

[Written for the Canadian Illustrated News.]

GONDOLIED.

"I sat upon the right side of the ship, and looked out
Across the blue, billowy sea; a lad sat not far from me, and
Sang a Venetian song about the bliss of love, and the shortness
Of life." Hans Andersen's *Improvisatore*, Chap. XXIV.

Kiss the red lips of thy mistress to-day,
To-morrow, who knows? thou may'st sleep with the dead:
Love, while the heart in thy bosom is gay,
Love, while thy blood is a flame that is red.
Grey hairs, they say, are the pale flowers of death—
Blood turns to ice, or but sluggishly flows—
Time, the remorseless, will soon with his breath
Quench the wild fire that exultingly glows.
Into my gondola step from the shore,
Under its roof we are safe from alarms;
Veiled are the windows, and closed is the door—
Nobody sees thee, my love, in my arms.
Nobody watches our infinite bliss,
Gently we rock on the waters that heave;
Like the fond wavelets we toy and we kiss,
Mingling caresses this midsummer eve.
Love, then, while Youth thrilling passions inspires,
Age soon with snow will extinguish its fires!

Montreal: C. MURRAY.

THE EXPEDITION AGAINST QUEBEC, COMMANDED BY MAJOR-GENERAL WOLFE IN THE YEAR 1759.

(WRITTEN BY AN ENGINEER OF THE EXPEDITION.)*

[The following account of the celebrated expedition, published as it is, so many years after the events to be narrated, cannot but be of great interest to the general public. There are a great many garbled and exaggerated descriptions of this enterprise, written by persons who have drawn more upon their imagination than upon facts for their material.

The narrative we here publish is perfectly authentic and cleverly written—singularly beautiful in its minor details, whilst at the same time not losing sight of the main thread of the story. It was written as a journal, and consequently is of great authority as to daily operation, beginning with the preparations at Louisbourg and Halifax, and ending in the capture of the city, and the making of preparations for holding it during the winter of 1759 and '60.—Ed. C. I. N.]

April.—Louisbourg was appointed the place of rendezvous for assembling the forces destined for the service of this expedition; but as the harbour might not be open early enough, Halifax, which was within a short run of it, was likewise appointed for the same purpose, and there the first steps in America relating to that service were taken.

The first accounts of the intended expedition came to Halifax in the beginning of April, and a squadron of eight men-of-war of the line which had wintered there under the command of Admiral Durell, began to prepare for a cruise in the Gulf and River St. Lawrence.

April 8th.—The Honourable Brigadier-General Murray, who was appointed to the staff, being in Halifax in garrison, made an application to Brigadier-General Laurence, the Governor, for providing such necessaries for the service of the siege as might be procured here to advantage and conveniently transported.

The Governor readily complied with this demand, and without loss of time gave directions accordingly.

April 22nd.—The Honourable Brigadier-General Monckton, the second in command, arrived from the continent, and being made acquainted with the particulars to be provided, approved of their being forwarded.

April 30th.—Admiral Saunders arrived with a fleet from England. He had made attempts to put into Louisbourg; but was prevented by the ice, which still remained in great quantities along that coast.

Major-General Wolfe, Commander-in-Chief of the Expedition; the Hon. Brigadier-General Townshend and Colonel Carleton, Deputy-Quartermaster-General, with some other officers, arrived in the fleet.

This evening there was a detachment of 650 men from the garrison of Halifax, two Engineers, a proportion of intrenching tools, an officer and a small detachment of Artillery, with a couple of field pieces, under the command of Col. Carleton, ordered on board Admiral Durell's fleet, which still remained in the harbour, and now in readiness to sail.

This command was to take post in one of the islands of the River St. Lawrence, which should be most advantageous for preventing succours from going to the enemy.

May 2nd.—The preparations begun at Halifax were approved of by the General, and with some other additional articles ordered to be forwarded with all despatch; and the fleet from England began to refit and water with great diligence.

May 3rd.—Admiral Durell's fleet sailed this morning down the harbour; but the wind proving contrary, they were obliged to anchor at Mau-er's (Maigré's?) beach, where they remained till the 5th, and then got to sea.

May 13th.—This morning Admiral Saunders sailed for Louisbourg, with all the ships that were in readiness. We met Admiral Holmes off Cape Sambre with two ships, the "Somerset" and "Terrible." These ships having met with rough weather at sea, and sustained some damage, were ordered into Halifax to refit. Admiral Holmes hoisted his flag aboard another ship, and proceeded with us to Louisbourg. Brigadier-General Monckton remained at Halifax to see that garrison embark and to forward some particulars relating to the expedition. In the morning we made Cape Canso.

May 15th.—About noon we made the island of Cape Breton, the coast of which was still full of ice; in the evening we got into Louisbourg harbour, where we found the "Bedford" and "Prince Frederick," which had wintered there, and the "Northumberland," lately arrived from England.

May 17th.—The "Nightingale" and convoy with Frazer's battalion arrived from New York. The General ordered such further necessaries as were not already provided at this place, with all possible despatch. The troops were now coming in daily as the weather permitted, which was often so foggy that many vessels must have run ashore upon the coast, if the noise of the surf had not apprised them of their danger. The easterly winds which brought the fogs brought likewise great quantities of ice, and made the navigation still more troublesome. The harbour of Louisbourg was so full for several days

that there was no getting on board or ashore without a great deal of trouble and some danger.

May 31st.—Brigadier-General Monckton arrived with four battalions from Halifax and two battalions from the Bay of Fundy. Our whole force was now assembled, consisting of ten battalions, three companies of Grenadiers from the garrison at Louisbourg, a detachment of Artillery, and five companies of Rangers, the whole amounting to 8,535 men, fit for duty, officers included. They were proportioned on board the transports to the best advantage, and were landed for air and exercise when the weather permitted during our stay; and these opportunities were also taken advantage of to stow the water and provisions on board. The transports were divided into three divisions under the command of Brigadiers-General Monckton, Townshend, and Murray—each on board of a frigate with a distinguishing pendant to lead and repeat the signals of the division.

June 4th.—This morning Admiral Saunders sailed out of Louisbourg harbour with as many of the fleet as could follow; but the wind coming contrary soon afterwards a number were left behind, and remained till the morning of the 6th, during which time the Admiral kept in the offing, then the remaining vessels came out and the whole made sail in the evening.

July 9th.—Being off the Bird Island, we were joined by another company of Rangers, of about 100 men, from the Bay of Fundy.

June 18th.—In the evening we came to anchor for the first time since we left Louisbourg, at the Isle of Bic. From this island we were, for the most part, obliged to take advantage of the flood-tides, and daylight, as the currents began to be strong, and the channel narrow. About this time we had accounts by a small vessel taken by one of Admiral Durell's cruisers, that a French fleet got up the river before Admiral Durell's arrival, consisting of three frigates, and about 20 sail of transports, with recruits, clothing, arms, ammunition, provisions, and merchandise.

June 26th.—In the evening the last division of our transports passed through the traverse at the lower end of the Isle of Orleans, which though reckoned dangerous, our ships turned up with a contrary wind; this piece of seamanship surprised the enemy a good deal, for we were perhaps the first that ever attempted to get through in that manner; indeed there were boats with flags anchored upon the shoals, on each side of the channel, which was a necessary precaution, with such unfavourable winds. It must be observed that we found the navigation of the St. Lawrence much less difficult than we could have expected from the accounts given of it; out of our great fleet consisting of near 200 sail, there was not a single ship lost nor any damage sustained, except the loss of a few anchors and cables where there were strong currents and foul ground. The weather had been pretty moderate ever since our departure, which no doubt contributed to this part of our good fortune. In our way up we found one of Admiral Durell's squadrons at anchor near Green Island, the Admiral himself with some more in the North Channel of *Isle aux Coudres*, and two or three in the South Channel of the *Isle aux Coudres*, in case there might not be water enough for their getting through the traverse.

June 27th.—In the morning the signal was made in the South Channel of the *Isle d'Orleans* off the Church of St. Laurent for landing the troops. This was immediately set about and met with no opposition, the island having been abandoned some time before. While the troops were disembarking, the General went to the point of Orleans with an escort, called by the French *Bout de l'Isle*, and saw the enemy encamped along the North shore of the basin in eight different encampments, extending from the River St. Charles, to within a mile of the Falls of Montmorency, and the coast fortified all along as far as the encampments reached. There were some floating batteries launched, and batteaux with cannon in the creeks along the shore. These precautions in the enemy were plainly indications that the most advantageous landing-place and the most practicable must be upon that coast. There was no judging with certainty of the enemy's strength from the extent and number of their encampments; but we had good intelligence that they were about 15,000 or 16,000 men. After taking a full view of all that could be seen from this place, the General returned to St. Laurent, and ordered the troops there disembarked to encamp. The 3rd Battalion of Royal Americans remained on board till further orders. In the afternoon there came on a heavy gale of wind at N. E. which occasioned a good deal of damage among our transports, and as we afterwards learned, gave the enemy very favourable hopes of an easy riddance; if it had come on in the night-time, or continued some hours longer, it might in some measure have answered their expectations. We, however, escaped without losing any ships; some few vessels had run ashore, but were afterwards got off, and the only loss we felt sensibly was that of our boats, which affected our motions throughout the whole campaign.

June 28th.—About eleven at night the enemy sent seven fire ships from the town to go down the South Channel, and burn our fleet; but they managed so as to entertain us instead of annoying us. They set them on fire and left them to the direction of the current before they got within half a mile of our headmost ship, which gave our boats time to grapple and tow them ashore, though all in flames, and they there burnt down without touching a single ship.

June 29th.—In the morning Colonel Carleton was sent with the Grenadiers from St. Laurent to encamp on the point of Orleans. In the evening Brigadier-General Monckton crossed the south channel from St. Laurent to Beaumont with four battalions, three companies of light infantry, and some rangers, and marched from thence next morning, and in the evening took possession of Pointe Lévis. In that march his advanced and flanked parties exchanged some few shots with some of the enemy's scouting parties, and picked up a box of papers belonging to their commanding officer, which led to some discoveries. Pointe Lévis was immediately fortified, and was kept for an hospital and a place of arms during the campaign.

July 2nd.—There were three battalions sent from St. Laurent to encamp at the Point of Orleans, under the command of Brigadier-General Townshend. This place was likewise fortified for a place of arms and an hospital, and kept so during the campaign. Here the General for the present fixed his head-quarters.

July 3rd.—The remainder of the army at St. Laurent came to the Point of Orleans under the command of Brigadier-General Murray.

July 4th.—Brigadier-General Murray went up the south

side of the river towards the Etchemin to reconnoitre and take a view of the opposite side of the tower. Upon his return there was a place fixed for landing there, and some rafts for ferrying the troops across the river were ordered to be made at Pointe Lévis; but that plan was soon afterwards laid aside.

July 5th.—The 48th battalion, with three companies of light infantry and some rangers under the command of Col. Burton, were encamped and canteened near Pointe-aux-Pères to cover some works and batteries ordered this day by the General to be erected there against the town.

July 8th.—The General with the grenadiers of the army, six companies of light infantry, and two of rangers, marched from the camp of the Point of Orleans at eight in the evening, and between eleven and twelve crossed the south channel above St. Peter's church, and about two next morning took possession of the ground upon the east side of the falls of Montmorency. He was followed the same night by the three battalions under the command of Brigadier-General Townshend. There was no opposition made to our taking possession of the ground, and it seems probable that the enemy did not discover us until daylight next morning, for by the stir then in their camp, they seemed to be somewhat alarmed. This camp was immediately fortified, and here the General fixed his head-quarters while he had possession of it.

July 11th.—In the morning we discovered that the enemy had in the night begun to advance their breastworks upon the edge of the bank towards the falls. This night Brigadier-General Murray brought the remainder of our army which still lay at the Point of Orleans, to the camp at Montmorency, having left that post to be guarded by a detachment of marines landed for that purpose.

July 12th.—There were two batteries opened against the town at Pointe-aux-Pères, one of six 32-pounders, the other of five 13-inch mortars.

July 16th.—A carcass from our battery set the town on fire on the north side of the Jesuit Square, in La Fabrique Street. It burnt for several hours.

This night the "Sutherland" and some transports passed the town with the 3rd battalion of Royal Americans and with some other troops on board, under the command of Colonel Carleton. This, we understood from deserters, had alarmed the enemy a good deal.

July 20th.—There was another battery opened against the town at Pointe-aux-Pères of four sea service mortars (three of 13-inch, and one of 10-inch), it having been found by a trial made, that a bomb-ketch could not lay her broadside to the town for the strength of the current, the sea mortars were therefore employed by land.

July 21st.—There was a descent made at Pointe-aux-Trembles, seven leagues above the town on the north side by Col. Carleton. His party was fired upon at first landing, by some Canadians and Indians, but they were soon dispersed. He took possession of some plans and papers; a good many women and a few men were made prisoners. Major Prevost with one or two more officers and a few privates were wounded, and a few other privates killed.

July 22nd.—At night there was a considerable fire in the town caused by a carcass, which burnt the Cathedral and ten or twelve good houses in its neighbourhood.

July 26th.—About three this morning the General and Brigadier-General Murray, with the 35th Regiment, five companies of Light Infantry, and one of the Rangers, and two field-pieces, set out from Montmorency camp to reconnoitre two fords about five miles above the falls; after we had proceeded about a mile and a half, the field-pieces were sent back to camp, the road being too bad to get them on. About half way between the camp and the ford the road passes through a remarkable ravine, which is about 300 yards long, very narrow, and the banks upon each side about twenty feet high, and so steep as to admit of no outlet but where the road crosses. While on the march we were frequently challenged by the enemy from the opposite side of the river, for they observed all our movements with great vigilance. Upon our coming to the nearest ford we found they had a breast-work of a considerable extent upon the opposite bank. On our side of the river there was an open space of ground with a house in the centre of it, and upon the left of this opening the road to the ford passes through the woods. Our troops were drawn up to be in readiness in case of being attacked; the 35th across the road, and the Light Infantry upon the right along the skirts of the opening, the whole so far in the woods as to be concealed. The ford and the enemy's works and position were then reconnoitred, and the company of Rangers with the French deserter were sent to reconnoitre the other ford, which is about a mile higher up. Between eight and nine o'clock there were about thirty Canadians and Indians seen going into the house, upon which there was a platoon of the 35th ordered through the woods between them and the river to attack them; just as the platoon marched off it was fired upon, and the officer wounded, by those very people who had by this time got round them into the woods, but the platoon being joined by a company of Light Infantry, they were soon beaten back across the river. There was an ambuscade laid in case of a second attack, which was done by posting a company of Light Infantry on an advanced eminence near the river, in the woods, and below the opening, with orders if attacked to retreat back along the road, which would lead the enemy, if they pursued, into the fire of the battalion, and give a fair chance of cutting off their retreat with the Light Infantry. There were two other advantageous eminences taken possession of at the same time; one with two companies on our left flank, near the river, and the other with one company in the rear of the same flank upon the right of the road. About one o'clock a detachment of 1,500 Canadians and Indians crossed the river a considerable way from the opening, and marching down unperceived under cover of its banks, got up a ravine upon the right of the advanced Light Infantry. The officer commanding that company kept them in play till he called in his sentries, and then retreated according to orders; but the enemy, instead of pursuing him, as was expected, along the road, endeavoured to gain the height where the three companies were posted. When they got near it the two companies wheeled and attacked their flank, which being quite unexpected, they instantly turned their backs, and the Light Infantry coming upon their rear at the same time, they were soon driven into the river. They suffered very considerably in crossing, being quite open to our fire; we did not learn the number of their killed and wounded, but the Indians were dispirited from that day's loss for the rest of the campaign. We had 55 men killed and wounded, officers included. We suffered chiefly in pursuing the enemy to the rear, from the

* Major Moncrief.