

made against Haldimand of having continually opened letters. Although utterly at variance with truth, it has been accepted by a class of writers and without investigation repeated.

During these trying events, Haldimand had by no means remained quiescent and without enterprise, and he had taken every possible precaution, with his limited resources, to make the province defensible. He sent out expeditions to destroy the forts which had been established at the head of lake George and on the route from the Hudson to lake Champlain, which were beginning to take a threatening position. Major Carleton, in charge of the expedition, left Ticonderoga on the 8th of October, 1780, and advanced to South Bay, at the south of lake Champlain. At the same time, a party of the 53rd, consisting of fifty men, ascended lake George with two boats conveying cohorns. Carleton landed at two in the morning. He sent forward as scouts a party of Indians, sustained by a provincial company. The main body consisted of British troops, flank guards of provincials being thrown out, who also furnished the rear guard. The force came within three miles of fort Anne about four in the afternoon. The men were much fatigued, the march by the route they had followed having been eighteen miles. Scouts were detached to learn if the movement was known. Carleton resolved to remain at this spot for the night. No fires were made and profound silence was observed. At nine the next morning he sent to the house of a known loyalist to gain some intelligence, when he learned that his presence had been discovered by a scout of three men having come upon his track, and that a despatch had been sent to fort Edward asking for support.

As the surprise of fort Anne was not possible, Carleton determined to advance openly against it and demand a surrender. At three in the early morning he sent a detachment of thirty regulars to cut off communication with fort Edward. The main body marched at four; a sergeant with twenty men was sent to take possession of the saw-mill and destroy it. By seven the post was surrounded. Within an hour the small

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