

Letter Bk. II. the Troops may I apprehend be at Albany in a fortnight or 3
 weeks & I hope as he has left us, he will be time enough to be
 of some Service to General Shirley, on whose account I assure
 p. 138 you I am not without some fears & Apprehensions. I am
 impatient to hear from him for if he can but succeed, I flatter
 myself twill not be very difficult to reduce the Enemy's Garri-
 sons on the Ohio let them be as strong as they may, when
 they have taken proper measures at home to make us unite,
 or for another American Campaign. pray did you obtain a
 Militia Law if you did send me a Copy whereby You'll oblige
 Sr—

Original.

[Shirley to Sharpe.]

Camp at Oswego Sept. 9th 1755

Sir

As it may be acceptable to your Honour to know the Situa-
 tion of the Service, which is under my immediate Care, I
 transmit you the following account of it.

The last Division of the Forces under my Command were
 twenty Six Days upon their march from Schenectady to this
 Place, where they did not arrive untill the 2^d Instant: The
 Troops are so much reduced by Desertion and Sickness, and
 absence of Detachments upon Parties & Command, that by a
 Field Return, which I ordered to be taken yesterday it Appears,
 that the number of men in the three Regiments & Independent
 Company fit for Duty upon the Spot don't amount to 1400,
 out of which we are oblig'd to keep 100 at work upon a New
 Fort, and if the Body of the Forces moves from this Place,
 must leave 300 at least for the Defence of it, so that not 1000
 men will remain for other Service, & of these 60 must be
 employ'd as Matrosses, & a number as Pioneers: To this I
 am to add that we have Suffered greatly by Desertion of
 Battoesmen, after being impress'd and even proceeding Part
 of the way with us; by which means we are in want of Pro-
 visions for any Service, that will require ten days in the
 Execution.

However, if I am not disappointed of Supplies of Provisions
 which I hourly expect; I am encourag'd, upon the Intelligence,
 I have gained since my arrival here, that with our Naval Force,
 and the Assistance of the Indians, whom I have pick'd up in
 my Passage thrô the Country of the five Nations, and the
 Albany men, whom I hired to go with me as a Scouting party
 of Guards (both which may Amount to 140 men) I say, I am
 encourag'd, Sir, to hope that we may proceed upon Action in
 a very few Days, and that a foundation will be laid this year
 for such a Campaign the next, as I flatter myself (provided