

he got this Answer instead of coming over, he disembarked all his troops. it's said that part of his Army were so disgusted with him that they endeavoured to kill him and three shots were fired at him. one thing seems certain that he had to fly from his Army. this we have from our prisoners who have returned, from an Inhabitant of the Head of the Lake who made his escape [torn] that side and from Cap^t Fitzgerald who was over with a flag of truce. two thousand of his Army [illegible] him and hundreds were returning home, all the militia Volunteers are gone and the Army of the Centre as General Smith is pleased to call it, was reduced by desertion & deaths from seven thousand to three thous^d. I Saw one of this cowardly General's Proclamations lately. he has the Impudence to call Upper Canada part of the United States. it's a good deal like Hull's; but not quite so barbarous this General Smith was to do so much when he came that he had almost alarmed us; but he proves to be even worse than Hull. We have been quite on the alert since this business at Fort Erie and as the desertions and sickness has been very common of late among the militia, our force is much reduced and the duty is become very hard both on the officers and men who remain we have lost a number of militia men by the Pleurisy. they are taken very suddenly and very violently ill, and often die in eight or nine days. numbers of women in the Country have died also lately and what is strange you hardly hear of a Regular Soldier being sick. but they are used to fatigue and are well clad which is not the case with all the militia, but clothing is now given to the flank Companies, some articles for nothing & some at a very low rate. We have a most Galant young Officer here Col Bishopp⁶⁷ who commanded at Fort Erie the day General Smith pretended to come over. he does every thing he can

⁶⁷ Cecil Bisshopp, eldest son of Sir Cecil Bisshopp, Bart. Born in 1783, he became lieutenant and captain in the First Foot Guards Regiment, Sept. 3, 1803, and subsequently major in the Ninety-eighth Regiment. On May 30, 1811, he was commissioned lieutenant colonel. He possessed a peculiarly engaging personality, a fact attested alike by friend and foe. On July 11, 1813, he commanded a force which raided Black Rock, was wounded, and died of his wounds on July 16. By his brothers officers, his body was conveyed to the little cemetery at Lundy's Lane for burial, and over his resting place a few months later was waged the desperate battle of Lundy's Lane. In 1846 the present tomb was erected by his sisters. Data derived from British army lists; Irving, *op. cit.*, 29; Niagara Hist. Soc. pubs., No. 22, pp. 4-6; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XV, 701.