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[Sharpe to Calvert.]

July 15 1755. transmitted by Capt. Spencer.

S^r

This Morning I rec^d from Alexandria a Copy of a Lett^r from which the inclosed is transcribed as this is the only Intelligence we have rec^d of the Affair therein mentioned & as Col^o Innes expresses himself in such general Terms I know not what to think tho I am apprehensive that the Enemy have actually fallen upon the Army divided & defeated some or all of the Divisions. I have myself rec^d no Letter from the General or the Camp since that dated the 22^d of June but a Person belonging to the Train in a Lett^r to a Gentⁿ of this place dated the first of this Month at their Camp near the Great Meadows expresses himself in the following manner, On the 9th of last Month the whole Army (except 600 Men with S^r I S^t Clair who marched 2 Days before) went from Wills Creek, & with infinite Difficulty thro the worst Roads in the world arrived 10 Days afterwards at the little Meadows where an Abatie was made by S^r John & 2 Engineers encircling the whole Camp, here the whole halted 3 Days, then the Bar^t with his party moved forwards & the 2^d Day after the General with 4 Howitzers, 4. 12 Pounders, 13 Artillery Waggon, besides Ammunition Carts followed him & have kept marching on ever since & this Evening tis expected his Excell^{cy} will be within 25 Miles of the Fort Colonel Dunbar with the Remainder of the Army, 4 Artillery Officers 84 Carriages with Ordnance Stores & all the Provision Waggon form the Rear, amongst whom I have the honor to be, tho contrary to my Inclination, as all the Sport will be over long before we can reach the General. The night before last we were alarmed 4 different times by the Skulking Indians on whom our out Guards & Centries fired we have had 3 people scalpt but it happened thro their own imprudence in loitering behind too far, Tis said this morning the General has had Advice that 500 Regulars are in full march to the Fort which is the Reason he is determined to be there before em. As we have had but very little fresh Provisions since we left the Fort at Wills Creek the Officers as well as the private Men have been & still are extremely ill with the Flux & many have died. To morrow morning we march again & are to encamp on the Western Side of the Great Meadows, thence we are to proceed after the General but am fearful it will not be before we have built some Fortification there & left a strong Party of Men with a great Deal of Provisions & Artillery Stores, our Horses being so weak for want of Food & Rest that it is impossible for the whole Rear to join the Front in 25 Days.

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