

The next day, about four o'clock in the afternoon, Monsieur de Montcalm arrived with the rest of the army. We were obliged to continue our way, notwithstanding a deluge of rain that drenched us. We marched nearly the whole night, until we distinguished the camp of Monsieur de Levi by three fires, placed triangularly on the top of a mountain. We halted at this place, where a general council was held, after which the land troops began anew to march toward fort George, only four leagues distant. It was not until about noon that we again entered our canoes. We paddled slowly, in order to give the boats loaded with artillery time to follow us. They were far from being able to do it. By evening we were more than a full league ahead. However, as we had come to a bay the point of which we could not double without wholly exposing ourselves to the enemy, we decided to spend the night there, while waiting for new orders. It was marked by an unimportant fight, which was the prelude to the siege.

About eleven o'clock two barges, which had left the fort, appeared on the lake. They were sailing with a confidence and composure which they soon gave up. One of my neighbors, who was watching over the general safety, descried them at a considerable distance. The news was carried to all the Savages, and preparations for receiving them were concluded with admirable activity and silence. I was at once called upon to attend to my own safety by going to the land, and thence to the heart of the woods. It was not from a bravery inappropriate to a man of my profession that I turned a deaf ear to the advice which they had the goodness to give me; but I did not think the matter serious, because I