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**B A T T L E S**

**OF**

**CHIPPAWA AND LUNDY'S LANE,**

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**BY CHARLES ANDERSON,**

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**G U I D E**

**TO THE**

**BATTLE GROUND.**

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A TRUE AND IMPARTIAL ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
ACTIONS FOUGHT AT  
CHIPPAWA & LUNDY'S LANE  
DURING THE LAST WAR  
WITH THE UNITED STATES.

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BY CHARLES ANDERSON,  
LATE LIEUTENANT IN THE  
Niagara Royal Provincial Artillery Drivers,  
WHO FOUGHT IN BOTH ACTIONS.

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SECOND EDITION.

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## BATTLES OF CHIPPAWA & LUNDY'S LANE

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GENERALS Brown and Scott, commanding the American army, crossed Niagara river on the 3d July, 1814, with about six thousand Regular troops. General Porter's Volunteers and some Indians crossed without opposition on the same day. The whole marched down to Street's Grove, two miles above Chippawa, and there encamped. There was some fighting between General Porter's Volunteers and the Militia and 19th Light Dragoons, which, after having a Sergeant and three men wounded, retired back to Chippawa to the British head-quarters. On the 5th General Riall crossed the Chippawa with about 1300 regulars, 200 Militia, and some Indians; the Indians were commanded by Major Norton and Captain Kerr, the militia by Colonel Dickson and Major Secord. The militia and Indians commenced the attack on General Porter's volunteers, formed in the woods on the left of the American line. General Porter's volunteers outflanked the British militia, and they, having a raking fire on them, had to fall back with a great loss of officers and men. General Porter's volunteers behaved in a most gallant manner. Col. Dickson being wounded, the command devolved on Major Secord, who rallied his militia in most

gallant style. Colonel Pearson, commanding the right of the British line, ordered two flank companies of the Royals and 100th regiment to join the militia under the command of the brave Major Secord ; they immediately attacked General Porter's volunteers and drove them back to the American line, notwithstanding they contested the ground in a most gallant manner : the British militia and flank companies fell back and joined the right of their own army. The action now commenced in general in a most determined manner on both sides, and continued for about two hours. The British Artillery annoying the Americans very much, their troops were ordered to charge the artillery, but the 19th Light Dragoons were also ordered to charge for the purpose of covering the artillery, and they did so and drove the Americans back. The limber of one of the British guns—a brass 24 pounder—was shot off. The action became desperate on both sides and the 100th and Royals were ordered to charge ; they did so, but the American army being so many more in number the British had to give way. General Riall came up with the 8th regiment which he had kept in reserve, but finding it impossible to stand his ground he ordered a retreat, and covered it in the most gallant manner, with the assistance of the 19th Light Dragoons. The British retreated to Chippawa, and crossing

the bridge, took up a position behind their batteries. The loss on the British side was very great; the 100th and Royals were almost cut to pieces, and the militia lost 2 Captains, 4 Lieutenants and 55 privates. Next day Generals Brown and Scott moved their army across the woods up to the mouth of Lyons' Creek, framed a bridge over the Chippawa, and crossed under the fire of the British Artillery. General Riall, finding the Americans were crossing, ordered the stores to be destroyed, and retreated with his army to Fort George. Generals Brown and Scott followed the British as far as Queenston where they encamped, it being opposite Lewistown, U.S., where they could get supplies and reinforcements, and at the same time watch General Riall's movements. General Brown's force being so much stronger than the British, General Riall thought proper to withdraw his army back to the 20 Mile Creek, to wait for a reinforcement with which General Drummond was on the way from Toronto; he left in each fort what he thought a sufficient number to defend them. What were the motives of Generals Brown & Scott for not attacking the Fort, or following General Riall, I cannot tell. If the enemy had taken Fort George first, Niagara must have fallen with it; the American Fort was taken the year before by the British under Generals Drummond and Riall, on the 19th

December. The American army remained at Queenston until the 24th July, when they struck their tents and marched up the Portage Road to Chippawa, and encamped on their old Battle Ground at Street's Grove. General Riall, hearing that the Americans had left Queenston, ordered Captain Merritt of the Provincial Dragoons to find out where the American army was going, and he returned intelligence to General Riall that they were at Chippawa on the old Battle Ground. The General, on hearing this, ordered the Glengarries to march and the rest of the army to follow; the Glengarries arrived at the top of the hill at Lundy's Lane about 10 o'clock on the 25th. Captain Merritt, with the Provincial Dragoons, and some of the 1st and 2nd Lincoln Militia, and 19th Light Dragoons, were also on the spot. Captain Merritt was watching the movements of the Americans, and finding them advancing to Lundy's Lane, informed Captain Eliot, the Quarter Master General, who then ordered the Glengarries and Capt. Merritt's Dragoons to attack the enemy. The Glengarries were commanded by Colonel Battsbee, a gallant and experienced officer. General Scott, commanding the 1st Brigade of the American army, commenced the attack. General Porter, coming up with his volunteers, formed them in the woods on the left of the American line, and opened a heavy fire on

the Glengarries. General Riall, coming up with the Incorporated Militia under the command of Colonel Robinson and Major Kerby, attacked the Americans on the right, the Glengarries attacking them on the left.

General Brown, finding his 1st Brigade giving way, sent his 2nd Brigade under command of Brigadier General Ripley to support it. The Royal Scots, coming up about the same time, joined the Glengarries, and the action became desperate. Gen. Drummond, on arriving from Toronto with part of the 104th, 100th, and 89th regiments, hearing there were some Americans at Lewiston, crossed the river Niagara at Fort George and marched to that place; but finding no enemy there he re-crossed, and marched his men up the road to Lundy's Lane, coming up about 6 o'clock in the afternoon. About the same time Gen. Brown came up with the whole of the American army. Gen. Drummond formed his line on the top of the hill at Lundy's Lane, the Americans forming their line on the portage road below the hill. The action became general. The Glengarries fell back and joined the right of the British line, and the Incorporated Militia the left; the Artillery was in the centre, and made great havoc amongst the enemy. Gen. Scott, finding it impossible to gain the hill without taking the Artillery, asked Col. Miller if he could do it; he

replied that he would try, and marching up a ravine after a gallant charge took every piece of artillery the British had. The guns were not protected, and therefore Col. Miller had very little trouble in taking them—he had nothing to contend with but the Artillery. The Americans retained possession of the guns about one hour. The British 89th, formed on the left of the guns, was ordered to retake them; the men charged, and Col. Miller received them, in the most gallant manner: both regiments behaved admirably, but Col. Miller had to give way and lost the guns, which were hauled out of action and not again used. Both armies being on the top of the hill, and within four hundred yards of each other, a dreadful conflict of about three hours duration ensued; both sides fought with desperate valour, part of the time at the bayonet's point, and it was long doubtful which would give way. There never was a piece of ground contended for in a more courageous manner than the top of the hill at Lundy's Lane, since the time of the Romans; Cæsar and Pompey never fought in a more gallant manner. The action lasted from 4 o'clock P. M., until 12 P. M., when the Moon got under a cloud, and it being very dark the firing ceased on both sides. The Americans retired to their head-quarters at Bridgewater; the British army remained on the ground at the top of the hill un-

till about 10 o'clock, next day, when Gen. Drummond retired with his forces to Queenston for refreshment, having had nothing to eat or drink for about 12 hours. He left some men to bury the dead and take care of the wounded, and gave orders to the 19th Light Dragoons to watch the movements of the enemy. The Americans left their head quarters at Bridgewater, burnt the mills, crossed the river at Chippawa and cut the bridge down, then marched to Fort Erie and took possession of the Fort. Gen. Drummond ordered Major Secord of the 2nd Lincoln Militia to build a floating bridge, that he might get his artillery over. The third day Gen. Drummond crossed over to Chippawa and followed the American army up to Frenchman's Creek, and encamped about a mile from Fort Erie. Generals Drummond and Riall were both wounded in the action, and about the middle of it the latter was taken prisoner. Gen. Drummond was wounded in the neck, but he was on horseback all night, and kept the command until next morning, when the surgeons extracted the ball. Generals Brown and Scott were also both wounded in the action. Gen. Brown kept the command all night, and ordered Gen. Ripley to refresh his troops and attack by daylight in the morning, but on forming the men he found them so much cut to pieces that he thought it imprudent to attack.

## GENERAL BROWN'S REPORT.

In a letter to the Hon. J. Armstrong, Secretary of War of the United States, dated July 25th, 1814, Major-General Jacob Brown, Commanding the American Forces on the Niagara Frontier, gives a detailed Report of the battle of 'Bridgewater.' The action was fought at Lundy's Lane instead of Bridgewater, but the Americans named it from the latter because their head-quarters were there at the time. Bridgewater is two miles distant from Lundy's Lane.

General Brown gives the number of his killed and wounded in the action at 988. After recommending the Officers for their services, he expresses himself unable to do justice to the merits of the troops, or to his own sense of them, and adds that under the most able direction they could not have done better. He thus proceeds :—

“From the preceding detail you have now evidence of the distinguished gallantry of Generals Scott, Porter, Colonel Miller and Major Jesup of the 1st Brigade ; the Chief, with his Aid-de-Camp Worth, Major of Brigade, Smith, and every Commander of Battalion, was wounded ; the 2nd Brigade suffered less, but as a Brigade their conduct entitled them to the applause of their country ; after the enemy's strong position had been carried by the 21st and a detachment of the 17th, 19th, 11th, and 23rd, it assumed a character that

could not again be shaken or dismayed. Major McFarland, of the latter, fell nobly at the head of his Battalion. Under the command of General Porter, the militia and volunteers of Pennsylvania and New York stood undismayed amidst the hottest fire, and repulsed the veterans opposed to them. The Canadian volunteers, commanded by Colonel Wilson, are reported by General Porter as having merited and received his approbation. The corps of Artillery, commanded by Major Hindman, behaved with its usual gallantry. Captain Townsend's company attached to the 1st Brigade was the first and last engaged, and during the whole conflict maintained that high character which they had previously won by their skill and valor. Captains Biddle and Ritchie were both wounded early in the action, but refused to quit the field; the latter declared he never would leave his piece, and true to his engagement fell by its side, covered with wounds. The Staff of the army had its peculiar merits. Colonel Gardner, Adjutant-General, though ill, was on horseback, and did all in his power; his assistant, Major Jones, was very active and useful. My gallant Aid-de-Camps, Austin and Spencer, had many and critical duties to perform in the discharge of which the latter fell. I shall ever think of this young man with pride and regret—regret that his career has been so short,

pride that it has been honorable and distinguished. The Engineers, Majors McRea and Wood, were greatly distinguished on this day, and their high military talents exerted with great effect; they were much under my eye and near my person, and to their assistance a great deal is fairly to be ascribed. I must earnestly recommend them as worthy of the highest trust and confidence. The Staff of Generals Ripley and Porter displayed great zeal and attention to duty. Lieutenant E. B. Randolph is entitled to notice; his courage was conspicuous."

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### GENERAL DRUMMOND'S REPORT.

In his despatch to Sir George Prevost, Commander-in-chief of British North America, giving a detailed report of the action at Lundy's Lane, General Drummond gives the number of his killed and wounded at 998, and adds:—

“Lieutenant Morrison, 104th Regiment, Assistant Adjutant-General, was killed towards the close of the action. The active exertions of Captain Eliot, Deputy Assistant Quarter-Master General, of whose gallantry and conduct I had occasion on two former instances to remark, were conspicuous. Major Muel and Lieutenant Le Breton, of the Quarter-Master General's Department, were extremely useful to me; the latter

was severely wounded. Amongst the officers from whose active exertions I derived the greatest assistance, I cannot omit to mention my Aid-de-Camps, Captains Javis and Loring, likewise Holland, Aid-de-Camp to Major General Riall. Captain Loring was unfortunately taken prisoner by some of the enemy's dragoons, while in execution of an order. On reviewing the action from its commencement, the first object which presents itself as worthy of notice is the steadiness and good countenance of the squadron of 19th Light Dragoons, under Major Lisle, and the creditable and excellent defence made by the Incorporated Militia battalion under Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson, who was dangerously wounded. Major Kerby succeeded Colonel Robinson in the command of the Incorporated Militia Battalion, and continued very gallantly to direct its efforts; this Battalion had only been organized a few months, and much to the credit of Captain Robinson of the King's Regiment (Provincial Lieut. Colonel) attained a highly respectable degree of discipline. The deterrined attacks which the enemy made upon our centre for the purpose of gaining at once the crest of our position and our guns, and the steadiness and intrepidity displayed by the troops allotted for the defence of this Post, were never surpassed; they consisted of the second Battalion 89th Regiment, commanded by

Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison, and after the Lieut. Colonel had been obliged to retire from the field by a severe wound, by Major Clifford; a detachment of the Royal Scots under Lieutenant Hemp-hill, and after he was killed, by Lieutenant Frazer; detachment of the 8th or King's under Captain Campbell; Light Company 41st Regiment under Captain Glew; with some detachments of Militia under Lieutenant-Col. Harvey. 103rd Regiment. These troops repeatedly, when hard pressed, formed round the columns of the 89th Regiment and invariably repulsed the desperate efforts made against them. On the right, the steadiness and good countenance of the 1st Battalion of Royal Scots, under Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, in some very trying moments excited my admiration. The King's Regiment, 1st Battalion, under Major Evans, behaved with equal gallantry and firmness, as did the Light Company of Royals detached under Captain Stewart, the Grenadiers of the 103rd detached under Capt. Browne, and the Flank Companies of the 104th under Captain Leonard. The Glengary Light Infantry under Lieutenant-Colonel Battsbee displayed most valuable qualities as Light troops. Colonel Scott, Major Smelt, and the officers of the 103rd, deserve credit for their exertions in rallying that Regiment after it had been thrown into momentary disorder. Lieutenant-Colonel

Pearson, Inspecting Field officer of Militia, directed the advance with great intelligence, and Lieutenant Col. Drummond, of the 104th, having gone forward with my permission early in the day made himself actively useful in different parts of the field under my direction. These officers are entitled to my best thanks, as is Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, Inspecting Field officer, for his exertions after his arrival with the troops under Colonel Scott. The field Artillery so long as there was light was well served; the credit of its efficient state is due to Captain McKonackie, who has had charge of it since he arrived with his division. Captain McLaughlin, who had charge of the Battery at Fort Mississauga, volunteered his services on the field on this occasion; he was severely wounded. My thanks are due to Lieutenant Charles Anderson, of the Royal Provincial Artillery Drivers, for his services until the guns were taken, and other services he performed during the action. Lieutenant Tomkins deserves much credit for the way in which the two Brass 24-pounders of which he had the charge were served, as does Sergeant Austin of the Rocket Company, who directed Congreve Rockets which did much execution. The zeal, loyalty and bravery with which the Militia of this part of the Province have come forward to co-operate with His Majesty's troops

in the expulsion of the enemy, and their conspicuous gallantry in this and in the action of the 5th instant, claim my warmest thanks. I cannot conclude this Despatch without recommending in the strongest terms the following officers, whose conduct during the late operations has called for marked approbation, and I am induced to hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to submit their names for promotion to the most favorable consideration of His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent, viz :—Captain Jarvis, my Aid-de Camp, Capt. 8th or King's Regiment, Provincial Lieutenant-Colonel, commanding Incorporated Militia ; Captain Eliot, Deputy Assistant Quarter-Master General ; Captain Holland, Aid-de-Camp to Major General Riall ; and Captain Glew, 51st Regiment. This Despatch will be delivered to you by Captain Jarvis, my Aid-de-Camp, who is fully competent to give your Excellency every further information you may require.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

G. DRUMMOND,

*Lieutenant-General Commanding.*"

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“Endeavouring to do justice to the merits of the officers and soldiers by whose valor and discipline this important success has been obtained, I have in the above omitted to state that I was very early

in the action deprived of the services of Major General Riall, who I regret to learn, has suffered amputation of his arm in the enemy's possession ; his bravery, zeal and activity have always been conspicuous. To Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, Deputy Adjutant General, I am so deeply indebted for his valuable assistance as well as his able and energetic exertions during this severe contest, that I feel myself called upon to point Your Excellency's attention to the distinguished merits of this highly-deserving officer, whose services have been particularly conspicuous in every affair that has taken place since his arrival in this Province. The zeal and intelligence displayed by Major Glegg, Assistant Adjutant General, deserve my warmest approbation."

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I CERTIFY, to the best of my recollection, the foregoing to be an impartial statement of the Battles of CHIPPAWA and LUNDY'S LANE, during the late war with the United States ; and was one who witnessed the same.

JAMES CUMMINGS, J. P.





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