

Sir,

Fort Loudoun June 16: 1757

84:95

This moment the Inclosed Letters came to my Hands. I have not lost a moments Time in transmitting them to you, as I look upon the Intelligence to be of the utmost Consequence, - If the Enemy is coming down in such Numbers and with such a Train of Artillery as we are to expect. Fort Cumberland must inevitably fall into their Hands as no Efforts can be timely made to save it. I send you Sir a copy of a Council of War held at this Place, and I intend to pursue the Resolution therein contained till I receive further Orders how to act. It is morally certain that the next object which the French have in View is Fort Loudoun, and that yet it is in a very untenable posture, they have no roads for Carriages into any other Province but thro' this place and there lies here a Quantity of Stores belonging to his Majesty & this Colony very much exposed and unguarded, I shall not take up your time, Sir, with a tedious Detail of Facts. You will be a sufficient Judge of the posture of Affairs from that which is already related - I shall only add that if the Enemy attempt this place I shall endeavour to defend it whilst there is a dawn of hope, I have dispatched an Express to Governor Dinwiddie, and another to Governor Sharpe. I am Sir.

Yours &c.

Ge: Washington

A true copy of Col: Washingtons Letter
to Col: Stanwix

Richard Peters
Secy

N. Y. State Library.

To John Stanwix Esquire

Alt Text: 18th century handwritten document to Colonel John Stanwix, warning him of the approach of French Forces toward Fort Cumberland and Fort Loudon from George Washington.

Transcription

Letter from George Washington to Colonel John Stanwix

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[written in pencil - 84:84]

Fort London, June 15th, 1757.

Sir,

I have the Pleasure to inform you that a Scouting Party consisting of 5 Soldiers and 15 Cherokee Indians that were sent out the 25th Ulte. towards the Ohio under Lt. Baker, returned the 8th Ins^t to Fort Cumberland with 5 Scalps & a French Officer Prisoner having killed two other Officers of the said Party, M^r. Baker met with this Party 10 French, 3 Officers at the Head of Turtle Creek 2 Miles from Fort. Duquesne (the Day after they. had parted with 50 Shawanese Indians returning from the War) & would have killed & made Prisoner of them all, had it not been for the Death of the Indian Chief Who being killed prevented the other Indians from pursuing them. One other Indian was wounded & brought in upon a Bier near 100 Miles by the Party, who had Nothing to live upon for the 4 last Days but wild Onions.

M^r Atkins & I shall use our Endeavors to have the French Prisoner brought to this Place.

Capt. Spotswood with 10 soldiers & 20 Indians who went out at the same Time with, but to a different Place from L^t Baker is not come in, nor any News of him, which makes me uneasy.

Our Assembly have granted a further Sum of Eighty Thousand Pounds for the Service of the ensuing Year, & have agreed, I believe, to complete their Regiment to. 1200 Men besides 3 Companies of Rangers of 100 each. Our strength since the Detachment to Carolina has embarked, is rendered to. 420 Rank and File only, & these rendered weak by their great Division.

Gov^r Dinwiddie is apprehensive that he should not be able to provide Arms for these Men and desired me to advise you thereupon

Your's &c

G. Washington.

Col^l Stanwix

A true Copy of a letter of Col^l Washington at Fort London in Virginia to Col^l Stanwix at Carlisle. Richard Peters, Secretary,
[Blue Stamp: N. Y. State Library]