

for if they were attacked by Spanish warships it would be the greatest misfortune that could possibly happen to England. This is an indication of how much importance was attached to Newfoundland's fisheries and its fishing fleet at that time by the leading men in England.

Newfoundland sailors fought for the Empire years before any other part of the Empire Overseas, as we know it, was in existence. One of the most spectacular incidents in connection with the defeat of the Spanish Armada was the sending of the fire ships to Calais. This project originated with two men connected with the Newfoundland trade, Prowse and Young. Prowse was one of the most noted sea captains of that wonderful age. His exploits were set forth in *Westward Ho*. He was connected with the fisheries of Newfoundland, and the Armada Memorial at Plymouth bears the Prowse arms in honour of his share in that great victory.

As early as 1618 a fort was built by the inhabitants of St. John's as a place where they might shelter when attacked by foes. This fort was then known as The Fort and was subsequently styled the North Fort. When a fort was built on the south side, it was called the South Fort. These forts were built and manned by the inhabitants, and no regular soldiers were stationed there until 1697, when Lieutenant Colonel Handyside and three hundred men were left at St. John's for the winter. John Downing of Quidi Vidi, in his narrative of 1676, said that guns were mounted in a fort at St. John's, and the fort was supplied with small arms for the use of the inhabitants who garrisoned it. William Downing and Thomas Oxford, on behalf of the inhabitants of St. John's, petitioned the King for twenty-five guns and two hundred small arms to defend the harbour and some small arms to defend the creek "Que de Vide." I am informed that Downing Street in London was named after William Downing.

A few years previously, in 1665, the Dutch had attacked St. John's and destroyed the fort, which was again rebuilt, and another was erected on the south side of the Narrows. In Thornton's map of St. John's, dated 1689, the North Fort is shown as being about where Fort William was situated, and the South Fort on the site of Fort Amherst at the entrance to the Narrows. On April 5, 1680, Robert Robinson asked leave to use his "crew and such planters as are willing to raise fortifications, which shall be done with no expense except a little brandy to the crew for labouring." This was in all probability the commencement of a new fort on the site of Fort William. It appears to have been first called Fort William in 1697. It was

named after the King, William III. King William was in constant danger after Queen Mary's death in 1694, and in 1696 a plot was arranged to murder him on his return from hunting, in a lane near Richmond. The indignation of the country was very great at this infamous plot, and an association was formed to avenge William's death in case of his murder, and to support the succession of Anne. It was at the time of this outburst of loyalty to the king that the North Fort was named Fort William.

In 1696 Newfoundland fishermen in the town of St. John's, under Robert Miners, who had been elected by the populace as the governor of the town, put up a most heroic defence at Fort William—where the Newfoundland Hotel now stands—against the French who had marched overland from Placentia. At last the water and food in the fort gave out and they had to surrender. But they did not surrender unconditionally, they surrendered under articles. The French guaranteed to the inhabitants of the Harbour of St. John's, upon quiet surrender:

... that you shall have good quarter, and those that will have boats to go in the Bay shall have them tomorrow, and those that will go for England shall have two ships to carry them home, and they shall have one pound of bread per day for each person for a month and all necessities convenient for the passage.

The French Chaplain Boudoin said:

This fort was situated on the hill to the North West, commanded on one side by two heights both within gun shot of it. It was square in shape, with four bastions, a palisade eight feet high, a covered trench, now full of snow, also a drawbridge, with a small tower upon which there were four cannons, the balls for which weighed four pounds, under the tower there was a cellar for keeping gunpowder.

Before vacating St. John's, the French burnt and destroyed everything movable, and immovable, there was not a solitary building left standing, and all the forts were razed to the ground. In 1697, when it was too late, a large squadron, under Admiral Norris, with 1,500 soldiers, was sent out to recapture Newfoundland; they found St. John's completely abandoned. The soldiers were set to work at once, and Fort William was again erected on the site of the old fort, under the direction of a Mr. Richards of the Royal Engineers. Only the palisade was erected during the first year, but between 1698 and 1708, the ramparts were faced with brick and bomb-proof parapets, and powder magazines and barracks were erected. A fort, named Fort George, was built near the water's edge due south from Fort William, about where now stands the office of Messrs. Furness, Withy and Company, and the two points were connected by a subterraneous passage. All the work about Fort William was the work of English engineers in 1697, and was added to from