

# GENERAL WOLFE'S DIARY TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

By R. S. FENDRICK

A BATTERED old ledger in a dusty Paris bookshop—

It is the last journal of General James Wolfe, hidden away for years in an American collection of old documents.

The entry is Sept. 12, 1759—the eve of the Battle of Quebec.

"A vigorous blow struck by the army at this juncture may determine the fate of Canada," is the historic and prophetic message General Wolfe sends to his little army, and that his unknown scribe faithfully notes in the journal.

It is as dramatic a paper as found anywhere in British history, and by an irony of fate this glorious page lies to-day on a dusty French bookshelf.

The journal covers 103 pages of fine handwriting, opens with military orders given by General Wolfe in Scotland in 1748, carries him through Glasgow, Dundee, Banff, Dover Castle, Winchester and then the second part opens with the title, "Orders given by Major General Wolfe in America. Halifax, April 30, 1759."

"The object of the campaign is to go, Dundee, Banff, Dover Castle, and finish the war in America," he informs his officers and men.

"Great sufficiency of provisions and a numerous artillery is provided and from the known valour of the troops the nation expects success. The battalions have acquired reputation in last campaign, and it is not doubted but they will be careful to preserve it; from this confidence the Gen'l has assured the Secretary of State in his letters that whatever may be the event of the campaign, His Majesty and the Country will have reason to be satisfied with the army under his command.

"The Gen'l means to carry the business thro' with as little loss as possible and with the heighest regard to the safety and preservation of the troops; to that end he expects that the men work chearfully and diligently without the least unsoldierlike murmur, or complaint, and that his five but necessary orders be strictly obeyed."

He sets himself to his task with the most intense thoroughness and there is not an Englishman who would not be thrilled by the bravery, loyalty, humanity and other virtues which shine through these stained old pages, the glory of which will live as long as the race itself.

And in the whole history of the British army there is no finer chapter than the orders Wolfe issued to his army.

"The peasants that remain in their habitations, their women and their children are to be treated with humanity," he firmly tells his men. "If any violence is offered to any woman the offender shall be punished with death."

"Any soldier that is found with

Orders given by Major General Wolfe in America.

Halifax April 30<sup>th</sup> 1759.

The Grenade Companies of Amherst's & Armstrong's Reg't, with a Lieut. & 25 men of the Light Infantry of each of the five Battalions in Town to embark tomorrow morning at day break, at their Reg't, whose boats will be ready to carry them on board the French vessels. They are to carry with them their old Tools and Equipage, 200 Mounds of Powder & Ball & Iron will be delivered to them on the Staff.

An Off. of Artillery with a preparation of Men of two six pounders, with the Guns & Ammunition, to embark on board the French Ships this evening.

His Majesty has been pleased to appoint the following Generals and Officers to serve in the Army Commanded by Major General Wolfe.

The Colonel of the Brigades General }  
Monsieur }  
Townshend }  
Murray }

Lieut. Colonel of the Brigades }  
Major General }  
Barry }  
Adjut. Gen'l }

Majors of Brigades }  
Capt. Guillemin }  
Capt. Spital }  
Capt. Hardhand }

Aids de Camps }  
Capt. Smith of Amherst's }  
Capt. Bell }

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A page from the journal

plunder in his tent, or returning to army with plunder of any kind not taken by order, shall be sent directly to provost in irons in order to be tried for his life."

"The Gen'l will order such refreshments as he knows will be of service to them (his men), but is determined to allow no drunkenness or licentiousness in the army."

"No churches, houses or buildings of any kind to be burned without orders."

The journal gives a rough drawing of the "Order of Incampment of the Army in One Line," "The Order of Battle of the Army", the names of the principal officers, the training exercises, the preliminary skirmishes, and finally describes his audacious plan to surprise Montcalm by sending his men up the St. Lawrence river in the darkness.

"A vigorous blow struck by the army at this juncture may determine the fate of Canada," he says in his historic message on September 12, the eve of the battle.

"The officers and men are to remember what their country expects from them and what a determined body of soldiers are capable of do-

ing against five weak battalions mingled with a disordered peasantry."

And then this thrilling record abruptly stops, for the heroic Wolfe was killed on the Plains of Abraham the next day in the moment of victory, and the faithful scribe, who was probably an aide-de-camp, was possibly killed, too, as he never wrote another word.

It is unknown what happened to this journal after the battle but an American collector named Zadock Pratt of New York state, who was born in 1790 and died in 1871, eventually found it.

After his death, the whole Pratt collection, including the Wolfe journal, was purchased by a swiss woman, described as Miss D——, who lived in London.

She recently turned over her collection, comprising more than 1,000 old books and documents, to Georges Andrieux, a Paris book expert, to be sold.

The whole collection of Miss D—— is now on exhibition at his bookshop and will be sold in the public auction rooms in Paris June 14-17. X

It includes more than 100 old English papers, including an autographed order of Oliver Cromwell.