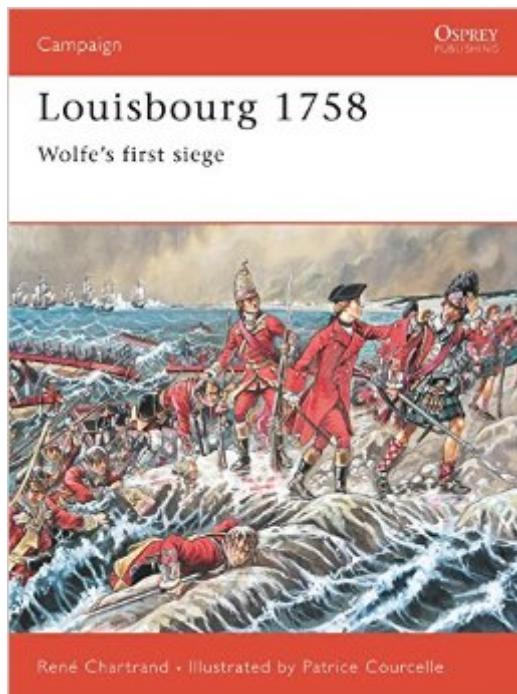


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# Louisbourg 1758: Wolfe's First Siege (Campaign)



## **Synopsis**

Osprey's study of James Wolfe's siege of Louisbourg during the French and Indian War (1754-1763). Louisbourg represented a major threat to Anglo-American plans to invade Canada. Bypassing it would leave an immensely powerful enemy base astride the Anglo-American lines of communication — Louisbourg had to be taken. Faced with strong beach defences and rough weather, it took six days to land the troops, and it was only due to a stroke of daring on the part of a young brigadier named James Wolfe, who managed to turn the French beach position, that this was achieved. The story is largely based on firsthand accounts from the journals of several participants, including French Governor Drucour's, whose excellent account has never been published.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book follows the Osprey Campaign series format. The 96 page book includes plenty of color & b/w photos, maps, diagrams, portraits of key leaders, and both 18th century and modern sketches of soldiers of various French & English units. There is a detailed order of battle of both land and sea units, plus some very nice 3 dimensional maps of the terrain. Particularly enjoyable were the modern recreations of several events by illustrator Patrice Courcelle. For those unfamiliar with the Osprey Campaign books, the contents include sections dealing with the origins of the campaign, opposing plans, opposing commanders, opposing armies, the campaign, the siege day by day, the aftermath, and the site today. An index, chronology and suggested further reading, are also included. Rene Chartrand does an excellent job of telling the story in an even-handed way so the

reader can appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of both sides of the conflict. There are some very insightful comments and interesting anecdotes on leaders, troops and the times. The book is very readable. Louisbourg is a National Park which includes an extensive, although not complete, recreation of the famous fortress-city. For those who can not visit, for reenactors, wargamers, and those interested in the F&I War this would be an good book to have. The drawbacks are few. Namely the 3-dimensional maps might have been "zoomed-in", some photos of the park could have been of higher quality, and more tourist information should have been given. In spite of these minor shortcomings, LOUISBOURG 1758: WOLFE'S FIRST SIEGE is highly recommended.

Rene Chartrand has added a volume on the British siege and capture of Fortress Louisbourg in 1758 to complement his earlier volume on the Battle of Ticonderoga. Together, these two Osprey titles add a wealth of new information and perspectives on these critical campaigns of the French and Indian War. In Louisbourg 1758, Chartrand provides ample details from both the French and British sides, using several previously un-tapped sources. The result is a thorough account of a very professionally-conducted siege. A complete order of battle, including both ground and naval units, is provided. There is also information on the partisan warfare conducted by the displaced Acadians. Information on casualties on both sides is also provided. The maps and artwork are excellent, although one minor exception is a map that clearly denotes all the major features within Fortress Louisbourg, such as the gates and bastions. The panoramic photos of the reconstructed Fort Louisbourg are excellent and add great value to this volume. Chartrand focuses heavily on Brigadier General James Wolfe, perhaps somewhat slighting the other British brigadiers, but this is probably necessary due to the restricted size of the volume. All in all, this volume is a welcome addition for anyone interested in Eighteenth Century Siege Warfare or the French and Indian War.

The 1758 Siege of Louisbourg was a key moment in the Seven Years' War in North America. This 2000 Osprey Campaign Series book is still an excellent introduction to the battle. Veteran Osprey historian Rene Chartrand is the author; Patrice Courcelle is the illustrator. The French fortress at Louisbourg anchored a colony on Isle Royale (Cape Breton) and guarded French access to the St. Laurence River, the cities of Quebec and Montreal, and the interior of North America. The Anglo-American expedition that laid siege to it in 1758 was part of a larger plan to end the French presence. British General Amherst's land siege operations were exceptionally well-coordinated with the Royal Navy, which trapped a French fleet inside the harbor and contributed guns, sailors and marines to the land fight. The siege also marked the rise of young British Brigadier James Wolfe,

who would go on to lead an decisive expedition against Quebec the next year. Chartrand introduces the campaign, the opposing armies, and their respective plans. The campaign itself is covered in surprising detail. The narrative is much enhanced by a generous collection of period and modern illustrations, maps and recreations of the battlefield. The analysis is concise but compelling. Highly recommended to students of the conflict.

This book is a companion to Chartrand's excellent work, *Ticonderoga 1758*. Both cover the French and Indian war battles in its critical year, the year the British took the initiative. This book comprises of the background of what was to be Britain's main effort in the Seven Year's War, the seige and subjugation of the fortress Louisbourg. It stood as a bulwark to any British advance to Quebec itself, and its subjugation was long and hard as a seige could be. This book covers the seige itself day by day as it lasted for at least a month, with each passing day worsening the situation for the desperate French. Regardless of the British victory, the French inflicted more losses on its foe outnumbering them by many times in part due to simple bravery and resilience, even if they weren't as professional as the British (evidenced by their very lackluster breakout attempts from the city walls). All in all, a very good book for anybody interested in the French and Indian war, or a very interesting battle in general. Great maps like any good Osprey, excellent illustrations by artist Patrice Courcelle, and a non-biased and interesting account place this amongst the best of Osprey's.

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