

It was absolutely necessary to possess these two Points & fortify them; Because from either the one or the other, the Enemy might make it impossible for any Ship to lye in the Bason of Quebec, or even within two miles of it.

Batterys of Cannon & Mortars were erected with great Dispatch, on the Point of Levi, to bombard the Town and Magazines and to injure the Works and Batterys: the Enemy perceiving these Works in some Forwardness, pass'd the River with 1,600 men, to attack & destroy them: Unluckily they fell into Confusion, fired upon one another, & went back again, By which we lost an Opportunity of defeating this large Detachment. The Effect of this Artillery has been so great (tho' across the River), that the Upper Town is considerably damaged, & the Lower Town entirely destroy'd.

The works for the security of our Hospitals and Stores on the Isle of Orleans being finished: on the 9th of July at night we pass'd the North Channel & encamp'd near the Enemy's left, the River Montmorenci between us. The next morning, Capt. Danks's company of Rangers posted in a wood, to cover some Workmen, were attack'd & defeated by a Body of Indians; And had so many killed & wounded as to be almost disabled for the rest of the Campaign. The Enemy also suffer'd in this Affair & were in their turn driven off by the nearest Troops.

The Ground to the Eastward of the Falls seem'd to be (as it really is) higher than that on the Enemy's side, to command it in a manner which might be made usefull to us:— There is besides a Ford below the Falls, which may be pass'd for some hours in the latter part of the Ebb, & beginning of the Flood Tide; and I had hopes that possibly, means might be found of passing the river above, so as to fight the Marquis de Montcalm upon terms of less disadvantage, than directly attacking his Intrenchments. In reconnoitring the River Montmorenci, we found it fordable at a place about three miles up, But the opposite Bank was intrench'd & so steep & woody, that it was to no purpose to Attempt a Passage there; The Escort was twice attacked by the Indians, who were as often repulsed, But in these Rencontres we had forty (Officers & Men) kill'd & wounded.

The 18th of July, two Men of War, two arm'd Sloops, & two Transports with some Troops on board, pass'd by the Town without any Loss, & got into the Upper River; This enabled me to reconnoitre the Country above, where I found the same attention on the Enemy's side & great difficultys on ours, Arising from the Nature of the Ground, & the Obstacles to our Communication with the Fleet. But what I feared most,