

St. Charles River should be blocked by a boom, with a floating battery in front, and that an inner bridge of boats should be erected as a means of bringing troops from Beauport, if the emergency arose of checking an advance of the enemy from behind. In the rear of the residence of Ringfield on the road to Charlebourg, there may still be seen the outlines of the great circumvallation or horn-work, which Montcalm's engineers had scooped out as a place of retreat for the French troops, should the necessity for retreat arise; and from this circular camping ground, capable of sheltering from two to three thousand men, a line of redoubts commanded by two, three, or four guns each, were erected at every likely landing-place along the shore-line—such landing-places being still to be identified in a rough way, in a line parallel with the highway that now forms the continuous street of the long village of Beauport, as one may see it to-day from the parapet of the Dufferin Terrace.

Behind this fortified line there were stationed at intervals a mixed armament of fifteen or sixteen thousand regulars, militia, and volunteers, Montcalm's army having been augmented, as soon as the word went round the parishes that Wolfe was approaching, by crowds of men and lads, in answer to Governor Vaudreuil's demands for all the men of fighting age who could possibly be brought together to withstand the enemy. As soon as the prospect of a siege was pledged, Montcalm took up his headquarters at the Beauport Manor House, the site of which is plainly discernible from the Dufferin Terrace, and Vaudreuil immediately afterwards forsook his residence in the city to take up his quarters alongside of the General.