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WASHINGTON, MAY 11.

CAPTURE OF YORK.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS.

Copies of letters from Major-General Dearborn, to the Secretary at War.

Head-Quarters, York, Capital of U. C.
April 27th, 1813, 8 o'clock, P. M.

SIR—We are in full possession of this place, after a sharp conflict, in which we lost some brave officers and soldiers.

Gen. Sheaffe commanded the British troops, militia and Indians in person.

We shall be prepared to sail for the next object of the expedition the first favorable wind.

I have to lament the loss of the brave and active Brigadier-General Pike. I am with the highest respect, &c.

H. DEARBORN.

The Hon. Gen. John Armstrong, Secretary of War, Washington.

Head-Quarters, York, capital of U. C.
April 28th, 1813.

SIR—After a detention of some days by adverse winds, we arrived at this place yesterday morning, and at eight o'clock commenced landing the troops about three miles westward from the town, and one and a half from the enemy's works. The wind was high and in an unfavorable direction for the boats, which prevented the landing of the troops at a clear field, the scite of the ancient French fort Tarento. It prevented also many of the armed vessels from taking positions, which would have most effectually covered our landing—but every thing that could be done was effected.

The riflemen under Major Forsyth first landed, under a heavy fire from Indians and other troops. General Sheaffe commanded in person. He had collected his whole force in the woods near the point where the wind compelled our troops to land. His force consisted of seven hundred regulars and militia, and one hundred Indians. Major Forsyth was supported as promptly as possible; but the contest was sharp and severe for nearly half an hour, and the enemy were repulsed by a number far inferior to theirs. As soon as General Pike landed with seven or eight hundred men, and the remainder of the troops were pushing for the shore, the enemy retreated to their works. Our troops were now formed on the ground originally intended for their landing, advanced through a thick wood, and after carrying one battery by assault, were moving in columns towards the main work: when within sixty rods of this, a tremendous explosion took place from a magazine previously prepared, and which threw out such immense quantities

of stone as most seriously to injure our troops. I have not yet been able to collect the returns of the killed and wounded; but our loss will, I fear, exceed one hundred; and among these I have to lament the loss of that brave and excellent officer brigadier general Pike, who received a contusion from a large stone, which terminated his valuable life within a few hours. His loss will be severely felt.

Previously to this explosion, the enemy had retired into the town, excepting a party of regulars, to the number of forty, who did not escape the effects of the shock, and were destroyed.

General Sheaffe moved off with the regular troops and left directions with the commanding officer of the militia to make the best terms he could. In the mean time, all further resistance on the part of the enemy ceased, and the outlines of a capitulation were agreed on.

As soon as I learned that General Pike had been wounded I went on shore. To the general I had been induced to confide the immediate attack, from a knowledge that it was his wish, and that he would have felt mortified had it not been given to him.

Every movement was under my view. The troops behaved with great firmness and deserve much applause, particularly those first engaged, and under circumstances which would have tried the steadiness of veterans.

Our loss in the morning and in carrying the first battery was not great, perhaps forty or fifty killed and wounded, and of them a full proportion of officers. Notwithstanding the enemy's advantage in position and numbers in the commencement of the action, their loss was greater than ours, especially in officers. It was with great exertions that the small vessels of the fleet could work into the harbor against a gale of wind; but as soon as they got into a proper position a tremendous cannonade opened upon the enemy's batteries and was kept up against them, until they were carried or blown up, and had, no doubt, a powerful effect upon the enemy.

I am under the greatest obligations to Commodore Chauncey, for his able and indefatigable exertions in every possible manner which could give facility and effect to the expedition. He is equally estimable for the sound judgment, bravery and industry.—The government could not have made a more fortunate selection.

Unfortunately, the enemy's armed ship Prince Regent, left this place for Kingston a few days before we arrived. A large ship on the stocks and nearly planked up, and much naval stores were set fire to by the enemy soon after the explosion of the magazine. A considerable quantity of mili-

tary stores and provisions remain, but no vessel fit for use.

We have no means of transporting the prisoners, and must of course leave them on parole.

I hope we shall so far complete what is necessary to be done here, as to be able to sail to-morrow for Niagara, whither I send this by a small vessel with notice to Gen. Lewis of our approach. I have the honor to be, sir, &c.

HENRY DEARBORN.

Hon. Gen. John Armstrong,
Secretary of War, Washington.

Commodore Chauncey's Letters.

Copies of letters from Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. ship Madison, at anchor off York,
8 o'clock, P. M. April 27, 1813.

SIR—I have the satisfaction to inform you that the American flag is flying upon the fort at York. The town capitulated this afternoon, at 4 o'clock. Brigadier-General Pike was killed. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. William Jones, Secretary of the Navy,
Washington.

U. S. ship Madison, at anchor off
York, April 28, 1813.

SIR—Agreeably to your instructions and arrangements made with Major-Gen. Dearborn, I took on board of the squadron under my command, the General and suite, and about 1700 troops, and left Sacket's Harbour on the 25th inst. for this place.—We arrived here yesterday morning, and took a position about one mile to the south and westward of the enemy's principal fort, and as near the shore as we could with safety to the vessels. The place fixed upon by the Major-General and myself for landing the troops, was the scite of the old French fort Tarento.

The debarkation commenced about 8 o'clock, A. M. and was completed about 10. The wind blowing heavy from the eastward, the boats fell to the leeward of the position fixed upon, and were in consequence exposed to a galling fire from the enemy, who had taken a position in a thick wood near where the first troops landed; however, the cool intrepidity of the officers and men overcame every obstacle. Their attack upon the enemy was so vigorous, that he fled in every direction, leaving a great number of his killed and wounded upon the field. As soon as the troops were landed, I directed the schooners to take a position near the forts, in order that the attack upon them by the army and navy might