

Captain Daniel-Hyacinthe-Marie Lienard de Beaujeu (boo-joh)



Portrait of Beaujeu

Born in New France, Beaujeu understood how important it was to keep American Indian allies.

This understanding helped him become the commander of two important French forts. He commanded Fort Niagara and Fort Detroit.

In 1755, he was put in charge of another fort, Fort Duquesne (dyoo-KAYN).

The French knew that General Braddock's army was on the march. It was coming to attack Fort Duquesne. The French decided to ambush General Braddock's army just when it crossed the Monongahela (meh-NON-gah-HAY-lah) River.

However, there were not enough French soldiers to do the job. They needed the help of American Indians.

The American Indians had been spying on Braddock's army. They knew it was very large. They thought they would lose if they fought such a big army.

Beaujeu worked hard to change their mind. The legend says that on the morning of the battle, he gave a very strong speech. He said he would fight alone if he had to. He also promised that Braddock's army could be defeated.

His speech worked. The American Indians decided to join the French.

Time was running out. Beaujeu dressed like the warriors with him. He wore no shirt; however, around his neck he wore a crescent-shaped piece of metal. It was called a gorget (GOR-jay) and it showed that he was a French officer.

They had marched about six miles when they were surprised. The British had already crossed the river. The British opened fire, and Beaujeu was killed.

However, Beaujeu had made a difference. The French won the battle because the American Indians fought with them.

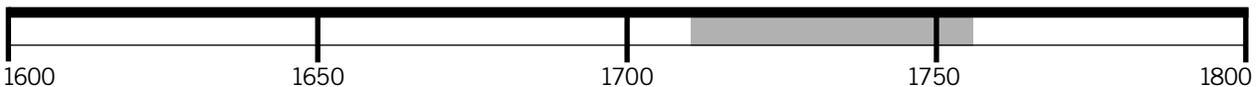


Beaujeu would have worn a French officer's gorget like this one.



On this French military musket the firing mechanism was called the lock.

(1711 - 1755)





Private Charles Bonin, “Jolicoeur” (BON-nah)



Illustration of French soldier like J.C.B.

The next year, he fought against Braddock’s army. He wrote that the American Indians found a chest filled with money. However, they did not know what it was, so they scattered it “right and left in the forest.” French soldiers gathered up the money.

For a while, he was the shopkeeper for trade goods at Fort Duquesne (dyoo-KAYN). He liked the job. He could do favors for people and then they could do things for him. Sometimes, the American Indians brought him meat to thank him.

He was also the secretary at a council held at the fort. He wrote down all the speeches. He also told what “each belt or string of wampum” meant. After the French and Indian War he returned to France.

There are very few stories about ordinary soldiers. However, during the French and Indian War, one French soldier wrote down the stories of his life. Many years later they were published in a book called *La Marine, the French Colonial Soldier in Canada*. No one knew who wrote the book. They only knew his initials, J.C.B.

Today, most people think that it was “Jolicoeur” (JOH-lik-kur) Charles Bonin. The word Jolicoeur means “kind heart,” and it was Bonin’s nickname.

He became a soldier and came to New France at the age of 18.

He had many adventures. He climbed to the bottom of Niagara Falls and went under the waterfall, even though there was no path.

He fought against George Washington’s troops at Fort Necessity. After they surrendered, he wrote that the troops tore down the fort right away.

Signed playing cards sometimes served as money in New France because of the shortage of coins.



J.C.B. was with the French during the battle at Fort Necessity.

(1733 - Unknown)

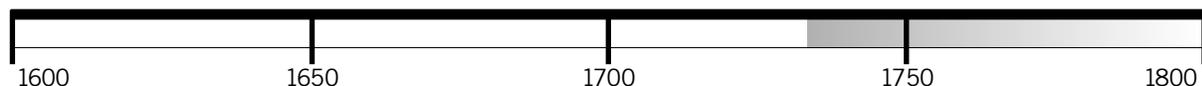


Photo credits: Illustration of French soldier like J.C.B., *Bombardier of the Compagnies franches de la Marine* by E. Lelievre © Parks Canada; Playing cards and coin, Brian Reedy; *Battle of Fort Necessity*, NPS.



Colonel Louis-Antoine de Bougainville (BOO-gan-vil)



Portrait of Bougainville

After the war, he became an officer in the navy. In 1781, the French were helping the Americans fight the American Revolution. Bougainville was one of the officers who helped the French navy defeat the British navy in an important battle in the Chesapeake Bay. The British army needed their ships to bring them supplies. When the British ships sailed away, the army did not have what it needed, and the British surrendered at Yorktown. This was the last major battle of the American Revolution.

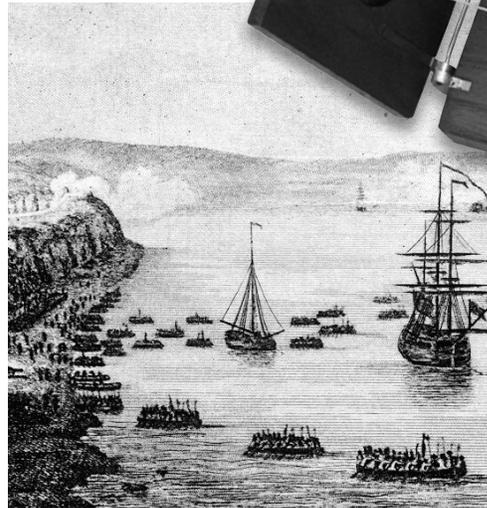
Bougainville was the first Frenchman to sail around the world. He visited many islands including Tahiti. Today, an island and a strait in the South Seas are named for him.

Bougainville was born in France. He came to New France as an aide to General Montcalm in 1756. Although he was very young, he had already published a book about mathematics. He had also worked in London.

He kept careful journals of his life. These journals are one of the best ways we have of knowing what it was like to be a French officer during the French and Indian War. He fought in many battles, and he often wrote about the lack of soldiers and supplies.

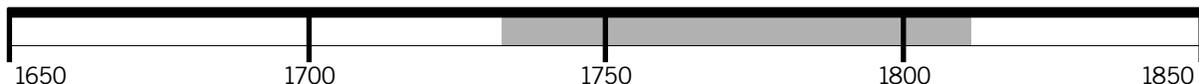
In November of 1758, Montcalm sent Bougainville to France. He asked the king for more help. However, one of the king's advisers told him that there would be no more help. The adviser said, "When the house is on fire one cannot occupy oneself with the stable." By this he meant that when France itself (the house) was under attack, they couldn't worry about Canada (the stable). Bougainville went back to Canada with the bad news.

A pocket compass was a very important tool for navigating in North America.



Bougainville commanded French troops during the battle of Quebec.

(1729 - 1811)





Captain Pierre-Joseph Céloron de Blainville

(SEL-or-ohn duh BLAYN-vil)



Illustration of French soldier like Céloron

Céloron started sending one person ahead. That person would say that the French had not come to fight.

At Logstown, they found six British traders. Céloron ordered them to leave. However, the American Indians wanted them to stay. The British sold their goods at one-fourth the price of the French.

Céloron and his men traveled more than 3,000 miles on their expedition. In his final report, Céloron did not paint a hopeful picture. He said he thought that the American Indians liked the British better than the French. He thought the French should build forts along the Ohio River.

Céloron was born in Montreal. His father was a career military officer. He joined the army as a cadet at the age of 13.

That was the custom in those days. He became a good officer and served as the commander at Fort Detroit, Fort Niagara, and elsewhere.

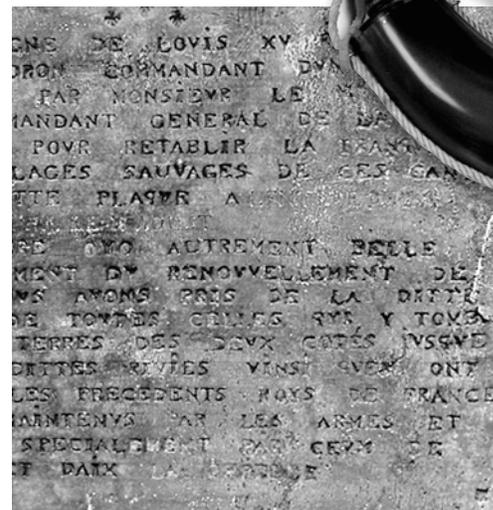
In 1749, Céloron led an expedition down the Ohio River. The French wanted to reclaim the land for themselves. They also wanted to see how much the American Indians were trading with the British.

At each stop in the Ohio River Valley, Céloron read a message from the governor of Canada. It said that he claimed the land and would not allow the British in his territory.

The group also buried metal plates in the ground. The plates claimed the Ohio River Valley for France.

As the group moved down the Ohio River, fewer American Indians came to meet them. They would leave their villages and hide.

Powder horns carried extra gunpowder for firing the musket.



One of the original lead plates buried by Céloron's troops in 1749.

(1693 - 1759)

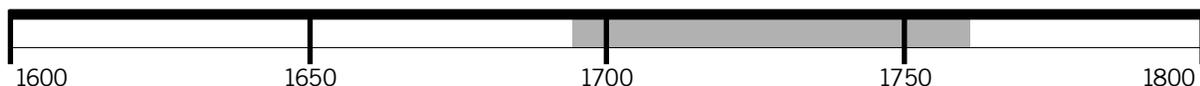


Photo credits: Illustration of French soldier like Céloron, Officer of the Compagnies franches de la Marine by Michel Petard © Parks Canada; Powder horn, Brian Reedy; Lead plate, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia.



Captain Louis Coulon de Villiers

(duh VIL-yay)



Portrait of de Villiers

Imagine how you would feel if you heard that someone had murdered your brother. That's probably how de Villiers felt when he learned that his brother, Ensign Jumonville (joo-MON-vill) had been wounded by troops under George Washington's command. Then the Half King had killed him with his tomahawk.

About one month later, de Villiers left Fort Duquesne (dyoo-KAYN) to attack Fort Necessity. He had about 600 French and Canadian soldiers and about 100 American Indian warriors with him.

They marched to where de Villiers's brother had been murdered. They buried the bodies they found. Then de Villiers said he wanted revenge.

Later that day, July 3, 1754, they reached Fort Necessity. They surrounded the fort. De Villiers and his troops could stay protected in the woods.

Soon it began to rain. As the British guns got wet, they did not fire well. However, the French, in more protected areas, could still fire.

After fighting all day de Villiers was running out of supplies.

He also heard that as many as 5,000 soldiers might be on their way to relieve Washington. So de Villiers asked if Washington wanted to talk about surrendering. Washington was surprised, but he agreed. The two sides talked for hours. Then they wrote a surrender paper. Twice the paper mentions the assassination of Jumonville. The paper was written in French, which Washington did not read or speak.

Washington and de Villiers both signed the surrender paper. De Villiers had gotten his revenge.

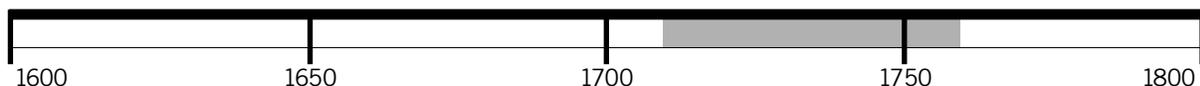


The last page of the original surrender document signed by de Villiers, George Washington and James Mackay.



A small ink well designed for traveling.

(1710 - 1757)





Governor General Ange Duquesne de Menneville, Marquis Duquesne (mar-KEE dyoo-KAYN)



Portrait of Duquesne

The fort that the French built was named for the Governor. It was called Fort Duquesne.

After the battle at Fort Necessity, Duquesne felt he had done what he was told to do. He wrote to ask if he could go back to being a naval officer.

He continued to serve in the navy for many years.

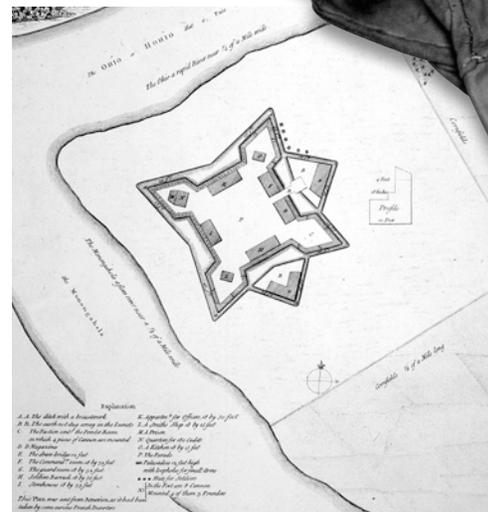
Duquesne was born in France. He served in the navy as an officer. He was known as a person who preferred action to talk.

In July 1752, he arrived in Quebec. He was the Governor of New France. His orders were to “make every effort to drive the English from our lands.” He was also supposed to keep the British from trading on French lands.

He ordered forts to be built along the waterways in the Ohio River Valley. Three forts were built. The next one was to be built at the Forks of the Ohio. In the spring of 1754, the British were building a storehouse with a fence around it at that spot.

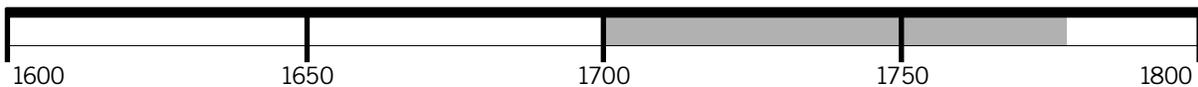
On April 16, 1754, 360 French canoes and flat-bottomed boats arrived at the Forks of the Ohio. There were over 500 French soldiers and only 40 British. The French gave the British a choice. They could surrender and go away, or they would be attacked. The British gave up.

Gloves were worn by gentlemen and officers.



A map of Fort Duquesne.

(1700 - 1778)





Ensign Joseph Coulon de Jumonville (joo-MON-vill)



Illustration of French soldier like Jumonville

Jumonville was born in Quebec. His father was an officer in the French Army. He joined the army at the age of 15.

In May 1754, he and about 35 soldiers left Fort Duquesne (dyoo-KAYN). Their job was to see whether the British troops coming over the mountains were on French lands. If they were, he was to meet with them and tell them to leave. He and his soldiers traveled to a spot near the Great Meadows. George Washington was camped just a few miles away.

It rained the night they set up camp. So they built bark huts for sleeping. The next morning, they were getting up when the quiet was broken. The camp was surrounded. Gun shots and yells rang through the woods.

The fight lasted only about 15 minutes. Jumonville was wounded. The Half King spoke to Jumonville then killed him by striking his head with his tomahawk. When it was over, 13 French soldiers were dead and 21 were captured. One escaped through the woods.

No one knows exactly what happened that day. The French told one story. The British told another. The French said they were fired upon with no warning. They said they were only there to talk. However, the British said the French fired first, before Washington gave the order for his troops to fire. They also said that Jumonville had two sets of orders. One set told him to spy on Washington, the other said he was there as a diplomat.

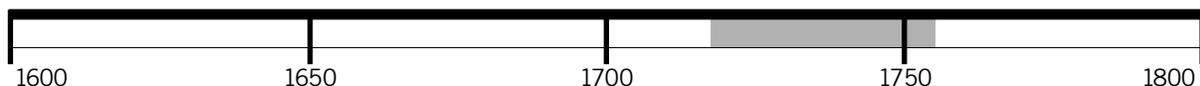
We will never know for sure what happened. However, the events of that morning marked the first shots in the French and Indian War. A very big conflict for control of North America had begun.

Cartridge boxes held the paper tubes filled with gunpowder and a musket ball.



Jumonville was wounded during the 15 minute fight.

(1718 - 1754)





Captain Jacques Legardeur de Sainte-Pierre (le-GARD-dihr duh san-PIHR)



Illustration of Legardeur de Sainte-Pierre

He and the French were not leaving. Washington took his letter back to the governor of Virginia.

Legardeur de Sainte-Pierre continued to serve in the French army. In 1755, he was in command of a large group of American Indian fighters in New York. They attacked the British near Fort Edward. In that attack, Legardeur de Sainte-Pierre was killed.

The tricorne hat with a velvet cockade was part of the officer's uniform.

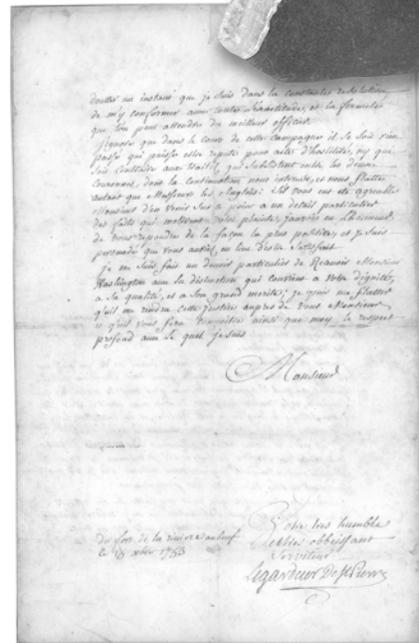


Legardeur de Sainte-Pierre was born in Canada and had been a soldier for many years. He had a lot of experience on the French frontier. In 1753, he was the commander at Fort LeBoeuf (luh-BOOF).

That December, a young Virginian came through the snow to the fort. It was George Washington. He had a letter from the governor of Virginia. The letter told the French that they were on land claimed by the British. It also told the French to leave.

Washington wrote that Legardeur de Sainte-Pierre was an older gentleman. He acted very much like a professional soldier, and he had just taken over as the commander of Fort LeBoeuf.

Legardeur de Sainte-Pierre said he would send the letter to the governor of New France. However, he also wrote, "As to the summons you send me to retire [leave], I do not think myself obliged to obey it." His reply was polite, but it was firm.



The second page of the letter written by Legardeur de Sainte-Pierre that Washington delivered.

(1701 - 1755)

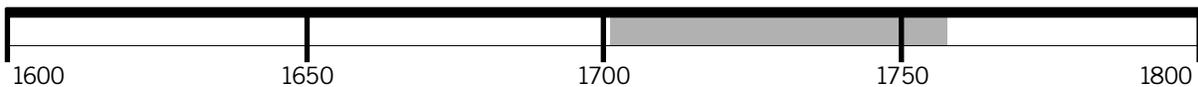


Photo credits: Illustration of Legardeur de Sainte-Pierre, John Buxton; Tricorn hat, NPS; Legardeur de Sainte-Pierre letter, The Library of Virginia.



Major General Louis Joseph Montcalm, Marquis de Montcalm (mar-KEE duh mon-KAHLM)



Portrait of Montcalm

Wolfe decided on a desperate gamble. He learned about a small footpath that led from the river to the farms outside the city. During the night of September 12, British troops landed and climbed the path. By the next morning, the French saw the British in the fields outside their city.

Montcalm attacked. However, the British held their ground. They won.

During the battle, both generals were badly wounded. Montcalm knew he had only a few hours to live. He said he was happy that he would not see the surrender of Quebec. He died the next morning. British General Wolfe lived long enough to know that he had won the battle.

Montcalm was born in France. At the age of 15, he joined his father's regiment. In 1756 he was appointed New France's military commander.

Montcalm thought that professional soldiers should fight for New France. He did not trust American Indians. He did not like to rely on them during battles. Over time, his attitude had an effect. Fewer and fewer American Indians helped the French.

His last battle was the Battle of Quebec in 1759. The city was a natural fortress. High cliffs stretched for miles on either side. Two rivers also protected the city.

Montcalm placed cannons at key points on the cliffs and in the town. In June, a large British naval force arrived. General James Wolfe was in command. He set up cannons and bombarded the city day and night. Montcalm knew he just had to hold out until cold weather. Then the British would have to sail away before the river froze over.

Swords were carried by officers as a sign of rank.



Montcalm congratulating his troops after defending Fort Carillon.



(1712 - 1759)

