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ISSUE : [Issue 68](#)

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1995/6/1

Aftermath of the Misery at Louisbourg: WHEN WORD OF THE VICTORY over the French at Louisbourg reached New York, they drank and sang in the streets: Let all Subjects now rejoice. The seventeenth day of June On Monday Morning in a Trice We sung the French a tune. A glorious peace we will have soon, For we have conquered Cape Breton With a fa la la. Well, the "fa la la" didn't last very long, at least not back in Cape Breton. First of all, to the disgust of the victorious New Englanders who had been promised the booty, the terms of peace allowed the French to take their private property with them. The troops were mutinous, and only a promised increase in pay calmed them down. Moreover, New England forces at Louisbourg had turned from being a siege army to an army of occupation. They were left with a filthy, bomb-blasted fortress to live in. Garbage and human waste continued to pile up in the narrow streets, turning the fortress "into a midden." And these troops, who had slept outdoors, were now living in barracks that encouraged the spread of disease. From a diary of August, 1745: "After we got into the Towne, a sordid indolence or Sloth, for want of Discipline, induced putrid fevers and dyssentrys, which at length became contagious, and the people died like rotten sheep." Another: "No survivor ever forgot the miseries of that dire winter in cold and clammy Louisbourg." According to historian Senator J. S. McLennan, by April of 1746, 480 Provincials had died of disease • almost four times the number who had died in battle. He goes on: "For weeks (because the ground was too frozen for burials) the living and dead had remained under the same roof...." What follows is just a taste of a long, first-hand account of day-to-day life in Louisbourg after the victory. It was written by Chaplain Stephen Williams of Longmeadow, Massachusetts. From Chaplain Williams' Journal July 24, 1745 prayed at the Citadell, and Hospital • 'The young man, belonging to capt Byles' company is dead this morning • his name • was Mallett wings are managed strangely at the Hospital yet, I pray God, to direct me, what to do • in this affair • went to Mr [Elisha] Williams and walked in the city • dined • at Home • capt [Jonathan] Prescott being with me • after dinner visited capt [Jeremiah] Foster • and capt: [John] Baker • prayed with capt Baker • 'this afternoon the ships came in, with their prize, which proves to be a very rich ship • from the East • Indies • the Lord keep us humble • under such repeated smiles • Flag carried by the New Englanders at the First Siege of Louisbourg Knowles to Clinton, Louisbourg, 5 April 1747: ...In general I can only say it is the worst spot upon the Globe and I am sure will never answer any End, except that of a certain immense Expence both of Treasure and Mens lives, very near half the Troops are dead already so that we are in a very weak condition....

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