

Canso and other harbours near to it, and took 16 or 17 sail of fishing vessels, all belonging to Massachusetts. Governor Phillips happened to be at Canso, and caused two sloops to be manned, partly with volunteer sailors from merchants' vessels, which were loading with fish, and sent them, under the command of John Eliot of Boston, and John Robinson of Cape Ann, in quest of the enemy. Eliot, as he was ranging the coast, espied seven vessels in a harbour, called Winnepang, and concealed all his men, except four or five, until he came near to one of the vessels, which had about 40 Indians aboard, who were in expectation of another prize falling into their hands. As soon as he was within hearing, they hoisted their pendants, and called out, "Strike English dogs, and come aboard, for you are all prisoners." Eliot answered, that he would make all the haste he could. Finding he made no attempt to escape, they began to fear they had caught a Tartar, and cut their cable, with intent to run ashore, but he was too quick for them, and immediately boarded them. For about half an hour, they made a brave resistance, but at length, some of them jumping into the hold, Eliot threw his hand grenades after them, which made such havoc, that all which remained alive took to the water, where they were a fair mark for the English shot. From this or a like action, probably took rise, a common expression among English soldiers, and sometimes English hunters, who, when they had killed an Indian, made their boast of having killed a black duck. Five only reached the shore.

Eliot received three bad wounds, and several of the men were wounded, and one killed. Seven vessels, with several hundred quintals of fish, and fifteen of the captives were recovered from the enemy. They had sent many of the prisoners away and nine they had killed in cold blood.* The Nova Scotia Indians had the character of being more savage and cruel than the other nations.

Robinson retook two vessels, and killed several of the enemy. Five other vessels the Indians had carried so far up

* Cruelty was not confined to the Indians, the whites committed many acts of barbarity. During the same year that the Canso affair happened, we find a law passed by the Massachusetts government, offering rewards to those who should bring in Indian scalps, or Indian prisoners.