

John's harbor, whence he reconnoitred the whole place leisurely. He then marched on, led by bad guides, whom he should have distrusted, and who merely sought to defeat his plans. 1709.

As soon as he detected their treachery he moved from the centre, where he was, to the van, where the volunteers were, and put himself at their head, leaving in the place he had just left, the Sieur Despensens, acting as major. He was discovered three hundred paces from the fort he designed attacking, so that some musketry fire opened on him as he approached the first palisade. Some of his volunteers abandoned him, but this did not prevent his pushing on to the covered way, the entrance to which they had fortunately neglected to close. He entered shouting *Vive le Roy*, a cry that roused the courage of his own men, and made the English lose all heart. Leaving fifteen or sixteen men to guard the covered way, he crossed the ditch under the fire of two other forts, which wounded ten of his men, planted two ladders against the rampart, which was twenty feet high, and scaled it with six men, three of whom were dangerously wounded in so doing.

As that moment Despensens arrived with his detachment and at once planted his ladders. He was the first to ascend, entering the fort with two or three others. Renou, Johannis, du Plessis, la Chesnaye, d'Argenteuil and d'Aillebout his brother, followed close on this brave man; some seized the barracks, others the Governor's quarters, while others ran to the drawbridge connecting this fort, called Fort William, with that of the colonists, and the Governor, who was hastening to throw in three hundred settlers, was struck down with three wounds.¹

Despensens immediately lowered the drawbridge and opened the gate. Then all the rest of the army entered and the English cried quarter. Thus, in less than half an hour the French took two forts, either of which might have long resisted a whole army; one had eighteen guns

¹ Canada Doc., III. v., p. 842.