

manding the 41st then attacked them (they were the advanced guard of the Enemy) and he drove them back on their main body. The 41st then Retired until day light, for it was allmost impossible to know your Friends from your foes. At day break the Enemy had all retreated and crossed the River, except Cap^t King Aid e camp to General Smith⁶⁶ & 35 men who were taken prisoners. A party of Sailors composed part of the force, who came over. These Scoundrels set fire to some houses of M^r Douglass's & M^r Hardison's which were burnt to the Ground. these fellows had to make a precipitate retreat. some were killed and others taken prisoners. we lost nearly eighty men in killed wounded & those taken prisoners. the prisoners have since been exchanged. the 49th & the long Point Militia suffered most. After day light the Enemy made an attempt with seventeen boats to come over. we had then about eight hundred men ready to receive them, and when the boats came within musket shot, we pored in such a brisk fire among them that the foremost boats cried out for quarter; but as it was impossible to stop the militia from firing on them, they all turned back. a three pounder was playing on them all the time and giving them plenty Grape or Canister shot. what number the Americans lost in this attempt to cross is not known; but the boats were full when they were coming to this side, and only five, six, or seven were seen to get out of most of them, when they reached the other shore in this and the Affair during the night, the Enemy may have lost about two hundred men. after this failure, a large force was seen to collect and upwards of fifty boats scows &^{ca} were filled with men, horses and artillery, all ready to come over. (the enemy it has since been ascertained were then 7000 strong) General Smith then summonsed the Garrison at Fort Erie to surrender; but an answer was sent him to say that we could not think of surrendering the place as we could repel any force he could bring against it and we only had then about fifteen hundred men at the place and hardly Cannon to fire at them which the Enemy knew, and they had at least 16 field pieces and those very fine ones. immediately after

⁶⁶ General Alexander Smyth.