

Letter Bk. II. Event of the Campaign. That the Enemy know the Value & Importance of the Lakes I am fully persuaded as I am that they will employ all the Force to render Shirley's Scheme abortive but I flatter myself that the Spirit of the Northern Colonies will not let him want Succours & I have such an Opinion of his Abilities as to think he will make the best use of them. I have writ to Ld Albermarle the Lett<sup>r</sup> inclosed & therein taken the Liberty to intimate my Opinion concerning the present Posture of our Affairs on this Continent. I have also transmitted a Lett<sup>r</sup> to S<sup>r</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Robinson by this same conveyance—

Letter Bk. I.  
p. 143

[Sharpe to Calvert.]

Bladensburg July 23<sup>d</sup> 1755. transmitted by Capt a Duplicate was sent to his Ldp at the same time by a Ship to Bristol.

Sir

I am sorry to have such an Occasion to write but as we have a Ship just about to sail 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 Engagement between the Troops commanded by General Braddock & the French from Fort Du Quesne on the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst. In the morning of that Day the General crossed the Monongahela twice the last time at about 7 Miles from the French Fort: A Party of 500 Men having passed the River advanced toward 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 & the main Body immediately advanced in Order to sustain them but the two advanced Detachments giving way & falling back on the main Body caused great Confusion & the Men were struck 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 5 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<sup>r</sup> Peter Halkett & the Generals Secretary were killed on the Spot S<sup>r</sup> John S<sup>r</sup> 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