

Letter Bk. IV time a Prisoner there made his Escape from them after they left the Fort says that about 250 of them fell down the Ohio in Battoes carrying all their Stores & Artillery with them & that the Rest went up the River towards Venango where they have a small Stoccado Fort. He agrees with the Prisoners who were taken the 12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> of Novem<sup>r</sup> as I mentioned to you in my Letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> of that Month that the Garrison had for several Weeks been in great want of Provisions & in all Probability it was this Want that occasioned their Departure & perhaps obliged their Indians to leave them sooner than they would otherwise have done. A few Hours after General Forbes had taken Possession of the Fort four of the Ohio Indians came to him with a Message from their respective Tribes & next Day the Deputy Agent for Indian Affairs & an Interpreter were sent off with an answer & it is expected that all the Indians on the Ohio will immediately come in & sue for Peace. The General intends as you will learn from a Copy of the Orders that he gave out the 29<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> (& which I have taken the Liberty to inclose for His Ldp) to leave 200 Provincials as a Garrison at Fort Du Quesne during the Winter & before the Summer I hope effectual measures will be taken for its preservation, but I shall be sorry if it is left to the Colonies to provide for the Support of its Garrison.

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Pitt.]

Annapolis the 14<sup>th</sup> of Decem<sup>r</sup> 1758.

Sir

It is with great pleasure I write by Ship that is just about to sail from this Province to inform you that an Officer of the Maryland Troops arrived here yesterday from the Westward & brought the agreeable News of His Majesty's Troops under the Command of General Forbes having on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Novem<sup>r</sup> taken Possession of Fort Du Quesne which the French in Number about 500 had abandoned two Days before. A Virginia Lad that had been a Prisoner there for some time made his Escape from them as they were going off & says that about 250 of the Enemy fell down the River in Battoes carrying the Artillery & Stores with them & that the Rest after they had set fire to all the Barracks & Houses which had been built either in or near the Fort marched northwards but that they took \_\_\_\_\_ with them having been in great want for some time before. I understand from the Officer that brings me this Account that the General intends to leave 200 Men of the Provincial Troops to garrison the Fort during the winter, 150 more at the Post on Loyalhannon & that all the