

Letter Bk. II.
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[Sharpe to Robinson.]

Bladensburg. July 23^d [1755]

R^t Honourable

I am Sorry to have such an Occasion to write but as we have a Ship just about to depart I embrace the Opportunity to acquaint you that I have this Instant received a Letter from Capt Orme (who is at Fort Cumberland ill of his wounds) in which he gives me a brief Account of the unfortunate Engage-
 p. 114 ment between the Troops commanded by General Braddock & the French from Fort Du Quesne on the Ninth Inst. In the morning of that Day the General passed the Monongahela twice the last time at about 7 miles from the French Fort; a Party of 300 men having passed the River advanced towards the Fort & was immediately followed by another of 200, the General with the Column of Artillery Baggage & the main Body of the Army got over about One o Clock when they heard a very heavy & quick Fire in the Front. the General with the main Body immediately advanced in Order to sustain them but the Advanced Detachments giving way & falling back on the main Body caused great Confusion & struck the Men with such a Pannick that afterwards no Military Expedient which could be used had any Effect they were deaf to the Exhortations of the General & the Officers who advancing sometimes in Bodies & sometimes seperately were sacrificed by the Soldiers declining to follow them. The General had five Horses shot under him before he received a wound thro his right arm into his Lungs of which he died the fourth Day after. S^r Peter Halkett & the General's Secretary were killed on the Spot. S^r John S^r Clair is wounded but there is room to hope he will recover. The inclosed is a particular Account of the Officers that fell & of those that survived the Action, the Number of private Centinels killed & wounded is about 600. At the Little Meadows (which lye about 25 Miles westward from Fort Cumberland) The General finding it impracticable for all the Troops to advance farther together selected 1200 of the best & proceeded with the necessary
 p. 115 Artillery Ammunition & Provision leaving the main Body of the Convoy under the Command of Colonel Dunbar who had Orders to join him as soon as possible. I collect from some former Letters which I received from the Camp that the General had only four Howitzers four 12 Lbs & 14 Cohorns with him from the Train which with the Ammunition Baggage & Provision are fallen into the hands of the Enemy. When Col^o Dunbar (who I have reason to apprehend was about 40 miles behind the General was apprized of this fatal Accident finding the Troops extremely reduced & weakened by this