

and especially as a leader. Meanwhile, Charles failed before Stirling and retreated upon Inverness. Cumberland, taking command of the royal army, pursued, and though Inverness had fallen to Charles, that Pretender's diminishing force could not expect to meet what Cumberland was bringing against it. Cumberland entered Nairn upon the 14th of April. Charles was persuaded to stand (in spite of his grave inferiority) in front of Inverness astraddle the Nairn road, upon the field of Culloden Moor, and there his force of not more than 5000 men was destroyed upon Wednesday, April 16th, 1746. The most complex, as the most doubtful, of the principal campaigns involving the two countries was in that action decided.

No decision by armed forces has since that day been attempted within this island.

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