

Upon the 11th I came up with the Rebel fleet, commanded by Benedict Arnold; they were at anchor under the Island Valcour, and formed a strong line, extending from the island to the west side of the continent. The wind was so unfavorable, that, for a considerable time, nothing could be brought into action with them but the gun-boats. The Carleton schooner, commanded by Mr. Dacres, who brings their Lordships this, by much perseverance, at last got to their assistance; but as none of the other vessels of the fleet could then get up, I did not think it by any means advisable to continue so partial and unequal a combat; consequently, with the approbation of his Excellency General Carleton, who did me the honour of being on board the Maria, I called off the Carleton and gun-boats, and brought the whole fleet to anchor in a line as near as possible to the Rebels, that their retreat might be cut off; which purpose was however frustrated by the extreme obscurity of the night; and in the morning the Rebels had got a considerable distance from us up the lake.

Upon the 13th, I again saw eleven sail of their fleet making off to Crown-Point, who, after a chase of seven hours, I came up with in the Maria, having the Carleton and Inflexible a small distance astern; the rest of the fleet almost out of sight. The action began at twelve o'clock, and lasted two hours, at which time Arnold, in the Congress galley, and five gondolas ran on shore, and were directly abandoned and blown up by the enemy, a circumstance they were greatly favoured in by the wind being off shore, and the narrowness of the lake. The Washington galley struck during the action, and the rest made their escape to Ticonderoga.

The killed and wounded in his Majesty's fleet, including the artillery in the gun-boats, do not amount to forty; but from every information I have yet got, the loss of the enemy must indeed be very considerable.