaldson, Esq., Adjutant of the 27th regiment. This gentleman will ever be remembered by his constituents for his zeal and talents, and by his corps for his bravery and military knowledge.

(From Niles' Register in The Citizen Soldiers at North Point and Fort McHenry, pp. 78-81) (p. 5 of letter from Smith to Monroe Sept. 19, 1814)

I cannot conclude this report without informing you of the great aid I have derived from Commodore Rodgers. He was ever present and ever ready to afford his useful council, and to render his important services. His presence, with that of his gallant officers and seamen, gave confidence to every one.

The enemy's loss in his attempt on Baltimore, amounts, as near as we can ascertain it, to between six or seven hundred killed, wounded and missing---Gen. Ross was certainly killed.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir, your obedient servant,

S. SMITH, Major General Com'g.

Colonel James Monroe, Acting Secretary of War.

No. III.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL WALTER SMITH.

Sir,---In compliance with the request contained in your favor of the 28th ult., inclosing a copy of a resolution of the honorable the House of Representatives of the United States, appointing a committee to investigate the causes which led to the success of the enemy in his late enterprise against this city, I have the honor respectfully to submit for the consideration of the committee the following detailed report as connected with the inquiry, and embracing, as you wish, a view of the numbers, the movements, the conduct, and disposition of the troops of Washington and Georgetown under my command, from the period they were called into service until the 24th of August, the disastrous day of battle at Bladensburg, together with such facts and circumstances relative to the subject as present themselves.

Late at night on the 18th of August, I received orders to call out the whole of the brigade under my command, to rendezvous on the evening of the following day on the banks of the Tiber, in Washington, and to report to General Winder, The troops assembled according to orders, but, being deficient in many essential supplies for actual service, were, after an inspection, dismissed until the ensuing morning, the 20th, when, every exertion on the part of the officers being made to perfect their equipment, they moved off from the Capitol about 3 P.M., crossed the Eastern Branch, and halted four miles therefrom on the road leading to Nottingham. They were here overtaken by the baggage, when it was ascertained there was a great deficiency of necessary camp equipage, the public stores being exhausted; many of the troops were compelled to lie out in the open field; and of the essential article of flints, upon a requisition of one thousand, only two hundred could be had. Means

were immediately adopted to supply the latter defect from private resources; the former was never accomplished. On the following morning, the 21st, the militia companies deficient in numbers were consolidated, and the supernumerary officers detached to bring up delinquents. The force on the ground amounted to about one thousand and seventy, comprised into two regiments, commanded by Colonels Magruder and Brent, and consisting of the following description of troops: two companies of artillery, twelve six-pounders, and two hundred and ten men; two companies of riflemen, nominally, but armed with muskets, the Secretary of War having declined or refused to furnish rifles, one hundred and seventy men; one company of grenadiers, forty men; and five companies of light infantry, about two hundred and fifty men: in all, about six hundred and seventy of volunteers, the residue common militia. Having here done all that could be done for the organization of the troops, and to enable them to move with celerity, they were, according to previous orders from General Winder, put in motion, and after a hot and fatiguing march, encamped that evening after dusk near the Wood Yard. At this place I found the United States 36th regiment, Lieutenant-colonel Scott, about three hundred and fifty strong, and a squadron of cavalry under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Tilghman; the latter soon after moved off to reconnoitre on the different roads between the Wood Yard, Marlborough, and Nottingham. While the troops were occupying the ground, I received a message from General Winder, then at the Wood Yard, requesting an interview at his quarters; after which I returned to camp at 9 o'clock, and again at his request joined him at 12, where Colonel Monroe soon after arrived with the intelligence of the arrival at Nottingham (distant about twelve miles) of the enemy in considerable force, both by land and water. I received orders immediately to return to camp, and hold the troops in readiness to march at the shortest notice, and was instructed by General Winder to direct Lieutenant-colonel Scott, of the 36th United States regiment, to get his men immediately under arms, and to march according to orders previously given him. I reached the camp about 2 o'clock A.M.; the troops

were roused, the tents struck, the baggage-wagons loaded, and the men got immediately under arms, and so remained until sunrise the 22d, when General Winder arrived and directed an advanced corps to be formed and march immediately, to consist of about three hundred men, artillerists and infantry. This was promptly done, and placed under the direction of Major Peter, consisting of his own artillery, Captain Davidson's light infantry, and Captain Stull's rifle corps, armed with muskets. They moved immediately on the road to Nottingham, and were soon after followed by the main body to support them. Major Peter, with the advance corps, moved on for four or five miles, when he fell in with Colonel Laval's cavalry, a part of Colonel Tilghman's, and the 36th United States regiment retiring. The troops were halted, and a position taken to repel the enemy, now rapidly approaching. General Winder here joined our troops, and soon after orders were given to fall back, which was done. The main body had meanwhile arrived at a position within two miles of the advance, where they found the marine corps, under the command of Captain Miller, with five pieces of heavy artillery, judiciously posted.

This position not being deemed favorable for the infantry, they were directed to rest on their arms, while I rode briskly forward to discover one more adapted to them; but none presented, except for light troops, a body of which was thrown in advance into the woods, and the residue of the troops disposed of to act according to circumstances. Here we received advice, about 11 o'clock, of the advance of the enemy and of the retiring of our advance troops, and, immediately after, orders from General Winder to send off the baggage from where it had been left in the morning to the "Long Old Fields," and for the troops to retire slowly upon the same road. About this time successive heavy explosions from the direction of Marlborough announced the destruction of Commodore Barney's flotilla, which was known to be in that vicinity, and also that this course would be adopted should the enemy approach in such force by land or water as to render resistance unavailing. It was hence inferred that the enemy had ascended the

Patuxent in force; that a column of troops had cooperated by taking the road in that direction, which was soon afterward confirmed; and, with the advices subsequently, that the whole of their army had filed off on that road, and taken possession of Marlborough. Our troops halted, and assembled at the fork of the roads on this side of the Wood Yard, one of which leads to Marlborough, the other to this place. We here fell in with Commodore Barney and his sailors, and, after a short rest, the whole moved on, and about 4 P.M. arrived at the Long Old Fields. Here, pursuant to directions from General Winder, I assumed the command of the assembled forces, those of Commodore Barney excepted, consisting now of the following troops, viz.: District volunteers and militia, one thousand seventy; Lieutenant-colonel Scott's 36th United States regiment, three hundred and fifty; Lieutenant-colonel Kramer's battalion of drafted militia, two hundred and forty; and Major Waring's battalion of Prince George's militia, about one hundred and fifty: total, about eighteen hundred men. An encampment was formed for the night, and such positions taken as were best calculated to resist a night attack; the cavalry being already stationed in advance on the different roads leading to Marlborough, with orders to keep patrolling parties constantly upon the enemy's quarters, and to advise of all his movements. The troops, being greatly fatigued, sought in sleep that repose they so much wanted. In this they were disappointed. An alarm gun aroused them about 2 o'clock in the morning of the 23d. They were quickly formed in the front of their encampment, and dispositions made to meet and repel the expected attack; but in a short time it was ascertained to be a false alarm, and the troops were dismissed, but with orders to hold themselves ready for their posts at a moment's warning. At daylight General Winder gave orders to have the tents struck and the baggage-wagons loaded, and that the whole should be ready to move in one hour. Those orders were complied with with all possible expedition. Shortly after the troops were got under arms, and were joined by another small detachment of Prince George's militia, under the command of Major Maynard, about one hundred and fifty. The whole

were held ready to move according to orders. About this time I received directions from General Winder to have formed an advance corps, constructed as the one of the preceding day, and be prepared to move as his subsequent orders should designate. Peter's, Davidson's, and Stull's companies were again selected for this purpose, and formed accordingly. The President of the United States, accompanied by the Secretary of War and others of his cabinet, now came upon the ground, and reviewed the troops. About 10 o'clock General Winder left the camp, accompanied by, and having under his command or direction, several troops of cavalry, intending to reconnoitre on the road leading from Marlborough to Bladensburg, as well as to be situated in a position where he might more conveniently communicate with the troops expected from Baltimore, leaving directions that I should report to him at the Cross Roads, it being the intersection of a road proceeding from the Old Fields, and crossing the before-mentioned road, about five miles distant. His orders were that the advance troops should move forward in the direction of Marlborough, reconnoitre the enemy, approach him as near as possible without running too much risk, and to annoy him either in his position or in his movements by all the means in their power, and that I should remain with the main body at the Old Fields, and act according to the intelligence I should receive of the movements of the enemy. If they moved upon Bladensburg by the road before-mentioned, that I should approach them by the intersecting road from the Old Fields, and attack their left flank, or if upon the road we now occupied, that we should make the best possible dispositions in our power, and receive him there, unless circumstances imperiously forbade; otherwise to retire by a road in our rear to Bladensburg or to Washington, as at the time should seem most advisable. In conformity with this arrangement, Major Peter, with the advance corps and with Captain Caldwell's cavalry, which had joined us, marched about 11 o'clock. About a quarter of a mile in front of our then camp the road forks, both leading to Marlborough, one on the main stage-road, by which the

distance was about eight miles, the other turning to the left, a more direct route, but not so good a road, about six miles. This last-mentioned road was taken by our advancing troops. The commander was instructed to report every hour. The residue of our troops were dismissed to refresh. From this period until 2 o'clock several deserters and prisoners were brought into camp, and I was engaged in examining them when intelligence was received from Major Peter that the enemy had left Marlborough, and were advancing rapidly upon the road which we then occupied in great force; that, according to his estimation of their column, and the best information he could obtain, their force was not less than six thousand men; that he had had a skirmish with them, in which they had endeavored to outflank him, and that he was then retiring before them. A part of Colonel Laval's cavalry, having then joined us, were immediately detached to cover the retreat, and the whole of our troops ordered under arms. Conferring with Commodore Barney on the subject, I proposed making a stand in our then position, with which, with his characteristic gallantry, he promptly acquiesced, professing his willingness to co-operate in any measures that might be deemed most advisable. The troops were immediately formed in order of battle, extending nearly a quarter of a mile on each side of the road; those of Commodore Barney, with his heavy artillery, the marines under Captain Miller, and the 36th United States regiment, being posted on the right of the road; the District troops, and the residue of those attached to them, on the left---our advanced troops, as they arrived, taking their stations in the line, and the artillery, in which it was ascertained we were greatly their superior, and for which the ground was admirably adapted, so posted as to have the best effect; indeed, so strong did we deem our position in front that we were apprehensive that the enemy, upon viewing us, would forbear to assail us by daylight, or that, availing of his numbers, he would endeavor to outflank us. To guard against this last, parties of light troops and cavalry were detached to cover both flanks. We remained thus two or three hours calmly awaiting the approach of the enemy, our vedettes successively announcing his continued

progress. About 5 P.M., General Winder, who had been apprised of the approach of the enemy, arrived in camp. He examined the different positions, and approved of them; but the day being now nearly spent, and it being ascertained that the enemy had not arrived within a distance in which he would now probably be able to make his attack while it lasted, and it being deemed unadvisable to receive a night attack there, when our advantage of artillery would be unavailing, he gave the orders to retire about sunset, and the whole of the troops, much wearied and exhausted, encamped late in the night within this city.

Thus terminated the four days of service of the troops of this District preceding the affair at Bladensburg. They had been under arms, with but little intermission, the whole of the time, both night and day; had traversed, during their different marches in advance and retreat, a considerable tract of country, exposed to the burning heat of a sultry sun by day, and many of them to the cold dews of the night, uncovered. They had, in this period, drawn but two rations, the requisition therefor, in the first instance, having been but partially complied with, and it being afterward almost impossible to procure the means of transportation, the wagons employed by our quartermaster for that purpose being constantly impressed by the government agents for the purpose of removing the public records when the enemy's approach was known, and some of them thus seized while proceeding to take in provisions for the army.

Those hardships and privations could not be but severely distressing to men, the greater part of whom possessed and enjoyed at home the means of comfortable living, and from their usual habits and pursuits in life but ill qualified to endure them. They, however, submitted without murmuring, evincing by their patience, their zeal, and the promptitude with which they obeyed every order, a magnanimity highly honorable to their character. Great as was their merit in this respect, it was no less so in the spirit

manifested whenever an order was given to march to meet the foe; and at the "Long Old Fields," where his attack was momentarily expected in overwhelming force, they displayed, in presence of many spectators, although scarcely any of them had ever been in action, a firmness, a resolution, and an intrepidity which, whatever might have been the result, did honor to their country.

On Wednesday morning, the 24th of August, at 11 A.M., I received orders from General Winder to detach one piece of artillery and one company of infantry to repair to the Eastern Branch Bridge, and there report to Colonel Wadsworth; and to proceed with the residue of the troops to Bladensburg, and take a position to support General Stansbury. This order was put in immediate execution, and the troops for Bladensburg moved off with all the expedition of which they were capable. Having put them in motion, I passed on ahead, in order that I might select my position against their arrival. I found General Stansbury posted on the west side of the Eastern Branch, his right resting on the main road, distant from the bridge at Bladensburg five or six hundred yards, and extending northeastwardly, his left approaching nearer to the creek. An extensive apple-orchard was in his front, and, one hundred to two hundred yards in advance, a work thrown up, commanding the bridge, occupied by a corps of artillerists with five or six pieces, and appeared to be supported by some rifle and light companies. In his rear, on the right, was a thick undergrowth of wood, and directly behind that a deep hollow or ravine, open or cleared, of about sixty yards in width, which the main road crosses. The ravine terminates on the left in a bold acclivity, about two hundred yards from the road; the rest of the ground in his rear was open, unbroken, and gradually ascending fields. Having hastily examined the grounds, and concluded on the dispositions I should make, I apprised General Stansbury of my views as to the troops under my command, suggesting that, if his line should be forced and he could again form on my left, the nature of the ground there would be favorable for a renewal of the action, which might then become general. By this time we re-

ceived advice that the enemy were near Bladensburg, and I left him to hasten the arrival of my troops. They moved rapidly on, notwithstanding the excessive heat of the day, covered with clouds of dust, and were promptly disposed of as follows: Lieutenant-colonel Scott, with the 36th U.S. regiment, was posted in a field on the left of the road, his right resting upon it, and commanding the road descending into the ravine before mentioned, in the rear of General Stansbury's right, and the rest of his line commanding the ascent from the ravine. This position was about one hundred and fifty yards in the rear of the front line, but extending to the right. In the same field, about one hundred yards in the rear of the 1st regiment of District militia, his right also resting upon the road, the left advanced, presenting a front obliquely to the road, and situated to cover and co-operate with the 36th regiment; Major Peter, with his artillery, six six-pounders; Captain Davidson's light infantry, and Captain Stull's rifle corps, armed with muskets, all of the same regiment, were ordered to take possession of the abrupt acclivity before mentioned, terminating the ravine. This was deemed a desirable position, because it commanded completely the ravine and the road crossing it, and a considerable extent of the ground over which the front line would necessarily retire if forced back; but, after a short space of time, report was made to me that broken grounds interrupted the approach to it with artillery but by a circuitous route that would consume much time, and that, in case of retreat, the ground in the rear was such as might endanger the safety of the guns. It was mentioned, at the same time, that near to it was a commanding position for artillery, and easy of access from and to the road. I yielded with reluctance to the abandonment of the position first ordered, but time did not admit of hesitation. Meanwhile I had posted Lieutenant-colonel Kramer, with his battalion of Maryland drafted militia, in the woods on the right of the road, and commanding the ravine which continued in that direction, with orders that, if forced, he should retire, by his right, through a body of woods in that direction, and rally and form with the troops stationed in the rear, on the extreme

right. Upon examining the position taken by Major Peter's battery, it was found that the range of his guns was principally through that part of the field occupied by the 36th regiment. To remove one or the other became necessary, and the difficulty of the ground for moving artillery, and the exigency of the movement, left no alternative. The 36th fell back about one hundred yards, losing, in some measure, the advantage of its elevated ground, and leaving the road. The position of the 1st regiment District militia, from this circumstance, was also necessarily changed. It fell back about the same distance, its right still resting on the road, and now formed nearly in line with the 36th. Of the 2d regiment District militia, two pieces of artillery and one company of riflemen, armed with muskets, were, by directions of General Winder, sent on to the front; with these he flanked the extreme left of the front line; two pieces more of artillery were posted in the road near the bridge at Bladensburg; the residue of that regiment, about three hundred and fifty strong, under the command of Colonel Brent, was formed as a reserve a short distance in the rear of Major Peter's battery, and so disposed as to act on the right, or left, or in front, as occasion might require. Near them was posted, in the same manner, Major Waring's Prince George's battalion of militia, about one hundred and fifty. Colonel William D. Beall, with a regiment of troops from Annapolis, passed through Bladensburg as our troops arrived, and took a position on the right of the road and nearly fronting it, at a distance of about two hundred and fifty yards. Previous to the arrival of the troops on the ground, General Winder came up from the city, and, being made acquainted with the intended dispositions of the troops, as well as the ground reserved for Commodore Barney and the marines, approved of and confirmed them.

About half past twelve o'clock, and while the troops were yet taking their different positions, innumerable rockets, thrown from the heights at Bladensburg, announced the arrival of the enemy

there; and at this period Commodore Barney's sailors and marines, in quick march, arrived, and took possession of the ground previously assigned them, his artillery being posted in and near the road upon its right, commanding the road and open field in front; and his infantry, together with the marines under Captain Miller, extending to the right, thus occupying the interval of ground between Colonel Magruder's 1st regiment District militia and Colonel Beall's Maryland regiment. The firing of artillery in front soon commenced, and immediately after that of musketry, in quick and rapid succession. In a few minutes the whole right and centre of the front line, with some small exceptions, were seen retiring in disorder and confusion. The firing still continued on the extreme left, but shortly after it also broke, and, although it retired in more order, yet none could be rallied so as to renew the action with effect, and also soon entirely quitted the field.

Meanwhile the left of the enemy, in heavy column, passed along the road crossing the ravine. They were here encountered by the troops of Colonel Kramer, posted in the woods on the edge of the ravine. These, after a short conflict, were compelled to retire, which they did principally under cover of the adjacent woods, and formed with the troops of Colonel Beall on the right. The enemy's column now displayed in the field on the right of the road. They here became exposed to the oblique fire of Major Peter's battery, which was kept up with great animation. Still pressing on to the front of our right, they came in contact with the heavy artillery of Commodore Barney, and of the troops posted there. Here the firing became tremendous. They were repulsed, again returned to the charge, succeeded in forcing the troops on the right, and finally carried the position of Commodore Barney.

The dispersion of the front line caused a dangerous opening on our left, of which the enemy in that quarter promptly availed. He advanced rapidly; then, wheeling on his left, soon gained, and was turning our left flank. To oppose this alarming movement, I directed Colonel Brent, with the 2d regiment of District militia,

to take a position still more to the left; and he was proceeding in the execution of this order, when orders came from General Winder for the whole of the troops to retreat. The efforts of the enemy had hitherto been directed principally against the right and left of our whole line of battle. The troops of this District, and a part of those attached to them, occupying positions mostly in the centre, and some of them difficult of access, were consequently but partially engaged, and this principally with light troops and skirmishers, now pressing forward, supported by a column of infantry.

I here beg leave to refer to the reports of Colonels Brent and Thompson, Nos. 1 and 2, showing the positions, and the part taken by their respective commands during the action.

The order to retreat was executed by regiments and corps, as they had been formed, and with as much order as the nature of the ground would permit. The first and second regiments halted and formed, after retreating five or six hundred paces, but were again ordered by General Winder to retire. At this moment I fell in with General Winder, and, after a short conference with him, was directed to move on and collect the troops, and prepare to make a stand on the heights westward of the turnpike gate. This was done as fast as the troops came up. A front was again presented toward the enemy, consisting principally of the troops of this District, a part of those who had been attached to them in the action, and a Virginia regiment of about four hundred men, under Colonel Minor, which met us at this place. While the line was yet forming, I received orders from General Winder to fall back to the Capitol, and there form for battle. I took the liberty of suggesting my impression of the preferable situation we then occupied; but, expecting that he might be joined there by some of the dispersed troops of the front line, he chose to make the stand there. Approaching the Capitol, I halted the troops, and requested his orders as to the formation of the line. We found no auxiliaries

there. He then conferred for a few moments with General Armstrong, who was a short distance from us, and then gave orders that the whole should retreat through Washington and Georgetown. It is impossible to do justice to the anguish evinced by the troops of Washington and Georgetown on the receiving of this order. The idea of leaving their families, their houses, and their homes at the mercy of an enraged enemy was insupportable. To preserve that order which was maintained during the retreat was now no longer practicable. As they retired through Washington and Georgetown, numbers were obtaining and taking leave to visit their homes, and then again rejoining; and with the ranks thus broken and scattered, they halted at night on the heights near Tenleytown, and on the ensuing day assembled at Montgomery Court House.

I have thus, sir, given a detailed, and what will, I apprehend, in many respects, be deemed too minute an account of the short tour of service of the District troops under my command which preceded the capture of this capital. I fear its length may trespass too much on the patience of your honorable committee. I thought it, however, due to the occasion, and conformable to the spirit and purport of your inquiries. I had another object. The troops of Washington and Georgetown have been assailed, in the public prints and elsewhere, with calumnies as unmerited as they are cruel and wanton. They have heard of them with indignant astonishment. Conscious that in no instance have they been wanting in the duty they owed to their country or to themselves, but, on the contrary, in obedience to the call of their government, have with alacrity obeyed its orders, and intrepidly fronted an enemy vastly their superior in force, and never yielded the ground to him but by orders emanating from superior authority, they can not restrain the feelings excited by such manifest, such unprovoked injustice. They have seen with satisfaction the resolution of Congress to inquire into this subject, and, persuaded of the justice and impartiality of your honorable committee, entertain a confident assurance that the result of your investi-

gation will afford relief to their injured feelings. Connected with this subject, I beg leave to refer to a letter of General Winder, No. 3, in answer to an inquiry made of him as to the general conduct of the brigade while under his command.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

W. SMITH,

Brigadier-general 1st Columbian brigade.

Hon. R. M. Johnson.

P.S.---I ought to have mentioned that parts of two companies of the United States 12th and 38th regiments were attached to the 36th regiment, under Lieutenant-colonel Scott. Previous to the march to Bladensburg, eighty men of his command had been stationed near the Eastern Branch Bridge, and did not join until after the action. His force then was less than three hundred men.

W.S.

No. IV.

COLONEL GEORGE MINOR'S STATEMENT

In answer to the several interrogatories made by Colonel R.M. Johnson, chairman of the committee of inquiry into the causes of the destruction of the public buildings in the City of Washington, as hereunto annexed, state as follows, viz.:

On Friday, the 19th of August last, was informed (not officially) of the collecting of the enemy's forces in our waters, namely, the Potomac and Patuxent. Immediately issued orders for the regiment under my command to assemble at Wren's tavern on the Tuesday following, it being the nearest point of the county of Fairfax to the city; and on Sunday, the 21st, received orders, through Brigadier-general Douglas, to repair with a detachment of ninety men, that had been previously placed in detail, to march at a moment's warning, to the aid of General Hungerford, whose head-quarters were in the counties of Westmoreland, King George, or Northumberland; and to make one othe requisition of one hundred and forty men, exclusive of officers, and order them to the aid of General Winder, City of Washington. And on Monday evening, the 22d, received a verbal message from the President, by Mr. John Graham, to hasten on the troops which had been ordered from my regiment, which will more fully appear by said Graham's letter to General Winder, to which I beg leave to refer the committee; and, after informing Mr. Graham the purport of the orders I had received, we both concluded it would be proper for him to return to Washington, and have the orders first alluded to countermanded, so as to justify me in marching with my whole force to the city, which consisted, as well as I can recollect, of six hundred infantry and about one hundred cavalry; and the said Graham returned to Wren's tavern on Tuesday evening, the 23d, with General Winder's orders, written on the same letter to which I have referred the committee, on the receipt of which I took up my line of march immediately, and arrived at the Capitol between sunset and dark,

and immediately made my way to the President and reported my arrival, when he referred me to General Armstrong, to whom I repaired, and informed him as to the strength of the troops, as well as to the want of arms, ammunition, etc., which made it as late as early candle-light, when I was informed by that gentleman the arms, etc., could not be had that night, and directed me to report myself next morning to Colonel Carberry, who would furnish me with arms, etc., which gentleman, from early next morning, I diligently sought for, until a late hour of the forenoon, without being able to find him, and then went in search of General Winder, whom I found near the Eastern Branch, when he gave an order to the armorer for the munitions wanting, with orders to return to the Capitol, there to await further orders.

On my arrival at the armory, found that department in the care of a very young man, who dealt out the stores cautiously, which went greatly to consume time; as, for instance, when flints were once counted by my officers, who showed every disposition to expedite the furnishing the men, the young man had to count them over again before they could be obtained; and at which place I met with Colonel Carberry, who introduced himself to me, and apologized for not being found when I was in search of him, stating he had left town the evening before, and had gone to his seat in the country. After getting the men equipped, I ordered them on to the Capitol, and waited myself to sign the receipts for the munitions furnished; and, on my arrival, was informed by Major Hunter, who commanded in my absence, orders had been given to march to Bladensburg, when we took up our march for that place, and met the retreating army on this side the turnpike gate; and was ordered by one of General Winder's aids to form the line of battle on a height near that place, and was soon after ordered by the general in person to throw back my regiment from that position into sections, and to wait until the retreating army had passed, and cover their retreat; and immediately after sent his aid to direct me to countermarch immediately, and come to the Capitol

After returning there, halted the troops to wait further orders, until General Winder directed me to march them on, without telling me where; of course I marched with the other troops until I came to the Six Buildings, where I took the left-hand road, leading to the foundry, and there occupied the nearest height to that place, and sent the adjutant to find where the general had made his rallying-point, and was informed at Tenleytown, where I marched that evening, and found the troops moving off to encamp at some convenient place on the river road, where I followed on until I saw two barns, where I made to, and rested for the night. Next morning sought for General Winder; met him on the road leading from Tenleytown to where my troops lay, when he ordered me to Montgomery Court House, and from thence to Baltimore.

Given under my hand, City of Washington, 30th of October, 1814.

GEORGE MINOR,
Colonel-commandant 60th regiment Virginia militia.

List of the killed and wounded of the third brigade, at the late engagement at Long Log Lane, September 12, 1814.-----Communicated to the editor of the Register by Major Frailey.

Captain Montgomery's Artillery.

Wounded---Jos. R. Brookes, 2d Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant and 12 privates, one since dead.

5th regiment infantry.

Killed---6 privates.

Wounded---Captain Stewart, Lieutenant Reese, 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals and 40 privates.

27th regiment infantry.

Killed---Adjutant Jas. L. Donaldson and 8 privates.

Wounded---Major Moore, 2 Sergeants, 2 Corporals and 41 privates.

39th regiment infantry.

Killed---3 privates.

Wounded---Captain Quantril, 2 Corporals and 20 privates.

51st regiment infantry.

Killed---3 privates.

Wounded---Ensign Kirby and 3 privates.

Rifle Battallion.

Killed---Lieutenant Andre and 2 privates.

Wounded---2 Sergeants and 5 privates.

RECAPITULATION.

Killed---1 Adjutant, 1 subaltern and 22 privates.

Wounded---1 Major, 2 Captains, 3 subalterns, 12 non.com. officers and privates.---Total 213.

The recapitulation contains the aggregate of prisoners taken by the enemy, excepting those paroled at the meeting house, included in the wounded. I am unable at present to state to what regiment they were attached. As the honorable Colonel Brook has vied with his companions in falsifying an official report, I beg you will favor the public with this account in any form you please. I pledge myself for its correctness.

Yours respectfully,

L. FRAILEY, late Brig. Maj.
3d Brigade M.M.

General Stricker's report to General Smith, dated Sept. 15, 1814.

"Sir: I have the honor to report to you, that, in obedience to your orders, I marched from Baltimore on Sunday the 11th instant, with part of my brigade, as the advance corps of the army under your command....I moved towards North Point by the main road, at 8 o'clock P.M. reached the meeting-house near the head of Bear Creek, seven miles from this city. Here the brigade halted, with the exception of the cavalry, who were pushed forward to Gorsuch's farm three miles in advance, and the riflemen who took post near the blacksmith's shop two miles in advance of our encampment. At seven o'clock on the morning of the 12th, I received information from the advanced videttes that the enemy were debarking troops from under cover of their gun vessels which lay off the bluff of North Point, within the mouth of Patapsco river. I immediately ordered back my baggage under a strong guard, moved forward the 5th and 27th regiments, and my artillery to the head of Long Log Lane, resting the 5th with its right at the head of a branch of Bear Creek, and its left on the main North

Point road, while the 27th was posted on the other side of the road in line with the 5th, its left extending towards a branch of Back river. The artillery I posted directly at the head of the lane in the interval between the 5th and 27th, and the 51st the same distance in rear of the 5th, extending each parallel to the front line. The 6th regiment was thrown back to a position a short distance this side of Cook's tavern, and half a mile in the rear of the second line. My orders were, that the 5th and 27th should receive the enemy, and, if necessary, fall back through the 51st and 39th, and form on the right of the 6th or reserve regiment. The riflemen were ordered to the skirts of a thick low pine wood beyond the blacksmith's shop, with a large sedge field in front, that as the cavalry were still in advance who would inform of the enemy's approach, they might take advantage of the covering of the wood and annoy his advance. I soon learned that the enemy's advance party was moving rapidly up the main road, and as the cavalry continually announced their progress, I flattered myself with the hope that the riflemen would soon proclaim by a galling fire their still nearer approach. Imagine my chagrin when I perceived the whole rifle corps falling back on my main position, having too credulously listened to groundless information that the enemy were landing on Back river to cut them off. My hopes of early annoyance to the enemy being thus frustrated, I threw the riflemen on the right flank of my front line, there-

by, with the addition of a few cavalry, very well securing that flank. My videttes soon brought information that the enemy in small force was enjoying himself at Gorsuch's farm. Insulted at the idea of a small marauding party thus daringly provoking chastisement, several of my officers volunteered their corps to dislodge it. Captain Levering's and Howard's companies from the 5th, about one hundred and fifty in number, under Major Heath of that regiment; Captain Aisquith's and a few other riflemen, in all about seventy; one 4-pounder with ten men under Lieutenant Stiles, and the cavalry, were immediately pushed forward to punish the insolence of the enemy's advance; or, if his main body appeared, to give evidence of my wish for a general engagement. The latter purpose was soon answered; this small volunteer corps had proceeded scarcely half a mile before the main body of the enemy showed itself, which was immediately attacked. The infantry and riflemen maintained a fire of some minutes, and returned with some loss in killed and wounded; the cavalry and artillery, owing to the disadvantageous ground not being able to support him. In this skirmish, Major Heath's horse was killed under him. At half-past two o'clock, the enemy commenced throwing rockets across my left flank, which seemed harmless, and had no other effect than to prepare my line for the sound of artillery, which soon commenced by us on the enemy's right column then pushing across

towards my left, and returned by their 6-pounders and a howitzer upon my left and center. The cannonading was brisk for some minutes, when I ordered my fire to cease until the enemy should get within close range of canister. Seeing that my left flank was the main object of the enemy, I brought up the 39th into line on the left of the 27th, and detached two pieces of artillery to the left of the 39th, still more securely to protect my left flank. Colonel Amey, of the 51st, was ordered to form his regiment at right angles with my line, resting his right near the left of the 39th regiment. The order being badly executed, created for a moment some confusion in that quarter, but was soon rectified by the efforts of my aide-de-camp and brigade majors, who corrected the error of Colonel Amey and posted the 51st in the ordered position. The enemy's right column deployed and advanced upon the 39th and 27th. The 51st, unmindful of my object to use its fire in protection of my left flank in case an attempt should be made to turn it, totally forgetful of the honor of the brigade, and regardless of its own reputation, delivered one random fire and retreated precipitately, and in such confusion, as to render every effort of mine to rally them, ineffective. Some disorder was occasioned in the second battalion of the 39th by the flight of the 51st, and a few gave way. The fire now became general from left to right; my artillery in the center poured forth an incessant volley of canister upon the enemy's left column, who were endeavoring to gain the cover of a small log house, about fifty yards in front of

the 5th, which, however, precaution had been taken to fire, so soon as Captain Sadtler's Yagers from the 5th (who were originally posted therein) should be compelled to leave it. The enemy's line advanced about ten minutes before three o'clock, with a severe fire which was well returned by the artillery, the whole 27th, the 5th, except three companies of Captains Levering, Howard and Sadtler, which were too much exhausted by the advanced skirmish of the two former---and the ordered retreat of the first battalion of the 39th, which maintained its ground in despite of the disgraceful example set by the intended support on the left. The fire was incessant till about fifteen minutes before four o'clock, when, finding that my line, now 1400 strong, was insufficient to withstand the superior numbers of the enemy, and my left flank being exposed by the desertion of the 51st, I was constrained to order a movement back to the reserve regiment, under Colonel M'Donald, which was well posted to receive the retired line, which mostly rallied well. On forming the 6th, the fatigued state of the regiments and corps which had retired, and the probability that my right flank might be turned by a quick movement of the enemy in that direction, induced me, after proper deliberation, to fall back to Worthington's mill; which I was the more persuaded to do, by my desire to have the 6th regiment (whose officers and men were eager to share the dangers of their brother soldiers) perfect and in good order to receive the enemy

on his near approach to the city. All retired as I could wish, and were ready to act as circumstances might require it. In this situation you found the brigade on the morning of the 13th, somewhat fatigued, but with increased confidence in ourselves, and renewing our preparations for the annoyance of the enemy, alone, if deemed proper, or in conjunction with any other force.

I have thought it due to the merits of my brigade, to detail thus fully their whole movement, and I feel a pride in the belief that the stand made on Monday, in no small degree, tended to check the temerity of the foe, daring to invade a country like ours, and designing the destruction of our city, in whose defence some of the best blood of the country has already been spilt, and for whose safety and protection the citizen soldiers of the 3d brigade are ready to suffer every privation, and meet every danger. Should report be true (and I doubt not the fact) that the enemy's commanding officer, Major-General Ross, was killed in this action, and that the enemy suffered in proportion to his superior numbers, I shall feel still more the valuable consequences of our fight.

The conduct of many company officers and privates, was such as I calculated on; that of most of my field officers also merits my particular notice. Major Richard K. Heath, of the 5th, who led on the advance party to bring on the action, behaved as became an officer, the facts of his first horse being killed under him in the first skirmish, his second being badly wounded, and himself receiving a severe contusion on the head, by a musket ball, in the general action, are ample proofs of his bravery and exposure in discharge of his duty. Lieutenant-Colonel Sterett, and Major Barry, of the

5th, gained my highest approbation, and they unite with all in praise of Captain Spangler and his company of volunteers from York, Pa., then attached to their command; also of Adjutant Cheston, who is slightly wounded. Lieutenant-Colonel Long, of the 27th, and his field and company officers did well; this whole regiment was unsurpassed in bravery, resolution and enthusiasm.

My brigade has to bewail the loss of Adjutant James Lowry Donaldson, who fell in the hottest of the fight, bravely discharging the duties of his commission. Lieutenant-Colonel Fowler, and Major Steiger of the 39th did their duty in every respect; they speak highly of Captain Quantril, from Hagerstown, and Captain Metzgar, from Hanover, Pa., Captain Quantril is wounded. Captain John Montgomery, commander of my artillery, gained for himself and his company lasting honor. Captain Aisquith and his company of riflemen merit my thanks. Ensign Wilmot, commanding the company of United Volunteers of the 5th, and many of his men, distinguished themselves. To brigade Majors Calhoun and Frailey, I am under great obligation for the prompt and zealous performance of their duty. To my aide-de-camp, Major George P. Stevenson, too much praise cannot be given, his industry in every arrangement before the fight, and in animating the whole line was conspicuous; his zeal and courage are of the most ardent kind, the sprightliness of his manners in the most trying scenes had the happiest effect upon all to whom he had to communicate my orders; and the precision with which he delivered my commands, could be exceeded only by the coolness with which he always saw them executed. He was animated, brave and useful. Major William B. Barney and Adjutant Lemuel

Taylor of the cavalry, who having no opportunity of distinction in their regiment, owing to the grounds, did me great service, the former aiding Captain Montgomery, the latter in conveying orders through the whole. Mr. Robert Goodloe Harper deserves my thanks. He visited me just before the action; accompanied the advance party, and aided me much throughout. The brave soldiers under my command have suffered many privations, and I recognize among our killed and wounded many valuable men; of which I will make a report in a few days."

(From Smith to Monroe)

Head-Quarters, Baltimore, September 15th, 1814.

Sir---I have the honor to enclose to you, for you disposal, two letters from British officers, received by Dr. McCulloh (garrison surgeon,) whom I had sent to the battle ground to attend our wounded.

I have also the honor to send you enclosed a list of our wounded who were made prisoners, and of the agreement made by doctor McCulloh respecting them.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant,

SAMUEL SMITH, Major General Com'g.

Colonel James Monroe, acting Secretary of War.

(From Smith to Monroe)

Head-Quarters, Baltimore, 15th September, 1814.

Sir---I have been so incessantly occupied, that it has been impossible for me to convey to you the information respecting the enemy, which it would have been proper for you to have received from me. A detailed statement will be forwarded as soon as it can be made out; in the mean time, I have the pleasure to inform you that the enemy embarked their rear guard about 1 o'clock, and that their ships, a few excepted, are out of the river; their destination unknown.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL SMITH, Major General Com'g.

Colonel James Monroe, acting Secretary of War.

Head-Quarters 3d Brigade---Baltimore, Sept. 15, 1814.

Major Gen. S. Smith,

Sir---I have the honor to report to you, that, in obedience to your orders, I marched from Baltimore on Sunday the 11th inst. with part of my brigade, as the advance corps of the army under your command. My force consisted of 550 of the 5th regiment under Lieut. Col. Sterett; 620 of the 6th, under Lieut. Col. M'Donald; 500 of the 27th, under Lieut. Col. Long; 450 of the 39th, under Lieut. Col. Fowler; 700 of the 51st under Lieut. Col. Amey; 150 riflemen under Capt. Dyer; 140 cavalry under Lieut. Col. Biays, and the Union Artillery of 75 men, with six four-pounders, under Capt. Montgomery, making an aggregate of 3185 effective men. I moved towards North Point by the main road, at 8 o'clock P.M. reached the meeting-house near the head of Bear creek, seven miles from this city. Here the brigade halted, with the exception of the cavalry, who were pushed forward to Gorsuch's farm three miles in advance, and the riflemen who took post near the blacksmith's shop two miles in advance of our encampment. At seven o'clock on the morning of the 12th, I received information from the advanced videttes that the enemy were debarking troops from and under cover of their gun vessels which lay off the bluff of North Point, within the mouth of Patapsco river. I immediately ordered back my baggage under a strong guard, moved forward the 5th and 27th regiments, and my artillery to the head of Longlog-lane (socalled) resting the 5th with its right on the head of a branch of Bear creek, and its left on the main North Point road, while the 27th was posed on the other side of the road in line with the 5th, its left extending towards a branch of Back river. The artillery I posted directly at the head of the lane in the interval between the 5th and 27th. The 39th occupied a ground 300 yards in the rear of the 27th, and the 51st the same distance in

rear of the 5th, extending each parallel to the front line. The 6th regiment was thrown back to a position a short distance this side of Cook's tavern, and half a mile in the rear of the second line. My orders were, that the 5th and 27th should receive the enemy, and, if necessary, fall back through the 51st and 39th, and form on the right of the 6th or reserve regiment. The riflemen were ordered to the skirts of a thick low pine wood beyond the blacksmith's shop, with a large sedgefield in front, that as the cavalry were still in advance who would inform of the enemy's approach, they might take advantage of the covering of the wood and annoy his advance. I soon learned that the enemy's advance party was moving rapidly up the main road, and as the cavalry continually announced their progress, I flattered myself with the hope that the riflemen would soon proclaim by a galling fire their still nearer approach. Imagine my chagrin when I perceived the whole rifle corps falling back on my main position, having too credulously listened to groundless information that the enemy were landing on Back river to cut them off. My hopes of early annoyance to the enemy being thus frustrated, I threw the riflemen on the right flank of my front line, thereby, with the addition of a few cavalry, very well securing that flank. My videttes soon brought information that the enemy in small force was enjoying himself at Gorsuch's farm. Insulted at the idea of a small marauding party thus daringly provoking chastisement, several of my officers volunteered their corps to dislodge it. Captains Levering's and Howard's companies from the 5th, about 150 in number, under Major Heath of that regiment; capt. Aisquith's and a few other riflemen, in all about 70; one 4 pounder with 10 men under Lieut. Stiles, and the cavalry, were immediately pushed forward to punish the insolence of the enemy's advance; or, if his main body appeared, to give evidence of my wish for a general engagement. The latter purpose was soon answered; this small volunteer corps had proceeded scarcely half a mile before the main

body of the enemy shewed itself, which was immediately attacked. The infantry and riflemen maintained a fire of some minutes, and retired with some loss in killed and wounded; the cavalry and artillery owing to the disadvantageous ground not being able to support them. In this skirmish, Major Heath's horse was killed under him. At half-past 2 o'clock, the enemy commenced throwing rockets across my left flank, which seemed harmless, and had no other effect than to prepare my line for the sound of the artillery, which soon commenced by us on the enemy's right column then pushing across towards my left, and returned by their six pounders and a howitzer upon my left and centre. The cannonading was brisk for some minutes, when I ordered my fire to cease until the enemy should get within close range of cannister. Seeing that my left flank was the main object of the enemy, I brought up the 39th into line on the left of the 27th, and detached two pieces of artillery to the left of the 39th; still more securely to protect my left flank, Colonel Amey of the 51st was ordered to form his regiment at right angles with my line, resting his right near the left of the 39th regiment. This order being badly executed created for a moment some confusion in that quarter, but was soon rectified by the efforts of my Aid-de-camp and brigade Majors, who corrected the error of Colonel Amey and posted the 51st in its ordered position. The enemy's right column displayed and advanced upon the 39th and 27th. The 51st unmindful of my object to use its fire in protection of my left flank in case an attempt should be made to turn it, totally forgetful of the honor of the brigade, and regardless of its own reputation, delivered one random fire and retreated precipitately, and in such confusion, as to render every effort of mine to rally them ineffective. Some disorder was occasioned in the second battalion of the 39th, by the flight of the 51st, and a few gave way. The fire now became general from left to right; my artillery in the centre poured forth

an incessant volley of cannister upon the enemy's left column, who were endeavoring to gain the cover of a small log house, about 50 yards in front of the 5th; which, however, precaution had been taken to fire, so soon as Captain Sadtler's Yagers from the 5th (who were originally posted therein) should be compelled to leave it. The enemy's line advanced about 10 minutes before 3 o'clock, with a severe fire which was well returned by the artillery, the whole 27th, the 5th except the three companies of Captains Levering, Howard and Sadtler, which were too much exhausted by the advanced skirmish of the two former---and the ordered retreat of the latter to resume their positions in line;--- and from the first battalion of the 39th, woh (sic) maintained its ground in despite of the disgraceful example set by the intended support on the left.---The fire was incessant till about 15 minutes before 4 o'clock, when, finding that my line now 1,400 strong, was insufficient to withstand the superior numbers of the enemy, and my left flank being exposed by the desertion of the 51st, I was constrained to order a movement back to the reserve regiment, under Colonel M'Donald, which was well posted to receive the retired line which mostly rallied well. On forming with the 6th, the fatigued state of the regiments and corps which had retired, and the probability that my right flank might be turned by a quick movement of the enemy in that direction, induced me, after proper deliberation, to fall back to Worthington's mill; which I was the more persuaded to, by my desire to have the 6th regiment (whose officers and men were eager to share the dangers of their brother soldiers) perfect and in good order to receive the enemy on his nearer approach to the city. All retired as I could wish, and were ready to act as circumstances might require it. In this situation you found the brigade on the morning of the 13th, somewhat fatigued, but with increased confidence in ourselves, and renewing our preparation for the annoyance of the enemy alone, if deemed proper, or in conjunction with any other

force.

I have thought it due to the merits of my brigade, to detail thus fully their whole movement, and I feel a pride in the belief that the stand made on Monday in no small degree, tended to check the temerity of the foe, daring to invade a country like ours, and designing the destruction of our city, in whose defence some of the best blood of the country has already been spilt, and for whose safety and protection the citizen soldiers of the 3d brigade are ready to suffer every privation, and meet every danger. Should report be true, (and I doubt not the fact) that the enemy's commanding officer, Major General Ross was killed in this action, and that the enemy suffered in proportion to his superior numbers, I shall feel still more the valuable consequences of our fight.

The conduct of many company officers and privates, was such as I calculated on; that of most of my field officers also merits my particular notice.---Major Richard K. Heath of the 5th, who led on the advance party to bring on the action, behaved as became an officer, the facts of his first horse being killed under him in the first skirmish, his second being badly wounded, and himself receiving a contusion on the head, by a musket ball, in the general action, are ample proofs of his bravery and exposure in discharge of his duty. Lieut. Col. Sterett, and Major Barry of the 5th, gained my highest approbation, and they unite with all in praise of Capt. Spangler and his company of volunteers, from York, Pa. then attached to their command; also of Adjutant Cheston, who is slightly wounded. Lieut. Col. Long of the 27th, and his field and company officers, did well; this whole regiment were unsurpassed in bravery, resolution and enthusiasm.---My brigade has to bewail the loss of Adjutant James Lowery Donaldson, who fell in the hottest of the fight, bravely discharging the duties of his commission. Lieut. Col. Fowler, and Major Steiger of the 39th, did their duty in every respect; they speak highly of the volunteer

companies of Capt. Quantril, from Hagerstown, and Capt. Metzgar, from Hanover, Pa. Capt. Quantril is wounded. Captain John Montgomery, commanding of my artillery, gained for himself and his company lasting honor. Captain Aisquith, and his company of riflemen, merit my thanks. Ensign Wilmot, commanding the company of United Volunteers of the 5th, and many of his men distinguished themselves. To brigade Majors Calhoun and Frailey, I am under great obligations for the prompt, and zealous performance of their duty. To my Aid-de-camp, Major George P. Steyenson, too much praise cannot be given, his industry in every arrangement before the fight, and in animating the whole line, was conspicuous; his zeal and courage are of the most ardent kind, the sprightliness of his manners in the most trying scenes had the happiest effect upon all to whom he had to communicate my orders; and the precision with which he delivered my commands, could be exceeded only by the coolness with which he always saw them executed. He was animated, brave, and useful. Major William B. Barney, and Adju't Lemuel Taylor, of the cavalry, who, having no opportunity of distinction in their regiment owing to the grounds, did me great service, the former in aiding Capt. Montgomery, the latter in conveying my orders through the whole. Mr. Robert Goodloe Harper deserves my thanks. He visited me just before the action; accompanied the advance party, and aided me much throughout. The brave soldiers under my command have suffered many privations, and I recognise among our killed and wounded many valuable men; of whom I will make a report in a few days.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,, (sic)

JOHN STRICKER,
Brig. Gen. Com. 3d brigade, M.M.

DIVISION ORDERS.

Division Head Quarters, New-Church Street,

September 15th, 1814.

Brigadier General Winder congratulates the troops of his command upon the suspension of the severe duties to which they have been exposed for the last four days.

The Garrison of Fort M'Henry under the command of Major Armistead, are entitled to, and receive, the warmest acknowledgments and praise from the Brigadier General for their steady, firm and intrepid deportment during an almost incessant bombardment for twenty-four hours, during which time they were exposed to an incessant shower of shells.

The militia artillery of the 3d brigade under Captains Nicholson and Berry, and Lieutenant Pennington, vied with the regulars in a firmness and composure which would have honored veterans, and prove that they were worthy to co-operate with the regular artillery, infantry and sea fencibles in defence of that important post. Major Armistead receives also the warmest acknowledgments of the Brigadier General Commanding for his able, vigilant and exact arrangements before and during this period of arduous duty, as well as for the uniform zeal, vigor and ability he has discovered in his preparations for the defence of the post immediately committed to his charge, as for the prompt and efficacious manner in which he has complied under great and perplexing difficulties with demands from all quarters for ammunition.

Lieutenant Colonel Steuart and Major Lane, neither of whom were required to expose themselves in this dangerous post, will please accept the Brigadier General's warmest acknowledgments for the handsome and gallant manner in which they volunteered to take command of the regular infantry; who with their officers and men, have evinced the most resolute and steady intrepidity in the midst of imminent and long continued danger.