

Having the desired effect, the attack was deferred until the arrival of the troops under Major-General Lambert, which were daily expected.

Major-General Lambert, in the *Vengeur*, with a convoy of transports, having on board the 7th and 43d regiments, reached the outer anchorage on the 1st, and this reinforcement was all brought up to the advance on the 6th instant, while preparations were making for a second attack, in the proposed plan for which, it was decided to throw a body of men across the river to gain possession of the enemy's guns on the right bank. For this purpose the canal by which we were enabled to conduct provisions and stores towards the camp, was widened and extended to the river, and about fifty barges, pinnaces, and cutters, having, in the day time of the 7th, been tracked under cover and unperceived, close up to the bank, that night the whole were dragged into the Mississippi, and placed under the command of Captain Roberts of the *Meteor*.

The boats having grounded in the Canal, a distance of three hundred and fifty yards from the river, and the bank being composed of wet clay thrown out of the canal, it was not until nearly day-light that with the utmost possible exertions this service was completed.

The 85th regiment, with a division of seamen under Captain Money, and a division of marines under Major Adair, the whole amounting to about six hundred men, commanded by Colonel Thornton of the 85th regiment, were embarked and landed on the right bank of the river without opposition, just after day-light; and the armed boats moving up the river as the troops advanced, this part of the operations succeeded perfectly; the enemy having been driven from every position, leaving behind him seventeen pieces of cannon.

The great loss however sustained by the principal attack having induced General Lambert to send orders to Colonel Thornton to retire, after spiking the guns and destroying the carriages, the whole were re-embarked and brought back, and the boats by a similar process of hard labour were again dragged into the canal, and from thence to the Bayou, conveying at the same time such of the wounded as it was thought requisite to send off to the ships.

Major-General Lambert having determined to withdraw the army, measures were taken to re-embark the whole of the sick and wounded, that it was possible to move, and the stores, ammunition, ordnance, &c. with such detachments of the army, seamen, and marines, as were not immediately wanted; in order that the remainder of the army may retire unincumbered, and the last division be furnished with sufficient means of transport.

This arrangement being in a forward state of execution, I quitted head quarters on the 14th instant, leaving Rear-Admiral Malcolm to conduct the naval part of the operations in that quarter, and I arrived at this anchorage on the 16th, where I am arranging for the reception of the army, and preparing the fleet for further operations.

I must in common with the nation lament the loss which the service has sustained by the death of Major-General the Honourable Sir Edward Pakenham, and Major-General Gibbs. Their great

military qualities were justly estimated while living, and their zealous devotion to our country's welfare, will be cherished as an example to future generations.

In justice to the officers and men of the squadron under my command who have been employed upon this expedition, I cannot omit to call the attention of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to the laborious exertions and great privations which have been willingly and cheerfully borne, by every class, for a period of nearly six weeks.

From the 12th of December, when the boats proceeded to the attack of the enemy's gun-vessels, to the present time, but very few of the officers or men have ever slept one night on board their ships.

The whole of the army, with the principal part of its provisions, its stores, artillery, ammunition, and the numerous necessary appendages, have been all transported from the shipping to the head of the Bayou, a distance of seventy miles, chiefly in open boats, and are now re-embarking by the same process. The hardships, therefore, which the boats' crews have undergone, from their being kept day and night continually passing and repassing in the most changeable and severe weather, have rarely been equalled; and it has been highly honourable to both services, and most gratifying to myself, to observe the emulation and unanimity which has pervaded the whole.

Rear-Admiral Malcolm superintended the disembarkation of the army, and the various services performed by the boats; and it is a duty that I fulfil with much pleasure, assuring their Lordships that his zeal and exertions upon every occasion could not be surpassed by any one. I beg leave also to offer my testimony to the unwearied and cheerful assistance afforded to the Rear-Admiral by Captains Sir Thomas M. Hardy, Dashiwood, and Gordon, and the several Captains and other officers. Rear-Admiral Codrington accompanied me throughout this service; and I feel much indebted for his able advice and assistance.

Captain Sir Thomas Troubridge, and the officers and seamen attached under his command, to the army, have conducted themselves much to the satisfaction of the Generals commanding. Sir Thomas Troubridge speaks in the highest terms of the Captains and other officers employed under him, as named in his letter, (a copy of which is enclosed,) reporting their services. He particularly mentions Captain Money, of the *Trave*, who, I am much concerned to say, had both bones of his leg broken by a musket shot, advancing under a heavy fire to the attack of a battery that was afterwards carried. The conduct of Captain Money at Washington and near Baltimore, where he was employed with the army, having before occasioned my noticing him to their Lordships, I beg leave now to recommend him most strongly to their protection. The wound that he has received not affording him any probability of his being able to return to his duty for a considerable time, I have given him leave of absence to go to England; and shall intrust to him my dispatches.

I have not yet received any official report from the Captain of the *Nymphe*, which ship with the vessels named in the margin,* were sent into

* *Nymphe*, *Herald*, *Aetna*, *Meteor*, *Thistle*, *Pigmy*.