

gether, to the end that, if the enemy's ships should attempt to force their way through, there might not be room for more than one at a time. During this operation, our frigate *Arethusa* ventured out as far as she could; and her guns extremely incommoded the enemy's workmen. The English returned the fire with the same vivacity; and being impatient to make their approaches, they used all their endeavours to drive our ships back. Matters were thus pretty uniform on both sides during the space of four days. The 1st of July a detachment of our people sallied out of the wood and advanced about a mile beyond the pond, upon which, Mr Wolfe, went to meet them with 500 or 600 regulars. There was a very brisk skirmish, but at length our men were obliged to retire. This they did in good order, firing all the time upon the enemy, who gained nevertheless, two very advantageous eminences, on which they immediately threw up a redoubt. On our side we sunk two frigates more, and left their masts standing above water. The following days the enemy formed their lines, and their light troops defended themselves against the savages, who hovered about the camp in order to pick up any stragglers.

Yet as we were determined not to surrender till the last extremity, we made a sally, the 8th, upon a detachment of workmen commanded by Brigadier General Lawrence. We surprised them by the help of a very dark night: but what could 900 men do against the whole vanguard of the enemy, who immediately flew to the assistance of the sappers? We had two captains and a few soldiers killed. The day following we sent a flag of truce, to beg leave to bury the dead.

The 10th, the Admiral set 200 miners to work. In the meanwhile, we fired chain shot at them, and made as much noise as possible. The *Arethusa* employed the time she was hindered from sailing, in such a manner, as made us amends for this involuntary delay. The night of the 11th, we perceived a great fire in the woods, and as it was a signal of the approach of M. des Herbiere with a reinforcement of Canadians and savages we began to pluck up our spirits. Besides we knew that, as M. des Herbiere piqued himself more for his bravery than for his humanity, there was no doubt of his harassing the enemy as much as possible, with the troops which he would keep hovering about their camp, after he had reinforced the garrison. This same officer had the good fortune to snap up an English soldier that was driving a cart, and being apprized, by this fellow, of the situation of the enemy's camp, he immediately let us know it, to the end that we might point our batteries accordingly.

The 15th, a thick fog arising the *Arethusa* embraced the opportunity to slip away in the night, and, though the enemy used all possible expedition in giving chase to this ship, she got clear off, yet I am of opinion, that her departure gave more pleasure to the English than to us.

The 16th, Mr. Wolfe made himself master of the post occupied by our pickets situated within 400 yards of the west gate, and there he maintained himself in spite of all our fire from our cannon and bombs. A deserter from the camp having informed us where the enemy's magazines lay, we directed our shells in such a manner, as to alarm them greatly.

The ensuing days their approaches towards the town were carried on with success, as were also the new batteries, one of which began to play very briskly on the Dauphin bastion, and the west gate.

The 21st proved fatal to us. Our ship the *Entrepenant*, of 64 guns, having been set on fire by a cannon shot from the enemy, blew up in the middle of the harbour; and in its fall the fire spread itself to the two more ships, the *Celebre* and the *Capricieux*, which were both burnt. The other vessels escaped with very great difficulty and risk, being obliged to pass between the enemy's battery and the cannon of the ships on fire, which played upon us as well as upon them. Several of our small craft were burnt; in short, it was a night of horror and desolation. The *Prudent* and the *Bienfaisant*, of 64 guns, which had escaped this time, soon after fell a prey to the enemy. Admiral Boscawen had given orders for each ship under his command to get ready two boats, two pumaces, and a barge, armed with muskets, bayonets, cutlasses, hatchets, and pistols. These under the command of the Captains La Forey and Balfour, entered the harbour in great silence, on a very dark night. As our batteries and ramparts had been very much damaged these three days, and as the fire of the enemy's small-arms made it almost impracticable for us to maintain ourselves on those same ramparts which we were endeavouring to repair; and lastly, as a breach had been already made in the Dauphin's bastion and the west gate: we did not wait for work. Besides, we had seen the besiegers bring ladders to the trenches, and, as we apprehended a scalade every moment, we kept continually firing our small arms on the ramparts, while the enemy plied us in the same manner, without intermission. It is not therefore, at all surprising, that in such confusion and alarm, we did not perceive the boats, which, as I mentioned to you before, slipped into the harbour. Their aim was against the two only ships we had left, and they succeeded, Captain La Forey attacked the *Prudent*, and Captain Balfour, the *Bienfaisant*.

The report of the guns made us sensible of our fresh misfortune; but it was too late. In vain did we direct every battery, that was still in a condition to play, against the enemy's boats. We could not hinder the *Bienfaisant* from being towed close by our walls into the north east harbour, under the protection of the enemy's batteries: nor the *Prudent*, which was aground, from being set on fire. I must confess, sir, that this action did as much honour to the English, as

damage to us. And, indeed, so long as our ships remained in the harbour, it would have been difficult for them to make a general assault.

Here then was our coup de grace. Of this we were convinced, the next day, by the shocking spectacle before us. We were under the greatest concern to see our harbour desolated, and laid waste. It was covered with the wrecks, as well of those ships that had been burnt, as of those which either we or our enemy had sunk. When we turned our eyes to view the situation of the town, our affliction was heightened. Our batteries were almost ruined; not above twelve pieces of cannon were in a condition to fire; a breach had been rendered practicable; our numbers had been greatly reduced; and the redoubling of the enemy's fire had nearly destroyed us.

Add to this, no ways and means to repair our losses; no appearance of relief; nay, we had seen the enemy a few days before, seize on two Spanish vessels that were bringing us succour. In so melancholy a situation, there was nothing else, but to capitulate; so that we suspended our fire, and sent to demand a truce, in order to regulate the articles of surrender.

We insisted upon terms far more honorable, and more advantageous than we had a right to expect; and, in case of a refusal, we were resolved to hold out to the last. The officer charged with the proposals of our commandant M. de Dracourt, returned with the following letter from General Amherst: "In answer to the proposal received on the part of your excellency, I have nothing further to say than that his excellency Admiral Boscawen and I have determined, that our men of war shall enter the harbour to-morrow, in order to make a general assault. Your excellency knows full well the situation of the army and fleet, as well as of the town; but, as Admiral Boscawen and myself are both desirous of avoiding any further effusion of blood, we give your excellency an hour to determine on the only capitulation we are willing to grant, which is, to surrender yourselves prisoners of war; otherwise, your excellency must be answerable for all the fatal consequences of so useless a defense."

M. de Dracourt, being extremely exasperated at these hard terms, resolved in a council of war, to defend the town to the last extremity. In consequence of this resolution, he was going to send an answer to the enemy, intimating that he would wait for a general assault; when the commissary M. Prevost, came and presented a petition to him in behalf of the inhabitants. During this interval an officer had been sent back to Messrs. Boscawen and Amherst, in order to obtain more favorable conditions. But as they persisted in the same answer, nothing further remained but to comply immediately, either with the desire of the officers of the garrison, who were ready to defend themselves to the utmost extremity, or with the petition of the commissary, which, with-