

The darkness of an October night closed in around the combatants and the English hugged themselves with delight over the prospect of bagging their game next morning. But during the night Arnold concluded to steal away from such hard-hitting foes and as his captains knew every passage and every island, he managed to escape with all his vessels, a dense fog aiding them. By daylight he was out of sight of the British.

When General Carleton found that his opponent was nowhere to be seen his rage was terrible. He started at once to follow the flying foe. But the wind which had been favourable to the American General in his night retreat was unfavourable to the British General in his day pursuit, and Carleton was obliged to return to the shelter of Valcour. By sending scouting parties along the shore he learned that the enemy were at anchor making necessary repairs behind Schuyler Island, at which point the lake begins again to broaden out. Remaining where he was through the day, repairing the *Carleton* after her battering of the day before, Carleton hoisted anchor at nightfall and, despite a contrary wind, sailed after the foe.

On the morning of the 13th he was rewarded for his night's efforts. He was within five miles of the retreating vessels, striving with sail and sweep to get beneath the guns of Crown Point, then 28 miles away. Carleton, in the *Marie*, 14 six-pounders (named after his young wife), had with him the *Inflexible* of 20 twelve-pounders and 10 smaller guns, and the *Carleton* much crippled after her plucky fight with the whole American fleet on the 11th—the

other members of his flotilla being much too sluggish to keep up with the trio. With these three vessels, Carleton caught up with the *Congress* (Arnold's flag-ship) and the *Washington*, which two vessels formed the rearguard. A running fight began and continued till off Split Rock, and ten miles from Crown Point, when the *Washington* struck her colours. Three galleys ran ashore and were burned. Arnold ran his own vessel ashore and set fire to her. Four gondolas were also driven ashore, and of the 16 vessels that formed the American flotilla all were destroyed excepting three which escaped and reached Crown Point and safety.

A remarkable parallel to recent naval battles is seen in the fact that during the action of the 13th, which lasted from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., not a single man on the side of the British was either killed or wounded, General Carleton only receiving a slight wound in the head from a splinter torn up by a cannon ball. Besides the killed and wounded on the American side, one hundred and ten men were taken prisoners by the British.*

* For this narrative I have relied upon (1) General Carleton's letter to Lord George Germain, "Principal Secretary of State for the American Department," written the day after the engagement of the 13th; (2) Captain Douglas' letter to Mr. Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty, written 7 days after the fight; (3) Capt. Thomas Pringle's letter to the Lords of the Admiralty, written 12 days after the battle, and (4) General Phillips' account related to General Riedesel personally, and published in General Riedesel's journal, translated by Wm. L. Stone, (J. Munsell, Albany, N.Y., 1868.)

Of the competency of the first three as witnesses there can be no doubt, and as to the fourth, General Riedesel endorsed General Phillips' account, and Riedesel was on the spot a week after the engagement had taken place.

The account I have given differs somewhat from Capt. Mahan's account in "History of the Royal Navy of Great Britain," and very much from the florid account given by John L. Spears in "History of the United States Navy."

George Johnson.

