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The squadron of the United States Light Dragoons under Captain Bird, have proved by the indefatigable and bold manner in which they have constantly kept upon the very lines of the enemy under the fire of his guards and the regular, and exact intelligence which they have constantly given of his situation, that they want nothing but an opportunity to signalize themselves. The bold and intrepid charge which Sergeant Keller, of Captain Bird's company, made upon the rear guard of the retreating enemy with but three dragoons in which he dispersed a guard of 18 fusileers, taking six of them prisoners in despite of their fire and that of a four pounder within half cannister distance which made three discharges at him, deserves the highest approbation, and the skill and dexterity with which he accomplished this bold achievement proves he will be competent to a more considerable command to which the justice of his Government will no doubt advance him.

Brigadier General Douglass with his entire brigade of Virginia militia have evinced during four days of the most active and arduous duties, under the severest privations of rest and refreshment, in constant exposure to the unusual inclemency of the weather for the season, a patience, obedience, and alacrity for the most dangerous duties which cannot be surpassed; and the prompt and eager pursuit in which they yesterday engaged, after the retreating enemy, in the midst of heavy and constant rain after such a series of suffering and fatigue, is the best evidence which can be given that the patriotism which so promptly led them to the field in defence of their country, was bottomed upon a courage which danger and difficulty cannot subdue.

Lieutenant Col. Griffin Taylor with his regiment also of Virginia militia who was left in charge of the defences in part on the Ferry branch, has proved by his judicious arrangements and the zealous manner in which he was supported by his men and officers, that he only wanted an occasion to prove himself and them

the worthy coadjutors of their countrymen.

The enemy has retired from our city and it is to be hoped under such circumstances as will deter him from again attempt it. Those gallant Virginians will have the consolation of believing they have essentially contributed to its safety.

The enemy however has at present only taken refuge in his ships---he still remains in our vicinity and may and probably will return if he knows there is the least relaxation of vigilance or readiness. The Commanding officers of corps and detachments will therefore exert themselves with unremitting diligence to repair the damages of the late fatigue and exposure---to refresh their troops and hold them in readiness for moving at the moment's warning.

By order.

ROBT. G. HITE,

Assistant Adjutant General.

(Copy of a letter from Major Gen. Smith to the Secretary of War)

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 musquetry 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, 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, 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 townsmen. 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. 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 shewing 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 he 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 any thing 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 Armistead 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 Lieut. 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 Lieut. 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 Lieuts. 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.

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.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-Quarters, Baltimore, September 19, 1814.

The enemy having been compelled to retire from before this city, the Major General Commanding takes pleasure in congratulating the troops under his command, upon a relaxation of these severe duties to which they were for some days necessarily exposed. The readiness with which they submitted to privations of every kind was as gratifying to him as the alacrity with which they flew to arms for the protection of the city. He feels a particular pleasure in imparting to every officer and soldier his warm acknowledgments for the zeal they displayed in marching to meet the enemy, whose object by his own declaration is known to be devastation and ruin to every assailable point on the seaboard. It is with peculiar satisfaction the Commanding General seizes this opportunity of acknowledging the very great assistance he has received from the counsel and active exertions of Commodore Rodgers. His exertions and those of his brave officers and seamen, have contributed in a very eminent degree to the safety of the city, and should be remembered with lively emotions of gratitude by every citizen.

The successful defence of Fort M'Henry by Major Armistead of the United States Army having under his command (besides his own corps) three companies of Colonel Harris's regiment of artillery commanded by Captains Berry and Nicholson and Lieut. Pennington and a part of the 36th and 38th regiments of United States Infantry commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Steuart, is beyond all praise. Their gallantry and intrepidity enabled them to defend the Fort against every effort of the enemy, and there is no doubt, that this intrepid officer will be rewarded by the Government. The voluntary services of Major Lane of the 14th regiment of United States Infantry were highly useful and duly appreciated by Major Armistead. Lieutenant Newcomb of the Navy, who commanded Fort Covington and Lieutenant Webster of the flotilla, the city battery,

performed their respective duties to the entire satisfaction of the Commanding General.

To Brigadier General Winder he tenders his thanks for his aid, co-operation and prompt pursuit of the enemy. To Brigadier General Douglass with his brigade, and to Colonel Taylor with his regiment of Virginia militia called into service for the defence of Washington, the Commanding General also makes a tender of his acknowledgments. They have sustained privations with patience, and submitted to a soldier's life with a temper that does them credit. To the officers much praise is due for the discipline they have introduced, for their attention to their men, and prompt obedience to orders.

To Brigadier General Stricker and the 3d brigade of Maryland militia, every praise is due; the city being threatened, it became the duty of the citizens to be foremost in its defence. He claimed the honor, and the brave officers and men under his command hailed with delight the opportunity of meeting the enemy's first attack: he met the enemy and engaged him, and when compelled by superior numbers to retreat, he effected it in order, and rallied on his reserve, and from thence retired to the ground which had been assigned him near the lines. The particulars of the action and the just praise due to each officer, are given by the Brigadier General in his report. He reports the 27th regiment under Colonel Long, as having in a particular manner distinguished itself---he gives due praise to the 5th, under Colonel Sterett, and 39th under Colonel Fowler. He reports that his reserve under Colonel M'Donald merited his approbation, and that the artillery under Captain Montgomery highly distinguished itself. He applauds in terms which are flattering, the conduct of Major Pinckney's battalion of riflemen, the command of which on this occasion having devolved on Captain Dyer. He mentions in

honorable terms the bravery and good conduct of Major Heath of the 5th, who had two horses shot under him, and of Captains Spangler and Metzgar commanding companies from Pennsylvania, and of Captain Quantril with a company from Hagerstown.

The Pennsylvania volunteers without commissions, repaired to the post of danger, chose officers and organized themselves into regiments, performed all the duties of soldiers and have recommended themselves in a particular manner to the attention of the Commanding General. Much praise is also due to Generals Stansbury and Forman. Their men came out principally en masse, and when assembled were to be organized, armed, equipped and disciplined. All this has been effected through their indefatigable exertions. To these gentlemen the Commanding General tenders his sincere thanks. The enthusiasm shown by their men on the approach of the enemy, gave a full assurance that reliance might be placed on them.

The light corps under Major Randall performed in a manner highly honorable the services assigned it, and the Major's conduct evinced a firmness, bravery and talent for a military life.

The excellent discipline and order of the artillery under Colonel Harris, and marine artillery under Captain Stiles, affords a certainty of their good conduct. The regularity which prevails in those corps does them honor and affords an excellent example to others. Fatiguing as were the duties imposed on the United States Cavalry under Captain Bird, and the militia cavalry under Lieutenant Colonels Moor, Biays, Street and Tilghman, and Captain Lee, they were performed with an alacrity and promptness highly honorable to the officers and men. To Captain Thompson of the Flying Artillery and his company, the Commanding General tenders his thanks for their unremitting personal attention as his guard,

their readiness in carrying orders and the various separate duties assigned them, and to Major Barney and Captain Thompson with their corps of observation for the correct information received from them.

The guns at the Lazeretto were well served by Lieutenant Rutter of the Flotilla, whose conduct in the discharge of that, as well as the highly important duty of advanced night guards to the Fort, has met the entire approbation of the Commanding General. To the committee of vigilance and safety he feels himself under particular obligations to acknowledge the many advantages he derived from their exertions in providing the means necessary for defence.

Such as the determined zeal evinced on the part of every brigade and corps under his command, that the Commanding General is impressed with a full conviction, that had the enemy made his attack it would have terminated in his discomfiture and defeat.

By order of Major General S. Smith,

WM. BATES, Assist. Adj. Gen. D.M.M.

No. II.

REPORT OF GENERAL STANSBURY.

Baltimore, November 15, 1814.

By general orders from the War Department of the 20th of April, 1814, Major-general Smith was directed to draft from his division, and hold in readiness to march at a moment's warning, two thousand men, officers included.

By Major-general Smith's division orders of the 29th of April, I was directed to furnish by draft from my brigade, as its quota, one thousand of this requisition, and hold them in readiness to march, at a moment's warning, to Baltimore for its defence. The 1st of May those orders were complied with, agreeably to a detail accompanying said orders.

On the 15th of July Major-general Smith issued division orders requiring the quota from my brigade, the 11th, and that from the 2d and 9th, to march and rendezvous at Baltimore. My orders were issued on the 19th; the troops began to assemble on the 24th, and were encamped about one and a half miles northward of the city, at a place called Camp Fairfield.

On the 21st of July, by Major-general Smith, I was directed to take charge of this brigade, and commenced preparing for their reception. Early in August, General Winder, being vested with the command of the 10th Military District, superseded General Smith in the command.

On Saturday, August the 20th, about 1 o'clock P.M., I received by express letter No. 1, directing me to move down with my whole force for Washington.

By this morning's regimental reports, the force of my brigade, then in camp, appeared as follows:

The first regiment, under Lieutenant-colonel Ragan, officers included, 550; second regiment, under Lieutenant-colonel Shutz, officers also included, fit for duty, 803.

I immediately issued orders for wagons to be procured, provisions served out, tents struck, and every thing prepared to march that evening. But the difficulty of obtaining wagons to transport tents and camp equipage prevented my moving more than that part of the brigade this evening. The residue followed on the morning of the 21st. The advance party encamped at the Stag tavern; the rear three miles short of it, on the evening of the 21st.

About 10 o'clock P.M. I received from General Winder, by express, letter No. 2, dated the 21st, directing me to halt until further orders. August 22d, at 10 o'clock A.M., received from General Winder letter No. 3, dated at the Wood Yard the 21st, 10 o'clock P.M., directing me to advance with all speed to Bladensburg. In consequence thereof, the line of march was taken up immediately, and at 7 o'clock P.M. we arrived at Bladensburg. The first regiment encamped on the hill southeast, the second on the northwest of the town; and on Tuesday morning, the 23d, joined the first regiment on Lowndes' Hill, near Bladensburg. About 10 o'clock A.M. received from General Winder letter No. 4, dated at Headquarters, Battalion Old Fields, August 22d, containing orders to march my brigade (with the troops under Colonel Sterett, if they had joined me) slowly toward Marlborough, and take a position on the road not far from that place, and that he would join me some time that day.

The troops under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Sterett had not joined me, nor was I certain at that time they would arrive. The brigade was instantly put in motion, and the march commenced toward Marlborough, with a view of complying with General Winder's orders. I immediately dispatched my aid-de-camp, Major Woodyear, to General Winder, to communicate all the information which he might require as to my force; to receive particular orders as to the position I should take in the vicinity of Marlborough; and to obtain a knowledge of the country, and of the situation of the enemy. After proceeding about one mile on the road to Marlborough, I met Captain Moses Tabbs riding express to inform me that the enemy, with their whole force, had left Marlborough, and were on their march toward me, distant about six miles. This information made me determine to avail myself of the high grounds I occupied in the morning, to which I immediately returned, and made the necessary preparations to receive the enemy. I directed Captain Tabbs to return and reconnoitre the enemy, and give me every information. About 4 o'clock P.M. he returned, and informed me that the enemy, on leaving Marlborough, had taken a different route. Soon after, my aid-de-camp, Major Woodyear, returned from General Winder, and informed me that the intelligence I had received of the movement of the enemy were in part incorrect, and that General Winder wished me to encamp on the direct road from Bladensburg to Marlborough, at about seven miles distant from the latter place. The assistant adjutant-general, Major Hite, accompanied Major Woodyear.

By letter No. 4 I was first informed that Lieutenant-colonel Sterett's detachment, consisting of the fifth regiment, about five hundred strong; Major Pinkney's rifle battalion, about one hundred and fifty; and Captains Myer's and Magruder's companies of artillery, about one hundred and fifty, were attached to my command. These troops had not joined me, but were on their march. I dispatched an express with this letter to Lieutenant-colonel Sterett as soon as received, requesting him to move on with all possible expedition.

About sunset on the 23d he arrived with his command, and encamped near my brigade. The fatigued situation of his troops induced me to halt for the night on the hill near Bladensburg, with the intention of moving toward Marlborough at reveille on the 24th. At about 8 o'clock P.M., a militia captain, who resided near Bladensburg, came into camp, attended by one of my sentinels, and informed me he was from General Winder's camp at the Battalion Old Fields; that General Winder was not in camp when he left it, and that it was apprehended he had been taken prisoner, as he had gone out to reconnoitre the enemy and had not returned; that a detachment from the army had skirmished that day with the British; and that Brigadier-general Smith, of the District of Columbia, had taken command of the army, and would certainly join me in the course of the night. After 11 o'clock P.M., the Secretary of State, Colonel Monroe, with several gentlemen, came to my tent; and, as well as I can recollect, Colonel Monroe observed that he was from Washington; that he had been at, or heard from the camp of General Winder; that there was an alarming silence with respect to General Winder, who had gone out to reconnoitre the enemy and had not been heard of, and it was feared he was taken; that General Smith had, by persuasion, taken the command, and that they would move toward and join me before morning, he expected, from the Battalion Old Fields, and advised vigilance to prevent surprise. Soon after the departure of Colonel Monroe, the advance pickets, on the road by which we expected the enemy, and which was the direct one from Marlborough, fired, and in a few moments my whole command were under arms and prepared for action. The cavalry, under Colonel Tilghman, who had come into town a little after dark for refreshments, were ordered down the Marlborough road, except Captain Herbert, with his troop, who was directed to push down the road toward the Battalion Old Fields until he should fall in with General Winder's army, which I was confident would join me that night.

The troops were under arms until after 2 o'clock A.M. of the 24th, when, being advised by the cavalry that the enemy were not near, I ordered them to retire to their tents, but to be ready to

turn out at a moment's warning; and strong picket guards were placed on the road in every direction. Supposing my right and rear covered by General Winder's force, I felt no apprehensions of surprise there, and no expectation that the enemy, without first beating General Winder, could approach me either by the Battalion or river road. But about half after 2 o'clock A.M., Major Bates, Assistant Adjutant-general of Militia, came to me from Washington with a message from General Winder informing me that General Winder had retreated from Battalion Old Fields into the City of Washington across the bridge, which he had ordered to be burned; and that the general expected I would resist the enemy as long as possible should he move against me in that direction. Thus was my expectation of security from the Battalion and river roads cut off, my right flank and rear uncovered, and liable to be attacked and turned, without the possibility of securing it in the position I then lay.

I instantly sent for Lieutenant-colonel Sterett of the 5th, Major Pinkney of the rifle corps, and Lieutenant-colonel Ragan, Lieutenant-colonel Shutz being present, officers in whom I placed the highest confidence, and stated to them the information and orders I had just received from General Winder, and our situation with respect to the enemy. They were unanimous in opinion that our situation on that hill could not be defended with the force then under my command, worn down by hunger and fatigue as they were, and that it was indispensably necessary for the security of the army that we should immediately retire across the bridge of Bladensburg, and take a position on the road between Bladensburg and the city which we could defend. Colonel Tilghman, of the cavalry, observed he thought we had no time to lose. In this opinion I perfectly coincided. Orders were instantly given to strike tents and prepare to march, and in about thirty minutes, without noise or confusion, the whole were in motion, and about half past three o'clock in the morning passed the bridge at Bladensburg leading to the City of Washington. Securing our rear from surprise, we halted in the road until the approach of day,

with a view of finding some place where water could be had, in order that the men might cook their provisions and refresh themselves for a few moments. The provisions consisted of salt beef of inferior quality, the flour old and musty. At daylight I moved on to the foot of a hill near a brick-yard, and there ordered the troops to refresh themselves. This was about one and a half miles from Bladensburg.

Early in the morning, I had dispatched Major Woodyear to Washington to inform General Winder of my movements and situation, of the exhausted state of the troops, and the impracticability of their meeting the enemy, in their present fatigued state, with any prospect of success, unless re-enforced. I rode to the top of the hill to examine the country. On my descending it again, a note was presented to me by an express from General Winder, dated at Washington (written, I presume, without a knowledge of my movements), directing me to oppose the enemy as long as I could should he attempt a passage by the way of Bladensburg. This note I have mislaid. I called a council of war, consisting of Lieutenant-colonel Sterett, Lieutenant-colonel Ragan, and Major Pinkney. I had the letter before them. Colonel Sterett observed that he marched from Baltimore with a determination to defend the city; that his men, the day before, by a forced march from the Buck tavern, or Snowden's, reached Bladensburg without halting to cook; that they had been under arms nearly the whole of the night, without any sleep or food; that Major Pinkney's riflemen, and the two companies of artillery, were in the same situation; and that they were so completely worn down and exhausted that he should consider it a sacrifice of both officers and men to seek the enemy at any considerable distance from General Winder's force, as no good could result therefrom. Major Pinkney and Colonel Ragan expressed themselves to the same effect, and, with Colonel Sterett, urged the propriety of moving farther on the road toward the city, with a view of taking a stand on some more favorable ground for defence, with a better prospect of being joined

by the forces under General Winder, and expressed their willingness to give their opinions in writing. I could not but admit the correctness of their views, and ordered the wagons to move on slowly toward the city, intending to follow on with the troops.

At this moment Major Woodyear returned from Washington, with positive orders from General Winder to give the enemy battle at Bladensburg, should he move that way, and that he would join me if necessary.

I immediately ordered the troops to retrace their steps to Bladensburg, determined to maintain, if possible, the ground at all hazards.

On arriving in the orchard near the mill, I directed the artillery to post themselves behind a small breastwork of dirt that lately had been thrown up by Colonel Wadsworth. This battery commanded the pass into Bladensburg and the bridge southwesterly of the town. Our artillery consisted of six six-pounders; Major Pinkney's battalion of riflemen on their right, under cover of the town and bushes, also commanding the pass by the bridge; two companies from Lieutenant-colonel Shutz's regiment, under the command of Captains Ducker and Gorsuch, acting as riflemen, although principally armed with muskets, on the left of the artillery, near, and protected by, the barn, intended to defend the road leading by the mill, on the left of the battery, into the field; Colonel Sterett's regiment was halted in the orchard, on the right and in the rear, and the regiments of Colonels Ragan and Shutz were also halted in the orchard, in the rear and on the left flank, near the creek. My intentions were that they should remain here to refresh themselves as long as possible, and, as soon as the enemy appeared, to form Colonel Sterett's regiment (in whom I placed great confidence) on the right, their left resting on and supporting the right of Major Pinkney's riflemen, in view of the bridge and fronting the road, along which ran a fence, and act as occasion should require. Colonels Ragan's and Shutz's

regiments were to be drawn up in echelon, their right resting on the left of Captains Ducker's and Gorsuch's rifle companies, in order to prevent the enemy from pressing and turning our left, hoping that General Winder would join me before the battle would commence, and occupy the ground in my rear as a second line. About 11 o'clock A.M. I was informed by a dragoon from Lieutenant-colonel Beall that he was on the road from Annapolis to Bladensburg, with about eight hundred men, distant from me about five miles, and wished to know the distance and situation of the enemy. I directed the dragoon to return and inform him that I had that moment received information that the British, with their whole force, were approaching Bladensburg by the river road, and that they were only three and a half miles distant, and advised the colonel to file off to his right and cross above Bladensburg, to fall into an old road which I understood led to our left toward Washington, and take a position on the high grounds north and northwest of Bladensburg, which would completely protect my left by preventing the enemy from outflanking us that way, and force their main body across the bridge, in the face of my artillery and riflemen on the main road, and expose them to the fire of the 5th regiment under Colonel Sterett, who would be protected by the fence.

This advice it appeared Colonel Beall only took in part, I presume from an anxious wish to place himself between the enemy and the city. He sent his baggage off to the right, and with his troops passed the bridge at Bladensburg about thirty minutes before the enemy appeared on Mr. Lowndes' hill, and took his station on the hill, as I was informed, near the brick-kiln where we halted in the morning, about one and a half miles in my rear, and on the left of the road leading to the city. About meridian the enemy could clearly be seen making toward us by the river road.

While I was giving some directions to the artillery, I found Lieutenant-colonels Ragan's and Shutz's regiments had been moved

from the place where I had stationed them, and marched out of the orchard up the hill, and formed in order of battle about two hundred and fifty yards above the orchard, and upward of five hundred yards in the rear of the artillery and riflemen. Thus uncovered by the trees of the orchard, their situation and numbers were clearly seen by the enemy from Lowndes' Hill, and the flanks of the artillery and riflemen unprotected, and laid liable to be turned, our main body being placed too far off to render them any aid. On riding up the hill to know who had ordered this movement, I was informed that General Winder was on the ground. At this time I met with Brigadier-general Smith, of the District of Columbia, and some conversation took place between us respecting the order of battle and seniority; the particulars I do not recollect. I immediately rode to the mill, where I understood General Winder was, and found him reconnoitring the position of the enemy. While in conversation with him, the 5th regiment was taken out of the orchard, marched up the hill, and stationed on the left of Colonel Shutz's regiment, that of Colonel Ragan being on the right, its right resting on the main road; but, as I before observed, the whole at so great a distance from the artillery and riflemen that they had to contend with the whole British force, and so much exposed that it has been a cause of astonishment they preserved their ground so long, and ultimately succeeded in retreating. Whose plan this was I know not; it was not mine, nor did it meet with my approbation; but, finding a superior officer on the ground, I concluded he had ordered it, consequently did not interfere. General Winder asked me where I meant to take my station. I answered, about the centre of my brigade. He said he would take his on the left of the 5th regiment. General Winder was extremely active in giving directions and encouraging the men. I took my station in the centre of Colonels Ragan's and Shutz's regiments, but occasionally rode along the line, encouraging the men, and giving orders to the officers. Major Woodyear I directed to keep with the left of Colonel Shutz's regiment, to cheer up the men and assist the officers. Major Randall rode with me. Soon after, the action commenced by the artillery and riflemen at the battery. The fire of the artillery had great effect, and evidently produced

confusion in the ranks of the enemy, who took shelter behind a warehouse, from whence they fired rockets; but a few well-directed shots drove them from this position. A flanking party, concealed by the banks and bushes, pushed up the river to turn our left, while a strong force attempted the bridge; but the incessant and well-directed fire from our artillery and riflemen at the battery occasioned evident confusion among their ranks, so much so that their officers could be seen actively engaged preventing their retreating, and pushing them on to the bridge; and here I think the enemy suffered considerably. At length they succeeded in passing the bridge in small parties at full speed, which formed after crossing. I had ordered forty horsemen with axes to cut away this bridge before the near approach of the enemy, and saw them with their axes. Why this order was not executed I never could learn. It is certain the enemy could have forded the stream above; but I considered it would, in some degree, impede their progress, and give our artillery and riflemen more time and opportunity to act with effect against them.

The artillery, under the command of Captains Myer and Magruder, and the riflemen, the whole under the command of Major Pinkney, behaved in the most gallant manner (this gallant officer in the course of the action was severely wounded), but the superior force of the enemy, and the rapidity with which he moved compelled them to retire; but one of the pieces was lost, and this was rendered harmless before it was abandoned.

The enemy took every advantage of the cover afforded them by the trees of the orchard, and their light troops from thence kept up a galling fire upon our line. On this party, when advanced nearer, the 5th regiment, under Colonel Sterett, opened a steady and well-directed fire, which was followed by the fire from the right, and ultimately from our centre, when the firing on both sides became general. After a few rounds, the troops on the right began

to break. I rode along the line, and gave orders to the officers to cut down those who attempted to fly, and suffer no man to leave the lines. On arriving at the left of the centre regiment, I found Lieutenant-colonel Shutz's men giving way, and that brave officer, with Major Kemp, aided by my aid-de-camp, Major Wood-year, exerting themselves in rallying and forming them again. Captain Gallaway's company and part of Captains Shower's and Randall's companies were rallied and formed again, and behaved gallantly. The rest of Colonels Shutz's and Ragan's regiments fled in disorder, notwithstanding the extraordinary exertions of their officers to prevent it. On the left I soon after discovered a part of the 5th regiment giving way, and that excellent officer, Lieutenant-colonel Sterett, with those under him, most actively engaged forming them again. Soon after the retreat became general, and all attempts to rally them, and make a second stand, were fruitless. With a body of United States cavalry, I endeavored to protect the rear and right of the retreating men, so as to prevent their falling into the enemy's possession.

The men under my command were worn down and nearly exhausted from long and forced marches, want of food, and watching. They had been, with very little intermission, under arms and marching from the time of their departure from Baltimore, with but little sleep, bad provisions, and but little opportunity to cook. They certainly were not in a condition to go into battle; but my orders were positive, and I was determined to obey them.

Before and during the action, I did not see any of the force I was led to expect would support me. I understood since that they were on their way to my assistance, and I presume exertions were made to bring them up.

Before and during the retreat I heard the thunder of Commodore Barney's artillery, but till then I did not know he was near. I believe there were few, if any other, troops in the field when

the action commenced than the three regiments of infantry under Lieutenant-colonels Sterett, Ragan, and Shutz, Major Pinkney's battalion of riflemen, Captains Myer's and Magruder's companies of artillery, amounting to about 2150 men, exclusive of two regiments of cavalry, who did not act.

General Winder, on the field of battle, displayed all possible zeal, activity, and personal bravery in encouraging the men to fight, and after they broke, in his exertions to rally them.

I saw the President and some of the heads of departments in the field, but did not perceive that any of them took any part in the arrangements made for battle. Colonel Monroe, the then Secretary of State, appeared extremely active in his efforts to aid the officers in the discharge of their duties, and exposed himself to much danger.

To my aid-de-camp, Major Edward G. Woodyear, and my acting Brigade-major, Major Beall Randall, I am much indebted for their unremitting exertions in encouraging the men before and during the action, and the zeal displayed by them in their attempts to keep the ranks unbroken and to rally the men, in which they in some degree succeeded; for the company of Captain Galloway, and part of Shower's and Randall's were rallied, and were among the last troops who left the field, and did not retreat until directed; some of them were killed, and several severely wounded.

On arriving at the city, with part of Colonel Laval's United States cavalry covering the retreat, and collecting the rear of our scattered troops, I found General Winder's command had passed through it toward Georgetown. I proceeded there, and then followed to a village a few miles beyond it, where I overtook him with troops collecting under his command, and some of those of my brigade. The army thence proceeded to Montgomery Court House on the 25th of August, where it was hourly re-enforced by

those who fled from the field.

As there had been no place assigned by the commanding general previous to the action to which the men should retreat in case of a defeat, many of those under my immediate command had fled from the field toward Baltimore.

On the 25th I directed my aid, Major Woodyear, to push on from Montgomery Court House to that place, organize the drafted men, and bring them on to any point that General Winder should direct.

On Friday, August 26, at about 10 o'clock A.M., we took up the line of march from Montgomery Court House on the road leading to Baltimore, with the United States infantry under Lieutenant-colonel Scott; Major Peter's corps of artillery; General Smith's brigade of District troops; the regiment of militia from Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, commanded by Lieutenant-colonels Beall and Hood; some riflemen from Frederick, Alleghany, and other places; a large body of cavalry, and part of my brigade of drafted militia---a force respectable as to numbers and appearance; and that night encamped about half way between Montgomery Court House and Ellicott's upper mills. General Winder, having received some information respecting the enemy indicating intentions of moving against Baltimore, concluded his presence there was indispensable. He set out for that place, leaving me in command of the army, with directions to follow him in the morning. Colonel Monroe was with us.

During this night several expresses arrived from the City of Washington, by whom I was informed of the retreat of the enemy, said to be in such haste and confusion that many of their soldiers were straggling about in every direction; that the main army, after reaching Bladensburg, had taken the road to Marlborough, leaving their wounded. I ordered the cavalry to follow

them, harass their rear, and pick up the stragglers. Reports from Georgetown and the city reached me that the arms of many of the enemy had fallen into the hands of the blacks, and it was apprehended that they would take advantage of the absence of the men to insult the females, and complete the work of destruction commenced by the enemy; and at the earnest solicitation of Brigadier-general Smith and Major Peter, who expressed much anxiety respecting their families, and considering it all-important to prevent further injury to the city, I ordered the troops of the District of Columbia to move thither for its protection.

Having ascertained that the enemy had retreated to their shipping, I ordered the Prince George's troops down to Bladensburg, and those under the command of Lieutenant-colonels Beall and Hood to remain encamped on the ground then occupied until they had orders from General Winder; and in the morning of the 27th, with the United States infantry, my brigade, and part of Colonel Laval's cavalry, marched for Baltimore in a very heavy rain. On my arrival there in the evening I waited on General Winder, and detailed to him what I had done since he left me, with which he appeared well pleased.

Before I conclude, I must observe that Major Pinkney, with most of his battalion, and part of the two companies of artillery, retired from their advanced position to the left of the 5th regiment, and with that regiment continued to behave with that gallantry which had distinguished them in the onset, and only retired when pressed by superior numbers, and then, as I am informed, by orders from the commanding general.

TOBIAS E. STANSBURY.

Hon. R. M. Johnson, Chairman, &c., &c.

DISCHARGE OF THE BALTIMORE MILITIA.

Adjutant General's office, 10th Military District.

Baltimore, 18th Nov., 1814.

General orders. The whole of the 3d Maryland brigade, with the exception of Capt. Thompson's troop, Lieutenant Colonel Harris' regiment artillery and Captain Stiles' corps of marine artillery, will as soon as mustered to-day, consider themselves discharged from the service of the United States.

The Major General in taking leave of this fine body of citizen soldiers, who have done themselves and country so much honor, offers to them the thanks of the United States, for their distinguished services.

To Lieutenant Colonel M'Donald, who has for a short time commanded the brigade, the Major General tender his thanks, personally, for his prompt and strict attention to duty; also to Lieutenant Colonel Sterett, whose attentions to the guard for head quarters, furnished from his handsome regiment, have been highly pleasing.

The regiments and corps discharged will turn over to the military store keeper, the arms, ammunition, accoutrements and knapsacks, which have been received from the United States. The arms received from the state of Maryland will be retained by the troops.

(Signed)

By command,

W. SCOTT.

FRANCIS S. BELTON,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Resolution and preamble read in the Maryland House of Delegates,
on the motion of Mr. Hamilton, on Saturday, December 31, 1814.

"WHEREAS, It has always been considered, not only a generous, but wise policy in all free governments, to evince in the most pointed manner, their high sense of the gallantry and good conduct of such of their citizens as have devoted their time and talents to the public good; and whereas, Col. Philip Reed, did on the thirtieth day of August last, in a masterly and heroic manner, with an inferior force, composed of militia, defeat and repel a marauding party of the enemy in Kent County, killing their leader, Sir Peter Parker, and fourteen of his men, and wounding a number of others, thereby evincing to the enemy and the world, that the arms of freemen, when used in defense of their liberties, their wives, their children, and their firesides, are invincible; and also thereby evincing to his countrymen, that the same statesmen who, in his legislative capacity, of Senator from Maryland, voted against the declaration of war, was the patriot and hero who was amongst the foremost in his military capacity, to step forward and repel an invading foe, when polluting the sovereignty of our soil by their unhallowed tread; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the governor of this state be, and he is hereby requested, to address, in the name of the State of Maryland, a letter to Colonel Philip Reed, of Kent County, expressive of the very high sense entertained of the intrepidity, gallantry, and good conduct of him, and his brave associates, in repelling the enemy in his attack on the militia of Kent County, on the 30th day of August last, and driving him with confusion and loss to his shipping."

In the general distribution of the forces employed in the defence of Baltimore, with the concurrence of the commanding general, I stationed Lieutenant Gamble, first of the Guerriere, with about one hundred seamen, in command of a seven-gun battery, on the line between the roads leading from Philadelphia and Sparrows Point.

Sailing Master De La Zouch, of the Erie, and Midshipman Field, of the Guerriere, with twenty seamen, in command of a two-gun battery, fronting the road leading from Sparrow's Point.

Sailing Master Ramage, of the Guerriere, with twenty seamen, in command of a five-gun battery, to the right of the Sparrow's Point road.

And Midshipman Salter, with twelve seamen, in command of a one-gun battery, a little to the right of Mr. Ramage.

Lieutenant Kuhn, with the detachment of marines belonging to the Guerriere, was posted in the entrenchment between the batteries occupied by Lieutenant Gamble and Sailing Master Ramage.

Lieutenant Newcomb, third of the Guerriere, with eighty seamen, occupied Fort Covington, on the Ferry Branch, a little below Spring Gardens.

Sailing Master Webster, of the flotilla, with fifty seamen of that corps, occupied a six-gun battery on the Ferry Branch known by the name of Babcock.

Lieutenant Frazier, of the flotilla, with forty-five seamen of the same corps, occupied a three-gun battery near the Lazaretto.

And Lieutenant Rutter, the senior officer of the flotilla, in command of all the barges, which were moored at the entrance of the passage between the Lazaretto and Fort McHenry, in the left wing of the water battery, at which was stationed Sailing Master Rodman, and fifty-four seamen of the flotilla."

Charles Oscar Paullin, Commodore John Rodgers, Captain, Commodore, and Senior
Officer of the American Navy 1773-1838. The Arthur H. Clark Company,
Cleveland, Ohio, 1910.

By August twenty-fourth, the British forces under Ross and Cockburn had moved up the Patuxent, had forced Barney to burn his flotilla, and had advanced toward the capital. On the afternoon of that day they defeated the Americans under General Winder and Commodore Barney at Bladensburg, and in the evening entered Washington. Twenty-four hours later, having burnt the Capitol, the Executive Mansion, and the department buildings, they withdrew from the city and returned to the Patuxent. On the twenty-fourth soon after the Americans were defeated at Bladensburg, President Madison, Secretary of the Navy Jones, and several other leading officials of the government fled up the Potomac and for several days remained in hiding.

While Jones was seeking his safety in the countryside, Rodgers, who was temporarily left without orders, found employment in Baltimore, where he arrived on the twenty-fifth. The Baltimoreans were panic stricken, believing that their city was doomed to suffer the fate that had befallen Washington. The opportune arrival of the commodore incited their courage, and the energetic measures of defense that he at once took restored their confidence. Rodgers united his command with Porter's and with that of a small flotilla on the Patapsco, and organized the combined forces, consisting of upwards of a thousand sailors and marines, into a brigade, which he divided into two regiments, placing one under Commodore Porter and the other under Commodore O. H. Perry (the latter being stationed at Baltimore to superintend the construction of the frigate "Java"). He also conferred with General Winder and planned to cooperate with him in defending the city. The commodore's work at Baltimore was his first experience in soldiering. Its comical aspect did not escape him. "If you were to see what a figure I cut with spurs on," he wrote to Mrs. Rodgers, "accompanied by my aides

and gig-men on horseback, you'd split your sides a laughing."

Soon after the return of the secretary of the navy to Washington, the enemy gave the capital a second scare, this time approaching it by way of the Potomac. On August twenty-seventh, a small British squadron, consisting of two frigates and five smaller vessels, under the command of Captain James A. Gordon, reached Fort Washington, a defense twelve miles below the capital on the Potomac. The officer in command of the fort abandoned it without making any resistance, and Gordon proceeded to Alexandria (seven miles from the seat of government), which place, together with twenty-one vessels and a large quantity of stores, fell into his hands on August twenty-ninth. Gordon remained here three days loading his ships with the captured booty. On receiving orders to join his admiral, he set sail down the river, but was detained by adverse winds near Fort Washington.

Gordon's movements greatly alarmed the secretary of the navy, and caused him to take measures for the defense of the capital, fearing that the enemy again had designs on it. On August twenty-ninth, he ordered Rodgers to proceed to Bladensburg from Baltimore with six hundred fifty picked seamen and marines. Already, on the day previous, the commodore had ordered Porter to march to Washington with one hundred seamen, "more with a view to guard the executive than any thing else." Porter arrived at the capital on the thirtieth; and Rodgers, accompanied by Perry, at Bladensburg on the next day. On the afternoon of the thirty-first, the commodore and the secretary of the navy conferred together and agreed on a plan for harassing the retreating enemy. Each of the three commodores was assigned special duties. Porter was to dispute Gordon's

TYPE-ERASE

passage by means of some batteries which he was ordered to erect a few miles below Mount Vernon, on the Virginia side of the Potomac, at a place called White House; Perry was to operate against the enemy from Indian Head, Maryland, some ten miles below White House; and Rodgers was to annoy the retreating fleet in the rear with fire-ships.

It should be said by way of explanation that fire-ships were made by loading old hulls with inflammables, and were designed to set fire to vessels by direct contact with them. Rodgers improvised his means of destruction at the Washington navy-yard. On the morning of September third he proceeded down the Potomac in his gig, closely followed by his miniature fleet consisting of three fire-ships and four barges. The latter were manned by about sixty seamen, armed with muskets. The principal officers accompanying the expedition were Lieutenants Newcomb and Forrest, Sailing-master Ramage, and Master's Mate Stockton. At Alexandria, finding no colors displayed, with the exception of a Swedish ensign on board a schooner, Rodgers ordered the American flag to be hoisted. When within half a mile of the enemy, who was discovered at anchor near Fort Washington, the fire-ships were ignited and set adrift. They floated down stream towards the British fleet. But owing to the failure of the wind and the prompt efforts of the enemy's rowboats, which met the fire-ships and towed them away from the fleet, they did no damage. Several of the rowboats pursued Rodgers's barges and forced them to retreat up the Potomac. On reaching Alexandria, the commodore took possession of the town, and made preparations for its defense by mounting some cannon on the wharf and by organizing a company composed of his sailors and a detachment of Virginia militia. As Gordon had left behind him a considerable quantity of stores ready to be shipped, it was feared that he might return

ENGLIS-A

to the city.

On the fourth, Rodgers ordered Lieutenant Newcomb to proceed down the river with a flotilla, consisting of four barges and a lighter, and attack a bomb-ship of the enemy that lay near Fort Washington. On approaching the bomb-ship, Newcomb discovered that a British frigate was anchored close by, and he was compelled to abandon the expedition. After reconnoitering the British vessels for some time, he took a position on the Maryland side of the river, hauled the barges on shore, anchored the lighter, and stationed the bargemen on a high cliff. At 11 p.m., he was attacked by several of the enemy's boats, and after engaging them for about twenty minutes forced them to retire. On the morning of the fifth the barges again approached the British fleet, which was then retreating down the river, and set adrift another fire-ship; but, as on the previous occasion, the enemy was not harmed and his boats forced the barges to retreat. This incident ended the commodore's operations on the Potomac.

Porter's forces comprised a detachment of sailors and marines and some volunteer companies of militia. For several days his batteries exchanged shots with some of the vessels of the enemy that were in advance of the main fleet. On September fifth, when Gordon, taking advantage of a favorable wind, ran past White House, Porter engaged the enemy for more than an hour before the heavy guns of the two British frigates compelled him to abandon his batteries. Porter lost twenty-nine men, killed or wounded; the loss of Gordon was probably about the same. On the evening of the fifth, Commodore Perry at Indian Head engaged the British ships for an hour, at the end of which time he retired, having one man wounded. The total loss of the enemy during his movement down the Potomac was seven

killed and thirty-five wounded.

While these events were taking place on the Potomac, the fleet under Cochrane was preparing to move up the Chesapeake and attack Baltimore. On September third, Secretary Jones, becoming anxious for the safety of that city, ordered Rodgers to return to it at once, since his immediate presence there was necessary to forward the preparations for its defense and animate its citizens, "who," Jones wrote, "rely with perfect confidence upon the efficiency of your force and upon your individual influence, skill, and industry." A division of the commodore's command left straightway for the Patapsco, and it was soon followed by the remaining divisions and by the detachments of Porter and Perry. The following note taken from the National Intelligencer describes the departure of Porter and his men from the capital on the evening of September sixth: "Fourteen wagons-full of our noble seamen, the first surmounted with the well-known standard of 'Free Trade and Sailors' Rights,' the whole preceded by the Hero of Valparaiso and cheered by their boatswain's whistle, passed through this city on their way to Baltimore Tuesday evening."

On Rodgers's arrival at Baltimore he again assumed command of the seamen and marines that were assembled for the defense of the city, cooperating with General Samuel Smith, the commander of the militia, Mayor George Armistead, the commander of Fort Mchenry, and the Baltimore Committee of Vigilance and Safety. Through the commodore's efforts the channel of the Patapsco on both sides of Fort Mchenry was obstructed by the sinking of old hulks. For a week before the arrival of the British he worked indefatigably, building breastworks, planting batteries,

and drilling seamen. He spent much time on horseback visiting his widely separated commands. His aides were Master's Mate R.F. Stockton, who later became distinguished for his operations on the California coast in the war with Mexico, and a Mr. Allen, a brother of Captain W. H. Allen who was killed in the action between the "Argus" and "Pelican"; and his principal officers were Master-commandant Robert T. Spence, Lieutenants Thomas Gamble, Solomon Rutter, Henry S. Newcomb, Solomon Frazier, and Joseph L. Kuhn (of the marines), and Sailing-masters Webster and Rodman. Porter returned to New York soon after his arrival in Baltimore, and Perry owing to illness did not receive a command.

Rodgers's sailors, though fearless, and eager for a fight, were rather awkward on their land-legs. Each day they were put through a series of military maneuvers, an exercise whose humorous incidents they greatly enjoyed. An observer of one of their drills relates that the commanding officer had much difficulty in preventing his ranks from crinkling into half-moons. In conformity with sea practice, the sailors would reply audibly to their orders. "Attention!" the officer would exclaim. "Aye, aye, sir," came from every man. That the order "to charge" might be understood by his sailors, the officer explained that it was the same as "to board." "Here they were at home. Their eyes glistened. Every fellow gathered up his sinews to his utmost strength and waited with profound silence for the word. It was given, and on they came with fearful impetuosity, every one striving to get foremost. It happened that a horse and cart was in the way. Several of the spectators had retreated behind it. But the sailors came jumping over it like squirrels, and dashing among them, made them fly off at full speed to the great delight of the seamen and amidst peals of laughter from all that were looking on. Never, perhaps, since time began was there a

more efficient body of men than the crew, as seamen. Nor did it appear possible that as sailors they could be better drilled to the business of a ship. But as soldiers, except in courage that knew no fear and a zeal that anticipated no check, they were the queerest and most odd set of fellows that ever were collected together."

Baltimore is most accessible from the Chesapeake by way of either Patapsco Neck or the Patapsco River. Patapsco Neck is a narrow body of land, about fifteen miles long, lying between the Patapsco and Back Rivers. The Patapsco River lies to the southward of the neck, and extends from the city upward the bay in an east-southeasterly direction. The upper part of the river consists of a northern and a southern arm, called, respectively, the Basin and the Ferry Branch. They unite about two miles and a half from the center of the city. On the apex of land formed by their confluence is situated Fort Mchenry, the chief defense of the harbor. In September, 1814, the fort was occupied by about one thousand men, under the command of Major George Armistead, of the United States Artillery. The city of Baltimore lay at the head of the Basin. The principal land defenses, consisting of intrenchments, redoubts, and batteries, were hastily constructed on the hills about a mile to the eastward of the city, and were designed to stop the enemy advancing by way of Patapsco Neck.

The major part of Rodgers's force was stationed on the Patapsco, A fleet of twelve small naval craft, manned by about three hundred sixty men and commanded by Lieutenant Rutter, guarded the entrance to the Basin. East of Fort Mchenry, on the opposite side of the Basin, at a place called the Lazaretto, there was a battery in charge of Lieutenant Frazier.

The water battery of the fort was commanded by Sailing-master Rodman. A mile to the rear of the fort, at the head of the Ferry Branch, were Forts Covington and Babcock, which formed the second line of defense for the harbor. They were commanded, respectively, by Lieutenant Newcomb and Sailing-master Webster. The minor part of Rodgers's force, consisting of about two hundred seamen and marines, manned several batteries on Hampstead or Loudenslager's Hill, to the eastward of the city. It was here that Rodgers had his headquarters. The principal battery, known as Rodgers's Bastion, was in charge of Lieutenant Gamble. Its site is now an historic spot in Patterson Park, Baltimore. The old earthworks are still well preserved, and in recent years they have been given a warlike appearance by mounting on them some ancient cannon.

On September eleventh, the British fleet arrived at the mouth of the Patapsco; and on the morning of the twelfth its commander, Admiral Cochrane, having planned to attack the city simultaneously by land and water, disembarked some four thousand men, under General Ross, at North Point on Patapsco Neck, about fourteen miles from Baltimore. Having advanced about five miles, Ross encountered a division of the American army, numbering some thirty-two hundred men and commanded by General Stricker. A spirited action now took place, which resulted in the defeat of the Americans, though they suffered less than the British. General Ross was killed. His successor, Colonel Arthur Brooke, camped for the night on the battlefield, and on the morning of the thirteenth resumed the march toward Baltimore. Owing to the obstructions placed in the way of the British army by the retreating Americans, it did not come in sight of the city until evening. Forcibly impressed by the formidable defenses that met his view, Brooke decided not to advance until he re-

ceived news from the fleet, which was to support him.

Soon after landing the troops on the morning of the twelfth, Admiral Cochrane sailed up the Patapsco River. At daybreak of the thirteenth, five bomb-ships and a rocket-ship began to bombard Fort Mchenry, having approached about two miles from the fort, and being supported by several frigates and sloops placed in their rear. Armistead and Frazier immediately opened fire upon the enemy; but, finding that their cannon balls fell short, soon ceased firing. In the afternoon four of the bomb-ships came within range, and the Americans resumed their fire and forced them to retire, slightly injuring two of the vessels. All day and all night Cochrane kept up an almost incessant bombardment. He was unable, however, to do much damage to the fort, which lost only twenty-eight men.

At 1 a.m. on the fourteenth the British sent twenty armed boats up the Ferry Branch. As the night was exceedingly dark, about half of them lost their way and had to return. The rest passed by Fort Mchenry without being seen. On nearing the head of the branch, their advance was arrested by Rodgers's sailors at Forts Covington and Babcock. When the enemy's headmost vessel began firing, Lieutenant Newcomb, the commander of Fort Covington, returned the fire, and was soon joined by Fort Babcock. "The darkness prevented our distinguishing his force," Newcomb wrote in his official report of the engagement. (see next page for entire quote)

"The darkness prevented our distinguishing his force," Newcomb wrote in his official report of the engagement. "One bomb-vessel was this side the Point, a schooner about half-way between her and Fort Covington, and the barges (number unknown, throwing twelve, eighteen and twenty-four pound shot) abreast of us. Our fire was directed at the headmost. A few broadsides checked their advance, when they concentrated nearly abreast of us and continued their attack on the batteries. The decided superiority of our fire compelled them to retreat, when they were met by a fire from Fort MclHenry, which, however, from the darkness of the night was soon discontinued."

(Lieutenant Newcomb, commander of Fort
Covington)

One of the enemy's barges was sunk, and several men were killed.

That same morning, the British vessels, having made no impression upon Fort Mchenry and the supporting batteries, discontinued the bombardment, weighed anchor, and stood down the river. On the previous night Cochrane had communicated to Brooke the failure of the fleet and the impossibility of its aiding the army, and the two commanders decided that under these circumstances an attack on the land defenses was not feasible. Brooke therefore returned to North Point with his troops and embarked them on board the vessels of the fleet. In accounting for the failure of his expedition, Cochrane laid much stress upon the barrier of vessels sunk by Rodgers at the mouth of the Basin, saying that, had it not been for these obstructions, he would not have let go an anchor until he had attempted to pass Fort Mchenry and enter the harbor.

During the advance of the enemy, Rodgers, it would seem, remained at Hampstead Hill in close proximity to his batteries there. By means of his aides he communicated with his detachments on the Patapsco. For a time he practically directed the first regiment of Maryland militia, which was formed in column in the rear of his batteries on the hill; and a battalion of Pennsylvania riflemen, under Major Randall, which he ordered on the night of the thirteenth to march to the Lazaretto and dislodge a party of the enemy. Stockton, who accompanied the battalion, reported that the major and his men displayed great zeal and gallantry in the performance of their duties. The commodore in his official letter to the secretary of the navy describing his work at Baltimore wrote in complimentary terms of all his commanding officers, praising especially Newcomb, Webster, Frazier, Rutter, Rodman, and Stockton. He said that Commodore Perry, although indisposed and worn with fatigue, came to the defenses at Hampstead Hill when the British were approaching and offered

to render every assistance in his power.

Rodgers's services to Baltimore during those anxious days when the city was menaced with destruction were long held in grateful remembrance by her citizens, some of whom were wont to ascribe the preservation of their lives and homes largely to his efforts. More than once General Samuel Smith expressed his appreciation of the important services rendered by the commodore and his seamen. In his general orders to his army, Smith said,

After the close of the war, the council of Baltimore tendered the commodore a vote of thanks. Editor Hezekiah Niles presented him with a complete set of Niles's Weekly Register, "fancifully bound in the very best and most substantial manner." The leading citizens of Baltimore expressed their appreciation of the services of their fellow Marylander by giving him a handsome silver service of plate, consisting of fifty-two pieces and costing four thousand dollars. The service was made in Philadelphia and was "splendidly ornamented with borderings and embossed figures after the manner of the Egyptian and Grecian sculpturings." Each piece bore the inscription, "Presented by the citizens of Baltimore to Com. Rodgers in testimony of their high sense of the important aid afforded by him in the defense of Baltimore on the 12th and 13th of September, 1814." It was presented to him on the third anniversary of the bombardment of Fort Mchenry and the battle of North Point. A brigade paraded on Hampstead Hill, and a dinner, attended by Rodgers and Armistead, was given at the fort. The commodore wrote Ex-secretary of the Navy Robert Smith, who was chairman of the committee charged with the purchase of the gift, a modest and grateful letter of acknowledgement, from which the following paragraphs have been extracted:

(General Samuel Smith in his general orders):

"It is with peculiar satisfaction that the commanding general seizes this opportunity of acknowledging the very great assistance he has received from the counsel and active services of Commodore Rodgers. His exertions and those of his brave officers and seamen have contributed in a very eminent degree to the safety of the city and should be remembered with lively emotions by every citizen."

"The elegant service of plate with which the citizens of Baltimore have been pleased through their committee this day to authorize you to present to me in testimony of the estimation with which their kindness has led them to view my feeble services in the defense of their city on the 12th and 13th of September, 1814, in repelling the combined attack of a powerful British fleet and formidable British army, is flattering to my feelings beyond my powers of language to express.

"That the brave officers, seamen, and marines whom I had the honor to command on that occasion did very thing in their power for the defense of your city which the peculiar nature of the service and their limited means would allow, is most true; and that their hearty cooperation and best feelings were united in its cause to those of your own gallant militia is equally certain. But, in receiving so flattering a testimonial of individual respect, I am constrained, by a sense of justice and a recollection of the prompt and judicious preparations of Major-General Smith, on whom the chief command devolved, and of the gallant conduct of the Baltimore militia forming the brigade of General Stricker which met the enemy in advance, added to the laudable zeal and determined perseverance of all others with whom I had the good fortune to be associated, to acknowledge that I ought to attribute this particular mark of the favor of the citizens of Baltimore rather to that patriotism and those general feelings for which they have always been conspicuous than to any positive claim which the occasion gives me to so distinguished a token of their kindness."

Soon after the British retreated from Baltimore, Rodgers, acting under the orders of General Smith, assumed command of Fort Mchenry, as Major Armistead was too sick to remain longer at his post. The commodore was in charge of the fort for only a few days----long enough, however, to perform one interesting duty, the ordering of a salute to be fired in honor of Commodore Macdonough's victory on Lake Champlain. On September nineteenth, Secretary Jones, fearing that the British would next move on Philadelphia, directed Rodgers to return at once with his seamen and marines to the Delaware. On the next day he collected his men and began his march northward. He arrived at Newcastle on the twenty-third, after an absence from his station of one month.

During the rest of the fall and early winter the commodore was employed in equipping the "Guerrière" and superintending the work of the Delaware flotilla. In December he purchased the brig "Prometheus," which was to serve as a tender to his ship. In January, 1815, he relinquished the command of the flotilla, and visited his family at Havre de Grace, expecting soon to go to sea. The ice in the Delaware, however, delayed his sailing. Early in February news of the signing of the treaty of Ghent arrived in the United States, and the war was at an end. Already the secretary of the navy had the commodore in mind for an important administrative office in Washington, but that is another story and belongs to the succeeding chapter.