

ately hurried on the main body to sustain them while the enemy who consisted almost entirely of Indians or *French in Indian dress*, extended themselves all along the hill which was on the General's right flank and posting themselves severally behind the large trees that grew thereon fired in security and did great execution. The novelty of such fighting struck our troops with amazement and terror they found themselves destroyed by an invisible enemy, and were soon thrown into the greatest confusion. Some companies that attempted to ascend the hill were broke by the fire of their friends who confounded them with the enemy.

In this melancholy situation the men were kept more than three hours, when having consumed all their ammunition they retired in the greatest disorder, and left the field and every thing thereon to the enemy, who did not attempt to pursue them beyond the river but immediately fell to scalping those that were killed or unable to get off, and then returned with the artillery and plunder to the French fort. The General had unhappily all his papers, His Majesty's instructions and the plan of operations that was concerted at Alexandria with him, which fell into the enemy's hands and a prisoner who is escaped thence asserts that the 2d day after the battle a great number of the Indians departed from the fort with a design as he supposes, by their route to give Gov. Shirley, a meeting at Niagara.

I think the General had with him 52 carriages, the artillery and 18 wagons loads of ammunition included, besides near 100 beeves that had been driven up to him two days before. As soon as he was brought back to Col. Dunbar's camp, he gave orders for the destruction of all the ammunition and artillery that Dunbar had with him, except two 6 lbs. and all the superfluous provisions, in pursuance of these orders near 150 wagons were burnt, the powder casks staved in a spring yd. *Cohorns* broke or *buried* and the shells bursted. The provisions were scattered abroad on the ground, or the barrels broke and thrown into the water. Soon after this was executed the General dying, was buried privately in the road and Col. Dunbar immediately retreated to fort Cumberland, where he stayed 9 or 10 days and then march for Philadelphia, there I suppose he will expect letters and instructions from Gov. Shirley how to dispose of himself till he can receive further directions from home for his conduct. Upon the receipt of this news Gov. Dinwiddie has again convened his Assembly. That of Pennsylvania is also sitting and have given the Gov. room to expect £50,000 will be now granted by them for His Majesty's service, if they prepare such a bill as the Gov. can accept, I will also call our people together on the same occasion, but if the Quakers still persevere in their obstinacy, I shall not put the country to the expense, for I am convinced that if the Pensilvanians set an ill one our Assembly will follow their example. I have not received any letters from the Northward, but according to the Gazettes Col. Johnson should ere this be before Crown Point, and I flatter myself with hopes that he will not find great difficulty in reducing it.