

confidence of the army on Lake Champlain and prevent any serious mistakes on the part of the too slow and obtuse commander-in-chief.

The plan of the campaign, which opened in 1758, was to send three expeditions simultaneously against the three all-important positions held by the French, in the Ohio valley, on Lake Champlain, and at the entrance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. General Forbes was to march on Fort Duquesne, General Abercromby was to lay siege to Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and General Amherst was to unite with Admiral Boscawen for an attack from land and sea on the fortress of Louisbourg, acknowledged to be the key to the St. Lawrence.

Whilst Louisbourg had been in the possession of the French, since the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, the fortifications had been strengthened, and the town was in much better condition to stand a prolonged siege than in 1745. Fourteen men-of-war, carrying nearly six hundred guns and manned by nearly three thousand men, defended the harbour in which they were anchored. The French Governor, Chevalier Druçour, had under his immediate orders a regular force of about three thousand four hundred men, besides officers, and seven hundred militia, drafted from the inhabitants of the town and island, besides a considerable band of Indians, probably exceeding three hundred in all. The town was well supplied with provisions and military stores; the walls were defended by two hundred and eighteen cannon and seventeen mortars, with a considerable reserve of large guns for a time of need.

The English naval and military forces made their appearance off the southeastern coast of Cape Breton in the beginning of June. The fleet was composed of twenty-two ships of the line, sixteen frigates, a sloop or corvette, and two fireships; which carried in the aggregate eighteen hundred guns, and was under the orders of Honourable Edward Boscawen, Admiral of the Blue. The second in command was Sir Charles Hardy, Vice-admiral of the White. The army was made up of over twelve thousand men, including some provincial rangers, and commanded by General Amherst, who divided it into three brigades, under the orders of Brigadiers Whitmore, Lawrence and Wolfe respectively.

Although the fleet arrived off Gabarus Bay on the 2nd June, it was not until the 8th of the month that a landing was successfully effected. The artillery and stores could not be safely brought ashore