WAR DEPARTMENT.

Drawing-Street, October 6, 1812.

CAPTAIN COOKE, Aide-de-Camp to Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, Governor in Chief of His Majesty's Provinces in North America, arrived this morning with dispatches from the Lieutenant-General, addressed to Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, of which the following is an extract and a copy.

MY LORD,

Montreal, August 26, 1812.

I feel the greatest satisfaction in transmitting to your Lordship a letter which I have this day received by express from Major-General Brock, announcing to me the surrender of Fort Detroit, on the 16th instant, by Brigadier-General Hull, with the army under his command, exceeding two thousand five hundred men, together with twenty-five pieces of ordnance.

In my dispatches of the 17th and 24th instant, I had the honour of detailing to your Lordship the operations which had taken place in Upper Canada, in consequence of the invasion of that Province by the army of the United States, Brigadier-General Hull having crossed the Detroit River on the 12th of last month, with two thousand three hundred men, consisting of regular cavalry and infantry, and milicia, bringing with him several field-pieces; and having driven in the militia towards Amherstburg, first advanced to Sandwich, and afterwards approached Amherstburg with a part of his army to the River Cathcart, about five miles from the fort, where he was foiled in three attempts to cross that river, and suffered a considerable loss. The garrison of Amherstburg consisted at that time of a subaltern's detachment of the royal artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Trott, and of a detachment of three hundred men of the 41st regiment, under the command of Captain Muir, and of about as many of the militia; the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Saint George, inspecting field officer of militia in the district.

General Brock, relying upon the strong assurances I had given him of a reinforcement as prompt and as effectual as the circumstances under which I was placed by this new war would permit me to send, adopted the most vigorous measures for the safety of that part of the frontier which had been attacked. In these measures he was most opportunely aided by the fortunate surrender of Fort Michilimackinac, which giving spirit and confidence to the Indian tribes in its neighbourhood, a part of whom had assisted in its capture, determined them to advance upon the rear and flanks of the American army, as soon as they heard that it had entered the Province.

The certainty of the expected reinforcements, and the weakness of the enemy on the Niagara Frontier, had in the meantime induced Gen. Brock to detach from the garrison of Fort George fifty men of the forty-first regiment, under Captain Chambers into the interior of the country, for the purpose of collecting such of the Indians and Militia as might be ready to join him, and of afterwards advancing upon the left flank of the enemy. Sixty men of the same regiment were also detached from that garrison to Amherstburg, and forty to Long Point to collect the militia in that quarter. Having made these dispositions, and having previously sent forward Colonel Proctor of the forty-first regiment to Amherstburg, where he arrived and assumed the command on the twenty-sixth of last month, General Brock proceeded himself from York on the 5th instant, for Fort St. George and Long Point on Lake Erie, which last place he left on the 9th following for Amherstburg with forty rank and file of the forty-first regiment, and two hundred and sixty of the militia forces.

Whilst General Brock was thus hastening his preparations for the relief of Amherstburg, the prospects of the American army under General Hull, were becoming every day more unfavourable; and their situation more critical. The intelligence of the fall of Michilimackinac had reached them, which they knew must expose them to an attack of the Indians on one quarter, at the same time that they were
threatened on another by the force approaching under Captain Chambers, an Indian tribe of the Wyandots, whom they had in vain attempted to bribe, aided by a detachment of the 41st regiment from Amherstburg, had incurred in cutting off their supply on the opposite side of the river, and in intercepting their dispatches, which described in very strait terms their position and numbers and dropped empty. This news they had obtained in their different natures, upon the Cansier River, as well as those of the enemy’s promises, together with the mode of warfare pursued by the Indians, had greatly discouraged and dissipated them, and had convinced General Halket how hopeless any attempt would be to storm Fort Amherstburg, without great loss and sacrifice of lives, as was endeavoring to.

It was under these circumstances at this critical period, and when the enemy were beginning to consult their security by examining themselves, that General Brock entered Amherstburg with a reinforcement, which he was fortunately enabled to do on the 12th instant, without the smallest molestation, in consequence of our decided naval superiority on the lakes. To this active and intelligent mind the advantages which the enemy’s situation afforded him over them, even with his very inferior force, became immediately apparent; and that he has not failed most effectually to avail himself of those favourable circumstances, your Lordship will, I trust, be satisfied from the letter which I have the honour of transmitting.

Having thus detailed the circumstances of the different circumstances which have led to the success of the James Carleton’s design on the western frontier of Upper Canada, I cannot withhold from your Lordship the justest tribute of applause suitable to him for his distinguished conduct on this occasion, or cease to recommend him, through your Lordship, to the favourable consideration of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, for the great ability and judgment with which he has planned, and the promptness, energy, and fortitude with which he has effected the preservation of 1200 men of the British army, and the capture of the town of York, with the loss of 50 of his own men.

The capture took place on the 18th instant, and in five days was invested in the siege of Amherstburg. I found the garrison of 800 men, composed of Indians, Canadians, and 80 English, perpetually employed in cutting off the enemy’s communications with their reserve. This produced two smart skirmishes on the 9th and 10th, in both of which the enemy’s loss was very considerable, whilst ours amounted to three killed and 10 wounded.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your Lordship’s most obedient servant,

(George Prevost)

The Right Honorable Earl Bathurst.

STIR.

Head-Quarters, Detroit, Aug. 16, 1812.

I HAVE the honour of informing your Excellency, that the enemy have invested, by a detachment of thirty thousand men, under Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Prevost, the whole of my city, and the enemy are upon the river Credit, without opposition, and that after establishing himself at Sandusky, he has required this town of the Moravian town. Some skirmishes occurred between the troops under Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Prevost, and the enemy upon the river Cansier, which uniformly terminated in his being repulsed with loss. I judge it proper to detach as many as are capable of acting in conjunction with the guard of the city, command the Royal artillery, an active and intelligent officer, being required in the field, the direction of the Indian department, and the efficiency of the army department, and I cannot withhold my entire approbation of their conduct on this occasion.

I crossed the river, with an intention of waiting in a strong position the effect of our force upon the enemy’s camp, and in the hope of compelling him to meet us in the field by receiving information that the militia of the United States was about to march under arms, I immediately set out with a large body of the 41st regiment.

I hasten to apprise your Excellency of the expedition which I have the honor to report. Two thousand and five hundred troops have this day surrendered prisoners of war, and about twenty-five pieces of ordnance, taken without the loss of a drop of British blood. I had not more than seven hundred troopers, including the detachment under Captains, Major-general the Lord Byron, and about 1000 rank and file. When I detailed my good fortune your Excellency will, I trust, be kindly disposed to the personnel of the little force, and I have no doubt but that it was successfully accomplished. A sufficient of both being maintained, I am, by your Excellency’s command. 

I may judiciously say every individual under my command.

Believe me, Sir,

(Signed) ISAAC BROCK.

[1812]

STIR.

Head-Quarters, Montreal, Sept. 10, 1812.

Since I had the honour of thrice to your Lordship, the letter of the 26th ult. in which I had the pleasure of informing the enemy of the success which the enemy’s loss was very considerable, whilst ours amounted to three killed and 10 wounded.

I have the honour to be, your Lordship’s obedient servant,

(Signed) ISAAC BROCK.

[1813]

To His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, Bt.

STIR.

Head-Quarters, Detroit, Aug. 16, 1812.

I HAVE the honour of informing your Excellency, that the enemy have invested, by a detachment of thirty thousand men, under Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Prevost, the whole of my city, and the enemy are upon the river Credit, without opposition, and that after establishing himself at Sandusky, he has required this town of the Moravian town. Some skirmishes occurred between the troops under Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Prevost, and the enemy upon the river Cansier, which uniformly terminated in his being repulsed with loss. I judge it proper to detach as many as are capable of acting in conjunction with the guard of the city, command the Royal artillery, an active and intelligent officer, being required in the field, the direction of the Indian department, and the efficiency of the army department, and I cannot withhold my entire approbation of their conduct on this occasion.

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I may judiciously say every individual under my command.

Believe me, Sir,

(Signed) ISAAC BROCK.

[1813]
P. S. I have the honour to enclose a copy of a proclamation which I issued immediately on taking possession of this country.
I should have mentioned in the body of my dispatch the capture of the Adana; she is a fine vessel, and recently repaired, but without arms.

Camp at Detroit, August 16, 1812.
CAPITULATION for the Surrender of Fort Detroit, entered into between Major-General Brock, commanding His Britannic Majesty's Forces, on the one Part, and Brigadier-General Hull, Commanding the North Western Army of the United States, on the other Part.

Art. I. Fort Detroit, with all the troops, regulars as well as militia, will be immediately surrendered to the British forces under the command of Major-General Brock, and will be considered prisoners of war, with the exception of such of the militia of the Michigan territory, who have not joined the army.

II. All public stores, arms, and all public documents, including every thing else of a public nature, will be immediately given up.

III. Private persons and property of every description will be respected.

IV. His Excellency Brigadier-General Hull having expressed a desire that a detachment from the state of Ohio, on its way to join his army, as well as one sent from Fort Detroit, under the command of Colonel M'Arthur, should be included in the capitulation, it is accordingly agreed to. It is, however, to be understood, that such part of the Ohio militia as have not joined the army will be permitted to return to their homes, on condition that they will not serve during the war; their arms will be delivered up, if belonging to the public.

V. The garrison will march out at the hour of twelve o'clock this day, and the British forces will take immediate possession of the fort.

(Signed) J. Macdonell, Lieut. Col. Militia, P. A. D. C.
J. B. Gleed, Major, A. D. C.
E. Brush, Colonel commanding 1st Regiment of Michigan Militia.

Approved.
W. Hull, Brig. Gen. commanding the N. W. army.

Isaac Brock, Major-Gen.

An Article supplementary to the Articles of Capitulation, concluded at Detroit the 16th of August 1812.

It is agreed, that the officers and soldiers of the Ohio militia and volunteers shall be permitted to proceed to their respective homes, on this condition that they do not serve during the present war, unless they are exchanged.

Isaac Brock, Major-General.

An Article in addition to the Supplementary Article of Capitulation concluded at Detroit, the 16th August 1812.

It is further agreed that the officers and soldiers of the Michigan Militia and Volunteers under the command of Major Wetherell, shall be placed on the same principles as the Ohio Militia and Volunteers are placed by the supplementary article of the 16th instant.

(Signed) W. Hull, Brig. Gen.
Commanding N. W. Army U. S.
Isaac Brock, Maj. Gen.

True Copies.
(Signed) ISAAC BROCK, Maj. Gen.

Return of Ordnance taken in the Fort and Batteries at Detroit, August 16th, 1812.

Iron Ordnance—9 twenty-four pounders, 8 twelve-pounders, 5 nine-pounders, 3 six-pounders.
Brass Ordnance—3 four-pounders, 2 four-pounders, 1 three-pounder, 1 eight-inch howitzer, 1 five and half inch ditto.
Total of ordnance taken—33.

FRANK TROUGHTON,
Lt. Col. Royal Artillery.

N. B. No time to take an inventory of ordnance stores, &c. and no return could be procured from the American officer.

PROCLAMATION by Isaac Brock, Esq. Major General commanding His Majesty's Forces in the Province of Upper Canada, &c. &c.

Whereas the territory of Michigan was this day captured, the arms of His Britannic Majesty without any other condition than the protection of private property, and wishing to give an early proof of the moderation and justice of His Majesty's government, I do hereby announce to all the inhabitants of the said territory, that the laws heretofore in existence shall continue in force until His Majesty's pleasure be known, or so long as the peace and safety of the said territory will admit thereof, and I do hereby declare and make known to the said inhabitants that they shall be protected in the full exercise and enjoyment of their religion, of which all persons both civil and military will take notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

All persons having in their possession, or having any knowledge of any public property, shall forthwith deliver in the same, or give notice thereof to the officer commanding, or Lieut. Col. Nicholl, who are duly authorized to receive and give proper receipts for the same.

Officers of militia will be held responsible, that all arms in possession of any man be immediately delivered up, and all individuals whatever who have in their possession arms of any kind, will deliver them up without delay.

Given under my hand at Detroit, this sixteenth day of August, 1812, and in the fifty-second year of His Majesty's reign.

(Signed) ISAAC BROCK,
Maj. Gen.