

wholesale deportation of the gallant Acadians whose sole crime was that of being loyal French subjects, true soldiers and gallant patriots. At the commencement of hostilities this Colony numbered some 18,000 inhabitants fighting and emigration reduced this number to about 7000, and this gallant people, with a refinement of cruelty which will ever leave a stain on the British Ministry of the day, were torn from their altars and homes, and scattered through the English Colonies of Georgia, South Carolina and New England. With a pitiable parsimony the transports provided could not accommodate the whole number, and the men were first shipped for their destination while the women and children were left behind. The sequel can easily be guessed; for months after the Colonial newspapers were filled with advertisements; wives sought their husbands, children their parents, brothers their sisters, and lovers their affianced partners. A few were successful, but, of the vast majority cruelly and mercilessly separated, none ever met again in this world.

The fate of those unfortunate exiles was aggravated by being thrown amongst a people whose social and political institutions were different from those under which they had lived so happily, and whose bigotted feelings compelled them to look on the unhappy strangers as enemies professing a religion inimical to their interests and well-being, unable to receive the sympathy due to misfortune most of this outraged people died in obscurity and poverty. This foolish and brutal outrage served no purpose beyond that of holding up its authors to perpetual execration and covering them with infamy; as the positions gained could in no way affect the issues of the war.

The last expedition planned at the Council held at Alexandria was directed against Crown Point, or, as the French called it, Fort St. Frederic, at the head or south end of Lake Champlain. The command of it was confided to one of the most remarkable men which the colonization of America has produced, and who made his first essay as a military commander on this occasion.

William Johnson (afterwards created a Baronet for the successful defence of his position against a French force in preventing the objects of the expedition) had settled in the Mohawk valley sometime in 1738, as agent of his uncle Admiral Sir Peter Warren, K. B. By just and honorable dealing he attained such complete control of the Indians that no white man before or since possessed, and raised himself to power, political influence and high military command by his talents and sagacity.

In 1746 he had been appointed a Colonel in the Militia of New York by Governor Clinton, a friend of his uncle, and himself an Admiral in the British service. He was subsequently entrusted with the command and defense of the Northern frontier and the reorganization of the Militia of the Province. At the instance of Governor Shirley he was appointed by General Braddock at the Council held at Alexandria to the command of the expedition against Crown Point with the local rank of Major General.

In the beginning of August the advance of the Provincial troops assembled at Albany, was sent under the command of Major Gen. Lyman, the second in command of the expedition, to erect a fort at the Great Carrying Place on the east bank of the Hudson, (the head of canoe or batteaux navigation) between that river and Lake George, which afterwards received the name of Fort Edward.

As the New York and Rhode Island Militia had not arrived General Johnson, on the 26th of August, moved from Fort Edward with

3,400 men for Lake George, distant 144 miles, which they reached on the 28th in the evening. This Lake, called by the French *Sto. Sacramento*, is a long narrow strip of water immortalised by Cooper in his admirable novel of "The Last of the Mohicans," under the name of the *Horicon*, but in the ancient Iroquois language it was called *Andiatarocite*, which means "there the Lake shuts itself." It is joined to Lake Champlain by a narrow and torturous strait on the eastern bank of which, opposite Wood Creek, was subsequently erected the famous Ticonderoga, or, as the French called it, Carrillon.

Johnson's force encamped at the southern end of the Lake, which he at once proceeded to re-baptise, calling it Lake George, "not only in honor of his Majesty, but to assert his dominion here." Although for many years this lake had been used for warlike and commercial purposes between Canada and Albany, yet the point at which the portage road struck it was a primeval forest.

The troops were at once set to work to clear a space for a camp sufficient to accommodate 5,000 men. General Lyman, leaving a strong force at Fort Edward, had joined on the 3rd September with the heavy artillery. Meantime Monsieur Vandreuil, the French Governor General of Canada, well informed by his faithful and indomitable Indian scouts of Johnson's movements, deferred a long meditated attack on Oswego to make head against the force on Lake George.

The Commander-in-chief of the French forces in Canada, Baron Dieskau, was a distinguished officer in the regular service of the King of France, where he had established a wide reputation for skill, he was then in command of 3,000 men at Fort Frederic (Crown Point) and having learned that the works at Fort Edward were incomplete, he resolved to strike a blow at that position, which, if successful, would place Johnson's whole force in his power by the capture of their magazines. With this intention on 1st September he set out with a corps, composed of 220 regular soldiers, 680 Canadian militiamen, and 600 savages led by Legardiere St. Pierre. With the desire of concealing his advance from Johnson, he embarked his men on Lake Champlain and ascended that branch of it called Wood Creek to South Bay; this placed him within 20 miles of Fort Edward without approaching nearer to Johnson's camp than about five miles; he struck the road about three miles from the Hudson. On the evening of the 7th Sept. bivouacked on the Hudson, at that point, narrowly missing Lyman's detachment escorting artillery and stores which it was more than probable he could have captured. His intention appears to have been an attack on Fort Edward at day break, but, through some unexplained cause, he altered his intentions. It is asserted his Indians had ascertained that the works were armed with artillery, and that, in addition to the Garrison 900 provincial troops were intrenched under its walls; it is also probable they did not know of the march of Lyman's detachment two days before; but, at all events, his intentions were changed, for, instead of attacking Fort Edward, he at once marched on Johnson's camp. It is very probable he was led to this determination by the counsel of St. Pierre, who seems to have not set a very great value on English provincial militia soldiers.

On the evening of the 7th Sept. Johnson had been apprised of the march of Dieskau's troops, and immediately sent expresses to New York and New England for reinforcements; he also despatched two messengers to Fort Edward to warn Colonel Blanchard

of the New Hampshire troops in command there of the advance of the French army. One of those couriers was intercepted and killed, the other returned to say the French were within four miles of the Fort. A council of war called, on the 22nd Sept., decided that a detachment of 1000 troops and 200 Indians should be sent out in aid of Fort Edward to catch the enemy in retreat; this was objected to by Hendrick, the Mohawk Chiefstain, on the ground of the insufficiency of the force for any useful purpose. His advice was overruled and the detachment marched; the Provincial soldiers under Colonel Williams, and the Indians under the brave old Mohawk chiefstain. As soon as they had left the camp Johnson proceeded to fortify it in the best possible manner by forming a rude breastwork of felled trees, the waggons and batteaux, provided for transporting the artillery to the attack on Crown Point, with several pieces of which the improvised defences were armed.

Dieskau, aware through his Indian scouts of the advance of the force under Colonel Williams, arranged in a defile an ambuscade for the purpose of defeating it. Williams, who appears to have underrated the celerity of the movements of the Canadian forces, and believing it would take two days for Dieskau's force to reach Johnson's camp marched forward with rapidity, and a total disregard of caution; the head of his column without advanced guards, skirmishers or scouts, were already within the defile when it received a murderous fire by which Hendrick, the great Sachem, of the Mohawks, being on horseback, was instantly killed; his death was followed by that of Williams and several other officers. A hurried retreat followed with the enemy close at their heels, yelling and firing. Reaching a small pond near the road a portion of the Provincial troops rallied and stationing themselves behind it checked the pursuit of the Canadian forces till the arrival of 300 men, whom Johnson had despatched under Lieut. Col. Cole, enabled them to retreat with safety.

Baron Dieskau had intended to follow up the pursuit with sufficient vigor to enable his troops to enter the breastworks with the fugitives, and if he could have effected that manœuvre there would be no doubt as to the result. But his men were weary with a long march and the exertion of fighting, so that he was obliged to order them to abandon their haversacks in which their small stock of provisions were carried in order to advance to the assault of Johnson's position. That post was particularly well chosen on an eminence flanked by swamps and protected in the rear by Lake George, it was assailable only in front.

The interval between the return of William's beaten force and the advance of the French was well employed by Johnson in covering his flanks with a rude breastwork, but at length they appeared marching in compact order with fixed bayonets. Immediately on coming in view of the breastwork armed with artillery they halted at a sight so unexpected making a redistribution of their troops by which the Indians and part of the Canadians were thrown upon the British right and left, to endeavor to turn the flanks of the position, while the regulars and the remainder of the Canadians advanced to the attack in front.

The sight of the artillery was not more astounding and disagreeable to the Canadian forces than the fact of their fixed bayonets were to the Provincial troops, the latter, by some strange oversight, not being provided with the weapon which was much more effective than the old musket in those days. About noon the centre advanced in perfect