

“Canada A People’s History: Battle For A Continent”

Battle For A Continent

- British America is a ribbon of fourteen prosperous colonies stretching from Halifax to Savannah. Its cities are thriving, its population steadily growing. There is only one direction to expand, over the mountains into the Indian homelands and the land claimed by the _____ as Canada.

The Governor & The General

- Paris sends the Marquis de Montcalm to command the North American war. He has a _____ military record, but little money.
- Vaudreuil and Montcalm never agree on how to conduct the war. The Canadians fight Indian style – moving in quick aggressive raids. In one attack, _____ sends three hundred raiders against the community of German Flats in the Mohawk valley. They kill fifty settlers, take thirty-two scalps and a hundred and fifty women and children as prisoners. Vaudreuil’s war is a war of attrition.
- Instead, _____ brings European tactics into the wilderness, moving massive siege guns to attack the enemy strongholds head on. In one year he has two stunning victories. He devastates the British at Fort Oswego. Then he moves south and captures Fort William Henry. In North America the British are losing forts.
- A powerful minister, William Pitt advances a new idea – if Britain can’t defeat the French in Europe, then beat them in their colonies. A daring two-fold plan is conceived – invade Canada by land from the American colonies and by sea send a massive armada against the fortress of _____. It will be the greatest naval invasion in North American history.

A Deterring & Dreadful Vengeance

- On the remote Atlantic coast, the fortress of Louisbourg guards the gateway to Canada. To get to _____ it must be destroyed. The invasion of Canada begins here at Louisbourg. The British fleet arrives on June 1st, 1758, 14,000 men strong.
- After _____ months of bombardment, Druccour surrenders. He has delayed the British assault on Quebec for now.

The Inevitable Hour

- Everyone knows that this year the British will come to Quebec. From every parish in the colony, Canadians converge to defend the city – fathers and sons, old men and boys as young as twelve. 106 extra cannons reinforce the walls. To the east of Quebec, where Montcalm believes an enemy landing is most likely, a vast network of trenches and redoubts is dug stretching for ten miles. _____ men are now encamped and waiting, but no one can conceive the immensity of what is heading toward them.
- 22 ships of the line, 27 frigates and sloops of war, 80 transports – more than 200 ships in all – One quarter of the _____ navy. This fleet stretches one hundred miles along the Saint Lawrence River. In all, there are 9000 soldiers, 18,000 sailors – more than the entire population of Quebec.

The River Of Fire

- The British siege of Quebec lasts nine weeks. Every morning, every afternoon, every night, the bombs fall. Almost 20,000 cannonballs have crushed the city and still Quebec will not _____.

Divided Councils, Desperate Plans

- The summer is half gone and Wolfe can't decide where to attack. His senior officers believe Wolfe should outflank Quebec and land up river. But suddenly, and without consulting his brigadiers, Wolfe orders a different invasion. Not upriver, but here at the Beauport shore where

Montcalm's army is securely entrenched. On the morning of Tuesday, July 31st near the falls at Montmorency, Wolfe launches the invasion of _____. 4000 British troops storm the beaches in front of the Beauport trenches. It's the same gamble Wolfe used at Louisbourg and won. But, the French troops and the Canadian militia are ready for them. This time Wolfe's gamble ends in disaster. The French have crushed the great British invasion.

The Plains Of Abraham

- Wolfe has placed himself between two armies. On one side, Montcalm's main forces at Beauport an hours march away. But, behind Wolfe there is another French army, 2000 men scattered along the Saint Lawrence under Bougainville who can mobilize within a few hours. Wolfe is gambling that Montcalm will take the bait. If Wolfe can't tempt Montcalm into a quick battle here this morning, his position is militarily desperate. Montcalm quickly mobilizes, but he is uncertain about the British invasion plan. He sends 5000 men towards the Plains of _____ and leaves the rest of his force to guard the Beauport trenches.
- In the woods and cornfields around the plains 400 Canadian militia and _____ snipers have rushed from Quebec to pin the enemy down while Montcalm's troops mobilize. They are the first to engage the invader.
- The British army now numbers 4441 men. To increase their _____, Wolfe has ordered them to load two lead balls in their muskets, instead of one. To stretch his army out over the widest possible distance, Wolfe orders his men to form in two long thin lines, rather than the usual three.
- Sometime just after the British volley, James _____ is struck by a fatal shot in the chest. At the crest of the hill, Montcalm is engulfed in a stream of retreating men. Sometime in the next few moments he is struck by a musket ball below his ribs.

- Even though the French vastly outnumber the British, Vaudreuil has decided they will not fight again the next day. He orders the soldiers to abandon _____ and Beauport. Some of the citizens stone them and shout, "cowards".
- James Wolfe lived only a few minutes, long enough to hear that he had defeated the French. His body will be sent back to England where he will be the empire's newest _____. He was 32 years old. Louis-Joseph the Marquis de Montcalm will survive for one more day. His body is put in a makeshift box because there are no coffins left and buried in a hole made by a British cannonball. He was 47 years old.

The Winter

- But in Montreal, it will be a winter of rebuilding. The defeated French army is preparing to fight once more. Jean-Baptiste Duprat, veteran of the Plains of Abraham, is making the Canadian militia a central part of the renewed army. The general who has replaced Montcalm is Francois Gaston de _____. He is determined to retake Quebec and pleads for reinforcements from France.

Tide of Fortune

- 4000 of Levis' soldiers are approaching _____ determined to retake the city. What follows will be one of the most remarkable reversals of fortune in Canadian history.
- The tide turns in favour of the French. But, Jean-Baptiste Duprat, the man who helped transform the Canadian militia will never know of his army's success. The verdict of the Plains of Abraham with the same armies on the same field has been reversed. The _____ fall back on Quebec.
- Levis had no choice but to retreat to _____ and it is here – six months later – that the end finally comes. Three British armies totaling 17,000 men have converged on Montreal and surround Levis.

- Canada _____ to the British at 8:00 the next morning, the 8th of September 1760. With one scratch of a pen, half the continent changes hands.

Carving the Spoils

- Since the conquest, the English have gone far beyond the Ohio Valley and into the Great Lakes area occupying all the French forts pouring ever deeper into the interior. _____ is a war chief of the Ottawa nation. He calls for total annihilation of the English.
- All the British frontier forts are surrounded: Michilimakinac, Ouiatenon, Pitt, St-Joseph, Edward Augustus, Niagara, and the biggest of all – _____. For five weeks, Pontiak`s war bands massacre settlers and hold the interior in terror.
- The blankets are infected with _____. Fragments are inserted into silver boxes by soldiers immune to the virus. The British are using germ warfare. The boxes are given to a delegation of Ottawa Indians at Fort Pitt. They are told they contain medicine which should not be opened till they return home.
- The British government is looking for lasting peace on the frontier. It decides to recognize the North American interior as _____ land. Britain issues a royal proclamation – Indian land will be protected by the king. There will be no encroachment by American settlers and speculators.