

began to establish himself there. Nothing of importance was done that year, but in the spring of 1750 the erection of Beauséjour was commenced, and it was hardly completed when captured by the English five years later. The site chosen by the French for this stronghold was well chosen, for nature itself would seem to have intended it for a great fortress. Less than a mile from the mouth of the Misseguash River and rising high above the marsh is a long hill, a narrow ridge of land extending towards the north east. On the most southerly point of this ridge Beauséjour was erected, a fort of five bastions, star-shaped, and capable of accommodating eight hundred men. It was provided with casemates, and mounted thirty guns. In connection with Beauséjour, the French constructed a complete system of defences for the northern portion of Acadia.

At Baie Verte, twelve miles distant, they had a small fort, which they named Fort Gaspereaux. It was close to the sea shore on the northern side of the bay, and was used as a depot for goods coming to Beauséjour from Louisbourg and Quebec. It mounted six guns and had a garrison of from fifteen to thirty men. At Pointe à Buot, midway between Beauséjour and Baie Verte there was a block house, garrisoned by thirty men, and there were guards at Shepody, Shediac and one at two other points. At the River St. John there was a detachment of seventy or eighty men, besides Indians. This line of posts formed a continuous chain from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to St. John; and Beauséjour could at any time be reinforced, either by way of the Gulf from Louisbourg or from the River St. John, without the English at Halifax or Annapolis having any notice of it.

The English authorities at Halifax naturally viewed the erection of Beauséjour with extreme disfavor, and it was resolved to meet the emergency by the building of another fort on the south side of the Misseguash River. As a preliminary step, Major Lawrence, in April, 1750, went to Chignecto with a force of 400 men, about half of them regulars, to build a block house in the vicinity of the French village of Beaubassin. As soon as the English made their appearance the French inhabitants abandoned their dwellings and crossed over to the north side of the Misseguash, and as soon as they had done this, the Indians, who were acting under the orders of the commandant of Beauséjour, set fire to the deserted houses, 140 in number, and destroyed them. This forced emigration was ordered by Le Loutre,