

Grapes & Cannister, & saw the poor devils tumbling
head over heels after every shot. I sent off to
Capt. White to say every thing was quiet, but
did not long remain so, at least I got know I
was not at quiet, for Confidential orders
came down from Sr. Balf to say that the Army
was that night to retreat, we were not to be
relieved, but to remain in the Dally till 12 O'Clock
at Night, when we were to Spike the ^{24th} Guns & destroy
the Ammunition &c. & cover the retreat of the
Army, taking with us the remaining six Pounds
& having been sent for to support Col. Selam² at the
Bridge, would not be very easy to describe
my feelings just at this moment. The idea
of having to cover the Army with 200 Men who
had already been on duty 24 hours, and would
now have another night, & a march of 10 or 11 Miles
thru' the heaviest sand one can conceive, perhaps
too harassed any ^{of it} rich by the Army, this Day
did not hold out the most comfortable

prospect in the world, my only hope
was that the Retreat would be managed
so secretly that ^{the Enemy} they would not have time to
send more than an equal Number across the Water
to follow us, in this hope did I live until dusk
when, after having posted my Picquets as
I had the Night before & returned into the
Dally, I found the whole Camp, or rather that
moment in a blaze, the fire every moment in-
creasing, & the glare of light, consequently be-
coming more strong, so much so, that the Off.
I had that moment posted sent in his Sept.
to say I would go down to him, for the light
was so glaring, he feared his party would
be discovered, what was the state of my mind
at this moment, no one, who has not been
in a similar situation can conceive, all hopes
of not being discovered vanished nothing before
me, but to make a fight for eleven Miles with
Men harassed to death from fatigue, without a
drop of water or any sort of liquid, against perhaps
three times their number, fresh, well supplied and
as Men