

at one stroke reducing the British islands to the danger of starvation as most of the vessels were employed in the transport of grain to supply the deficiency caused by a failure in the harvest of 1756, and some had actually completed their cargoes. He also withdrew the greater portion of regular troops from the frontier of New York already laid open by the capture of Oswego, and detached the best part of the Provincial troops, the force consisted of the 22nd, 42nd, 44th and 48th regiments, two battalions of Royal Americans and five companies of rangers commanded by Major Rogers; one of the best partisans and best officers although a Provincial, in the service, they numbered in all about 6000 men. For the defence of the Western frontier there were detailed a battalion of Royal Americans about 1000 Pennsylvania, 300 Maryland, and 500 Virginia militia corps commanded by Colonel Stanwix; while part of a battalion of Royal Americans three independent companies and the Colonial militia were to be employed under the command of Colonel Boquet in South Carolina. The only force left to confront the most powerful forces with which the Colonists had to deal on the frontiers of New York, was the garrison of Fort William Henry, commanded by Colonel Munro, and a force of 4000 men under General Webb to cover that post.

Lord Loudon sailed on his expedition on the 20th June, and on the 30th arrived at Halifax; on the 9th of July a junction with Hopson's troops was effected, the combined force numbering over 11,000 men. The fleet consisting of 18 ships of the line, 5 frigates, 3 gun brigs and 6 mortar and bomb vessels. The troops were immediately employed in levelling the ground for parades and planting cabbages for the use of the sick. Brigadier General Lord Charles Hay loudly protesting at this folly was put under arrest by a Council of War. At length the troops were embarked on the 2nd August, with orders to rendezvous at Gabarus's bay, a little westward of Louisburg, but before they could put to sea a French prize schooner gave the information that the fortress was garrisoned by 3000 regulars and some Indians besides the townspeople who had taken up arms and the harbour occupied by 18 ships of the line and 6 frigates. Another Council of War decided to abandon the expedition because the French had one frigate more than the English fleet.

Accordingly the Royal and 28 regiments were ordered to disembark and encamp, all the others remaining on board were ordered to send for their heavy baggage and sick which had been left ashore; a portion of these troops were to garrison Fort Edward, 35 miles from Halifax, and another detachment to re-inforce Fort Cumberland, late Beausejour, in the Bay of Fundy. The fleet separated—that under Admiral Holborne to cruise about Louisburg, and that with Lord Loudon to return to New York, at which place he arrived on the 31st of August, having learnt at sea the fate of Fort William Henry.

Immediately on the arrival of the troops they were transferred into small vessels and sent to Albany and Fort Edward, the latter being the most advanced post held by the British, the garrison was increased and the command given to Lieut. Colonel Haviland. Major Rogers was despatched to reconnoitre Ticonderoga where he made some prisoners from whom he learned that the garrison at that post consisted of 350 regular soldiers and that at Crown Point of 150. The weakness of these posts suggested the propriety of a well planned surprise, but the genius

of the British force and its commander was unequal to the exertion. Enough of Lord Loudon's career has been shown to prove what an incapable, stupid, incompetent and ignorant imbecile he must have been, but the fate of Fort William Henry attaches the guilt of criminality to him, if, indeed, he was at all a responsible agent and not a natural idiot, by the appointment of an approved coward to the command of its covering army. Webb's disgraceful flight from Onondago, his cowardice and want of enterprise in not pushing forward to the assistance of Oswego would have taught any man possessed of common sense the folly of entrusting the defence of the principal frontier post to him; but Loudon appears to have recognised a kindred spirit, and with the folly of weak minds, employed a man more ignorant and incompetent if possible than himself; what followed might have been easily anticipated. As soon as the English fleet conveying Loudon's troops was fairly at sea, Montcalm prepared to deal with the cowardly idiot left behind who had neglected to call out the militia although he had been empowered to do so. By the end of July Montcalm had collected the whole of his force at Ticonderoga, consisting of 3000 regular troops, 3000 Canadians and 1800 savages, in all 7,800, whose whole supplies of provisions consisted of Indian Corn and Vegetables, Canada not being able to supply bread or flesh meat. On the 30th July, he put his troops in motion, the advance under M. de Lovis marched by land, the remainder were embarked on the Lake; the moment the news of this movement reached Webb he at once broke up camp and retreated to Fort Edward carrying with him the principal train of Artillery and leaving Colonel Munro to defend Fort Wm. Henry as best he could with 2,700 men. On the evening of the 3rd of August the whole French force had reached a bay within two miles of the Fort, the savages had captured an English boat from which M. de Montcalm learned that the Garrison was aware of his advance and that Webb had retreated, that a sortie of 1200 men would be made to oppose him; there being no longer any necessity for secrecy, the savages in their canoes, to the number of 120, formed a line across the Lake and gave defiance in a war whoop. The whole of the 4th was spent in reconnoitering the Fort and its environs while Montcalm seized the opportunity to summon the garrison to surrender, to which an appropriate reply was returned by Colonel Munro declining to comply therewith. In the night between the 4th and 5th the trenches were opened, and on the 6th at day break the batteries mounting 10 pieces of cannon and one 9 inch mortar was unmasked while the Canadians and savages obtaining lodgment in gardens and other appurtenances of the works kept up an intermittent musketry fire on every person who appeared on the ramparts. A gallant resistance was made till their shells were expended and ammunition began to fail, Munro made pressing appeals to Webb for assistance but the fallacy of depending on that coward was soon apparent, the messenger, with his answer, in which he declined to advance or send any succor, magnified the number of Montcalm's force to 13,000 men and advised Munro to surrender was intercepted and carried to the French General who at once saw how the case stood, and sent the letter to the English Commandant who still maintained a resolute defence; but disheartened at the prospect of not being relieved and finding his ammunition failing he hoisted a white flag on the Fort and agreed to the following terms of capitulation:

Capitulation granted to Lieut. Colonel Munro for his Britannic Majesty's Garrison of Fort William, the entrenched camp adjoining and all their dependencies.

ARTICLE I.—The Garrison of Fort Wm. Henry and the troops which are in the entrenched camp shall after being joined march out with their arms and the usual honors of war.

ART. II.—The gate of the Fort shall be delivered up to the troops of his Most Christian Majesty and the entrenched camp immediately on the departure of the British troops.

ART. III.—All the artillery, warlike stores, provisions, and in general everything except the private effect of the Officers and Soldiers shall, upon honor, be delivered up to the troops of his Most Christian Majesty; provided always that this article shall extend to the Fort and the intrenchments and their dependencies.

ART. IV.—The Garrison of the Fort, the troops in the intrenchments and the dependencies of both shall not serve for the space of eighteen months, neither against his Most Christian Majesty nor his allies.

ART. V.—All officers and soldiers, Canadians, women and savages, who have been made prisoners by land since the commencement of the war in North America, shall be delivered up in the space of three months at Carillon, and according to the receipt which shall be delivered an equal number of the garrison of Fort William Henry shall be capacitated to serve agreeable to the return given in by the English officer of the prisoners he has delivered.

ART. VI.—An officer shall be left as a hostage till the return of the detachment which shall be given for an escort to his Britannic Majesty's troops.

ART. VII.—All the sick and wounded that are not in a condition to be transported to Fort Edward shall remain under the protection of the Marquis de Montcalm, who will take proper care of them and return them as soon as recovered.

ART. VIII.—There shall be issued provisions for the subsistence of the British troops for this day and to-morrow only.

ART. IX.—The Marquis de Montcalm being willing to show Colonel Munro and the Garrison under his command marks of esteem, on account of their honorable defence gives them one piece of cannon a six pounder.

Done in the trenches before Fort William Henry, 9th August, 1757.

GEORGE MONRO.

Agreed to in the name of his Most Christian Majesty agreeable to the powers vested in me by the Marquis de Vaudreuil his Governor General and Lieutenant General of New France.

MONTCALM.

The garrison of the Fort at the time of surrender amounted to 440 men, while the entrenched camp alluded to occupied a rocky eminence, now the site of Fort George, immediately adjoining, this was defended by 1700 men.

Webb had been written to by Sir William Johnston to be on his guard that the French was short of provisions and that they would endeavor to carry the place by a coup de main, but that coward lay at Fort Edward with 4000 men listening in abject terror to the roar of the distant cannonade afraid to move out of his lines and despatching messenger after messenger to the Lieutenant Governor and Johnston to hurry the advance of the militia. The latter was at Fort Johnson holding a council with the Cherokees when Webb wrote him on the 1st August of Montcalm's advance and his own retreat, although he had as much as he could do yet he broke up the conference and hastily collecting all the Indians and militia he could muster marched to Fort Edward where he arrived two days after the investment of Fort William Henry. Seeing at once the position of affairs he begged to be sent to the aid of Munro, after repeated solicitations his request was granted and his advanced guard had actually reached the heights over the entrenched camp so near as to be able to open communication with the troops occupying it and would no doubt have compelled Montcalm to raise the siege when he was peremptorily recalled by Webb. By the fall of this fortress the French captured 43 pieces of artillery, 35,855 lbs. gunpowder, 29 small vessels on the Lake, 100 live oxen and provisions for 5000 men for six months; it was owing to the scarcity of the latter article that Montcalm allowed the garrison to retire; the loss incurred by the defenders