

Letter Bk. III in some Measure perhaps influence their Conduct. As the Officers of the four Maryland Companies found it would be impracticable to keep their Men any longer together without pay & were of Opinion that if they suffered them to desert or disband themselves it would be impossible to collect them again in Case the Assembly should in the Spring agree to pay off all their Arrears & provide for their farther Support the Officers thought it advisable to give Furloughs for two Months or untill they shall by an Advertisement in the Gazette be ordered to repair to a Place of Rendezvous when they are persuaded their Men will join them & that if the Assembly raises the necessary Supplies they shall in a very short time be able to compleat their respective Companies. With regard to what Your Excellency is pleased to recommend to me relative to any Officers that are or may be sent to this Province on the Recruiting Service I beg Leave to assure you that I shall countenance & assist them as far as is in my Power & that it would give me the greatest Pleasure to find myself able on any other occasion to execute Your Excellency's Commands—

[Sharpe to Amherst.]

10th Feb^y 1759.

Sir

General Forbes having in a Letter which I lately received from him desired me to send M^r Ross (the Person that Victualled the Maryland Troops from the time that our Assembly declined to provide for their Support till they marched last Summer on the Expedition agst Fort Du Quesne) to Phila^a in order that the Affair might if Your Excellency shall be pleased to give such Directions be finally settled; & M^r Ross having prevailed on a Gentⁿ that lives with me in the Character of my Secretary to accompany him I take the Liberty to introduce him to Your Excellency the rather because he is acquainted with all that passed between the Earl of Loudoun Gen^l Stanwix or Gen^l Forbes & me about the Maryland Troops since His Ldp engaged to support them & will moreover be able to furnish Your Excellency or Gen^l Forbes with Copies of any Lett^{rs} or Papers that may shew on what Footing our Troops served during the last Winter & on the late Expedition, & in particular what promises were given both by the Earl of Loudoun & Gen^l Stanwix that M^r Ross should be satisfied If your Excellency has any farther Commands or Instructions for me or shall think fit to favour me with any Letters to be laid before our Assembly when they meet I shall be glad to receive them when M^r Ridout returns from Phila^a &