

whole line, was conspicuous; his zeal and courage are of the most ardent kind, the sprightliness of his manners in the most trying scenes had the happiest effect upon all to whom he had to communicate my orders; and the precision with which he delivered my commands, could be exceeded only by the coolness with which he always saw them executed.—He was animated, brave & useful. Maj. Wm. B. Barney, and Adj. Lemuel Taylor, of the Cavalry, who, having no opportunity of distinction in their Regiment owing to the grounds, did me great service, the former in aiding Capt. Montgomery, the latter in conveying my orders through the whole. Mr. Robt. Goodloe Harper deserves my thanks. He visited me just before the action; accompanied the advanced party, and aided me much throughout. The brave soldiers under my command have suffered many privations, and I recognise among our killed and wounded many valuable men; of which I will make a report in a few days.

I have the honor to be,  
Your obedient servant,  
**JOHN STRICKER,**  
Brig. Gen. Com'g 3d Brig. M. A.  
Head Quarters, 3d Brigade,  
Baltimore, Sept. 24, 1814.

SIR—In my report to you of the affair of the 12th inst. I omitted to do that justice to Lt. Col. Biays and his Regiment of Cavalry, which their constant zeal and willingness for service so fully merited. Lt. Col. Biays joined the advance party with Maj. Heath, and on that, as well as on every other occasion, evinced, by the alacrity with which he executed my orders, that greater opportunities were only wanted to obtain more extensive services from his fine Regiment of Cavalry.

I have the honor to be,  
Your obedient servant,  
**JOHN STRICKER,**  
Brig. Gen. 3d Brigade, M. A.

**OFFICIAL ACCOUNT**  
OF THE  
**BOMBARDMENT OF FORT M'HENRY.**  
Copy of a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Armistead, to the Secretary of War, dated  
Fort M'Henry, Sept. 24th, 1814.

A severe indisposition, the effect of which fatigue and exposure, has prevented me heretofore from presenting you with an account of the attack on this post. On the night of Saturday the 10th inst. the British fleet, consisting of ships of the line, heavy frigates and bomb vessels, amounting in the whole to 30 sail, appeared at the mouth of the River Patuxent, with every indication of an attempt on the City of Baltimore. My own force consisted of one company of U. S. Artillery, under Capt. Evans, and two companies of Sea Fencibles, under Capt. Bunbury and Addison. Of these 3 companies, 25 men were unfortunately on the sick list, and unfit for duty. I had been furnished with two companies of Volunteer Artillery from the City of Baltimore, under Capt. Berry and Lieut. Commandant Pennington.—To these I must add another very fine company of Volunteer Artillerists, under Judge Nicholson, who had proffered their services to aid in the defence of this post whenever an attack might be apprehended; and also a detachment from Com. Barney's Flotilla, under Lt. Redman. Brig. Gen. Winder had also furnished me with about 600 infantry, under the command of Lieut. Col. Stewart and Major Lane, consisting of detachments from the 12th, 14th, 36th, and 38th Regiments of U. S. troops.—The total amounting to about 1000 effective men.

On Monday morning, very early, it was perceived that the enemy was landing troops on the east side of the Patuxent, distant about 10 miles. During that day and the ensuing night, he had brought 16 ships (including 5 bomb ships) within about two miles and a half of this Fort. I had arranged my force as follows:—The regular Artillerists under Capt. Evans, and the Volunteers under Captain Nicholson, manned the bastions in the Star Fort. Captains Bunbury's, Addison's, Rodman's, Berry's, and Lt. Commandant Pennington's command were stationed on the lower works, and the infantry under Lieut. Col. Stewart and Major Lane were in the outer ditch, to meet the enemy at his landing, should he attempt one.

On Tuesday morning about sun-rise, the enemy commenced the attack from his five bomb vessels, at the distance of about two miles, when, finding that his shells reached us, he anchored, and kept up an incessant and well-directed bombardment. We immediately opened our Batteries, and kept a brisk fire from our guns and mortars, but unfortunately our shot and shells all fell considerably short of him.—This was to me a most distressing circumstance; as it left us exposed to a constant and tremendous shower of shells, without the most remote possibility of our doing him the slightest injury. It affords me the highest gratification to state, that although we were left thus exposed, and thus inactive, not a man shrunk from the conflict.

About 2 o'clock, P. M. one of the 24 pounders on the south west bastion, under the immediate command of Capt. Nicholson, was dismounted by a shell, the explosion from which killed his second Lieut. and wounded several of his men; the bustle necessarily produced in removing the wounded & re-mounting the gun probably induced the enemy to suspect that we were in the state of confusion,

as he bro't in 3 of his bomb ships to what I believed to be good striking distance.—I immediately ordered a fire to be opened, which was obeyed with alacrity through the whole garrison, and in half an hour those intruders again sheltered themselves by withdrawing beyond our reach. We gave three cheers, and again ceased firing. The enemy continued throwing shells, with one or two slight intermissions, till 1 o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, when it was discovered that he had availed himself of the darkness of the night, & had thrown a considerable force above to our right; they had approached very near to Fort Covington, when they began to throw rockets; intended, I presume, to give them an opportunity of examining the shores—as I have since understood, they had detached 1250 picked men, with scaling ladders for the purpose of storming this Fort. We once more had an opportunity of opening our Batteries, and kept up a continued blaze for nearly 2 hours, which had the effect again to drive them off.

In justice to Lieut. Newcomb, of the U. S. Navy, who commanded at Fort Covington with a detachment of Sailors, & Lieut. Webster, of the Flotilla, who commanded the Six Gun Battery near that Fort, I ought to state, that during this time they kept up an animated, and I believe a very destructive fire, to which I am persuaded, we are much indebted in repulsing the enemy. One of his sunken barks has since been found with two dead men in it—others have been seen floating in the River. The only means we had of directing our guns was by the blaze of their rockets and the flashes of their guns. Had they ventured to the same situation in the day-time not a man would have escaped.

The bombardment continued on the part of the enemy until seven o'clock on Wednesday morning, when it ceased; and about 9, their ships got under weigh and stood down the River. During the bombardment, which lasted 25 hours (with two slight intermissions) from the best calculations I can make, from 15 to 1800 shells were thrown by the enemy. A few of these fell short. A large proportion burst over us, throwing their fragments among us, and threatening destruction. Many passed over, and about 400 fell within the works. Two of the public buildings are materially injured—the others but slightly. I am happy to inform you (wonderful as it may appear) that our loss amounts only to four men killed and 24 wounded. The latter will all recover. Among the killed, I have to lament the loss of Lieut. Clagget and Sergeant Clemm, both of Capt. Nicholson's Volunteers; 2 men whose fate is to be deplored, not only for their personal bravery, but for their high standing, amiable demeanor and spotless integrity in private life. Lt. Russel, of the company under Lt. Pennington, received early in the attack a severe contusion in the heel; notwithstanding which, he remained at his post during the whole bombardment.

Were I to name any individual who signalized themselves, it would be doing injustice to others. Suffice it to say, that every officer and soldier under my command did their duty to my entire satisfaction.

I have the honor to remain respectfully,  
your obed't servant,  
**G. ARMISTEAD,**  
Lt. Col. U. S. A.

Hon. JAMES MONROE,  
Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 27.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Macdonough to the Secretary of the Navy, dated  
U. S. Ship SARATOGA, Plattsburgh Bay, September 13, 1814.

SIR,  
I have the honor to give you the particulars of the action which took place on the 11th inst. on this Lake.

For several days the enemy were on their way to Plattsburgh by land and water, and it being well understood that an attack would be made at the same time by their land and naval forces, I determined to await at anchor the approach of the latter.

At 9 A. M. the look-out boat announced the approach of the enemy. At 9, he anchored in a line ahead, at about 300 yards distance from my line; his ship opposed to the Saratoga, his brig to the Eagle, Captain Robert Henley, his galleys, thirteen in number, to the schooner, sloop, and a division of our galleys; one of his sloops assisting their ship and brig, the other assisting their galleys.—Our remaining galleys with the Saratoga and Eagle.

In this situation the whole force on both sides became engaged, the Saratoga suffered much from the heavy fire of the Confidence. I could perceive, at the same time, however, that our fire was very destructive to her. The Ticonderoga, Lieut. Com. Cassin, gallantly sustained her full share of the action. At half past 10 o'clock, the Eagle not being able to bring her guns to bear, cut her cable and anchored in a more eligible position, between my ship and the Ticonderoga, where the very much annoyed the enemy, but unfortunately leaving me exposed to a galling fire from the enemy's brig. Our guns on the starboard side being nearly all dismounted, or not manageable, a stern anchor was let go, the lower cable cut, and the ship wind-ward with a fresh broadside on the enemy's ship, which soon after surrendered.—Our broadside was then sprung to bear on the brig, which surrendered in about 15 minutes after.

The sloop that was opposed to the Eagle had struck some time before, and drift-

ed down the line, the sloop which was with their galleys having struck also.—Three of their galleys are said to be sunk, the others pulled off. Our galleys were about obeying with alacrity the signal to follow them, when all the vessels were reported to me to be in a sinking state; it then became necessary to annul the signal to the galleys, and order their men to the pumps.

I could only look at the enemy's galleys going off in a shattered condition, for there was not a mast in either squadron that could stand to make a sail on; the lower rigging being nearly all shot away, hung down as though it had been just placed over the mast heads.

The Saratoga had 55 round shot in her hull—the Confidence one hundred and five. The enemy's shot passed principally just over our heads, as there were not 20 whole hammocks on the nettings at the close of the action, which lasted without intermission, two hours and twenty minutes.

The absence and sickness of Lieutenant Raymond Perry, left me without the services of that excellent officer; much ought fairly to be attributed to him for his great care and attention in disciplining the ship's crew, as her first Lieutenant. His place was filled by a gallant young officer, Lieut. Peter Gamble, who, I regret to inform you, was killed early in the action. Acting Lieutenant Valette worked the first and second division of guns with effect. Sailing Master Brum's attention to the springs, and in the execution of the order to wind the ship, and occasionally at the guns, meets my entire approbation; also Captain Young, commanding the acting marines, who took his men to the guns.—Mr. Beale, purser, was of great service at the guns, and in carrying my orders throughout the ship, with Midshipman Montgomery. Master's mate Joshua Justin, had command of the 8d division; his conduct during the action, was that of a brave and correct officer.—Midshipmen Monteith, Graham, Williamson, Platt, Thwing, and acting Midshipman Baldwin, all behaved well, and gave evidence of their making valuable officers.

The Saratoga was twice set on fire by hot shot from the enemy's ship.

I close, Sir, this communication with feelings of gratitude for the able support I received from every officer and man attached to the squadron which I have the honor to command.

I have the honor to be,  
With great respect, sir,  
Your most obed't servant,  
**T. MACDONOUGH.**

Hon. WM. JONES,  
Secretary of the Navy.

P. S. Accompanying this is a list of killed & wounded, a list of prisoners and a precise statement of both forces engaged. Also letters from Capt. Henley and Lieut. Com. Cassin.

**HEAD QUARTERS,**  
PLATTSBURGH, SEPT. 14, 1814.

**GENERAL ORDERS.**

The Governor General of the Canadas and Commander in Chief of the British forces in North America, having invaded the Territory of the U. States, with the avowed purpose of conquering the country as far as Crown Point and Ticonderoga, there to winter his forces, with a view to further conquest, bro't with him a powerful Army and Flotilla—an Army amounting to 14,000 men, completely equipped, and accompanied by a numerous train of Artillery and all the engines of war—men who had conquered in France, Spain, Portugal, the Indies, and in various other parts of the Globe, and led by the most distinguished Generals of the British Army. A Flotilla also, superior to ours in vessels, men and guns, had determined at once to crush us both by land and by water.

The Governor General, after boasting of what he would do, and endeavoring to dissuade the loyal inhabitants of the U. States from their allegiance, by threats and promises as set forth in his Proclamations and Orders, fixed his head quarters at the village of Champlain, to organize his Army, and settle the government of his intended conquests. On the second day of the month he marched from Champlain, and on the 5th appeared before the village of Plattsburgh, with his whole army, and on the 11th, the day fixed for the general attack, the Flotilla arrived.

The enemy's flotilla, at 8 in the morning passed Cumberland Head, and at 9 engaged our Flotilla at an anchor in the Bay off the town, fully confident of crushing in an instant the whole of our naval force; but the gallant Com. Macdonough in the short space of two hours, obliged their large vessels to strike their colors, whilst the Gallies saved themselves by flight. This glorious achievement was in full view of the several forts, and the American forces had the satisfaction of witnessing the victory. The British army was also so posted on the surrounding heights that it could not but behold the interesting struggle for dominion on the Lake. At the same hour the Fleet engaged, the enemy opened his Batteries on our Forts, throwing hundred of shells, balls and rockets, & attempted at the same time to cross the Saratoga at 3 different points to assault the works.—At the upper end he was met by the militia and volunteers, and after repeated attempts was driven back with considerable loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners. At the Bridge near the village he was repulsed by the pickets & the brave Rifleman under Captain Grover and Lieut. Hamilton and Riley.—At the Bridge in the town, he was foiled by the guards, block-houses, and the artillery of

the Forts, served by Captain Alexander Brooks, Capt. Richards and Smith, and Lieuts. Mountford, Smyth and Crowwell. The enemy's fire was returned with effect from our Batteries, and by sun-set we had the satisfaction to silence 7 Batteries which he had erected, & to see his columns retiring to their camps beyond the reach of our guns.

Thus beaten by land and by water, the Governor General withdrew his artillery and raised the siege, at 9 at night sent off his heavy baggage under cover of the darkness, retreated with his whole army towards Canada, leaving his wounded in the field, and a vast quantity of bread, flour & beef, which he had no time to take away besides a quantity of bombshells, shot, flints and ammunition of all kinds which remain at the batteries and lie concealed in the Peads & Rivers. As soon as his retreat was discovered the light troops, volunteers and militia were in pursuit, and followed as far as Chazy, capturing several dragoons and soldiers, beside covering the escape of hundreds of deserters, who continue still to be coming in. A violent storm and continual fall of rains prevented the brave Volunteers and Militia from further pursuit.

Thus have the attempts of the invaders been frustrated by a regular force of only 1500 men, a brave & active body of Militia of the State of New York, under Gen. Mooers, and volunteers of the respectable and patriotic citizens of Vermont, led by Gen. Strong and other gentlemen of distinction. The whole not exceeding 2500 men.

The British forces now being either expelled or captured, the services of the Volunteers and Militia may be dispensed with.

Gen. Macomb cannot however permit the Militia of New York and the Volunteers of Vermont to depart without carrying with them the high sense he entertains for their merits. The zeal, in which they came forward in defence of their country, when the signal of danger was given by the General, reflects the highest lustre on their patriotism and spirit. Their conduct on the field has corresponded with the laudable motive which led them into it. They have deserved the esteem of their fellow citizens, and the warm approbation of their commanders.—They have exemplified how speedily American citizens can be prepared to meet the enemies of their country. In testifying his sense of the merits of the troops, the General cannot but express his sorrow and regret, for the loss of some brave and virtuous citizens, and for those who have been wounded.—The loss no doubt will be keenly felt by their friends and countrymen, but at the same time will be borne with that fortitude and resignation which become good citizens and good christians.

The affection of the General will accompany his brave associates in arms, wheresoever they may go, nor will any thing give him more pleasures than opportunities of testifying to them individually, by actions as well as words, the high regard he cherishes for them.

The General, in the name of the United States, thanks the Volunteers and the Militia for their distinguished services, and wishes them a happy return to their families and friends.

**ALEX. MACOMB.**

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 28.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Rodgers, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated  
New-Castle, Sept. 23, 1814.

SIR,  
From the time of my arrival at Baltimore until my departure, the various duties I had to perform, and the different situations in which I was placed, must plead my apology for not furnishing a report of the services of the naval force employed there under my command at an earlier period; and more particularly as my situation, a large portion of the time, was such as to deny me the use of pen, ink or paper.

The advance and retreat of the enemy you have been made acquainted with from other sources, and it now only remains for me to make known to you the dispositions made of, and the services rendered by the force under my command, and which I feel a pleasure in doing, as the conduct of all was such as to merit my entire approbation.

In the general distribution of the forces employed in the defence of Baltimore, with the concurrence of the commanding General, I stationed Lt. Gamble, first of the Guerriere, with about 100 seamen, in command of a 7 gun battery on the line between the roads leading from Philadelphia and Sparrow's Point.

Sailing-master De La Rouch of the Erie, and Midshipman Field of the Guerriere, with 20 seamen, in command of a 2 gun battery, fronting the road leading from Sparrow's Point.

Sailing-master Ramago, of the Guerriere, with 20 seamen, in command of a 3 gun battery, to the right of the Sparrow's Point Road.

And Midshipman Salter, with 12 seamen, in command of a one gun battery a little to the right of Mr. Ramago.

Lieut. Kuhn, with the detachment of Marines belonging to the Guerriere was posted in the intrenchment between the Batteries occupied by Lieut. Gamble and Sailing-master Ramago.

Lt. Newcomb, third of the Guerriere, with 30 seamen, occupied Fort Covington, on the Ferry Branch, a little below Spring Gardens.

Sailing-master Webster of the Flotilla, with 50 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 45 seamen of the same corps, occupied a three gun battery near the Lazaretto.

And Lieut. 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 M'Henry in the left wing of the water battery, at which was stationed Sailing-master Rodman, and 45 seamen of the Flotilla.

To the officers, seamen and marines of the Guerriere, considering the privations they experienced and the cheerfulness and zeal with which they encountered every obstacle, every acknowledgment is due, and it would be as impossible for me to say too much in their praise, as it would be unworthy of the station I hold, not to mention that their discipline and good conduct is owing, in a pre-eminent degree, to the indefatigable attention and exertions of that highly estimable officer Lt. Gamble.

The enemy's repulsion from the Ferry Branch on the night of the 13th inst. after he had passed Fort M'Henry with his barges and some light vessels was owing to the warm reception he met from Forts Covington and Babcock commanded by Lt. Newcomb and Sailing-master Webster, who with all under their command performed the duty assigned them to admiration.

To Lt. Frazier, commanding the 3 gun battery at the Lazaretto, great praise is due for the constant and animated fire with which he at times assailed the enemy during the whole bombardment, altho' placed in a very exposed situation to rockets and shells.

Great praise is justly due Lt. Rutter for his prompt execution of my orders, as well as the zeal & coolness with which he performed all the duties of his station, although continually exposed for near twenty-four hours to the enemy's rockets and shells.

Similar praise is due to the officers and men in the several barges of the Flotilla which were immediately under his command, who without regard to the enemy's rockets and shells maintained their position with firmness in the passage between Fort M'Henry and the Lazaretto.

Sailing-master Rodman, stationed in the water battery of Fort M'Henry with 60 seamen of the Flotilla, did his duty in a manner worthy of the service, to which he belongs.

To Master's-mate Stockton, my aid, I am greatly indebted for the zeal & promptitude, with which he conveyed my orders from post to post, and wherever I had occasion to communicate, altho' in some instances he had to pass through showers of shells and rockets.

To Mr. Allen (brother of the late gallant Capt. Allen of the Navy) who acted as my aid, and remained near my person, I am much indebted for the essential assistance he rendered in the capacity of Secretary, and conveying my orders wherever I found the same necessary.

It now becomes a duty to notice the services of that gallant and meritorious officer, Captain Spence of the Navy, by whose exertions, assisted by Lt. Rutter with the barges, the entrance into the Basin was so obstructed in the enemy's presence and that too in a very short time, as to bid defiance to his ships, had he attempted to force that passage. In fine, owing to the emergency of the service, although no definite command could be assigned Capt. Spence, his services were nevertheless of the first order, & where danger was expected, there he was to be found animating with his presence and encouraging by his conduct, all to do their duty. On leaving Baltimore Com. Perry being absent, the command of the naval forces devolved on this excellent officer.

That justly distinguished officer Com. Perry I am sorry to say, was so indisposed and worn out with the fatigue he had experienced on the Potomac, and having arrived at Baltimore, but a short time before the bombardment commenced, excluded his taking an active command; at the moment, however, when the enemy threatened to attack our lines, I found he was with us, and ready to render every assistance in his power.—In a word, every officer, seaman and marine, belonging as well to the Navy as to the Flotilla, performed his duty in a manner worthy of the corps to which he belonged.

I feel a delicacy in attempting to express an opinion of the conduct of any of our corps than those particularly placed under my command by the Navy Department, and the more so, as my object is to avoid every cause of being tho't presuming.—I must in justice, however, be permitted to say that the conduct of Com. Stephen Stone, commanding the 1st Regiment of Maryland militia, which was formed in column in my rear, for the defence of the lines, and whom I considered attached to my command by order of the commanding General, conducted in a manner not only to give me satisfaction, but the most incontestible proof that, the corps would have done its duty, had the enemy attempted to force the intrenchment in its vicinity.

Much praise is also due to Maj. Randall, commanding a battalion of Pennsylvania Rifleman, who was also placed under my command, and whom I dispatched with my aid, Mr. Stockton, to dislodge a party of men in the enemy's boats, which it was supposed intended landing near the Lazaretto to take possession of our little 3 gun battery. Mr. Stockton, on his return reported to me in very high terms the zeal and gallantry displayed by the Major and the corps on this occasion. Indeed it is but justice to say, that I have the best reason to believe, that