

with the remainder. Just before he had made the necessary preparation, Montreal was alarmed with the news of our forming a numerous army near Lake George, for the reduction of Crown Point; whereupon the baron was ordered to proceed through Lake Champlain, for the defence of that fortress. Dieskau having in vain waited the coming up of our army, at length resolved himself to advance towards them; and if he proved victorious, to desolate our northern settlements, lay the towns of Albany and Schenectady in ashes, and cut off all communication with Oswego. For the execution of this design, he embarked at Crown Point, with 2000 men in battoes, and landed at the South Bay, about 16 miles from the British camp. By a British prisoner the baron was told, that general Johnson's camp, near fort Edward, at the Lake, when he left it a few days before, was without lines, and destitute of cannon. Having approached within two miles of fort Edward, he opened his design to his troops, consisting of 600 militia, as many Indians, and 200 regulars. To animate his irregulars, who seemed disinclin'd to the attack proposed, he assured them, that inevitable must be their success—"that on reducing this fort, the British camp must necessarily be abandoned, and their army disperse in great disorder—that this would enable them to subdue Albany; and by starving the garrison of Oswego, superadd to their conquest the absolute dominion of Ontario." With whatever intrepidity this harangue inspired his European troops, the Canadians and savages, fearful of our cannon, were utterly averse to the scheme; but declared their willingness to surprize our camp, where they expected nothing beyond musquetry. Thus disappointed in his principal design, he changed his route, and began to move against the main body at the Lake. General Johnson, on the information of his scouts, had dispatched separate messengers to fort Edward, with advice of the enemy's approach towards that garrison; of which one was unfortunately intercepted: the rest who got back reported, that they had descried the enemy about four miles to the northward of the fort. Next morning it was resolved to detach 1000 men, with some Indians, to fall upon the enemy in their retreat. On

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