

Letter Bk. III of Ours that had killed & taken three French Officers & as many Soldiers, but that two Squaws being killed almost in Sight of the Garrison soon after they left the Fort, the Party was thereupon recalled, that several Parties have been since ordered towards the Frontiers of these Colonies & one in particular to cut off the Communication between Fort Cumberland & the Inhabited part of the Country & to prevent the Garrison's receiving any Supplies of Provision which the French understood they were in great need of. that 700 French were expected at Fort du Quesne from a Fort which has been built on this Side the Lakes & that as soon as they should come down an Expedition was to be undertaken wherein the Officer who came from the Mississippi was to have the Chief Command & that there was a Train of Artillery ready for him consisting of Six Cannon & two Mortars. Capt Dagworthy tells me that the Negro being seperately examined gave just the same Account. As 100 men were sent to convoy some Provisions to Fort Cumberland the 8th of this Month, part of the Drummers Intelligence might probably be confirmed. I suppose when the Waggons return the Negro as well as the Drummer will be sent to Col^o Stanwix that he might have an opportunity of interrogating them as he shall think proper.

[Sharpe to Dinwiddie.]

16th Iuly 1757.

Sir

I am now to acknowledge the Receipt of Your two Letters of the 14th & 28th ult. & as you are pleased to tell me in the last of them that you desire to say no more about this Beef I shall not trouble you any more on that Subject but content myself with inclosing you an Extract of a Letter which has been lately received from Capt Dagworthy in Answer to one which was writ to him by my Order. I understand that Doctor Ross has waited on Col^o Washington & doubt not but he has dld a quantity of Flour at Fort Loudoun in lieu of what Colo Stephen left at Fort Cumberland; For such other Articles as were dld to Capt Dagworthy & are of use to M^r Ross he will I am persuaded be ready to pay a reasonable price but what Articles these are I cannot say till he returns from Fort Frederick where he has for some time been. You will be pleased to give such orders about the Beef as you shall think fit, I do not understand that any of it is destroyed as yet, neither have our People touched it tho they have seen no other Meat for almost three months. The Officers have at length represented their Case to Col^o Stanwix & he has thereupon directed