

Admiral Holborne were arrived at Hallifax & that the Troops would reembark & the Fleet sail thence toward the latter End of July. A Gentⁿ of this Place is told in a Letter w^{ch} he has received from the Northward that as the Earl of Loudoun was lately reviewing the second Battalion of the Royal Americans he narrowly escaped being killed by a Ball from one of the mens pieces which wounded the person that stood next His Ldp at the time when 'twas fired &c. Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Denny.]

August the 14th 1757.

Sir

Your Favour of the 10th Inst inclosing Copies of three Letters from General Webbs Aid de Camp, Capt Christie & M^r Kennedy was delivered to me last Night & I have this morning agreeable to Your Desire dispatched an Express to Gov^r Dinwiddie with a Letter advising him of Fort William Henry's being besieged & of the other particulars that You mention. I am sorry to learn that all the Troops which are at present under the Command of General Webb do not much exceed 4000 after having heard it said that the Garrison of Fort William Henry alone amounted to almost that number. Unless the Militia of the Northern Colonies do instantly reinforce General Webb I suppose the Fort must be reduced for as the Enemy could not want Intelligence after the success that they met with the other Day, they are certainly well informed of the General's Strength & confident that it is impossible for the Garrison to hold out long against them. I am at a Loss to account for the continued fire of small Arms that was heard from the Beginning to the End of the Day that the Enemy landed for I can scarcely think that they could approach so nigh as to annoy the Garrison or to be themselves disturbed by Musquetry from the Fort in so short a time after they appeared. I do not know what vigorous measures your people may be induced to take by such a Loss as that of Fort William Henry would be but I am persuaded that I do the Assembly of this Province no Injustice in believing that they look on all advanced Posts in the light that they do Fort Cumberland & that they would not be very sorry at any Accident which would relieve from the Charge of supporting that place, if the Enemy should march any considerable Body to attack that Fort as the Prisoners that have escaped from them say they will I am afraid we shall make but an indifferent Figure here also, for tho I am apt to think that a Number of men may be prevailed on to march out of Virg^a & this Province on such an Emergency yet they would