

A. D.  
1756.

Forces how  
disposed.

Numerous garrisons being placed in Fort William Henry and in Fort Edward to prevent any surprise during the winter, and to defend that country within their protection from insults, the rest of the forces were quartered in barracks built for that purpose at Albany, that they might be brought

had not a fourth part of the regular troops we now have, and the French had at least an equal number in Canada, and at Louisbourg.

Our campaign in 1755 opened with an expedition against the French encroachments in Nova Scotia, with about 400 regular troops, and 2000 irregulars from Boston; which was so conducted, that the French forts upon the Isthmus soon surrendered; their garrisons were transported to Louisbourg; one of their forts upon the river St. John was abandoned, and their settlements about it broke up. The same year our own fortifications were advanced as far as Lake Sacrament, now Lake George, as in the preceding year they had likewise begun to be upon the river Kennebeck, towards the metropolis of Canada: and the French general, Dieskau, who came from France that year with about 3000 troops, and had begun his march to invest Oswego, was prevented from making an attempt upon it, and defeated in his attack upon our camp at Lake George. And in the year 1756, a large party of French regulars, Canadians and Indians, which attacked, by surprise, a party of our battoe-men upon the river Onondago, were entirely defeated by an inferior number of men.

No sooner were our forces encreased, by those which arrived here from Europe with General Abercrombie, in June 1756, but things took a very different turn. Though timely information was given, that a large French camp was formed about 30 miles off Oswego, with an intent speedily to attack it; yet that most material place was lost: General Webb not setting out till two days before it was taken.

Our next misfortune was the fate of the forts at the Great Carrying Place, just now related on page 490. Vol. I.

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