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BRITISH OFFICIAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

CAPTURE OF WASHINGTON.

London Gazette Extraordinary,
Sept. 27.

COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

Downing-street, Sept. 27.

Captain Smith, Assistant Adjutant-General to the troops under the command of Major Gen. Ross, arrived this morning with a dispatch from that officer, addressed to Earl Bathurst, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, of which the following is a copy:

Tonnant, in the Patuxent,
Aug. 30.

My Lord,

I have the honour to communicate to your Lordship, that on the night of the 24th instant, after defeating the army of the United States on that day, the troops under my command entered and took possession of the city of Washington.

It was determined between Sir A. Cochrane and myself, to disembark the army at the village of Benedict, on the right bank of the Patuxent, with the intention of co-operating with Rear Ad. Cockburn, in an attack upon a flotilla of the enemy's gun-boats, under the command of Com. Barney. On the 20th inst. the army commenced its march, having landed the previous day without opposition; on the 21st it reached Nottingham, on the 22d moved up to Upper Marlborough, a few miles distant from Pig Point, on the Patuxent, where Ad. Cockburn fell in with and defeated the flotilla, taking and destroying the whole. Having advanced to within sixteen miles of Washington, and ascertained the force of the enemy to be such as might authorise an attempt at carrying his Capitol, I determined to make it, and accordingly put the troops in movement on the evening of the 23d. A corps of about 1200 men appeared to oppose us, but retired after firing a few shots. On the 24th, the troops resumed their march, and reached Bladensburg, a village situated on the left bank of the eastern branch of the Potomac, about five miles from Washington.

On the opposite side of that river the enemy was discovered strongly posted on very commanding heights, formed in lines, his advance occupying a fortified house, which, with artillery, covered the bridge over the eastern branch, across which the British troops had to pass. A broad and straight road, leading from the bridge to Washington, ran through the position which was carefully defended by artillery and riflemen.

The disposition for the attack being made, it was commenced with so much impetuosity by the light brigade, consisting of the 85th light infantry and the light infantry companies of the army, under the command of Col. Thornton, that the fortified house was shortly carried, the enemy retiring to the higher grounds.

In support of the light brigade I ordered up a brigade under the command of Col. Brooke, who, with the 14th regt. attacked the enemy's left, the 4th regt. pressing its right with such effect as to cause him to abandon his guns. His first line giving way was driven on the second, which yielding to the irresistible attack of the bayonet, and the well directed discharge of rockets, got into confusion and fled, leaving the British masters of the field. The rapid flight of the enemy, and his knowledge of the country, precluded the possibility of many prisoners being taken, more particularly as the troops had, during the day, undergone considerable fatigue.

The enemy's army, amounting to 8 or 9000 men, with 3 or 400 cavalry, was under the command of Gen. Winder, being formed of troops

drawn from Baltimore and Pennsylvania. His artillery, ten pieces of which fell into our hands, was commanded by Com. Barney, who was wounded and taken prisoner. The artillery I directed to be destroyed.

Having halted the army for a short time, I determined to march upon Washington, and reached that city at 8 o'clock that night. Judging it of consequence to complete the destruction of the public buildings with the least possible delay, so that the army might retire without loss of time, the following buildings were set fire to and consumed—the Capitol, including the Senate-house and house of Representatives, the arsenal, the dock-yard, treasury, war office, President's palace, rope walk, and the great bridge across the Potomac; in the dock yard a frigate nearly ready to be launched, and a sloop of war, were consumed. The two bridges leading to Washington over the eastern branch had been destroyed by the enemy, who apprehended an attack from that quarter. The object of the expedition being accomplished, I determined before any greater force of the enemy could be assembled, to withdraw the troops, and accordingly commenced retiring on the night of the 25th. On the evening of the 29th, we reached Benedict, and re-embarked the following day. In the performance of the operation I have detailed, it is with the utmost satisfaction I observe to your Lordship, that cheerfulness in undergoing fatigue, and anxiety for the accomplishment of the object, were conspicuous in all ranks.

[Here follows encomiums on officers, uninteresting to the American reader.]

An attack upon an enemy so strongly posted could not be effected without loss. I have to lament that the wounds received by Col. Thornton, and the other officers and soldiers left at Bladensburg, were such as prevented their removal. As many of the wounded as could be brought off were removed, the others being left with medical care and attendants. The arrangements made by Staff Surgeon Baxter for their accommodation, have been as satisfactory as circumstances would admit of. The agent for British prisoners of war very fortunately residing at Bladensburg, I have recommended the wounded officers and men to his particular attention, and trust to his being able to effect their exchange when sufficiently recovered.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **ROB. ROSS, Maj. Gen.**

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, of troops under the command of Major Gen. Ross, in an action with the enemy, on the 24th of August, 1814, on the heights above Bladensburg.

Total—1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 5 Sergeants, 56 rank and file, 10 horses, killed—2 Lieut. Cols, 1 ensign, 1 captain, 14 Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, 10 Sergeants, 153 rank and file, 8 horses wounded.

Names of officers Killed.

85th Light Infantry—Captain D. S. Hamilton, Lieut. G. P. R. Codd.

4th or King's Own Regt.—Lieut. Thomas Woodward.

Return of Ordnance, Ammunition, and Ordnance Stores, taken from the Enemy, by the army under the command of Major Gen. Ross, between the 19th and 25th of Aug. 1814.

Total amount of Cannon taken—206.

50 barrels powder.

100,000 rounds of musket ball cartridges.

40 barrels fine grained Powder.

A large quantity of ammunition, of different natures made up.

The Navy Yard and Arsenal, having been set on fire by the enemy before they retired, an immense quantity of every description was destroyed, of which no account could be taken, several very heavy explosions, during the night, denoted that there had been large magazines of powder.

(Signed)

F. G. J. WILLIAMS, Lieut. Royal Artil. A. Q. M.

N. B. The remains of near 20,000 stand of arms were discovered, which had been destroyed by the enemy.

Admiralty Office, September 27.

Captain Wainwright, of his Majesty's ship Tonnant, arrived this morning at this office with dispatches from Vice Admiral the Honorable Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. to John Wilson Crocker, Esquire, of which the following are copies: Tonnant in the Patuxent, September 2, 1814.

SIR,

I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of the proceedings of his Majesty's combined sea and land forces since my arrival within the Capes of Virginia—and I beg leave to offer my congratulations to their Lordships upon the successful termination of an expedition, in which the whole of the enemy's flotilla, under Commodore Barrey, has been captured or destroyed—his army, though greatly superior in number, and strongly posted with cannon, defeated at Bladensburg—the City of Washington taken, the Capitol, with all the public buildings, Military Arsenal, Dock Yard, and the rest of their naval establishments, together with a vast quantity of naval and military stores, a frigate of the largest class ready to launch, and a sloop of war afloat, either blown up or reduced to ashes.

Such a series of success in the centre of an enemy's country, surrounded by a numerous population, could not be acquired without loss, and we have to lament the fall of some valuable officers and men—but considering the difficulties the forces had to contend with, the extreme heat of the climate, and their coming into action at the end of a long march, our casualties are astonishingly few.

My letter of the 11th of August, will have acquainted their Lordships, of my waiting in the Chesapeake, for the arrival of Rear Admiral Malcolm, with the expedition from Bermuda.

The Rear Admiral joined me on the 17th, and as I had gained information from Rear-Admiral Cockburn, whom I found in the Potomac, that Commodore Barrey, with the Baltimore flotilla, had taken shelter at the head of the Patuxent, this afforded a pretext for ascending that river to attack him near its source, above Pig Point, while the ultimate destination of the combined force was Washington, should it be found that the attempt might be made with any prospect of success.

To give their Lordships a more correct idea of the place of attack, I send a sketch of the country upon which the movements of the army and navy are portrayed—by it their Lordships will observe that the best approach to Washington is by Port Tobacco, upon the Potomac, and Benedict upon the Patuxent, from both of which are direct and good roads to that city, and their distances nearly alike—the roads from Benedict divide about five miles inland—the one by Piscataway and Bladensburg, the other following the course of the river, although at some distance from it, owing to the creeks that run up the country, this last passes through the town of Nottingham and Marlborough to Bladensburg, at which town the river called the Eastern Branch, that bounds Washington to the eastward, is fordable, and the distance is about five miles. There are two bridges over this river at the city—but it was not to be expected that the enemy would leave them accessible to an invading army.

Previously to my entering the Patuxent, I detached Captain Gordon, of his Majesty's ship Seahorse, with that ship and the ships and bombs named in the margin, up the Potomac, (which is situated on the left bank of that river, about ten or twelve miles below the city,) with a view of destroying that fort, and opening a free communication above, as well as to cover the retreat of the army, should its return by the Bladensburg road be found too hazardous from the accession of strength the enemy might obtain from Baltimore—it was also reasonable to expect, that the militia from the country to the northward and westward would flock in, so soon as it should be known that their capital was threatened.

Capt. Peter Parker, in the Menelaus, with some small vessels, was sent up the Chesapeake above Baltimore, to divert the attention of the enemy in that quarter—and I proceeded, with the remainder of the naval force and the troops, up this river, and landed the army upon the 19th and 20th, at Benedict.

So soon as the necessary provisions and stores could be arranged, Major Gen. Ross, with his army, moved towards Nottingham, while our flotilla consisting of the armed launches, pinnaces, barges, and other boats of the fleet, under the command of Rear Admiral Cockburn, passed up the river, being instructed to keep upon the right flank of the army, for the double purpose of supplying it with provisions, and if necessary, to pass it over to the left bank of the river, into Calvert County, which secured a safe retreat to the ships should it be judged necessary.

The army reached Nottingham upon the 21st, and on the following day arrived at Marlborough; the flotilla continued advancing towards the station of Commodore Barrey, about three miles above Pig Point, who, although much superior in force to that sent against him, did not wait an attack, but at the appearance of our boats, set fire to his flotilla, and the whole of his vessels, except one, were blown up.

I have not yet received any returns from the ships employed in the Potomac, the winds having been unfavorable to their coming down; but by the information I gain from the country people, they have completely succeeded in the capture and destruction of Fort Washington, which has been blown up.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

ALEXANDER COCHRANE,

Vice Adml. and Commander in Chief.

John Wilson Crocker, Esq.

On board the Resolution Tender, Off Mount Calvert.

Monday night, 22d Aug. 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you that after parting from you at Benedict on the evening of the 20th instant, I proceeded up the Patuxent with the boats and tenders, the marines of the ships being embarked in them under the command of Captain Robyns (the senior officer of that corps in the fleet,) and the marine artillery, under Captain Harrison, in their two tenders; the Severn and Hebrus frigates; and the manly sloop, being directed to follow us up the river as far as might prove practicable.

The boats and tenders I placed in three divisions; the first under the immediate command of Captains Sullivan (the senior commander employed on the occasion) and Badcock; the second under captains Money and Somerville; the third, under captain Ramsey;—the whole under the superintendance and immediate management of Captain Wainwright, of the Tonnant, Lieut. James Scott (1st of the Albion) attending as my Aid-de-Camp.

I endeavoured to keep with the boats and tenders as nearly as possible abreast of the army under Major Gen. Ross that I might communicate with him as occasion offered according to the plan previously arranged, and about midday yesterday I accordingly anchored at the ferry house opposite Lower Marlborough, where I met the General, and where the army halted for some hours, after which he marched for Nottingham, and I proceeded on for the same place with the boats. On our approaching that town a few shots were exchanged between the leading boats and some of the enemy's cavalry; but the appearance of our army advancing caused them to retire with precipitation. Captains Nourse and Palmer, of the Severn and Hebrus, joined me this day with their boats, having found it impracticable to get their ships higher than Benedict.

The Major General remained with the army at Nottingham, and the boats and tenders continued anchored off it during the night; and soon after day light this morning the whole moved again forward; but the wind blowing during the morning down the river, and the channel being excessively narrow, and the advance of our tenders consequently slow, I judged it advisable to push on with the boats, only leaving the tenders to follow as they could.

On approaching Pig Point (where the enemy's flotilla was said to be) I landed the marines, under Captain Robyns on the left bank of the river, and directed him to march round and attack on the land side, the town situated on the Point to draw the attention of such troops as might be there for its defence, and the defence of the flotilla—I then proceeded on with the boats, and as we opened the reach above Pig Point, I plainly discovered Commodore Barrey's broad pendant in the headmost vessel, a large sloop, and the remainder of the flotilla extending in a long line astern of her. Our boats now advanced towards them as rapidly as possible; but, on nearing them, we observed the sloop bearing the broad pendant to be on fire, and she very soon afterwards blew up: I now saw clearly that they were now abandoned, and on firing with trains to their magazines, and out of the 17 vessels which composed this formidable and so much vaunted flotilla, 16 were in quick succession blown to atoms, and the seventeenth (in which the fire had not taken) was captured. The Commodore's sloop was a large armed vessel; the others were gun boats, all having a long gun in the bow, a carronade in the stern; the calibre of the guns and number of the crew of each differed in proportion to the size of the boat, varying from 32 pounders and 60 men, to 15 pounders & 40 men. I found here lying above the flotilla under its protection 13 merchant schooners, some of which not being worth bringing away, I caused to be burnt: such as were in good condition I directed to be moved to Pig Point. Whilst employed in taking those vessels, a few shot were fired at us by some of the men of the flotilla from the bushes on the shore near us—but Lieutenant Scott, whom I had landed for that purpose, soon got hold of them, and made them prisoners. Some horsemen likewise showed themselves on the neighbouring heights, but a rocket or two dispersed them; and Capt. Robyns who had got possession of Pig Point without resistance, now spreading his men through the country, the enemy retreated to a distance, and left us in quiet possession of the town, the neighbourhood, and our prizes.

A large quantity of tobacco having been found in the town at Pig Point, I have left Captain Robyns, with the marines, and Capt. Nourse with two divisions of the boats, to hold the place and ship the tobacco into the prizes; and I have moved back with the third division to this Point, to enable me to confer on our future operations with the Major General, who has been good enough to send his Aid-de-Camp to inform me of his safe arrival with the army under his command, at Upper Marlborough. I have the honour to be,

(Signed) **G. COCHBURN,**

Rear-Admiral.

Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. B. &c. &c.

Coroner's Sale.

By virtue of a writ of fieri facias, issued out of the court of appeals, western shore, returnable to December term, and to be directed, will be exposed to public sale, on Saturday the 31st of December at 11 o'clock, A. M. at the Sheriff's Office, in the City of Annapolis, for cash, the following property, to wit:

One parcel of Land called Clarke's Inheritance, containing one hundred acres, more or less. Also three negro men called Joe, Charles, and Will—The above is taken as the property of James Sanders, and will be sold to satisfy a debt due John F. Cox, and wife.

James Hunter, Coroner A. A. county.

Dec. 8. 2

20 Dollars Reward.

Ran away on the 21 of May, a Negro Man called Ned, who with several others, added that of Jones, brought suit in Anne Arundel County, by John Golder, for their right to freedom, which suit, at the last term of the court, was dismissed for the want of proof. He is a straight, likely black fellow, 22 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, and has under one of his eyes, a scar about an inch long and broad. No descriptive information can be given as to his cloaths, he wears with a straw hat, a country roundabout striped jacket and trousers, and good shoes and stockings. It is probable he may endeavour to get to Baltimore, or to the City of Washington. I will pay a dollar a mile on the distance he may be taken, if committed to goal, so that I get him again, fifteen dollars if taken at Annapolis and committed; ten dollars if taken in the neighbourhood; or twenty if taken in Calvert county.

I am informed that an old yellow woman resides in Calvert who calls herself Hannah Jones, and who my Negroes, who claimed their freedom, call aunt—she is wife to a miller who attends or did attend a mill, once the property of a Mr. Smith, and purchased by Capt. David Carcaud.

WM. BROGDEN,
Jan. 23, 1814.

NOTICE.

The subscriber having obtained from the orphans court of Anne Arundel county, letters of administration D. R. N. on the personal estate of Samuel Green, late of Anne Arundel county deceased, all persons having claims against said deceased are hereby requested to bring them in, legally proved, and those who are indebted to the same to make immediate payment, more especially those who are indebted for postage on letters, &c.

Richard H. Harwood,
Admr. D. B. N.

Feb. 24.

Anne Arundel County, &c.

On application to me the subscriber, chief judge of the third judicial district, in the recess of Anne Arundel county court, by petition, in writing, of Philip Clayton, of said county, praying the benefit of the act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, passed at November session, eighteen hundred and five, and of the several supplements thereto, on the terms mentioned in the said acts, a schedule of his property, and a list of his creditors, on oath, as far as he can ascertain them; as directed by the said act, being annexed to his petition; and being satisfied that the said Philip Clayton has resided the two preceding years prior to his said application within the state of Maryland, and the said Philip Clayton, having stated in his petition, that he is in actual custody, and praying to be discharged therefrom; I do therefore order, and adjudge that the said Philip Clayton be discharged from his confinement; and by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in the Maryland Gazette or Maryland Republican once a week, for three successive months, before the first Monday of February next, give notice to his creditors to appear before the said county court, to be held at the city of Annapolis, on the first Monday of February next, for the purpose of recommending a trustee for their benefit, and to shew cause, if any they have, why the said Philip Clayton should not have the benefit of the said act and the supplements, as prayed.

JEREMIAH T. CHASE,
Test. Wm. S. Green, Clk.

This is to give notice,

That the subscribers have obtained letters testamentary on the personal estate of Benjamin Allen, late of Anne Arundel county, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are requested to present the same legally authenticated, and those in any manner indebted to make immediate payment.

Elizabeth Allen, Exr.
Thomas Tongue, jun. Exr.
Nov. 24.

Notice is hereby given,

That a petition will be presented to the General Assembly, at its next session, for a law to change the place of holding the Election in Election District No. 2, of Anne Arundel county.
Oct. 27.

A LIST OF THE
American NAVY,
WITH
**STEEL'S LIST OF THE
British NAVY.**

For Sale at GEORGE SNAW'S Store,
and at this Office.
—Price 1s 1-2 Cents.—

Blank Bonds, Declara-

tions on Bond, Appeal Bonds, & Common Warrants—For sale at this Office.
November 1