

would not join in the attack, and as they were the oldest, the rest of the Indians would be obliged to follow their example. They gave as their reason that they "had resolved not to act against the English on their own territory; but if the General would lead them against the English camp at Lake St. Sacrament, which was undoubtedly on French soil, they would follow him there." Accordingly, yielding to the whim of their Indian allies, always loath to face the cannon of a fort, the French moved on toward the Lake. After marching some hours a prisoner was taken who stated that General Johnson had heard of the contemplated attack on Fort Lyman, and had detached one thousand men who were on their way to reinforce it. Dieskau at once ordered the Canadians to move forward about three hundred paces on the right, and there to lie flat on the ground. He ordered the Indians forward to take a similar position on the left, holding back the French regulars in the centre. No gun was to be fired until the English had reached the end of the *cul de sac* and then the volley from the French in front was to be supplemented by the fire of the Indians and Canadians on either flank, who were to close up the rear, leaving no escape for the entrapped English.

General Johnson's forces in the camp on the Lake, consisted of about three thousand provincials and two hundred and fifty Indians. Early in the morning of the eighth of September a Council of war was called, rumors having reached the camp of the proposed attack on Fort Lyman. It was not known exactly where the French were, but it was proposed to send a force of five hundred men to the assistance of the Fort. Hendrick was consulted and replied: "If they are to fight they are too few, if to be killed they are too