

ADM 1/506/931-933

Cochrane - Senior Captains ~~Patric~~ ^{Stet}

July 18, 1814

(1)

By the Honorable Sir Alexander Cochrane
K.B. etc etc etc

Whereas by letters from His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost, of the 1st and 2nd of June last, it appears that the American Troops in Upper Canada have committed the most wanton and unjustifiable outrages on the unoffending inhabitants, by burning their Mills and houses, and by a general devastation of private property. And whereas His Excellency has requested that in order to deter the Enemy from a repetition of similar outrages, I would assist in inflicting measures of retaliation -

You are hereby required and directed to destroy and lay waste, such Towns and Districts upon the Coast as you may find assailable, you will hold strictly in view the conduct of the American Army towards His Majesty's unoffending Canadian (Subjects)? and you will spare merely the homes of the unarmed Inhabitants of the United States. For only by carrying this retaliatory justice into the Country of our Enemy, can we hope to make him sensible of the impolicy, as well as the inhumanity of this System he has adopted. -

You will take every opportunity of explaining to the People, how much I lament the necessity of following the rigorous example of the Commanders of the American Forces.

And as these Commanders must (most) obviously acted under instructions from the Executive Government of the United States,

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