

leaving Mills Creek and marching with the Troops under his Command to Pennsylvania, which being read His Excellency desires the Advice of this Board whether it may be necessary now to call the Assembly, who are of Opinion it is not now necessary but if the Enemy should attack Fort Cumberland, then immediately to call the same.

At a Council held at the City of Annapolis on Saturday the 18th day of October in the fifth Year of his Lordships Dominion Annoque Domini 1755.

Present

His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq. Governor  
The Honourable { Benjamin Tasher Esq. } Col Benjamin Tasher  
                          { Col Charles Hammond } Benedict Calvert Esq.

This Excellency is pleased to lay before this Board the following Letter  
Camp at Oswego September 9th 1755.

Sir,

As it may be acceptable to your Honour to know the Situation of the Service, which is under my immediate Care, I transmit you the following Account of it.

The last Division of the forces under my Command were twenty six days upon their March from Schenectady to this Place, where they did not arrive until the 2 Instant: The Troops was so much reduced by desertion and sickness, and absence of Detachments upon Parties & Command, that by a field Return, which I ordered to be taken Yesterday, it appears, that the Number of men, in the three Regiments & Independent Company fit for duty upon the Spot dont amount to 400, out of which we are oblig'd to keep 100 at work upon a New Fort, and if the Body of the forces moves from this Place, must leave 300 at least for the Defence of it so that not 100 Men will remain for other Service, and of these sixty must be employed as Matrosses and a Number as Pioneers: To this I am to add that we have suffered greatly by Desertion of Battomen, after being impressed and even proceeding part of the way with us; by which means we are in want of Provisions for any Service, that will require ten days in the Execution.

However if I am not disappointed of Supplies of Provisions, which I shortly expect; I am encouraged, upon the Intelligence I have gained since my arrival here, that without Naval Force, and the Assistance of the Indians, whom I have picked up in my Passage thro' the Country of the five Nations, and the Albany men, whom I hired to go with me, as a Scouting Party of Guards, both which may amount to 140 Men, I am encouraged, Sir, to hope that we may proceed upon Action in a very few days, and that a foundation will be laid this year for such a Campaign the next, as I flatter myself, provided the Colonies shall then exert proper Spirit, may secure all Points in dispute between us and the French.

As a Meeting of Commissioners from all the Colonies as far Westward as Virginia inclusive, with me to be appointed by Act of Assembly, in the Month of October or November, in order to consult