

titles were significant. "Isle Royale" suggested connection with the throne, "Louisbourg" with the person, of the Grand Monarque.

Besides the fort itself, there were outlying posts of great strength. A powerful battery, on one of the low islets we have mentioned at the mouth of the harbour, commanded the narrow ship-entrance between it and the shore on the right; and far up the harbour, on a lofty hill facing the entrance, stood the grand battery with an armament of the heaviest guns. It also commanded the ship-entrance. Thus Louisbourg, strong in itself, with two immense batteries commanding the harbour's entrance, towered proudly in these northern waters, and was the terror of the English colonies from the Strait of Canso to the mouth of the Hudson.

In 1745, the fort was garrisoned by 700 regulars, and 1,000 militia, under command of Duchambon, who was also the French governor of Isle Royale.

For a century before that time, Nova Scotia had been the border-ground between the English and the French on the Atlantic coast. The province was alternately British and French, as the fortune of war determined. But every time that it was wrested from France, the conquest was the work of the British provincials. The possession of Nova Scotia by the English was to the provincials a vital point. When Nova Scotia was French, the border-ground shifted to New England. The peninsula was a wedge between the two powers. So long as the contest was confined to our soil, New England was comparatively safe.

The long peace between the two crowns ended in 1744. The French had taken care to despatch a fast ship at once to Louisbourg to convey the news. The governor of Isle Royale, the predecessor of Duchambon, had immediately equipped an expedition, under Duvivier (a descendant of the famous La Tour) and made a raid on Nova Scotia. The only military posts at the time in this province were Canso and Annapolis. A garrison of eighty men occupied a block house at Canso, which was in no condition to sustain a siege. They surrendered on the first summons. The block house was destroyed, and the garrison sent to Louisbourg, prisoners of war.

The plan of operations contemplated that Duvivier, after taking and destroying the block house at Canso, should proceed with his force of 900 men (regulars and militia) to Annapolis, there to combine with other parties, who were to meet him there, in an attack on that place. The fort at Annapolis was in a ruinous state. The place might have been taken with ease, if Duvivier had carried out his project with vigor. But a series of blunders occurred. First, the priest Le Loutre came upon the scene at Annapolis, with 300 savages from Cape Sable and the River St. John, on July 1st. This party spent some time investing the fort, but having no siege guns, they did little damage, beyond shooting a soldier or two, who were found straggling outside the fort. At length Le Loutre, disheartened by his failure, and hearing nothing of the other parties who were to join him, raised the siege and retired to Minas. Next came, in August, Duvivier with his troops, and a body of Indians. They, too, failed, and retired to Minas. Last of all came some ships of war from Louisbourg. Finding, on their arrival, that both the other parties had come and gone, the ships contented themselves with capturing a transport or two, and then retired from the scene. Nothing could have saved Annapolis, if the several parties of the enemy, or any two of them, had reached the spot at the same time.

The destruction of Canso and the attack on Annapolis seriously alarmed the people