

King." Three days after his arrival, Sir George Prevost directed a "general demonstration" against Boyd's position. The right wing, consisting of two columns, commanded by Lieutenant Colonels Battersby and Plenderleath, moved from St. Davids against the four piquets stationed between the Cross Roads and the river, while the left, under Colonel Young, also in two columns, advanced at the same time from their camp at Four-Mile Creek, one under Lieutenant-Colonel Ogilvie, by the road from Lewis Niles' to Ball's and the other, commanded by Major Moodie of the 104th, (afterwards killed in '37 at Montgomery's Tavern) by the Lake Road to surprise piquets one and two. Packs and all other encumbrances were left in camp. Lieutenant-Colonel O'Neil of the 19th Light Dragoons, with thirty troopers of his regiment, followed, and, supported by the whole body of Indians, covered the advance on the village. The attack began shortly after daybreak, while the fog hung heavy on the plain. All the piquets were surprised by a sudden rush nearly at the same instant, and a considerable number of prisoners taken. Captain FitzGerald of the 49th, in leading the attack on the piquet upon the Queenston Road, fell with a gunshot wound, which subsequently caused the amputation of his leg. In the confusion which followed, Captain Davenport of the 16th U.S.I., who commanded this post, escaped with most of his men, even carrying off some of his assailants as prisoners. Captain Delano of the 23rd U.S.I. retiring with the remnant of another piquet, stumbled upon FitzGerald as he was being removed from the field, and carried him into his own lines. Captain Vandalsen of the 15th U.S.I. in charge of the piquet near Butler's house, also succeeded in effecting his retreat with slight loss. Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, who had been detailed to reconnoitre the works, dashed gallantly into the village at the head of the Dragoons, scouring the streets as far as the Presbyterian Church, from the steeple of which he secured a complete view of all their entrenchments, which bristled with cannon and were crowded with men. As soon as the firing was heard and their outposts were seen flying for shelter across the commons, two columns led by General Williams and Colonel James Miller, with two field-pieces, advanced to their relief, and their light troops began a brisk fire out of the windows of houses and from behind fences and garden walls, while the batteries of the camp were turned upon the village. Eventually these troops, which had been instructed to act strictly on the defensive, retired into their entrenchments, which were then closely reconnoitred. "No provocation could induce the American Army to leave their places of shelter." Prevost wrote to Lord Bathurst, "and venture into the field, where alone I could hope to contend with it successfully. Having made a display of force in vain, a deliberate retreat ensued, without a casualty. I am now satisfied that Fort George is not to be reduced, strengthened and supported as it is by Fort Niagara, without more troops, the co-operation of the fleet, and a battering train. To accomplish this object, a double operation becomes necessary. Fort Niagara must be invested, and both places be attacked at the same moment."

A letter in the New York Evening Post relates that "on the 24th of August, the enemy made their appearance at our advanced post No. 6, and on being challenged, replied "deserters". The sentinel replied "pass deserters," and was taken. The other sentinel ran in and warned the guard, who fired and dispersed. The arms of the British were unloaded, wishing to take them by surprise, and only 17 out of 47 of whom the guard consisted were taken. In this skirmish, Captain FitzGerald of the 49th was wounded. A party afterwards went out and captured him with two men, who were