

Thomas' diary; and it is probable that Major Frye who marched on Sept. 27th with 200 men to Fort Monckton, remained there in command until the following spring. Colonel Winslow had already left on Aug 16th for Minas, and Dr. Thomas proceeded to Halifax on Dec 1st. In August Governor Lawrence had written to Colonel Monckton, fixing the strength of the garrisons for the coming winter as follows:

For Fort Cumberland	500 men.
For Fort Lawrence	100 "
For Fort Gaspereau	200 "

The garrison for Gaspereau corresponds to the party marched out by Major Frye, who apparently remained on the Isthmus, for in 1760 he was in command of Fort Cumberland, as appears in the report of the Dominion Archivist, [List of documents at the Ministry of Marine in Paris]. "Feb. 6th 1760, Articles of submission made and entered into by M. Menack, priest, Francois Arsenau, Abraham Dugaz, Michael Bourg and Paul Le Blanc, for themselves and on behalf of the French residents of Miramichi, Richiboucto, Baie de la Reine, Memramouk, and Petkoutiak, to Joseph Frye, Esquire, Colonel commanding the English garrison at Fort Cumberland." In April 1756 the Governor of Louisbourg reported to the French Minister of War that Forts Beauséjour and Gaspereau had been closely beset by the Indians during the winter.

Another tombstone in the burying ground records that Sergeant Mackay and eight men were killed and scalped by the Indians in 1756, while bringing firewood into the fort. In the same year a lieutenants' party of 30 men was surprised and several lives were lost. It is not clear whether both the accounts point to the same disaster or to different incidents. Two places are shown as scenes of ambushade; one at Indian Point on the shore of the bay, the other on the road to Port Elgin at a short distance from the fort. Near the first, a stone arrowhead has been picked up, while other Indian weapons have been found in the neighborhood. That constant petty warfare was carried on against the garrison is certain, in fact the service of fatigue parties became at length so dangerous, that on Sept. 15 1756 the governor in Council determined to abandon the smaller forts, Lawrence and Monckton, and to strengthen Fort Cumberland by their garrisons, assigning for reason that the French and Indians lurking in the woods never failed to fire upon small parties. Murdoch says: "On the 26th April 1756, Lieutenant Bowen was out from this fort with a party of 30 men, in order to get wood. They were attacked by a body of Indians, who killed and scalped nine of the men and wounded another."

In that year Boishebert, whose force in 1757 was one hundred Acadians and 250 Indians, made a descent upon Baie Verte, killing seven Englishmen, and taking one prisoner, besides burning a vessel of 200 tons upon the stocks, and a schooner lying at anchor. Whether this occurred before or after the garrison was withdrawn does not appear.