

On the 13th a Detachment of 1000 Men marched thence to open a Road towards Fort Du Quesne, it is not I am now told to be carried into General Braddocks but will be several Miles to the Northward of it. On the 15th Another Thousand marched from the Loyalhannon who were followed the next Day by 700 more & a Part of the Train, It was expected that the General would also march on the 17th with the Rest of his Troops & as the Weather has been very favourable ever since we flatter ourselves that he is not at this time many Miles on this Side the French Fort. In my Letter of the 3^d Inst I just intimated to you that there had been a Skirmish between some of our Troops & a Body of the Enemy the 12th of last Month, since that time we have received an Account of that Affair to the following purport; The Enemy being in Number about 1200 fired upon a Party of our Troops that had the Care of some Cattle which were feeding at the Distance of a Mile & half from the Camp, the Firing being heard at the Camp about 200 more of our men that were without the Breast Work ran out to the Assistance of them that were attacked but they were all soon obliged to retire by the superior Number of the Enemy who pursued them almost to the Breast Work within which near 2000 Men were by that time drawn up under Arms, but it seems Col^o Byrd of the Pensilv^a Forces who happened to have the Chief Command did not think himself at Liberty to order any of them out to act offensively so that the Enemy's Loss was very inconsiderable. they stayed about the Camp all night & being employed in killing or driving away near 200 Horses which the General could but very ill spare & indeed we were not without some Apprehensions that the Loss of them would have put an End to the Expedition. It is said that we had 64 Officers & Men killed or wounded in this Skirmish among whom were three Officers & 12 Men of the Maryland Forces. There was another Skirmish the Beginning of this Month between some of the Enemy & a Party of our Men near Fort Du Quesne wherein we lost an officer & ten Men, & nine others were killed about a fortnight ago by a Party of our own People who fell in with them in the Evening & took them for Enemies. If the Intelligence that is given by three Prisoners that have been lately taken is to be depended on the French Commandant has sent off a considerable Number of the Soldiers as well as Indians that have been this Summer at Fort Du Quesne, the Reason the Prisoners give for this Step is that Provisions were scarce & it was not imagined that General Forbes would be able to proceed any farther this Season after the Loss he suffered at Loyalhannon the 12th of last Month.

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