

attack Vergor's camp at the head of the path. James Walsham, knowing the way, was to accompany him as second in command. Twenty-four picked men volunteered to follow them. Thirty large troop-boats and some boats belonging to the ships were in readiness, and 1700 men took their places in them.

The tide was still flowing, and the better to deceive the French the vessels and boats were allowed to drift upward for a little distance as if to attempt a landing above Cap Rouge. Wolfe had that day gained some intelligence which would assist him to deceive the enemy, for he learned that a number of boats laden with provisions from Quebec were coming down with the tide.

Wolfe was on board the *Sutherland*. He was somewhat stronger than he had been for some days, but felt a presentiment that he would die in the approaching battle. About two o'clock the tide began to ebb, and two lanterns—the signal for the troops to put off—were shown in the rigging of the *Sutherland*. Fortune favored the English. Bougainville had watched the vessels until he saw them begin to drift down again with the stream, and thinking that they would return again with the flood, as they had done for the last seven days, allowed his weary troops to retire to their camp. The battalion of Guienne, instead of encamping near the heights, had remained on the St. Charles; and Vergor, an incapable and cowardly officer, had gone quietly to bed, and had allowed a number of the Canadians under him to go away to their village to assist in getting in the harvest.

For two hours the English boats drifted down with the stream. As they neared their destination they were suddenly challenged by a French sentry. An officer who spoke the language replied, "France."

"A quel régiment?"

"De la reine," the officer replied, knowing that a part of that regiment was with Bougainville. The sentry, believing that they were the expected provision boats, allowed them to pass on.