

defensive works. Accordingly, so far back at 1758, Montcalm built fortifications there. The remains of these ancient works are still visible, a little in the rear of the present barracks and adjoining the railway line to Rouses Point.

In the autumn of 1775, St. Johns offered the first serious resistance to the American forces dispatched by congress to invade Canada. Montgomery appeared before the Fort and had a preliminary skirmish with the garrison. This action took place upon the present site of the Town of St. Johns, which at that time was probably uninhabited. The ground was damp and marshy and so thickly planted with forest trees that the American Commander, a few days later, shifted his position to the North west of the fort on a higher plateau, in the neighbourhood of the ridge which leads to Grand Bernier. Here he threw up regular breast works and began siege operations. He erected a powerful battery within 700 feet of Fort St. Johns, and also a strong block house, on the Iberville side of the river, bearing direct on the works and mounted with one gun and two mortars. The ruins of Montgomery's blockhouse, were visible up to a few years ago and their site is still easily traced. The St. Johns garrison surrendered, November 1st, 1775, after a six weeks siege. The Americans retained it just six months, till May 1776.

All through the summer of 1776, from June to October, the banks of the quiet river at Iberville and St. Johns, resounded with the hammer and anvil. Seven hundred seamen from the war vessels at anchor under the Cliffs of Quebec, had been chosen to man the Fleet that was building there. Among the officers was Edward Pellew, afterward Lord Exmouth, who rose to the highest rank among British Admirals. Early in October, one ship, two schooners, a raft, a galley and 24 gun boats sailed from under the guns of Fort St. Johns, bound for Lake Champlain. There they did much execution against the American Fleet, and, after a successful campaign, returned to winter quarters at St. Johns.