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----- Account of the Expedition to New Orleans
in North America, under Major General Sir E. M.
Pakenham in the Year 1814, concluded in 1815. ---

The Battalion enjoyed for a very short space of
time, that tranquillity and ease they had anticipated returning
home from the Wars in the Peninsula, as they remained
in England only the short period of Three Months when
their Services were again required in another quarter of the Globe
and in Consequence of Orders to that purport the Battalion
Embarked at Portsmouth on the 3rd & 4th of October 1814
on Board the Ceylon Indiaman Transport, for the Mouth
of the Mississippi in North America where it arrived

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the latter end of December following, or thereabouts,

On the first day of the Year 1815, the Forces destined for the attack on New Orleans anchored near Cut Island, on the Northern Coast of America, and to the North of the River Mississippi [sic], and on the two following days were Embarked on Board Boats to proceed up the River and Creeks, The Intention being to attack New Orleans, the seat of Government, and Capital of the Province of Louisiana, & which is built 90 Miles from the mouth of the Mississippi. It is not easy to convey an adequate Idea of the difficulties and inconveniences experienced

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in the Boats during the Passage of 80 Miles, the distance from the Mississippi to the point of disembarkation, and from an Enemy in Possession of both sides of the River, and with Numerous Armed Boats, constantly ready to open a fire, and anxious to retard the Progress of the British Force on the 4th the Regiment had the misfortune to lose a Sergeant and Sixteen Men by the swamping of a Boat In tow of another, on the 5th and 6th disembarked on the Left Bank of the Mississippi, and moved to join that Part of the Army already landed, and occupying a line In front of the American Entrenched Works.

The Position the Americans had taken up

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to cover New Orleans was situated about five miles from the Place on the side of an old Canal that ran directly in their front, and which had been broadened and deepened so as to make it a formidable obstacle to pass, The extent of the Position was about Eleven Hundred Yards and nearly a straight line on the right they had completed a Redoubt which flanked the approach and contained six pieces of Artillery. in [sic] the Centre they had another Small Battery, and another on their extreme left, the River Mississippi flanked their Right, on the opposite Banks of which the Enemy had constructed

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a Work, and although Guns in it, it was not completed here also they were strengthened by the Louisiana, a Twenty Gun Ship, and Gun Boats, the former had been withdrawn from the situation she had occupied further down the River, and was moored to support the Right of the Enemy's Entrenchment, on their extreme left was a marshy Cypress Wood totally impenetrable for any body of Troops to act in, altho' [sic] practicable for a small number, the front and approaches to the Position were nearly a Level, with Drains so peculiar to that part of the Country.

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The Second line of the Enemy was situated about a Mile in rear of the first and was plainly to be seen from the Camp of our Army, The delays that had been occasioned by the hazardous line of communication to the Shipping whence every supply was necessarily drawn,

The American Army had increased their numbers exceedingly, and could not be estimated at the lowest calculation under Seventy Thousand Men, all armed and well trained to the use of the "[firelock]", altho' [sic] not clothed, or organised as complete as a Regular Military Body.

The Enemy's Army was commanded by

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Major General Jackson, who was supposed to be assisted in his Councils by the celebrated French General Humbert who was a resident in that Part of the country.

On the 7th January arrangement was made to assault the Enemy, A canal had been made by much labour from the "Bayan Catalan" to the Mississippi and whence Boats with Guns mounted in their Bows, had been brought up. The order for the attack was issued in the evening, the first Brigade consisting of the Royal Fusiliers and 43rd Light Infantry formed the reserve, & were intended to assault the Enemy's Second Line.

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The Second Brigade consisting of the 4th 21st & 44th Commanded by Major General Gibbs were the Right Column of the attack. The 3rd Brigade in Part consisting of the 95th & 93 Regiments moved Paralel [sic] with it, with an interval of about 500 Yards and formed the Centre column; On the Left of our Army which was extremely exposed the 3 Light Companies of the Fusiliers 43rd Light "[Infy]" and 93rd Regiments were placed. the whole of the Front was covered with the Riflemen of the 95th Regiment during the evening of the 7th the 85th Regiment and a body of Marines & Sailors

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had been collected on the Banks of the Mississippi
near to where the Canal had been cut, and conformably
to the proposed arrangement, where to Pass over during
the night to be ready to commence the attack an hour
before day light and to Possess themselves of the
Enemys [sic] Batteries on that side, great difficulties and
delay occurred in cutting the Banks of the River
to allow the boats to pass, and it was not until full
day light that the Troops passed over, in the main
time from the close formation of the Columns of attack
to the Enemys [sic] Position no delay deferring the assault

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could take place, the whole at once moved forward, But from unaccountable error part of the Troops of Major General Gibbs's Brigade who had charge of the "[Facines]" Ladders, & Bags of Hay to fill the Ditch up to admit of its being passed were irregularly formed, and were not in readiness to spring forward as had been the intention of the Commander of the Forces in the Orders for the Advance; The Enemy soon opened their fire which was replied to by our Artillery but without the least apparent effect; - as the near approach of the Columns took place and being exposed to a heavy fire of

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Musquetry [sic], The Troops threw away their "[Trainees]" and Bags, and irregularly commenced to fire Small Arms
The Commander in Chief observing this, immediately headed the Column and used every inspiring influence to restore Order and regulate the Troops, unfortunately he was soon marked out by the Enemy's Riflemen, and became their Victim; The Column under Major General "[Keane]" had moved at the same time with General Gibbs and on seeing the disaster, altered his original direction and joined it, The Light Companies on the left assaulted the Enemy's

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Right Flank in the most gallant Manner Gaining the redoubts which they occupied for 15 minutes, the Column that had crossed the River notwithstanding the lateness of the attack succeeded fully in gaining the Works it was directed against, and the American Army on that side of the River were in full retreat before them, unfortunately the loss sustained in the ever to be lamented Commander in Chief, and Major General Gibbs second in command who received a mortal wound nearly at the same time with the loss of above 2 thirds of the attacking Troops

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and no impression made on the Enemys [sic] main Position
it was deemed proper by Major General Lambert, who
now succeeded to the Command to desist from any
further assault.

The Fusiliers and 43 Regiments were now
brought forward to cover the retreat, and by their steady
& Military appearance shewed a confidence under
difficulty never to be surpassed. The Battalions
deployed into line under a most heavy fire, by Wings
from the Right, the left thrown back.

The Troops that had retired formed Columns

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of support in their rear and those that had crossed the River after spiking the Enemys [sic] Guns recrossed and joined the Main Body, all night the whole were withdrawn to the original Position quite unmolested by the Americans.

The operations now against the Enemy turned to the defensive and immediate measures were taken to withdraw every thing that might impede at retreat. The Wounded, heavy ordnance &c. were daily removing, and the duties that fell to the Fusiliers were those of the most active Picquets close to the Enemy's Position, until the eighteenth the Battalion

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remained thus packed, and during the time were much exposed to the Heavy fire of Artillery that the Enemy kept up night and Day, on the night of the eighteenth the principal part of the Army retired, and on the morning of the 19th the Fusiliers and Picquets withdrew.

The point of re-embarkation was fixed on at the Mouth of the "Bayan Catalan", where the Army concentrated until the Boats were able to convey them to the Shipping which was not finally accomplished until the Twenty Ninth.

The hardships and difficulties attending

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this Short and disastrous expedition are not to be described
privations were suffered of every kind, yet the
cheerfulness with which they were borne, and the example
shewn by the Officers to the Troops in rendering their
difficulties easy without murmur or complaint,
was highly praiseworthy, and will ever be considered
as military Principles to extol and imitate.

After the Troops embarked, the Ships
weighed, and anchored off Ship Island, and on
the Eighth and Ninth of February landed on the
Isle Dauphine North of Mobile Bay, West

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Florida. A part of the Force was Detached to lay Siege to Port Bowyer, on the opposite side, which captured on the Guns being placed in the Batteries, and 350 Americans surrendered Prisoners of War, eighteenth of February Two Companies of the Battalion were sent to Garrison the Captured Fort. The remainder of the Regiment continued in Camp on the Isle Dauphine until the 20th when Two Companies were ordered to embark On Board H. M. Ship Norge: and proceed to England by way of Jamaica under the Command of Lieut. Col. Beatty.

On the Twentyeighth [sic] the remainder of the

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Battalion Embarked. The Head Quarters on Board H. M. Ship Diomedé with Four Companies and the rest under the command of Captain Mullins, on Board the Ceylon a Hired Indiaman.

On the eighth of April the Fleet sailed for the Havannah where they were to complete their Provisions for Crossing the Atlantic.

Twenty first arrived and anchored in the Harbour, but after beating about a long time by some mistake in management, or neglect [sic] in the Master, The Ceylon could not make the Harbour, and was obliged to bear up, and proceed thro' the Gulf of Florida

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and ultimately to Halifax Nova Scotia, which they reached in safety, but having suffered much from the Want of a Fresh Supply, so much so, that most of the soldiers were affected with survy [sic], On the Twenty fourth February the Head Quarter Ship the Diomedé sailed for England in Company with a fire ship, and after a most pleasant and prosperous Voyage, the Men having abundance of Vegetables, Fruit and Fresh Meat during the whole Time the Ship anchored at Spit Head on the Thirtyfirst [sic] of May 1815.