

the Messengers Return with this answer Governor Denwiddie Letter Bk. II.
thought proper to order a party of 30 Men to advance to the Ohio some miles below the French Fort & prepare Materials for erecting a Fortress also upon that River hoping the general Assembly of Virginia (whom he immediately convened) & the neighbouring Colonies would enable him not only to compleat & garrison that Fort but also to recover all the Lands that the French had taken possession of on that fine River. With the Supplies granted by the Assembly He proceeded to raise 300 Men in that Province having been also informed from home that 2 from New York & one of the Independant Companies from South Carolina were ordered round to Virginia to attend His Orders & Directions. The Company from Carolina arrived in Virginia the Latter End of April & those from New York within 3 or 4 weeks after, but whatever hopes He had entertained of receiving Assistance from the other Colonies proved entirely vain & illusive it being not possible as yet to persuade any of them that they were at all interested in the Affair or could be in the least affected by the Event & Issue of the Dispute. With the Force however above numbred & about 300 Men that were to be sent out from N Carolina to join them Gov^r Denwiddie hoped to be able at least to act defensively & to proceed to erect a Fort or two on Ohio till He should receive farther Instructions from home for his Conduct. while He was about to order this Scheme into Execution Intelligence was brought him that a Body of about 200 French Regulars had on the 17th of April come down on the small Party who had been ordered out to prepare Materials for a Fort & had obliged them to relinquish what materials they had collected for that purpose & to return again to Virginia. This Information was too soon confirmed to us & the Enemy immediately begun & have now compleated a Fort considerably strong & large near the Spot on which our People had begun to build & have mounted therein several swivels & some Carriage Guns. At the time that Ensign Ward & His Detachment made the Surrendry above mentioned the Rest of the Virginia Corps & the South Carolina Company under the Command of one M^r Washington were advancing to support them & fortify themselves on the River but on being acquainted with the cause of this their unexpected Return as soon as the Party met him He declined proceeding till He should be reinforced by the other Troops who were now in motion toward him & in the mean time employed himself in opening a Road from the Frontiers of this Province toward the Enemy's Fort. while He was in this situation about Midway between the English Settlements & the Enemy a Party of His Men fell in with Monsieur Jumonville a Lieutenant & about 30 Men p. 14

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