

The Portfolio;

THE PORT FOLIO,

THIRD SERIES,

CONDUCTED BY OLIVER OLDSCHOOL, ESQ.

Various; that the mind
Of desultory man, studious of change,
And pleased with novelty, may be indulged.

COWPER.

VOL. VI.

OCTOBER, 1815.

NO. IV.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

NAVAL AND MILITARY CHRONICLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

ESTIMATE OF BRITISH TROOPS IN UPPER CANADA.

NOTWITHSTANDING the pomp and preparation of the wars, and the eclat of many of the battles, of Europe, we have always believed, and oftentimes asserted, that, for the number of men engaged in the service, the late contest between Great Britain and the United States was more active, vigorous, and sanguinary, and more strongly marked by deeds of heroic courage and desperate daring, than any other that has occurred in modern times. It was characterized, particularly on the part of the Americans, by much of the chivalric spirit of former ages, accompanied by an unusual degree of skill in the instruments and means of human slaughter.

The following statement, founded, as we believe, on authentic documents, taken in connexion with others that have heretofore appeared in this journal, furnishes ample testimony of the truth of these remarks in relation to that portion of the war which deluged in blood the Niagara frontier; in the summer of 1814. The campaign lasted but little more than two months, commencing on the night of the second of July, with the crossing of the Niagara river by the American forces, and terminating on the seventeenth of September, by their glorious sortie from the lines

of fort Erie. During by far the greater part of this time, so active were the operations, that the sword and the bayonet but seldom found a day's repose in the scabbard, and the rifle, the musket and the cannon were in hourly use. Corresponding to this constancy of combat was the carnage which ensued. On this point we assert nothing positively, but express, without hesitation, our firm belief, that the annals of modern warfare will be examined in vain for an equal destruction of officers and soldiers, under similar circumstances, in so short a time, and in an army of such limited numbers.

Of the exact force of the command which general Brown led into Canada, we have no intelligence that can be deemed official. From information, however, which we believe to be correct, we venture to say, that it amounted to less than three thousand regulars, in two brigades, under the command of Scott and Ripley, and a few hundred militia, commanded by general Porter. Numerically speaking, it was certainly much inferior to the force of the enemy; and yet, in four general and desperate engagements, it was four times successively victorious. So dexterous and deadly was it in the use of its arms, that, on each occasion, the havoc it made among the foe was altogether unprecedented. Including the fall of their Indians and militia, there can be no doubt that the loss of the British was, in comparison with that sustained by the Americans, at least in the proportion of two to one. In fact, to every enlightened and candid observer of the progress of the war it must appear, we think, incontrovertibly obvious, that the army of the United States was rapidly acquiring over the enemy, the same ascendancy which, in every instance of conflict, marked the achievements of our gallant navy.—EDITOR.

Estimate of British Regular Troops in Upper Canada, July 13th, 1814, with a view of their distribution.

At forts Niagara, George, and Erie, and at Chippewa and Queenston:

8th,	400
41st,	350
100th,	600
Royal Scots,	850
Royal Artillery,	150

—2,350

Brought forward,	2,350
At Burlington Heights and York:	
103d,	800
At Kingston:	
Right wing of the Dewattevilles,	700
Glengarys,	500
Canadian Fencibles,	400
104th,	550
Squadron of Dragoons,	100
Royal Artillery,	150
	—2,400
At Prescott:	
89th,	500
Royal Artillery,	50
	— 550
	—
Aggregate rank and file,	6,100
	—
I do not estimate the total effectives fit for the field at more than 5,000	
Between the 1st of July and the 15th September, the following regiments arrived in Upper Canada. I estimate them at their supposed effective strength:	
Left wing of the Dewattevilles in the early part of July,	550
6th and 82d early part of August,	1,250
97th middle of August,	557
90th and 37th last of August,	1,500
Newfoundland Fencibles,	350
Towards the close of August and beginning of September, the 16th, 26th and 57th arrived, and were stationed at Johnstown, Prescott and Brockville, where they still remain,	1,500
	—
Say total effectives,	10,707
Non-effectives,	1,100
	—
Aggregate rank and file,	11,807

ESTIMATE OF BRITISH TROOPS

Brought forward,	11,807
From the above deduct for the enemy's total loss in the various contests with the 2d division, and by desertion and sickness.	3,900
The remains of the 8th, 41st and 100th regi- ments sent to the lower province for winter quarters,	600
	<hr/> 4,500
	<hr/>
Rank and file Dec. 15th, 1814,	7,307
Distribution of the British Regular Force in Upper Canada December 15th, 1814.	
Johnstown, Prescott and Brockville:	
16th, 26th and 57th,	1,450
Royal Artillery,	50
	<hr/> 1,500
Kingston:	
Canadian Fencibles,	400
Newfoundland Fencibles,	350
Battalion companies of 104th,	350
Royal Artillery,	150
Remains of the old regiments of the province, excepting the 8th, 41st and 100th,	1,457
	<hr/> 2,707
Upon the Niagara frontier:	
6th and 82d,	1,000
97th,	500
90th and 37th,	1,500
Royal Artillery,	100
	<hr/> 3,100
	<hr/>
Rank and file,	7,307

Estimate of the British Regular Troops opposed to the Second Division.

Major general Riall's command upon the Niagara, at York
and Burlington, July 13th, 1814:

8th,	400
41st,	350
	<hr/> 750

Brought forward,	750
100th,	800
Royal Scots,	850
Royal Artillery,	150
103d,	800
	<hr/> 3,350

Of this force he brought at least eighteen hundred men upon the plains of Chippewa.

Lieutenant-general Drummond arrived with the following reinforcements July 24th:

89th,	500
Glengarys,	500
Flank companies of the 104th, filled up to 100 men each,	200
Squadron of Dragoons,	100
	<hr/> 1,300
	<hr/> 4,650

The whole of the above force for duty was concentrated near Fort George during the day and night of the 24th July, excepting, say seven hundred men, lost at Fort Erie and on the plains of Chippewa,

	700
	<hr/> 3,950

From which deduct for those left sick and in garrison at Forts George and Niagara,

And you have an effective force of engaged in the battle of Niagara,	3,450
Loss of the enemy July 25th,	1000
	<hr/> 2,450

Drummond's regular force fit for the field July 26th, 1814,

	2,450
July 29th, the regiment Dewatteville, right and left wing, 1100 strong, joined Drummond,	1,100
	<hr/> 3,550

Brought forward	3,550
<i>After the arrival of this reinforcement the enemy moved slowly and cautiously upon Fort Erie. The 15th August, in attempting to carry that place by assault, he lost not less than twelve hundred men. In his official report of that affair, he acknowledges the loss of 905 men, exclusive of the regiment Dewatteville, and we have good reason to believe that this regiment alone did not lose less than three hundred,</i>	
	1,200
	<hr/> 2,350
Towards the last of August Drummond was reinforced by the 6th and 82d,	1,250
In the early part of September by the 97th,	557
	<hr/> 1,807
	4,157
September 17th sortie. The enemy did not lose less in killed, wounded and prisoners than	1,000
	<hr/> 3,157
On the 21st September Drummond retreated with his remaining force, say three thousand one hundred men, to his field-works on the east bank of the Chippewa, keeping out a light party at Black creek to watch the movements of the American army.	
Lieutenant-general Drummond's regular force fit for the field September 22d, 1814, say	3,000
Sick and in garrison, exclusive of wounded,	500
	<hr/> 3,500
Riall's force July 1st,	3,350
Reinforcements with Drummond July 24th,	1,300
Regiment Dewatteville July 29th,	1,100
6th, 82d and 97th,	1,807
	<hr/> 7,557

The enemy's loss by desertion was very considerable. He must also have lost many men by the fire of our batteries, in affairs of pickets, and in the attack upon Buffaloe.

Brought forward,	7,557
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These various losses, together with those occasioned by sickness, must, I think, be equal to his gain by the recovery of wounded men. This view of the subject will give his loss as follows:

Fort Erie and Chippewa,	700
Falls of Niagara,	1,000
Assault upon Fort Erie,	1,200
Sortie,	1,000
	*—3,900

Force remaining upon the Niagara frontier Sept. 22, 1814, 3,657

In this statement it is to be understood always, that no account is taken of militia or Indians in the British service.

* From another document in our possession, entitled to no small degree of credit, the loss of the enemy, including that of Indians and militia, is stated at *five thousand*—Nor are we inclined to believe that the estimate is much exaggerated.

Extracts from the Adjutant-General's Office, showing the loss sustained by the Left Division of the United States' Army, commanded by Maj. Gen. Jacob Brown, from the 2d day of July, 1814, (the opening of the campaign on the Niagara frontier,) to the 17th of September, the day of the sortie from Fort Erie, Upper Canada, which terminated the siege of the American army.

	KILLED.					WOUNDED.					RANK & FILE.		Aggregate killed	Agg'te. wounded	Total kil'd & w'd.	Missing & pris'rs.	Grand Total			
	B. General	Colonel	Lt. Colonel	Majors	Captains	Subalterns	B. General	Colonel	Lt. Colonel	Majors	Captains	Subalterns							Killed	Wounded
Battle of Chippeway, 5th July, 1814.							1			3	5	69	240	60	249	309	*19	328	* Of this number 17 were militia, and two of the 19th infantry with the militia command.	
Battle of Niagara, 25th July.				1	6	5	*2	1	1	4	7	38	160	517	172	570	742	117	859	* One Major-General.
First battle of Erie, one o'clock, A. M. 15th August, 1814.					1	1				1	5	15	50	17	56	73	11	84		
Second battle of Erie, 12 o'clock, A. M. 17th September, 1814.	1	1	1		4	4	1	1	1	4	16	70	189	81	212	293	*216	509	* Of this number 173 were of the militia.	
Loss during the siege by cannonade and occasional sorties.				1	1	1	3			1	1	9	96	236	102	247	349	*181	530	* Of this number 142 were deserters.
Grand Total.	1	1	2	2	13	13	3	2	2	6	16	73	401	1232	432	1334	2066	544	2310	

NOTE.—The siege lasted 46 days, from August 2d to the 17th September—the enemy's batteries, however, did not open upon our camp until the morning of the 13th, and but little execution was done after the 6th of September. The average loss per day during the whole of the siege was seven and a half: at different periods it amounted to twenty and twenty-three per day.

