

(75)  
A Council of War held by his Excellency William Shirley Esq. General  
and Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's Forces in North America at New York  
on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1755.

Present  
His Excellency William Shirley Esq. General &c.  
His Excellency Sir Charles Hardy Esq. Governor &  
Commander in Chief of the Province of New York  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Horatio Sharpe Esq. Lieutenant Governor  
in Chief of the Province of Maryland  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Robert Hunter Esq. Lieutenant Governor and  
Commander in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Thomas Fitch Esq. Governor & Commander in  
Chief of the Colony of Connecticut  
Colonel Thomas Dunbar  
Major Charles Craven  
Sir John St. Clair Quarter Master General  
Major Thomas Kinneer  
Major John Rutherford.

The General's Commission being read together with part of a Letter to him dated the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
of last August from the W<sup>th</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir Thomas Robinson one of his Majesty's Principal  
Secretaries of State and part of his Majesty's seventh Instruction to the late General  
Braddock; several Points of Thank, which were moved by some of the Members of the Council  
were settled, after which his Excellency adjourned the Council to the next day at 9 o'Clock  
in the forenoon.

Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> 1755

The Council met according to Adjournment

Present as before together with Sr Peter Schuyler.

His Excellency acquainted the Council that he had convened them to give their Opinion  
and Advice upon a Plan of Operations which he proposes for the next years Campaign, in  
order to effect the several Services he is directed by his Majesty's Instructions to carry  
into execution: That in order to inform them fully of the State of those Services, it was necessary  
for him to acquaint them that in his Majesty's said Instructions it is Discovers,

1<sup>st</sup> That whereas the French would in all probability, endeavour to Reinforce their  
Posts they have on the River Ohio, and on the Lakes to the Westward of it, by sending  
Troops up the River Mississippi, it was his Royal will and Pleasure, that as the season  
would allow Troops to take the field much sooner in the southern Parts, than in any  
other parts of his Colonies he should begin his Operations there as soon as the Weather  
would permit, and was therefore ordered to divide the Troops under his Command to be  
carried up the River Potomack as high as Wilkes Creek in order to proceed to Fort Duquesne

2<sup>dly</sup> That as soon as the late General should have been able to drive the French from their  
Posts upon the Ohio he should take proper Measures for erecting a good & sufficient  
Fort. on the most convenient Pass upon the said River and to keep a strong Garrison  
consisting of the three Independent Companies then in Virginia sustained by such a  
Part of the whole of the Provincial Troops as he should find necessary to garrison