

Eyemouth - French Occupation of the Fort

- 1557 (February)** The Scottish government employs John Gourlaw to “await upon” provisions being sent to Eyemouth.
(*ALHT*, vol. 10, p. 331.)
- 1557 (June)** [England declares war on France.](#)
- 1557 (July)** French building accounts for the fort at Eyemouth commence.
(NRS, E34/21/4.)
- 1557 (November)** The spy Sir William Kirkcaldy sends a secret report to the English from Eyemouth. Kirkcaldy claims that there are 900 Frenchmen at Eyemouth, plus 300 Scots serving in the area.
(TNA, SP15/8, ff. 74, 79.)
- The English send a series of raiding parties to Eyemouth and Ayton but although within shot of the fort they are not attacked. The English report that many of the Frenchmen have a fever.
(TNA, SP15/8, f. 74.)
- 1557 (December)** French building accounts for the fort at Eyemouth end. Between July and December 1557 approximately £7,800 (Scots) was expended on construction work at Eyemouth.
(NRS, E34/21/4.)
- 1558 (January)** The Earl of Northumberland reports that Monsieur d’Oisel is mustering French forces at Coldingham and Eyemouth, probably with the aim of launching an attack.
(TNA, SP15/8, f. 130.)
- 1558 (February)** The Earl of Westmoreland informs Mary I of England that Monsieur d’Oisel had secretly gathered infantry and cavalry at Eyemouth with the aim of attacking Berwick. However, the scheme was abandoned after more English troops were sent to Berwick.
(TNA, SP15/8, f. 150.)
- Mary of Guise sends letters ordering the inhabitants of Berwickshire and Lauderdale to bring 320 oxen to Hume Castle to transport cannons from there to Eyemouth.
(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 333-334.)
- 1558 (March)** The Scottish government orders all baxters, brewers and tapsters in certain Scottish towns to bake bread and brew ale to supply soldiers at Duns, Langtoun and Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 343-344.)

Supplies of butter, cheese and beef are sent from Leith to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 421-422.)

1558 (April)

Supplies of dried fish are sent from Anstruther to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 422-423.)

Supplies of meal, flour, biscuit and candles are sent from Leith to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 422-423.)

Iron, picks, mattocks, shovels, hoits (baskets for carrying earth), and lanterns are sent from Leith to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 422-423.)

1558 (June)

Supplies of flour sent from Leith to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 423-424.)

Iron, picks, mattocks, plank nails, door nails, and hoits are sent from Leith to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 423-425.)

1558 (July)

Supplies of butter, cheese, sugar and plums sent from Leith to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 423-425.)

1558 (August)

Andrew Galloway's boat is damaged in the haven of Eyemouth when provisioning the fort.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, p. 429.)

Supplies of flour, biscuit, butter, cheese, and candles are sent from Leith to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 426-430.)

Three boat loads of coal are sent from Wemyss to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, p. 429.)

Lime is sent from Preston to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, p. 429.)

Oak joists, roof beams, planks and other timber are sent from Leith to Eyemouth.

(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 426-427.)

Picks, mattocks, shovels, steel, door nails, plank nails and garron nails (for nailing into short wooden beams) are sent from Leith to Eyemouth.
(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 426-427.)

1558 (September) Shovels and picks are sent from Leith to Eyemouth.
(*ALHT*, vol. 10, p. 430.)

1558 (October) Door nails, plank nails and more than 3,000 slates sent from Leith to Eyemouth.
(*ALHT*, vol. 10, pp. 430-431.)

1558 (November) [Queen Mary I of England dies. Elizabeth I ascends throne.](#)

1558 (December) The English Privy Council thank Lord Evers for burning houses, the mill, and a kiln near Eyemouth.
(*CSP Foreign, Elizabeth I*, vol. 1, p. 49.)

1559 (March) Negotiations regarding the treaty of Chateau-Cambresis take place. The French agree that the fort at Eyemouth will be demolished.
(*CSP Foreign, Elizabeth I*, vol. 1, p. 170.)

1559 (April) Treaty of Chateau-Cambresis. The French commit to the razing of the fort at Eyemouth within three months of the treaty.
(*CSP Foreign, Elizabeth I*, vol. 1, p. 195.)

Sir Henry Percy reports to the English government that most of the French officers are with Mary of Guise, but that Captain Galliard remains at Eyemouth.
(TNA, SP 59/1, f. 147.)

1559 (May) [Confrontation between Scottish Protestants and Mary of Guise at Perth.](#)

Sir James Croft informs the English Privy Council that 200 of the 300 French soldiers at Eyemouth have been moved north to assist Mary of Guise against the Scottish Protestants.
(TNA, SP52/1, f. 33.)

1559 (June) [The Protestant Lords of the Congregation rebel against Mary of Guise.](#)

On 20 June Sir James Croft informs the English government that limited progress had been made with the demolition of the fort at Eyemouth. He also reported that a small band of Frenchmen had recently arrived at Eyemouth.

(TNA, SP 59/1, f. 211.)

On 24 June Elizabeth I sends instructions to the English Commissioners negotiating with the Scots stating that the razing of the fortifications at Eyemouth must involve the overthrow of the buildings and the levelling of the wall with the ground.

(TNA, SP52/1, f. 77.)

Near the end of June the French declare that the fort at Eyemouth will be speedily destroyed. However, Sir James Croft reports that an English witness stated there was still very little progress. The English witness saw just 40 men labouring at the site, and said that demolition work was only taking place on the outward fortifications.

(TNA, SP59/1, f.218.)

1559 (July)

Sir William Kirkcaldy informs the English that they must ensure that Eyemouth is properly razed to the ground otherwise the French will keep it.

(TNA, SP52/1, f.92.)

The English send three officers plus the surveyor of works from Berwick to inspect the demolition of the Eyemouth fortifications. The inspectors report that the flankers were defaced, the vaumures and part of the outer brink of the ditches had been thrown into the ditch, the houses and store houses were being pulled down, and that the fort's artillery had been removed. However, the inspectors noted that the ramparts were for the most part still standing.

(TNA, SP52/1, f. 107.)

At the end of July the French troops leave Eyemouth for Dunbar to assist in the campaign against the Scottish Protestants.

(TNA, SP52/1, f. 139.)

On 30 July Monsieur d'Oisel claims that it is possible to drive a cart across the fortifications.

(A.Teulet, ed., *Papiers d'Etat à L'Histoire d'Ecosse*, vol. 1, p. 332.)

1559 (August)

The English are invited to visit Eyemouth to see how effectively the fortifications have been razed.

(TNA, SP52/1, f. 153.)

John Knox asks the English to re-occupy Eyemouth in order to prevent the French retaking the fort. (The English do not follow up this suggestion.)

(TNA, SP52/1, f. 155.)