

He was particularly cautioned to secure the boys conveying the baggage against capture. The entire force at Fort George was kept under arms all night. At two o'clock in the morning, several shots were fired by the parquets on the lake shore; the alarm was beaten and every preparation made to resist an assault, when it was ascertained that the firing had been directed at some of their own boats returning from the Forty Mile Creek with the wounded and some prisoners taken at the Stoney Creek fight.

Yeo had received orders to land the troops as near York as possible. Sometime during the morning of the 7th, Major Evans and Lieut. Finch of the 8th were put on shore by one of the smaller vessels and walked to the town, where they learned the result of the late action, and that General Vincent was said to be pursuing the enemy. Evans returned on board at once to urge the commodore to menace the American encampment while he sent on Finch by land to assure Vincent of the co-operation of the squadron.

At daybreak, General Lewis discovered several of the British Vessels abreast of his camp and not more than a mile from shore. He instantly began to strike his tents and prepare for a retreat. There was a dead calm and the larger vessels were consequently prevented from approaching closer but the schooner Beresford, Captain Francis Spilsbury, was towed by the boats of the Squadron within gun-shot and began firing. She was soon joined by several gun-boats commanded by Lieut. Charles Anthony of the Wolfe. About the same time, a small party of Indians appeared on the brow of the heights overlooking the encampment, and by their whoops and desultory musketry caused some confusion. The artillery companies of Towson and Archer replied to the Beresford from four field-guns, using shot heated in a field furnace hastily constructed for the purpose. After a short and absolutely harmless cannonade, the British vessels retired out of range and the whole squadron bore away towards the Head of the Lake. The Indians retreated on the approach of a party of light infantry, led by Lieut. Eldridge, Adjutant of the 13th Regiment who was determined to meet his death at their hands a month later. Just at this moment about six o'clock a.m., General Dearborn's orders to return to Fort George were delivered to General Lewis. Arrangements for the retreat were conducted with much haste and confusion. Tents and camp kettles were abandoned. Part of the baggage was loaded on the boats, which were then allowed to put off without a sufficient escort. At ten o'clock, Lewis began his march, harassed on flank and rear by the Indians and militia, which soon assembled in considerable numbers.

Upon Yeo's arrival at Burlington, Vincent had already given orders for the disembarkation of the 8th when a messenger arrived with information that the enemy was retreating. These were promptly countermanded, and the squadron sailed in pursuit, while Major Dennis, with the Grenadier Company of the 49th, a strong Company of the 41st and two 3-pounder field-pieces, was directed to advance by land. It was then four o'clock in the afternoon, and as Lewis had easily six hours start the prospect of overtaking him must have seemed slight at the time, but, favoured by a steady though moderate breeze which had just sprung up, the squadron made such a rapid run that in three hours, the troops were landed at the Forty Mile Creek and were in possession of the American Camp. Many tents had been left standing and there were undoubted signs of panic in the arms and baggage abandoned along the line of retreat. The Beresford and other light vessels went in chase of the flotilla of boats which took the place of a baggage train to the retiring column and were rapidly overhauling them when they were run ashore and abandoned by their crews. Twenty large bateaux containing the hospital stores,