



Royal Borough of Greenwich

General Wolfe Statue



- 1 Royal Observatory Greenwich and Peter Harrison Planetarium
- 2 National Maritime Museum
- 3 The Queen's House
- 4 Stephen Lawrence Gallery and University of Greenwich
- 5 Chapel and University of Greenwich
- 6 Painted Hall and University of Greenwich
- 7 Trinity Laban Music
- 8 Dreadnought Library University of Greenwich
- 9 Tourist Information Centre and Discover Greenwich Visitor Centre
- 10 Cutty Sark
- 11 The Fan Museum
- 12 Wernher Collection at Ranger's House
- 13 Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea
- 14 Greenwich Market and Shops
- 15 St. Alfege Church
- 16 Trafalgar Tavern
- 17 Devonport House Conference Centre
- 18 Post Office and Bureau de Change
- 19 Police Station
- 20 Clock Tower Market

The Death of General Wolfe



General James Wolfe became a British hero after defeating the French on the Plains of Abraham, outside Quebec, on 13 September 1759. General Wolfe and the French General Montcalm were both killed in the battle for Quebec. The city surrendered on 17 September 1759.

Major General James P. Wolfe (2 January 1727 – 13 September 1759) was a British Army officer, known for his training reforms but remembered chiefly for his victory over the French in Canada. The son of a distinguished general, Lieutenant-General Edward Wolfe, he had received his first commission at a young age and saw extensive service in Europe where he fought during the War of the Austrian Succession. His service in Flanders and in Scotland, where he took part in the suppression of the Jacobite Rebellion, brought him to the attention of his superiors. The advancement of his career was halted by the Peace Treaty of 1748 and he spent much of the next eight years in garrison duty in the Scottish Highlands. Already a brigade major at the age of eighteen, he was a lieutenant-colonel by the age of twenty-three.

The outbreak of the Seven Years' War in 1756 offered Wolfe fresh opportunities for advancement. His part in the aborted attack on Rochefort in 1757 led William Pitt to appoint him second-in-command of an expedition to capture Louisbourg. Following the success of this operation he was made commander of a force designated to sail up the Saint Lawrence River to capture Quebec. After a lengthy siege Wolfe defeated a French force under Montcalm allowing British forces to capture the city. Wolfe was killed at the height of the battle due to injuries from three musket balls.

Wolfe's part in the taking of Quebec in 1759 earned him posthumous fame and he became an icon of Britain's victory in the Seven Years War and subsequent territorial expansion. He was depicted in the painting *The Death of General Wolfe*. This painting became very famous around the world. Wolfe was posthumously dubbed "The Hero of Quebec", "The Conqueror of Quebec", and also "The Conqueror of Canada" since the capture of Quebec led directly to the capture of Montreal which ended French control of the country.





James Wolfe Esq.^r

*Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces, in the Expedition against Quebec,
Who Gloriously fell (in the cause of His King & Country) in that signal Victory gain'd over the French,
Sep: 13th 1759.*

No. 1.



The Wolfe statue

On top of the same hill as the Old Greenwich Royal Observatory is a statue of General James Wolfe, (1727-59) looking out towards the river. General Wolfe commanded the British forces at Quebec against the French and won a great victory, at the cost of his life. He was a resident of Greenwich and is buried in the parish church, [St Alfege's](#).



The statue was erected in 1930 and bears the inscription "This monument, a gift of the Canadian people, was unveiled by the Marquis de Montcalm". On a personal note, my father formed part of the Honour Guard of Boy Scouts at the unveiling ceremony. The area around the statue gives the grand view over Greenwich, embracing the Isle of Dogs across the river, with the dome of St Pauls and other tall buildings in the City of London. Unfortunately the view has been spoilt relatively recently in my opinion by the 800 feet high Canary Wharf tower block and adjacent buildings.

The view from the steps of the statue