

# Basic Detail Report

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**00007538**

**Title**

Newfoundland, St Pierre, Miquelon, 1763 - 1782

**Date**

1784

**Primary Maker**

Captain James Cook

**Medium**

Cloth, Ink on paper

**Dimensions**

Overall: 16 x 664 x 514 mm, 1.05 kg

**Name**

Charts

**History**

The French and British had been competing for possession of Canada and Newfoundland, with its rich fishing grounds, since the 1600s. During the Seven Years War (1756-1763) against France, the main British base in Canada was at Halifax in Nova Scotia. Cook sailed with the fleet to Canada, arriving in Halifax in May 1758. There he took part in the blockade of Louisbourg, which the French finally surrendered in July 1758. During this period he was taught how to survey and make charts by Samuel Holland, an army surveyor-engineer. In 1759 the British commenced a major assault on the French stronghold of Quebec. Cook's ship ferried troops and charted the approach to Quebec along the St. Lawrence River. The town fell to the British in September 1759 after an assault by the army of General Wolfe. Cook's talents as a surveyor and mapmaker had come to the notice of Admiral Saunders and he was transferred to the 70-gun ship NORTHUMBERLAND that remained in Canada as part of a small detachment for the next two years. Saunders returned to Britain where he arranged for Cook's charts to be published. When the Seven Years War ended in 1763 the British realised the importance of having accurate charts of the coast and the Governor of Newfoundland commissioned Cook and others to produce them. For the next five years Cook surveyed the coast of Newfoundland during the summer periods, returning to Britain for the winters. In 1762-63 Cook surveyed the coast of Placentia, south east Newfoundland; 1763-64 north Newfoundland; 1765 south Newfoundland; 1766 southwest Newfoundland; and 1767 west Newfoundland. He returned to London in November 1767, well placed to be chosen as commander of a planned expedition to the Pacific Ocean.