

Transcript of the exchange between commanders Preston and Montgomery to discuss the surrender of Fort St. Jean:

Preston: [*to General Montgomery*] good day my worthy opponent. Your men have fought with the strength of many knights. I realise now that any further resistance would be futile.

Montgomery: confownd it! I onlee speek Amerecan...r there anee soljers heer that speeks English?

American Translator: I kan speek both langwidges, sir.

Montgomery: veree good. Tel Mayjor Presston that hiz men fot well.

American Translator: [*speaking very slowly and very loudly*] General Montgomery would like to say that your men fought well on the battlefield.

Preston: I'm right here. I can verify for myself what he said. Thank you General. You're very gracious.

American Translator: eyme rite heer. I herd whut hee zed. Kongratulayshuns, Genral Mawntgumeree. U r veree nice looking.

Montgomery: ah yes...u r allso stryking n appeerance. Now 4 terms of surrender. Furst, u have 2 dayz 2 leeve Fort Saint Jean. Secund, u and yer mhen r free 2 go.

American Translator: [*speaking very loudly and slowly to Major Preston*] a yez, u r wellcum—

Preston:—you do not have to translate. We speak the same lang—

Montgomery: [*to the translator*] wat iz tha mattir?

American Translator: [*turning to General Montgomery*] Mayjor Presston iz...lyme not shure, sur. I kant mayke owt what heez saying.

Okay, enough of that. I was just curious to see what a meeting between English and American military men would look like in the 21st Century. In particular, I was inspired by some of the changes to the *American* language being proposed by educators in the United States. Apparently, there are a significant number of Americans that cannot spell words like "realise" (struggle with -ise) or "knight" (struggle with the -ight) properly. Thus, American teachers are proposing that the *American* language be changed so that words are spelled how they look (as opposed to how *they look and sound*). For instance, the English word light would be translated into the American "lite" and the English word "realise" would be translated "realize." My theory is that the combination of the Jerry Springer Show and rap music are to blame for lowering literacy levels in the United States.