

BATTLING AROUND TOLEDO.

(Continued from page one.)

his troops. The weather became very severe, and the Winchester received information of the advance of the British and Indians in great force, he disbelieved this, and was surprised at day-break Jan. 22, 1813, by the British artillery firing into his camp at close range, the field guns throwing grape and the howitzer shells. The British Regulars and Indians rushed forward with frightful yells, and altho Winchester made strenuous efforts to rally his troops behind the punchon pickets he found these quickly cut down, and his men forced to retreat in the utmost disorder. The Indians took the greatest advantage of this rout, and at one place, not exceeding 100 yards in length, nearly 100 Kentucky militia were tomahawked and scalped. Gen. Winchester and his next in command, Col. Lewis, were taken prisoner. The British Indian chief, stripped of their clothes, and taken to Col. Proctor, the British Commandant, who was afterwards to rise to evil notoriety. A portion of Winchester's men were not involved in the rout of the rest, and bravely defended itself in a small garden surrounded by heavy pickets. The Kentucky riflemen quickly shot down the artillerymen, who planted guns to batter down their defenses, and they did not surrender until they received orders from Gen. Winchester, which they obeyed. Proctor, of the Americans there were 197 killed, which carried mourning all over Kentucky. Besides these there were about 700 taken prisoner. Proctor received a vote of thanks from the Canadian Assembly and the commission of Brigadier-General.

Gen. Harrison Advances. The situation now became so intensely alarming as to call for most energetic measures. The Governors ordered out the militia everywhere, and bent all their slender resources to arming, equipping and providing for the men sent to the front. Gen. Harrison took command in person, and pushed forward down the Maumee Valley, encountering the most terrific obstacles. He had no commissary supplies thru the wilderness and the awful Black Swamp. Provisions and ammunition had to be carried on pack horses, which were sent to the rich soil of the Black Swamp. Only by herculean efforts could even the lightest cannon be brought forward, and artillery ammunition was as precious as gold. In the presence of swarms of hostile Indians, watching opportunities to overcome any insufficient guards.

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it, but these did little damage to the strongly-made works. May 4, Proctor appeared at a turn in the river more than a mile distant. In the face of shots from the six-pounder they advanced, and in a cove not quite a mile from the fort, the British landed, with a five-and-a-half-inch howitzer opposite a small island in the stream. At the same time the Indians deployed themselves in the woods in all directions, to cut off a retreat of the garrison.

The Dudley Massacre. The cannonade was heard at Fort Defiance, and hastened Gen. Green Clay forward with reinforcements, which he put in progress. Harrison sent him on to Toledo, Ohio, on the left bank of the river, just above the batteries, drive out the cannoners, spike the guns, cut down the carriages, and come across the river into the fort. While this was being done the rest of the command would fight its way into the fort, assisted by the garrison. It was an excellent plan, but failed by the impetuosity of the militia.

Col. Dudley, of Kentucky, was assigned to this work, and managed it stoutly. He landed out of sight of the British, surprised them in the act of maintaining a vigorous fire on the fort, captured a number, with 11 guns, which were soon spiked. The British flag was torn down from the staff. Harrison from the Grand Battery, watched with lively satisfaction the success with which his orders had been executed. These feelings were soon changed. Some Indians coming up in the rear opened fire, and the Kentuckians, rushing off after them, were soon followed by the rest of the command. In vain Harrison signaled them to return to their boats. Soon he saw a column of British double-quick out from Fort Miami and interpose between them and the river. Tecumseh came up with his Indians, and surrounded the luckless volunteers. The command went to pieces, and the battle became a slaughter. They were killed, scalped, or were some 100 of his men. Of the 866 only 170 escaped to Fort Meigs. Proctor made feeble efforts to stop the massacre, for which he received the contemptuous comment by Tecumseh that he was unfit to command men, and would appear better in petticoats. Something like 200 were saved from massacre, mainly by Tecumseh's energetic interposition.

The other portion of Gen. Green Clay's command succeeded in fighting their way thru the investing Indians, and reaching the fort without serious loss. Harrison ordered a sortie from the fort to assist them, and a gallant fight resulted, in which the British and Americans met in the woods at the point of the bayonet, their cannon spiked and 43 prisoners captured, beside a number killed and wounded.

The Siege Raised. Proctor and his allies now lost heart, especially as Proctor heard that the Niagara frontier was in the hands of the British. He had little prospect of getting the rich stores of Fort Meigs, which had been promised to him by Gen. Harrison, and he was not to be surprised that this became a vanishing prospect. The British promised the sovereignty of Michigan Territory, the over of the Canadian militia was nearly out in the open.

The Indians were daily leaving in great numbers, but Tecumseh stayed to keep his commission as Brigadier-General, 30th pay and allowances. Proctor made a bluff by sending in another demand for a surrender, which Harrison stigmatized as an insult that should not be repeated. Thereupon the British raised the siege, re-embarked their men and sailed away for Malden. During the operations the Americans had lost 80 killed, 270 wounded and 470 prisoners. The British lost 15 killed, 47 wounded and 44 prisoners.

Attack on Fort Stephenson. As soon as Gen. Harrison saw that Proctor had given up the hope of capturing Fort Meigs he left the post under the command of Gen. Green Clay, and hastened to put other points along the south shore of Lake Erie in a defensive condition. He was particularly anxious as to Fort Stephenson, guarding the Sandusky River, where Proctor was likely to make his next attempt, since he had found Fort Meigs so strong. Harrison put 160 men in Fort Stephenson, under the command of Maj. Geo. Croghan, of the Regular Army. The fort was a small work of the usual stockade and blockhouse type, mounting only one piece of artillery, a six-pounder. It was surrounded by a ditch eight feet deep and of the same width. Harrison knew that it could not be held against Proctor's artillery, and he gave the following order to Croghan: "Should the British troops approach you in force with cannon, and you can discover them in time to effect a retreat, you will do so immediately, destroying all the public stores. You must be aware that to attempt to retreat in the face of the Indian force would be in vain. Against such an enemy your garrison would be safe, however great the numbers."

Gen. Harrison took up his position at what is now Tiffin, O., where he built Fort Ball, and put in a strong garrison of Regulars and volunteers. In that position he could readily go to the help of either Fort Meigs or Fort Stephenson.

The Siege of Fort Meigs. Proctor succeeded in collecting his militia and Indians again at Malden, and in July had nearly 5,000 men, of which one-half were Indians. He got information that the garrison of Fort Meigs was greatly reduced by sickness and expiration of enlistment. July 20, 1813, he suddenly reappeared in the Maumee, and a few days afterward attempted to capture the fort by a stratagem. Tecumseh and his warriors set up a terrible commotion, as if they were attacking reinforcements sent from Fort Ball. It was expected that the garrison would make a sortie to help their friends.

Gen. Clay was too old an Indian fighter to be caught. He fired a cannon shot in Tecumseh's direction, a heavy rain storm came up and the tumult subsided. Proctor did not dare make a direct assault on the strong works, and after lying around Fort Miami for a few days, sailed down the river, while Tecumseh led his Indians across the country to co-operate in the attempt to take Fort Stephenson.

Correctly informed as to Proctor's movements and intentions, Gen. Harrison sent Croghan an order to retreat, but the officers carrying it found the woods swarming with Indians, whom they had to elude in the darkness, and did not reach Fort Stephenson until nearly noon of the next day. Croghan, after consulting with his officers, decided against a retreat. He sent back as an answer to Gen. Harrison: "Sir: I have just received yours of yesterday 10 o'clock p. m., ordering me to destroy this place and make good my retreat, which was received too late to be carried into execution. We have determined to maintain this place, and, by heavens, we can."

A vast amount of ink was at one time shed over this by Whig and Democratic writers, each trying to make the utmost capital out of it for his side. As a matter of fact, Croghan did not deliberately disobey the order of his superior, and take all the risks involved. He and his advisers acted in the spirit of the previous order, and which ruled Harrison had especially cautioned him against trying to retreat in the face of a swarm of Indians, and he was acting strictly in accordance with that admonition.

Loading's Account. The following is Historian Loring's account of the assault and repulse:

"At 4 o'clock that afternoon the British gunboats, with Proctor and his men, appeared at a turn in the river more than a mile distant. In the face of shots from the six-pounder they advanced, and in a cove not quite a mile from the fort, the British landed, with a five-and-a-half-inch howitzer opposite a small island in the stream. At the same time the Indians deployed themselves in the woods in all directions, to cut off a retreat of the garrison."

"Gen. Proctor entered immediately upon the business of his errand. His attacking force consisted of a portion of the 41st regiment, 400 strong, and several hundred Indians, Tecumseh, with almost 2,000 more, was stationed upon the roads leading from Fort Meigs and Seneca town, to intercept approaching reinforcements from those directions."

"Having disposed of his forces so as to cut off Croghan's retreat, Gen. Proctor sent Col. Elliott, accompanied by Capt. Chambers, with a flag of truce, to demand the instant surrender of the fort. These officers were accompanied by Capt. Dixon, of the Royal Engineers, who was in command of the Indian allies."

"Maj. Croghan sent Second Lieut. Shipp as his representative to meet the flag. After the usual salutations, Col. Elliott said: 'I am instructed to demand the instant surrender of the fort, to spare the effusion of blood, which we can not do should we be under the necessity of reducing it by our powerful force of regulars, Indians and artillery.'"

"My commandant and the garrison," replied Shipp, "are determined to defend the post to the last extremity, and bury themselves in its ruins, rather than surrender it to any force what ever."

"Look at our immense body of Indians," interposed Dixon. "They cannot be restrained from massacring the whole garrison, in the event of our undoubted success."

"Our success is certain," eagerly added Chambers. "It is a great pity," said Dixon in a beseeching tone, "that so fine a young man as you, and your commandant represented to be, should fall into the hands of the savages. Sir, for God's sake, surrender, and prevent the dreadful massacre that will be caused by your resistance."

"Shipp, who had lately dealt with the same foe at Fort Meigs, coolly replied: 'When the fort shall be taken there will be none to massacre. It will not be given up while a man is able to resist.'"

"Shipp was just turning to go back to the fort, when an Indian sprang up from a bushy ravine near and attempted to snatch his sword. The intrepid American was about to dispatch the savage when Dixon interfered. Croghan, who had stood upon the ramparts during the conference, observed the insult, and shouted: 'Shipp, come back, and we will blow them all to hell. The ensign hastened into the fort, the flag returned, and the British opened a fire immediately from their gunboats and from the five-and-a-half-inch howitzer which they had landed. For some reason, never until recently explained, they commenced the attack in great haste, before proper arrangements were made. All night long, five six-pounders, which had been landed from the British gunboats, and the howitzer upon the land, played upon the stockade without serious effect. They were answered occasionally by the solitary cannon in the fort, which was spiked from one blockhouse to another, so as to give the impression that the garrison had several heavy guns. But their supply of ammunition was small, and Maj. Croghan determined to use his powder and ball to better advantage than firing at random in the dark. He silenced the gun, and ordered Capt. Hunter, his second in command, to place it in the blockhouse at the middle of the north side of the fort, so as to rake the ditch in the direction of the northwest angle, the point where the foe would doubtless make the assault, it being the weakest part. This was accomplished before daylight, and the gun, loaded with a half charge of powder and a double charge of slugs and grapeshot, was completely spiked."

"During the night the British had dragged three six-pounders to a point of woods in ground higher than the fort, and about 250 yards from it, (near the spot where the obstructions in Fremont now stands, westward of Croghan street), and early in the morning they opened a brisk fire upon the stockade from these and the howitzer. Their cannonade produced but little effect, and for many hours the little garrison made no reply. Proctor became impatient. That long day in August was rapidly passing away, and he saw before him only a dreary night of futile effort in his present position. His Indians were becoming uneasy, and at length he resolved to storm the fort. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon he concentrated the fire of all his guns upon the weak northwest angle. His suspected purpose was now apparent. Toward that weak point Croghan directed his strengthening efforts. Bags of sand and sacks of flour were piled against the pickets there, and the force of the cannonade was materially broken."

The Assault. "At 5 o'clock, while the howling of distant thunder in the western horizon, where a dark storm-cloud was brooding, seemed like the echo of the great guns of the foe, the British, in two close columns, led by Brevet Lieut.-Col. Short and Lieut. Gordon, advanced to assail the works. At the same time a party of grenadiers about 200 strong, under Lieut.-Col. Warburton, took a wide circuit thru the woods to make a feigned attack upon the southern front of the fort, while Capt. Hunter and his party were stationed. Private Brown, of the Petersburg Volunteers, with half a dozen of his corps and Pittsburg Blues, happened to be in the fort at the time. Brown was killed in gunnery, and the management of the six-pounder in the fort."

"As the British storming party, under Lieut.-Col. Short, advanced, their artillery played incessantly upon the northwestern angle of the fort, and under cover of the dense smoke, they approached to within 15 or 20 paces of the works before they were discovered by the garrison. Every man within the fort was at his post, and these Kentucky sharpshooters. They instantly poured upon the assailants such a shower of rifle balls, sent with fatal precision, that the British line was thrown into momentary confusion. They quickly rallied. The axmen bravely pushed forward over the glacis, and leaped into the ditch to assail the pickets. Lieut.-Col. Short was at the head of the gallant party, and when a sufficient number of men were in the ditch behind him he shouted, 'Cut away the pickets, my brave boys, and show the damned Yankees no quarter!' Now was the moment for the decisive number of men were in the ditch behind him he shouted, 'Cut away the pickets, my brave boys, and show the damned Yankees no quarter!' Now was the moment for the decisive

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thru which the wounded were borne to the little fortress and their necessities supplied. "Intelligence of this gallant defense caused the liveliest sentiments of admiration throughout the country, and congratulations were sent to Maj. Croghan from every quarter. His General, in his official report, spoke of him in words of highest praise. The ladies of Chillicothe, Ohio, purchased and presented to him a elegant sword, and the Congress of the United States voted him the thanks of the Nation. Twenty-two years later the Congress gave him a gold medal in commemoration of his signal service on that day. Posterity will ever regard his name with honor."

The 82d Ohio. Editor National Tribune: Please give a short history of the 82d Ohio, as printed in Fox's "Fighting Regiments."—D. J. Morey, Kenton, Ohio. The 82d lost the most officers in battle of any Ohio regiment. It was organized at Kenton, in the Fall of 1861, leaving the State the following January and proceeding to West Virginia. It was engaged May 2, McDowell, Va., with a loss of six killed, 50 wounded and one missing. At Manassas it fought in Perry's Independent Brigade, of Sigel's Corps, losing 21 killed, 99 wounded and 15 missing. Col. Cantwell was killed in this action, falling to horse while changing the front of his regiment under fire. At Chancellorsville it fought in Kryzsanowski's Brigade, Schurz's Division, Eleventh Corps, losing 3 killed, including four officers, 48 wounded, and 25 missing. At Gettysburg, out of 312 present, it lost 17 killed, including six officers, 85 wounded, and 79 missing. It accompanied the Eleventh Corps to Tennessee, where it participated in the Chattanooga campaign. In April, 1864, it was transferred to Robinson's Brigade, Williams's Division, Twentieth Corps, in which command it fought thru the Atlanta campaign and in the Carolinas. It encountered hard fighting at New Hope Church and Peach Tree Creek. After the fall of Atlanta, it marched with Sherman to the sea and thru the Carolinas. It was commanded successively by Col. James Cantwell, James S. Robinson, and Stephen J. McGroarty. Out of a total enrollment of 1,731, it lost 138 killed and 119 from disease, etc. Seventeen of these died in Confederate prisons. The regiment was mustered out July 24, 1865.—Editor National Tribune.

The 80th Ill. Editor National Tribune: A year ago I asked you to give a short history of the 80th Ill., but up to this date have failed to see any. R. A. Stephenson, Springfield, Ohio. The 80th Ill. was organized at Centralia, Aug. 25, 1862; those members whose terms would have expired previous to Oct. 1, 1865, were mustered out June 10, 1865, and the remainder transferred to the 35th Ill. It was commanded by Col. Thomas G. Allen, who resigned April 21, 1863, succeeded by Lieut.-Col. Andrew F. Rodgers, who also resigned Nov. 25, 1864. At the time of transfer the regiment was under the command of Lieut.-Col. Erasmus N. Bates. It belonged to Stanley's Division, Fourth Corps, and lost 43 killed and 160 from disease, etc.—Editor National Tribune.

The 8th Iowa Cav. Editor National Tribune: Please give a short account of the 8th Iowa Cav.—Joseph Flowers, Moravia, Ga. The 8th Iowa Cav. organized at Dayton, Sept. 30, 1862, and was mustered out Aug. 12, 1865. It was commanded by Col. Joseph B. Dorr, who died May 28, 1865, of disease, at Madison, Ga., succeeded by Col. Horatio G. Barner, a. w. m., who was in command at the time of muster-out. It belonged to McCook's Division, Cavalry Corps, and lost 40 killed and 119 from disease, etc.—Editor National Tribune.

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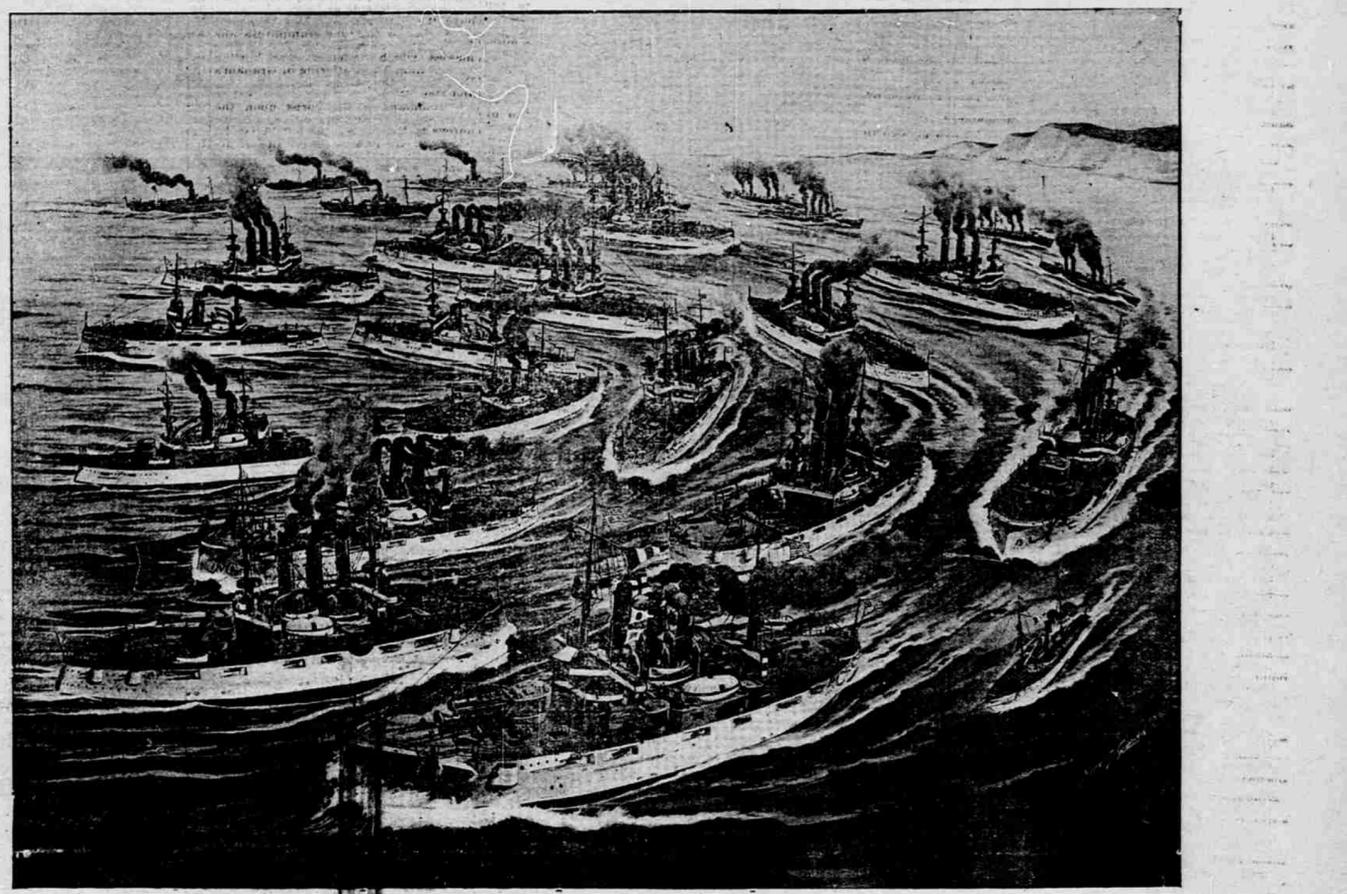


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THE ATLANTIC FLEET OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY. (From Official Bulletin of Bureau of Navigation.) Birds-eye-view showing the Vessels of the Port of Callao practicing the "Gridiron" maneuver. This is considered by Naval authorities to be the most dangerous evolution in steam tactics, and its improper execution caused the loss of H. M. S. "Victoria" with 798 men in 1893. Picture faithfully represents the entire Fleet in official formation and vessels can be identified by numbers corresponding to table appended.

Table listing ships in the Atlantic Fleet, organized into four divisions. Division 1 includes Connecticut, Kansas, Vermont, and Louisiana. Division 2 includes Georgia, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Virginia. Division 3 includes Minnesota, New York, Missouri, and Maine. Division 4 includes Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, and various auxiliaries.

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