

Montreal, and the wisdom of others must decide the ultimate fate of this once efficient army. At all events nothing will be done, unless compelled by the enemy, before our sick are sent off"

According to the records of the 49th, that regiment marched for the Forty Mile Creek on October 2nd, embarked in bateaux for York on October 4th, and re-embarked for Kingston on the 5th, reaching that place on the 11th ; yet Major Glegg writes on the 14th, without making any reference to the departure of his own regiment, or of its having been separated from the main body before their retreat from the frontier.

The rest in barracks in the more comfortable quarters afforded them in Kingston was of short duration. When the American army, under the command of General Wilkinson, crossed the St. Lawrence below Kingston early in Novemb3r, the 49th was brigaded with the 89th and detachments of the Canadian Fencibles and Voltigeurs, the whole under the command of Colonel Plenderleath, and sent to watch the movements of the enemy.

On the 11th, the battle of Chrysler's Farm was fought, but of it FitzGibbon gives no detail. He was still with his old regiment, as h3 distinctly says that he did not join the Glengarry Fencibles, in which his promotion had given him a company, until January, 1814. He remained with the 49th until that .regiment reached Montreal on December 16th, and joined the Fencibles at Kingston, where they were quartered in January, 1814.

## CHAPTER VII.

THE campaign of 1814 was begun soon after the opening of navigation. The first important engagement was the attack upo a Oswego on May 6th, in which the light companies of the Glengarry Regiment were attached to De Watteville's regiment.

The landing in the face of a shower of grape and round shot, followed by the storming of the hill and capture of the batteries, was a brilliant affair. The Glengarries, who covered the left flank of the troops in the advance, added a share in the honors of one more victory to their former reputation.

The regiment remained stationed in Kingston until early in June, when they were again ordered to York, and in July were sent forward to the Niagara frontier, there to take part in the " most active and severe campaigns of any during the war. But it afforded no opportunity of doing anything individually," writes FitzGibbon. " I was almost constantly employed in the advance, and the Glengarry Regiment forming part of the small brigade under Colonel (now Sir Thomas) Pearson, he was best acquainted with me that summer, and to him I would gladly refer for his opinion of me." \*

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\* Letter to Sir Augustus d'Este, May, 1841,

On the 5th of July the enemy, three thousand strong were repulsed with spirit by a small British force from Fort Mississauga, and Major-General Riall urged the advance of troops from York to enable him to act upon the offensive, " while the militia and Indians are flushed with their success, and their enthusiasm against the enemy is still burning with indignation " at the wanton destruction of houses and property at St. David's, every house between Queenston and the Falls having been burned by them."\*

Information was obtained from deserters (one of whom candidly acknowledges " a fear of hard fighting " as his reason for deserting) of the advance of the enemy upon Fort George, seven or eight thousand strong, with heavy guns and mortars ; of the building of the batteries at Youngstown and other points to bear upon the forts and prevent the advance of gun-boats to their assistance ; of the confidence of success which animated the enemy's ranks owing to their superior numbers. This information is conveyed in detail to Major-General Drummond in Major Riall's despatches of this date:

It is not my intention to enter into the details of

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\* Canadian Archives.

<sup>t</sup> Fort George had been occupied by General Murray when evacuated by McClure on December 12th, 1813, who, on the 9th, had committed the dastardly outrage of burning the town of Newark (Niagara) in order to prevent the British being able to winter in Fort George. Fort Niagara had been taken by assault on December 18th, and a bitter revenge wreaked on the American frontier in retaliation for the burning of Niagara.

the defending force, the weakness of the British, the small garrisons, the sort of make-shifts of guns mounted in Fort George, the anxiety caused by the short-sighted policy of one of our officers in permitting the American Indians to attend a council meeting held by those allied to the British, " thereby arousing much dissatisfaction amongst our Indians and western people."

The delay in the arrival of the much-needed reinforcements created fear lest the ardor of the militia for revenge should cool, or their numbers be decreased by the necessity of returning to their farms to cut the hay receiving damage already from neglect.

Major-General Riall does not exaggerate the situation when he speaks of himself as " being in a very unpleasant predicament." He had not sufficient men or guns at his command to relieve Fort George without endangering the safety of the whole province. He could not proceed against the enemy in one direction without the risk of being outflanked and surrounded on the one hand, or of losing the forts on the other.

Lieut.-Colonel Tucker who was in command at Fort George, had watched with intense interest and apprehension the great preparations being made by the enemy to attack it. The report of the engineers who had been sent some time previously to inspect the condition of the defences of that important post, was unfavorable. Fort George was not in a condition to withstand a cannonade. The necessity for reinforcements and concerted measures, to enable the

British to attack the enemy before their offensive works were completed, was imminent. The enemy had crossed the River Niagara, had erected and were still erecting further batteries, from which they might attack the fort, or cover their retreat if they were repulsed. Major-General Drummond had pushed on all the force at his command, and was hastening himself to support Generals Riall and Tucker. He had sent on the Glengarry Regiment in advance, and on the 22nd of July we find General Riall again reiterating the necessity of haste and of all available support.

All the details may be gleaned from letters now in the Canadian Archives, but I must endeavor to confine myself as much as is possible to those only in which FitzGibbon is mentioned.

" TWELVE MILE CREEK, *July* 22nd, 1814.

SIR,—I had the honor to write to you this morning by Captain Jarvis, and enclosed you a letter I had from Lieut.-Colonel Tucker, stating his apprehensions for the safety of Fort George, from the vast preparations the enemy seemed to be employed in making for its reduction, and urging me to advance immediately to its relief. About 3 o'clock p.m., I received a report from Captain FitzGibbon of the Glengarry Regiment, whom I had sent out with a party for the purpose of reconnoitring and gaining information of the enemy's intentions, that he had withdrawn from his position before Fort George, and was again falling back upon Queenston. From the top of the hill over that place, where Captain FitzGibbon was, he was enabled to see his whole force, which was in column extending from near the village to De Puisaye's house.

The waggons and baggage seemed to be halted at Brown's. When Captain FitzGibbon left the hill, which he was obliged to do by the advance of a body of cavalry and riflemen, the column was moving towards St. David's, and when about a thousand centred into that direction, it was halted. Captain FitzGibbon was obliged to retire with his party through St. David's, and was pursued about a mile upon the road leading from thence to this place. I understand some riflemen have advanced to within a mile of the Ten Mile Creek, which is the rendezvous for Lieut.-Colonel Parry's brigade of militia. That officer has been indefatigable in his exertions, and has acquired great influence with the militia. I have directed Lieut.-Colonel Pearson to detach two companies of the Glengarry Regiment to his support, and he has beside a considerable number of Indians with him."—(General Riall to Major-General Drummond, Canadian Archives.)

The battle of Lundy's Lane was one of the hardest fought and most important engagements of the war. Waged at night, in darkness and against a superior force, augmented by relays of fresh troops, it was a hand-to-hand conflict, and nobly did the British hold their ground. The particulars of the struggle have so often been recounted, that I need not dwell upon them here. The Glengarry Regiment had been sent in advance to reconnoitre the American camp at Chipewa, and watch the movements of the enemy. They occupied the high ground near Lundy's Lane, and were given the post they had occupied before—the right wing of the army. At first the principal attack

was sustained by the left and centre, but before the close of the engagement the right had their share of the fighting. On the defeat and retreat of the enemy, who were in such haste to return to Fort Erie that they threw the greater part of their camping equipage and provisions into the rapids, the light troops were detached in pursuit.

In General Drunimond's report of the battle, he speaks of the Glengarry Regiment as displaying "most valuable qualities as light troops." (Despatches, July 26th, 1814.)

A sharp affair of outposts took place between the pickets of the rival camps before Fort Erie on the 8th of August.

The enemy threw out the whole of his riflemen into the woods for the purpose of driving out the British Indians. At first they appeared to be successful. The Indians retired rapidly on the advance pickets, carrying them with them. The retreat was, however, only temporary. The Glengarry Regiment advanced with promptitude and great spirit, and, being supported by the reserve, the Americans were driven back and the advance post re-established. In this engagement the regiment had two men killed, seven wounded, one taken prisoner and two reported as missing.\*

"I cannot forbear," writes Lieut.-General Drummond, from his headquarters camp before Fort Erie, on August the 12th, "taking this occasion of express-

ing to your Excellency my most marked approbation of the uniform exemplary good conduct of the Glengarry Light Infantry and Incorporated Militia—the former under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Battersby, and the latter under Mayor Kirby. These two corps have constantly been in close contact with the enemy's outposts and riflemen during the severe service of the last fortnight. Their steadiness and gallantry, as well as their superiority as light troops, have on every occasion been conspicuous." Yet it was just at this time that one of the officers of the Glengarry Regiment asked for leave.

The story of FitzGibbon's marriage has been told so often as a romantic incident of a soldier's life by those who heard it at second or third hand from his fellow-soldiers, that it is difficult to ascertain the correct details of time and distance with sufficient accuracy to put the story into print. I can find no record of it among his papers, yet my readers will readily recognize that a man of FitzGibbon's character would be of all men the most unlikely to tell it on paper, although by a friendly fireside it might be frequently alluded to among those who were his companions in arms at the front.

FitzGibbon was certainly with his regiment during the whole campaign, with the exception of the few days for which, to the astonishment of his colonel, he asked leave, asking without giving any reason for such an apparently unreasonable request. It is safe, perhaps, to say that no other officer but Fitz-

\* Canadian Archives, 685, page 47.

Gibbon would have had such a request granted. His reputation as a capable officer and for great personal bravery stood his friend.\*

His word that the need of leave was important to him, that he would return before any decisive battle was fought and his presence required, was sufficient. Permission was given, and the soldier set off to meet his bride.

Despatches were sent to the Commander-in-Chief at Kingston on the 8th of August, and again on the 10th. Whether FitzGibbon was the bearer of either we have no means of ascertaining, but he certainly found some means of sending a private despatch by one or either of them to the girl he was engaged to marry.

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\* Lieut. -Colonel Bullock in his " Operations of the Army under General Wolfe," published in the columns of the *Canadian Loyalist and Spirit of 1812*, Kingston, June 13th, 1844, tells the following anecdote of FitzGibbon apropos of the bursting of shells from the enemy's guns :

" Those shells are very dangerous customers, and yet they sometimes afford amusement, for I remember in August, 1814, Colonel FitzGibbon and myself were on picket together near our batteries before Fort Erie, he with his company of the Glengarry Light Infantry, and I with my Grenadiers of the 41st. The batteries and Fort Erie were exchanging fire. It was a fine summer day, and *we* were seated on the ground amidst some young second-growth oak trees. FitzGibbon was quoting with great volubility some parts of the Rejected Addresses,' when suddenly a shell burst in the air close to us, and my brave friend's tongue received an immediate check, and no wonder, for the fragments of shell made an awful clatter among the trees ; we were fortunate enough to remain uninjured, and away went my friend again at the Rejected Addresses,' as rapidly as ever. Such is courage."

He bade her meet him in Adolphustown, then an important little town on the road between Kingston and York.\*

Landing at the Carrying-place, he rode sixty miles to the church door. On Sunday, the 14th of August, he was married to Mary Haley, by the Rev. George O'Kill Stewart, the Church of England minister at Kingston, by license, in the presence of Gavin H. Hamilton and R. MacKay.

The knot tied, the soldier said farewell to his wife on the church steps, and rode back to keep his word to his colonel.

The condition of affairs on the frontier, hard fighting, privation and sickness being the inevitable order

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In an editorial column of the same paper from which the above is taken is the following paragraph :

" Under the head of ' Operations of Wolfe's army before Quebec,' the conclusion of which will be found in the first page, there is an anecdote given by the gallant author (C. J. Bullock) which fully hears out the character for resoluteness and *sang-froid* ever attributed to the old Forty-ninth. Those only, however, will feel an interest in the anecdote who have ever seen a shell forced **from** an enemy into the heard of his own position. They, on the contrary, whose knowledge of the effect of shells is confined to a **few** field days when men play at soldiers, cannot be expected to understand either the danger to which Colonel FitzGibbon was exposed, or the piquancy of the composure he manifested on this occasion."

\* Adolphustown was settled almost entirely by the U. E. Loyalists, who came over from the opposite shore of the lake upon the Declaration of Independence. It boasted of a court house anti registrar, and still possesses one of the oldest churches, if not indeed the oldest, in the Province.

of the day ; his regiment being always sent to the front, and the officers exposed to constant danger ; the possibility, indeed, the probability, of an American bullet finding a billet in his breast, and the girl he loved being thus left unprovided for, seemed to FitzGibbon ample justification for such an extraordinary and romantic step. If he fell, as his widow she would be entitled to a pension and thus be provided for.

The notes and letter; from which I have taken the principal incidents of FitzGibbon's life were written after his wife's death ; there is no particular mention of her in them. Always delicate, the tragic death of one of their sons in 1834 was a blow from which she never recovered. She died in Toronto, on March 22nd, 1841, and was laid beside her brother-in-law, Simon Washburn, in St. James' churchyard. His tombstone is still to be seen close under the walls of the east aisle.

There are two or three fragments of loving letters extant, written during their rare separations from each other, but none of any interest to the public.

From several books, in my possession, such as the "f Beauties of Hervey," on the fly-leaf of which is written her name and the words, " From a friend in the 49th, Quebec," and in ink of a later date, the initials, " J. F. G.," Mrs. FitzGibbon must have been a woman of some taste and education. She was not a society woman, and is only remembered among the few remaining friends as one whose health kept her a close prisoner to the house. FitzGibbon always

spoke of her with sadness and loving pity ; her eldest son with the devotion of one to whom she had been a good mother and a tender dependent charge.

The privations suffered by the troops, the want of provisions, ammunition and clothing, had begun to assume alarming proportions by the 18th of August, 1814.

Constant skirmishes with the enemy, the wanton destruction of the crops, the harrying of the settlers' cattle and burning of their barns, stores and mills, roused the strongest feeling against the Americans, and kept the force camped before Fort Erie constantly on the alert. The erection of batteries to be directed against Fort Erie or reinforcements from the American shore occupied every available man and moment. The light troops were employed constantly in the advance to protect the men at work. Early in September the rain set in with such violence that the discomfort of the men was much increased. The roads were rendered almost impassable for artillery. The enemy had been largely reinforced from the opposite shores and hacran ample supply of ammunition, while the weakened British force were reduced to counting their rounds and were in hourly anticipation of attack. This was indeed ardently desired by men and officers alike. Too weak to assume the offensive, they yet felt themselves equal to resisting an attack and proving to the enemy that they still had British soldiers and British pluck against them.

General Drummond speaks about this period of the

campaign, as one " which has been marked by a series of unlucky circumstances, as well as, of late, by severe hardships and privations on the part of the troops, who, I am most happy in reporting, have borne them with the utmost cheerfulness and have evinced a degree of steadiness and spirit highly honorable to them."

FitzGibbon was sent to Kingston in September with despatches from the camp before Fort Erie, which resulted in Major-General Stovin being ordered to Lieut.-General Drummond's support. In a letter now among the papers buried in the Militia Department at Ottawa, FitzGibbon is spoken of as being in charge of a convoy with stores and necessaries for the front. In another and later letter he is addressed as " in command of the incorporated militia now on the frontier at Niagara."

There are probably other letters among these buried records in which FitzGibbon's name occurs, but the bundles being as yet unsorted, I was not 'allowed further access to them.

FitzGibbon accompanied Major-General Stovin when he joined Drummond on September 17th. On the 19th, the Americans attacked the batteries so recently erected by the British, " the fire from which annoyed them much." (Despatch to Washington.)

The attack was made under cover of a heavy fire from their artillery, and with their whole force, amounting to about five thousand men. The state of the roads and the torrents of rain falling at the time

enabled them to succeed in turning the right of the line of pickets without being perceived. A simultaneous attack being made on the batteries, they penetrated as far as No. 4 picket.

" I myself," writes Drummond, " witnessed the good order and spirit with which the Glengarry Light Infantry under Lieut.-Colonel Battersby pushed into the wood, and by their superior fire drove back the enemy's light troops." (Canadian Archives.)

Lieut.-Colonel Pearson, with the Glengarry Light Infantry under Lieut.-Colonel Battersby; pushed forward by the centre road, attacked and carried with great gallantry the new entrenchment then in full possession of the enemy. (*Ibid.*) The British line of pickets was again established as it had been before the attack.

The American general, writing from Fort Erie, speaks of this sortie as one " which, as respects hard fighting, is not excelled by any one since the war." The American loss was much greater than the British, the loss of officers being exceptionally great. The situation on the Niagara frontier was critical. The enemy were increasing their force at every point, and had even induced their militia to cross to Fort Erie to the number of three thousand.

Fort Niagara had been so damaged by the incessant rain as to render it unfit to resist an attack. The difficulty of obtaining provisions was increasing. Ammunition was short ; the men in need of clothing, many of them in rags, and entire companies without

shoes ; the roads so bad that the heavy ordnance could not be moved without great difficulty; their camps pitched literally in the water on a swampy ground the nights growing cold, the early mornings frosty; and sickness increasing ; constant vigilance, frequent roll calls, and skirmishes with the enemy harassing the men. The sickness among the troops increased to an alarming extent, while an incessant downpour of thirteen consecutive days rendered the camp a lake in the midst of a thick wood.

The extreme wretchedness caused by these circumstances determined Lieut.-General Drummond to order a retreat towards Chippewa, to about a mile from their present camping-ground, where, " if attacked, better conditions would enable the brave handful of troops which I command to at least have the advantage of fighting on ground somewhat open." (Gen. Drummond's despatch, Sept. 21st.)

The retreat was well executed, disturbed merely by the advance of the enemy's pickets, who were driven back by the British, and the new camp occupied on the 22nd. Here, too, we find the Glengarry Regiment forming part of the advance, in case the enemy " should attempt to penetrate towards Chippewa in force," to " guard and prevent the enemy crossing Black Creek." (Archives, page 268.)

Reports of the enemy having received large reinforcements of regular troops reaching him, General Drummond decided to further concentrate his force behind Chippewa, and with the advance composed of

the Light Companies of the 6th, 82nd, and 97th regiments under Major Stewart, the Glengarry Light Infantry, a squadron of the 9th Dragoons, and one gun, the whole under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Battersby, be prepared " to withstand any attack he (the enemy) might make upon the position."

The movements of the enemy and the rumored extent of his reinforcements rendered it prudent to withdraw the defending force yet nearer to Chippewa, although advance posts were still left a little in front of Black Creek: These advance posts were " fifty men of the Glengarry Light Infantry." The remainder of the regiment were stationed at Street's Grove. (Canadian Archives, C. 686.)

" On the evening of the 13th, the enemy advanced to Black Creek, and having effected the passage of that creek during the night, he continued his advance as far as Street's Grove on the following morning, the Glengarry Light Infantry retiring before him with the utmost regularity. A line of pickets was taken up at a short distance in front of the *te'te de pont*, and occupied until the morning, when they were obliged to retire into the works before the whole of the enemy's army." (*Ibid.* p. 31.)

The fire from his guns continued the whole day, but at night he retired to his camp at Street's Grove. During the 16th, he continued to deploy columns of infantry in front of the British position at the mouth of the Chippewa, without, however, venturing within the range of the guns. About one o'clock on the 17th,



his troops disappeared. Pickets were immediately thrown out, and both cavalry and infantry pushed in different directions to reconnoitre. The enemy had abandoned Street's Grove and retired to Black Creek. The steadiness of the retreat of the Glengarry Regiment, and the position of the British being stronger than they had anticipated, as well as the rumored approach of the British fleet on the lake, were the probable causes of this sudden retreat on the part of the Americans.

On the 18th, a large body moved up Black Creek in the direction of Cook's Mills, on Lyon's Creek. The Glengarry Light Infantry are here again to the front. They, with seven companies of the 82nd, were immediately sent in that direction. Upon the receipt of further tidings of the enemy's force and probable intentions, the 100th Regiment, and the three remaining companies of the 82nd, with one gun, were ordered to join them. With this force, in all about 750, Colonel Meyers was ordered to "feel the enemy very closely."

Colonel Meyers carried out his instructions, and, in his letter to Major-General Drummond, speaks very highly of the conduct of the Glengarry Infantry. "I found the enemy's advance," he writes, "with a strong support, posted on the right bank of a ravine which runs to Lyon's Creek, a small distance from the mills. A part of the Glengarry Regiment turned down a small wood, which covered the front of the enemy, and crossed the head of the ravine, whilst the remain-

der passed through the wood. By this movement the enemy's light troops were driven back in admirable style, whilst a part of his force crossed Lyon's Creek for the purpose of annoying our left. Having chiefly the recognizance in view, and finding that object not to be attainable by a forward movement, from the thickness of the woods, I retired the Glengarry Regiment, and fell back a small distance in the hope of drawing the enemy forth to the open ground, and, if circumstances would justify it, to bring him to a more general action." (Canadian Archives.)

The force thus coaxed into action or skirmish, from which they suffered greatly, amounted to from 1,500 to 2,000. "The conduct of the Glengarry Regiment during the campaign has been so conspicuous, that Lieut.-Colonel Battersby and the officers and men of the corps can receive little further praise from any report of mine, but on this occasion I cannot refrain from adding my humble tribute of applause to their earned fame." (Colonel Meyers' letter.)

This was replied to by a letter to the troops from the Lieut.-General, thanking them for their gallant behaviour.

In the General Orders of October 22nd, the regiment is brigaded with Major-General De Watteville's, and formed at Street's.

The success of Colonel Meyers' reconnaissance resulted in the retreat of the American army.

The American commander, General Brown, had detached two of his regiments to cover his retreat

from Cook's Mills, and so well had the Glengarry Regiment " felt them " that they retreated in haste to the shelter of the guns the state of the roads had prevented their bringing with them, without stopping to burn the mills, or pausing to hazard the engagement their pursuers were so anxious to provoke.

Falling back over the heights opposite Black Rock, they crossed over to their own shores, leaving only a few hundred in Fort Erie. Although General Drummond was able to report all the positions held by the British troops in good order, he was too well aware of the critical state of affairs, the want of provisions, the state of the roads, and the uncertainty of Sir James Yeo's movements on the lake, to heed the letters from headquarters urging him " not to let the season pass without striking some decisive blow."

The retreat of the American army might well have been construed as a feint to draw the British on, that by turning their position and outflanking them, they might obtain by strategy what they had failed to accomplish by force. The British, however, were too well aware of the numerical superiority of their enemy to either imagine such a course necessary or doubt the reality of their retreat.

General Drummond had faith in his advance pickets, in the vigilance of his officers, and in the impression the valor of his light troops had made upon the enemy.

A rumor reaching the commanding officer that the enemy were about to evacuate Fort Erie, FitzGibbon

was detached with a small party to reconnoitre at closer quarters.

True to his usual custom of going himself to the front when there was any risk of capture, or the information acted upon being incorrect, FitzGibbon posted his party in the wood, and rode forward alone to within a few ' yards of the fort. There appearing to be none of the usual signs of activity or life within its walls, he ventured nearer, and entering the fort rode through every part of it.

The enemy had evacuated it only a few hours before, having blown up the works and in every other respect completely dismantled and destroyed it, leaving nothing but ten or twelve kegs of damaged musket ball and cartridge. (Canadian Archives.)

The Glengarry Regiment was destined for York, to be quartered there during the winter, but the movements of the enemy made it necessary to retain a force on the frontier. FitzGibbon's company was stationed at Turkey Point.

Although the war was practically over, the country along' the frontier and throughout the Niagara peninsula had been so desolated, and was still in such a defenceless condition, a prey to bands of marauding freebooters, that the Glengarry Regiment had still some exercise for its abilities as light troops, in pursuing these wretches and protecting the inhabitants.

Upon the official declaration of the peace in March, the Glengarry Regiment was stationed at York.

The knowledge of woodland warfare acquired dur-