

mainder of the battalion marched thence to Schenectady, and there, having secured a number of bateaux on which to transport the provisions and other munitions westward to the Carrying Place, they slowly proceeded along the south bank of the Mohawk River to their destination, where they arrived on the twenty-ninth of the month.

The dilapidation of Fort Schuyler was a matter of grave concern to the energetic commandant. Immediately on his taking charge of the remote outpost the work of repairing and strengthening it was begun. On the accession of the recruits brought by Lieutenant-Colonel Willett, a larger force of men was employed to further the renovation of the parapets and outworks.

The information that it was the purpose of the British crown to send by the way of the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, the Oswego River, and Oneida lake, a force of regular troops, provincial royalists and Indians under Brigadier-General Barry St. Leger to reduce Fort Schuyler, and thereafter to cooperate with Lieutenant-General Burgoyne, was unknown to Major-General Schuyler until about the middle of the month of June. Then it was disclosed to him by a Canadian who had been arrested as a spy. When this intelligence was communicated to Colonel Gansevoort, he forthwith redoubled his exertions to get Fort Schuyler in as strong a defensible condition as practicable before it was invested by the enemy.

On Thursday, the thirty-first of July, he was again informed by a bearer of dispatches that five bateaux, loaded with ammunition and provisions for the garrison, were ascending the Mohawk River under an escort of two hundred men of the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel James Mellen of that battalion. As the defence of the fort for any length of time would largely be contingent upon the possession of an adequate quantity of ammunition and a sufficiency of provisions, a detachment of one hundred men was sent to the river to give additional protection to the approaching supplies and to facilitate their speedy carriage to the fort.

The boats reached their destination about five o'clock on Saturday evening, the second of August, and the provisions and ammunition were immediately conveyed into the fort. Soon after their arrival spirals of smoke were seen ascending from a number of fires made about a mile to the northwest of the fort. The transfer of the stores from the bateaux had not been accomplished too quickly for, not long afterward, the officer and the men left in charge of them at the landing were fired upon by a party of Indians, and as a consequence two men were killed, one was wounded, and the captain taken prisoner.

The accession of the two hundred men belonging to the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment increased the strength of the garrison "to about seven hundred and fifty men, including officers and artificers," leaving the number of the