

Letter Bk. III Montcalm thought it contained nothing that would encourage the Garrison to make an obstinate Defence he sent it to Ccl<sup>o</sup> Monro with a Flag of Truce. I should have observed to you that General Webb & M<sup>r</sup> Montresieur his principal Engineer had visited Fort William Henry two Days before the Enemy landed & that we are told it was their opinion that it could not hold out against a Train of Artillery four hours. The Garrison however made a vigorous Defence till the 9<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>st</sup> when having bursted their two 32 Lbrs, the two 18 Lbrs, one 12 Lbr, the 6 Lbr, & the two Mortars by incessant Firing having expended all their Ammunition except seven or eight Rounds & despairing of Relief they surrendered the Fort on the Terms mentioned in the inclosed Gazette. It is said that our Officers are much pleased with the Behaviour of the French General towards them but it is I beleive certain that notwithstanding the Articles of Capitulation many of our Officers & Men were plundered & stripped by the Indians, & that they scalped many of the sick & wounded before our Garrison marched out of the Fort. What Loss the Enemy suffered during the Siege is not known, of the English about 120 were killed among whom was no Officer of higher Rank than a Lieutenant. Soon after the Garrison had marched off to Fort Edward, the French returned to Ticonderoga having first utterly destroyed the Fort that they had reduced but it is generally thought that their General intended to come back & attempt the Reduction of Fort Edward also after the Indians have according to their Custom rejoiced on their Victory & the Canadians secured their Harvest. You will see by the Phila<sup>a</sup> Gazette that the French have a very strong Fleet in the Harbour of Louisburg & also a great Number of Troops in Garrison there. This Account together with the Intelligence that the Earl of Loudoun received from General Webb determined His Ldp to return to N York with ten of the Regiments that were at Hallifax & I am told by a Gentleman who is just come from N York that His Ldp is gone with those Troops to Albany. Admiral Holborne is I understand cruizing off Louisburg with fifteen Ships of the Line in hopes that the Enemy will come out & give him Battle but it is the general opinion that they will decline coming to an Action notwithstanding their Superiority & that it will not be in our Power to act offensively either by Land or Sea in America this Summer We learn from Carlyle that Colo Stanwix has lost Abundance of Men particularly Germans by Desertion since he has been encamped near that place. These People go off in Parties of 9 or 10 at a time & as none of them have been apprehended or seen among the Inhabitants it is presumed that they all desert to the Enemy. In a Letter that I