

profitably spent by Montcalm, who was in command of the French garrison. He constructed a barrier of logs and trees upon a ridge a short distance from the fort, with an abatis of trees felled with the tops outward for a hundred yards in front.

The next day Abercromby, by what appears to have been a great want of judgement, made a direct attack upon this position by an assault with fixed bayonets.

The result was most disastrous, and though the charge was gallantly renewed several times no advantage was gained, and in the evening they had to retire with a loss of 1,944 officers and men.

Had the attack been renewed the next day by a judicious use of his artillery or by a flank movement, the result must have been successful on account of the disparity in numbers, but to the astonishment of all the General ordered a retreat, and the whole force again embarked on Lake George, leaving a large quantity of provisions and ammunition behind.

With this disaster a change seems to have come to the fortune of the British arms, for about that time Generals Amherst and Wolfe succeeded in taking the stronghold of Louisbourg, and Col. Bradstreet, by a brilliant dash with 3,000 men from the Mohawk Valley crossed the lower end of Lake Ontario and captured Fort Frontenac on the 25th of August.

The expedition of General Forbes from Philadelphia with Col. George Washington, second in command, was also successful in reducing Fort du Quesne, which they named Pittsburgh, after the British Prime Minister, whose energy seemed to infuse new life into the whole army.

General Amherst superseded Abercromby and the winter was spent in preparation for a determined effort to bring the war to a close by a concerted attack by General Wolfe on the St. Lawrence and Amherst by Lake Champlain.

We will next read of a midwinter 'scout' and a forced march on snowshoes by the Rangers.

On the 3rd March, '59, Major Rogers received instructions to make such arrangements as to enable an Engineer officer, who was sent with him, to make a thorough observation as to the enemy's position and the strength of their forts, and also, if possible, to capture one or more prisoners.

The party was to be made up of Rangers and Indians, and, as the order expressed it, "to insure success, a body of regulars is ordered to join you and be under your command."

Accordingly the journal on the 4th reads:

"I marched with a party 378 strong to within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Lake George, then halted till evening to continue the march more secretly, which was resumed on the ice at 2 o'clock in the morning, and halted at the first narrows. On the evening of the 5th, we marched to Sabbath Day Point where we arrived at 11 o'clock, almost overcome with the cold. At 2 a.m. we continued our march, and reached the landing-place at the foot of Lake George about 8 in the morning. I sent out a small party to observe if any of the enemy's parties went out from the fort. They returned and reported that on the east side of the lake two parties were at work. It now appeared a suitable time for the Engineer to make his observations.

"I left Captain Williams to remain at this place with the regulars and 30 Rangers, while I, with the Engineer officer, 49 Rangers, and Captain Lot-ridge with 45 Indians, went to the isthmus that overlooks the fort, where he made his observations. We returned, leaving a small party to observe what numbers crossed the lake in the evening from the east side to the fort, that I might know the better how to attack them the next morning. At dark Lieut. report, he says: