

LIEUT.-COLONEL MONCKTON'S JOURNAL OF 1755 in John Clarence Webster, ed., *The Forts of Chignecto: A Study of the Eighteenth Century Conflict between France and Great Britain in Acadia* (Published by the Author, 1930)

For many years historians interested in Nova Scotia have sought for the Journal of the Commander-in-Chief of the Expedition against Fort Beausejour. The missing document has at last been found among the Cumberland papers in the Royal Library of Windsor Castle by Mr. Stanley M. Pargellis of Yale University, while engaged in research work. Through the courtesy of Dr. H. P. Biggar, Canadian Archivist in London, I have obtained a copy of the Journal, with the gracious permission of His Majesty to publish it.

JOURNAL of the Expedition against Beausejour Fort, Erected by the French on the Isthmus of Chignecto in the Province of Nova Scotia.

May, 1755.

In Pursuance of my Orders from Lieut. Governor Lawrence having prepared every thing necessary at Boston for the Expedition and having Embarked the Troops raised by Governour Shirley amounting to about 1900 Non Commission Officers included. We set sail from Boston the 19th May, 1755. The Fleet Consisting of 31 Transports under Convoy of three 20 Gun Ships Commanded. by Capt. Rouse.

May 26th. We arrived at Annapolis where we were joined by three Transports from Halifax with Stores under Convoy of the Vulture Sloop of War and the Detachment of the Train of Artillery under the Command of Captn Boome, also by Mr. Bruce the Chief Engineer and others intended for the Expedition; Here we remained till the 31st taking on Board Stores from the Garrison, this Evening sent off a Province Vessel to Captn Hussey Commanding at Fort Lawrence for Intelligence.

June the 1st.-At 4 in the Morning the Whole got under sail, and at 8 the same evening came to anchor under Cape Maranguen, which is about three Leagues from the Forts, where we remained that night.

June the 2nd.-Held a Council of War on Board the Success man of War, Wherein at "it" was resolved to get under Sail and land the Troops that Evening '. As we were getting under Sail, the Province Vessel returned and brought word that every thing was well at Fort Lawrence, and that by the Intelligence Capt. Hussey could get, the French were not in Expectation of us. As there was a very thick fog the French did not perceive us till we were got into the Bason of Chignecto and were Just landing; which we did this Evening on Fort Lawrence Side.

3rd.-Got everything in readiness for our March.

4th.-Marched out at 7 in the Morning, for want of Horses were obliged to draw the Six Pounds by men.

ORDER OF MARCH.

A Captain two Subalterns and fifty Irregulars to Scour the woods.
Then the Regulars being about 270 Rank and File.

After the Regulars Capt. Broome with the Detachment of the Artillery 4 Field Six Pounders, Tumbrills and Materials for a Bridge.

Then followed the 2nd Battalion of Irregulars under the Command of Lieut. Colonel Scott.

The First Battalion under the Command of Lieut. Colonel Winslow bringing up the Rear.

Between Eleven and Twelve came opposite to Pont a Buot the place we intended to Cross the River Musquash where perceiving that the Enemy had thrown up a Breast work on the other side and seemed to have a Considerable Body of men, I drew up the Troops and ordered Capt. Broome to get the Six Pounders ready and the Materials for the Bridge to be carried to the Water Side.

Upon our beginning to lay the Bridge the Enemy behind the works & that lined the woods gave us a fire and the Indian Cry, they likewise fired some Swivel Guns from a Log House, where they were used to keep a Guard.

Upon which I immediately ordered Capt. Broome to fire upon the Log House, which he did and soon Silenced their Swivel Guns, Our Six Pounders playing upon this Logg House and against the Breast work made the Enemy give way. Upon which I immediately march'd over with the Regulars followed by the two Battalions, at the Sight of which the Enemy ran off, and we took possession of the Hill.

On the first fire of the Enemy followed by the Indian Cry, The Troops in General, were a little Surprised; But afterwards behaved very well, The Regulars in particular.

In this Affair we had but one man killed, & about twelve wounded, the Shot in General flying over or falling short of us.

After a Halt of about two hours we Continu'd our March towards the Fort, about six in the Evening came in Sight of the Fort.

June the 5th. - Having reconnoitred the Country a little we advanced and lay within about a Mile and a Quarter of the Fort with our Right to the Road leading to the Bay Verte and our Left to the Musquash where we were to get Cannon and Stores.

An Alarm this night but of no Consequence.

6th.-Sent to reconnoitre a Hill called Buot a Roger, where I intended to have raised a Battery, but found it too great a Distance.

Much rain this afternoon.

This day's Tide several of Our Vessels attempted to get up to us from Fort Lawrence, of which only one Arrived, the rest were prevented by the Indians and French firing upon them from the Dykes;

But in the Evening having sent a Strong Party to Cover them, Several Of the Store Vessells got up.

7th -Busied in landing Stores and getting up more Vessells. It must be observed the Navigation up the River is very difficult on Account of the Strength of the Tides and being only practicable about the height of it.

8th.-We got out the 13 Inch Mortar, some Royals & Cohorns also the 24 Pounders and Carriages.

This morning sent Colo. Winslow with a Detachment as a Covering Party to Mr. Bruce the Engineer, they were fired on by a Small party of the Enemy, but without any loss.

In the Evening a Flag of Truce from the Fort brought us an Account of Ensn. Hay's being taken as he was coming from Fort Lawrence to the Camp.

June the 9th.-Employed in making Roads and getting up the Cannon & Stores from the water Side, in which we found much difficulty from the badness of the Roads occasioned by the Rains and from the want of Cattle, being mostly obliged to make use of men.

10th.-Same.

11th.-Cutting Fascines and Carrying Shot and Shells up from the water Side.

12th & 13th.-Having fixed on a Spot for Our Approaches, and having determined to Amuse them with some Shells till such time as we could get our Guns., Shot and every thing ready for to raise our Batteries.

I ordered a Detachment of 400 men under the Command of Lt. Colo. Scott and Major Pribble of the Irregulars, and Captain Spital of the Regulars to be ready to march in the Evening to take possession of the Ground, & 200 men with Tools,&c to be ready to follow them to open the Trenches; At Five in the Evening Colo. Scott march'd with his Detachment when they came near the Ground they were fired on by the Enemy, who were concealed behind the Rocks and some old Chimneys, Notwithstanding the advantage the Enemy had, by the Good Conduct of Lt. Col Scott and the Officers Commanding under him, they drove off the Enemy and took possession of the Ground.

Our loss on this occasion was two men killed and three wounded, Major Pribble of the Irregulars slightly wounded and Lieutt Tonge of General Warburtons doing duty as Engineer, and who was very active on this occasion badly wounded in the thigh.

The Detachment of Regulars under the Command of Captn Spital behaved much to his & their Credit. Lieutt Colo Scott having taken possession of the Ground I sent off Ensn Peach of General Laseeles's Regiment who acted in Quality of an Engineer with the 200 men with the Intrenching Tools &c. By Break of Day they ran a Parallel: which the Enemy perceiving began to fire on them, but did not hurt except slightly wounding one man.

This morning having got up some Royals to the Trenches, we threw about fifty Shells, but to no purpose.

In the evening, Colo Wmslow had Major Frye of the Irregulars and Captn Hale of the Regulars relieved the Trenches, Several Alarms in Camp this night.

June the 14th -Continued Carrying on the Trenches but the weather was so bad that little was done.

This evening Capt. Hussey of the Regulars, Major Bourne & Major Goldthwaite of the Irregulars relieved the Trenches, Continued our works, got up the 13 Inch Mortar.

15th.-Continued our works, which from the great falls of Rain, went on but Slowly, Threw some Shells. Lieut. Colo Scott relived the Trenches this Evening.

June the 16th.-This morning at Break of Day the Fort fired very briskly on the Trenches, We threw some 8 & 13 Inch Shells -their firing did no damage. About twelve o'clock I received a letter by an officer from Mr. Vergore desiring 48 hours to Capitulate. I Granted him but till two O Clock to return his Proposals, which he Comply'd with, and I immediately sent him back Terms, which he Accepted off, and delivered up the Fort accordingly to Lieut. Colonel Scott between 7 & 8 in the Evening.

Some time before the French Officer return'd with the Proposals, a Body of the Enemy fired upon the Rear of Our Camp from the Woods-thinking it might be a Detachment from Louisbourg,

I immediately lined the Breast work we had in the Rear, and sent off Detachments from the Flanks. Some of the people I could not for some time restrain from firing.

The Detachments soon return'd and brought in an Indian who was wounded in the Back, by whom I learnt that they were about 60 French and Indians that had been sent out some days before by Mr. Le Loutre the Priest, the Indian was a Sachem of St. John's Tribe and dyed a few hours after.

17th.-This morning the French marched out being about 160, the Peasants had left it the Evening before. This day nam'd the Fort - Fort Cumberland under the Discharge of the Guns. In the Evening Embarked some of the French Troops and wrote a letter to the Officer Commanding at Fort Gaspereau at the Bay Vert offering him the same Terms upon his immediate Surrender; which he accepted of and Sent an Officer as Hostage.

June the 18th.-Began to Clear the Fort, Detach'd off Ltn Colo Winslow with 300 men to take possession of Fort Gaspereau; Issued orders to the Inhabitants to bring in their Arms.

19th. Sent Major Bourne to New England to Govern Shirley. Captn Spital to Halifax to Lt. Governor Lawrence.

The Garrison from Fort Gaspereau come in Consisting of one Captn, two Subs & about thirty Soldiers.

20th.-Three hundred of the Inhabitants bring in their Arms. Embark the Remainder of the French & their Baggage.

One Brusrar alias Beau Soleil a French Inhabitant who. had been very active in heading the French and Indians comes in, on a promise of being pardoned. He Commanded the Party that fired on the Rear of the Camp the 16th.

21st.-Employ'd in getting in our Stores and Cleaning the Garrison.

22nd.-Ditto. It being His Majesty's Accession to the Throne, fired 21 Guns.

23rd.-Works carried on. The three 20 Gun Ships & Sloop Command of Captn Rouse Sail to look into St. John's River a Report prevailing that two French 36 Gun Ships had been seen in the Bay of Fundy – the transports with the French Prisoners for Louisbourgh Sail likewise.

24th.-Works Carried on &c.

25th.-Ditto, and Embark Stores for to go to St. John's.

June the 25th.-Ditto. More Inhabitants bring in their Arms.

27th.-Ditto.

28th.-Continued cleaning and repairing the Fort.

Stores for St. Johns all on Board. Beau Soleil whom I sent some days before to St. Johns River, returns with two Indian Chiefs to the opposite side of the River.

29th.-The Chiefs come to the Fort, Offer them Peace or War. They consent to go with me to St. John's to bring in their Tribe. Confine them to the Fort.

July the 1st.-Transport and everything ready for St. John's.

2nd -The Vulture Sloop arrives from Capt. Rouse with an Account the French Commandant at St. Johns had blown up the Fort and retired with his Garrison on the Appearance of the Men of War. Upon this News write to Lt. Governor Lawrence and wait his orders.

3rd.-From this to the 20th Nothing Extraordinary. The works go on.

21st.-A Province Sloop arrives with orders from Lt. Governor Lawrence to Discharge the Transports.

22nd.-Send off Beau Soleils son with one of the Indians to St. Johns to bring in more.

23rd.-A Party from Gaspereau brings an Account of one of their men being killed.

24th.-:Major Bourne who returned some days before from New England marches with 200 Hundred men to Fort Gaspereau.

25th.-Major Bourne returns, by whom we learn that the man was killed by some Indians from the Island of St. Johns. Nothing Extraordinary to the 1st of August. Works Carried on.

August the 2nd. - Sent Capt. Lewis of the Rangers with a Detachment; of 150 men to Cobequid. Beau Soleils Son returns and brings the same Indian and 8 more to the other Side of the River.

3rd.-Sent out Beau Soleil to bring in the Indians which they refuse, unless Lt. Colonel Scott was first sent as an Hostage, which I would not Comply with, as I was Suspicious of their wanting to Destroy him. Use all methods, I can to bring them in, but to no purpose. Having now but one Indian in my Possession did not think him worth detaining, therefore Set him at liberty, thinking it my (sic.? may) make them Change their opinion, but all to no purpose. They send for Excuse that Some of the Penobscott Tribe that were lately trading with the New England people in a friendly manner (which was but too. True) had been Destroyed, they also send me word, that in return for my Setting at Liberty their Indian, they would not molest us.

4th.-Nothing Extraordinary. Work as usual

5th.-Receive orders from Lt Governor Lawrence in relation to the Sending off the French Inhabitants.

6th.-Captn Willard marches with 100 men to join Capt. Lewis to burn and destroy the Villages of Cobequid, Falmagouche [Tatamagouche], Remrkeeke [Ramshag] & others thereabout, and to bring in the Inhabitants and cattle. Nothing till the 11th.

11th – Secure upward of 400 of the French Inhabitants in Fort Cumberland

12th.-Captn Gorham of the Rangers Arrives with an Account of General Braddocks Defeat. Works go on, nothing till the 21.

August 21st.-His Majesty's Ship the Syren Captn Proby with nine sail of Transports from Halifax to take off the French Arrive in the Bason, Works as Usual. Nothing Occurred to the 26th.

26th.-Captns Lewis and Willard return with some Inhabitants having Executed the Orders sent him.

27th.-Nothing Extraordinary.

28th.-Send_ Major Frye of the N. England Troops with 200 men to Destroy the Village of Chipoudi, Memeramkook & Pitcondiack and bring in the Inhabitants. Work as usual nothing Extraordinary till the 3rd Sept. Major Frye returns with very bad Success for having devided his Party. One of them was Surprised by the Enemy and lost 23 men killed and taken, One Officer killed and another wounded; However they burnt upwards of 300 Houses and brought in about 30 women and Children. Works Continued, nothing till the 10th.

September 10th.-Begin to Embark the French.

11th 12th & 13th.-Works as usual.

14th.-Some Cannon Supposed to have been heard towards the Bay Vert.

16th & 17th.-Works as Usual. More French Embark'd.

18th.-Major Prebble returns. All well at the Bay Vert. From this time to the 12th October, the works are Carried on as usual, Frequent Parties Sent out to bring in the Stragglng French Inhabitants. Very bad weather.

The Night of the 1st of October 80 odd of the French Inhabitants Escape out of Fort Lawrence, not by any Apparent Negligence of the Officers or Sentries; for though the place they were Confined in was Examined daily they Contrived by means of an Adjacent Cellar to make a Hole under the Ground for upwards of 30 feet into the Ditch, through which they got off. Besides the Night was so Dark: Rainy and Blow'd so hard, that a Centinel could not hear or see Six Yards from him. This I have been the more particular in taking notice of, least any Reflection should be thrown on Major Bourne the Commanding Officer at Fort Lawrence at that time; who upon all Occasions was very active and diligent.

October the 13th.-The Transports Sail under Convoy of the Success and Syren men of War, having on Board about 1100 French. From this time to the 13th November employed in Getting in Wood & Carrying on the Works, Send out frequent Scouting Parties, but to little purpose. The N. England Troops turn home Sick, Discharge about 100 of them. Some Indians & French Continue about us. Continual Rains & Bad Weather.

November 13th.-Send out a Detachment of 300 men to burn the villages of Tantamar - Richards Bourgs and Vest Kak which they Completed, they Exchange a few Shot with the Enemy.

15th.-Sent Lieut. Colo Scott with 200 men more to join the other Detachment at Vest Kak with Orders to march and burn the Village of Memeramkook.

November 19th.-Lieut. Colo Scott returns having Executed the Order Given him and brings in with him upwards of 200 Head of Cattle and two or three French women. Nothing Extraordinary after this.

The 26th Embark for Halifax by leave from Lieutt Lawrence, leaving the Command with Lieutt Colo Scott.

(N. B. - The remainder of the original Journal is in Monckton's hand writing and is signed by him).

In regard to the Behaviour of the Offrs & Troops Employ'd on the Expedition –

I must first Observe that Capt Broome, the Other Offrs & Detachment of the Traint of Artillery; shew'd on Every ·Occasion the greatest readiness & activity.

Mr. Bruce the Chief Engineer & others employ'd in that Branch, were likewise verry Active.

The Regulars Under the Command of Cpts Hussey, Hale, & Spittal; As also the Other Officers; And Men; Ever shew'd themselves Diligent & Beehav'd much to their Credit-

As to the New England Troops The Men in General are good; But for the Officers I can't say much- Lieut Col. Scott who Commanded the 2nd Battn was on all occasions of the greatest Service to me- As well from his Knowledge of the Indians & Inhabitants as from his activity & good conduct-

Majr Pribble a good & Brave Offr -Majr Frye & Majr Bourne always active in their several dutys -Some few Cpts were likewise Verry Active- But as to the Rest excepting two or three -I must be silent.

ROBT. MONCKTON,
Lieut. Colonel to the 47th Regt of Foot.