

I worry that my bright red coat will give me away as we march through the forest toward Fort Ticonderoga. It is July 1758, and I am 22 years old. I should be in England, but instead I was sent to fight in this war an ocean away from home. When William Pitt became Prime Minister, he became obsessed with conquering New France, so he sent 40,000 soldiers to the colonies. I am one of this 40,000. When we arrived to fight, we were joined by 20,000 colonial militiamen. Our plan, an idea from Benjamin Franklin, is to attack three French forts simultaneously: Louisburg, in the gulf of St. Lawrence, Fort Duquesne in Pittsburg, and Fort Ticonderoga near Lake Champlain.

My head sweats in my tricorn hat. In my hands, I start to feel the weight of my musket with its attached bayonet. Our Commander, Lord Loudoun, was replaced by General James Abercromby. We call him Granny because he seems to be rather incompetent. He heard a rumor that the French Commander, General Louis Montcalm, will soon be joined by more forces. Because of this, I, along with 15,000 other men, a mixture of British soldiers and colonial militiamen, am going to attack Carillon, the Fort at Ticonderoga.

Apparently Granny forgot to study an account of the fort's defense before he sent us here. We have no indication that he knows the weaknesses of the fort. He tells the troops to attack, though we have not so much as tested the artillery. The French are waiting for us. They have erected a barrier of trees and tree branches- an *abattis*. The branches that stick out towards us are sharpened. It is impossible to get through. No man can stand in one place for any amount of time without being hit. The musket balls come at us like rain in a thunderstorm. I take cover. We have no chance of winning, though

this should be an easy victory. We outnumber the French four to one. Why are we not using our artillery?

General Abercromby has called a retreat. He has survived; in fact he did not see the majority of the battle, as he remained in the back. We have lost 1,600 men and the colonists have lost 350. I can only hope that my fellow British soldiers at Louisburg and Duquesne will not suffer the same fate. If only we had a more competent commander, we could have driven out the French and gained control of the fort. For now, however, we shall retreat to Fort Edward and General Montcalm will continue to control the southern part of Lake Champlain. Abercromby has disgraced us. He has thrown away a victory, not to mention over one thousand lives.

Works Cited

BritishBattles.com. 2010. 6 June 2010. www.britishbattles.com.

Cave, Alfred A. *The French and Indian War*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2004.

Reagen, James E. *Warriors of La Presentation*. Ogdensburg, New York: Oswegatchie Press, 1999.