

they lost on this Expedition we know not but it is said that our Loss was pretty considerable. It is rumoured that Ld Loudoun finds himself unable to make an Attempt on Louisburg & that he is returning with several of the Regiments to New York, I hope the Report is without Foundation but there is an Article in the Gazette about the French Fleet that makes me fear it is too true. Letter Bk. III

With the greatest Regard—

[Sharpe to Wm. Sharpe.]

8th of Sept^r 1757.

Dear Brother

I presume you will have heard before this can be delivered to you that we have lost Fort William Henry that was built two years ago on Lake George. The Garrison that was therein when the Enemy attacked it consisted as it is said of about 800 Men some Regulars the Rest Provincials under the Command of the Lieut^t Col^o of Otway's Regiment, & Lieut^t Col^o Young of the Royal Americans lay intrenched with about 1400 at a small distance without the Fort. There were mounted in the Ramparts two 32 Lbrs. two 18 Lbrs, two 12 Lbrs, one 9 Lbr, one 6 Lbr, two 4 Lbrs, one Howitzer & two Mortars; Col^o Young had also with him six Pieces of Artillery. The Army by which they were besieged was composed of six Regiments of Regular Troops from Europe, 2500 Indians & the Rest Militia from Canada, the whole near 12,000 Men. They crossed Lake George from Ticonderoga or Carillon in about 300 Boats & in the Morning of the 3^d of Augst landed within sight of the Fort bringing with them a Train of Artillery consisting of 20 Pieces of Cannon & 12 Mortars & Howitzers. As soon as they had invested the Fort the Marquis of Montcalm who commanded on this Expedition sent a Summons to the Commandant requiring him to surrender, this being disregarded he proceeded to open his Trenches & before the next Morning the Besiegers had finished two Batteries of 8 Cannon & a Mortar each. On the first Appearance of the Enemy an Express had been sent to General Webb who remained with 1500 Men at Fort-Edward advising him thereof & he had thereupon writ to the Governors of the several Northern Colonies acquainting them with the situation of Affairs & desiring them to order out the Militia to his Aid, but as none joined him the next Day he thought fit to communicate the same to the Commandant of Fort William Henry & accordingly the General's Aid de Camp writ him a Letter to that purport of which I inclose you a Copy. this Letter fell into the Enemy's hands but as General