

**Robert Stewart to George Washington, July 31, 1756,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT STEWART.

MAIDSTONE July 31st. 1756

SIR/

Tho' I wrote you yesterday by Capt Gist's Clerk, by whom I sent my Roll & Receipts for the Months of May & June yet judge it necessary to write you again by this Express as I have now certain Intelligence of the Enemy's having got in the Virginia side of the Potomack. About 9 oClock last night one of our Sentries Fir'd [he affirms at two Indians who was creeping up to view the Entrenchment] upon which we immediately got to our alarm Posts but as no Attack ensued, immediately detach'd a party to Reconnor. the adjacent Risings the outside of where our advanc'd Sentries were plac'd and remain'd under Arms at our Posts, soon after the Party return'd without making the least discovery; at Reville Beating this Mourning sent out a Command to protect some Reapers & to endeavour to procure some Intelligence—Between 12 & 1 oClock this Day had intelligence that a party of the Enemy had this Morning at Sun rise Captivated Clem Gilleham a Man & John Huffman a Boy, four Miles from hence on the Winchester Road, just after had information from the other side the River that about 10 oClock a Party of the Enemy was seen Cross from Virginia to Maryland with 2 Prisoners therefore as we were almost certain it was the same Party that had Captivated the above prisoners, and as we had then a Party out, our Men prodigiously harrassed with constant partys and many of them Sick, and the whole getting in order to March from hence the day after to Morrow did not think it Expedient to detach

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any more till the others return'd except a few single persons by way of Spys and to give Notice of the Enemy's vicinity to the Inhabitants.

Some of the Sentries at Fort Frederick have been Fir'd at & Fort Granville on the Frontier of Pensylvania was last week attack'd by a large Body but the Pensilvanians after sustaining a constant Fire for five hours repuls'd the Enemy chiefly by the Assistance of some Swivells that were well serv'd Colo. Crisop this day inform'd me that every Family between the mouth of this Creek and Carlile Town in Pensylvania are fled and that the Inhabitants of that Town are abandoning their Houses in the utmost consternation

I am at this Moment inform'd that a man was this day found Scalp'd on the Main Road between the Mouth of the Creek and Governor Sharpe's Most People imagine that there's a very considerable Body of the Enemy, and that they have some particular place of Rendevous in the Mountains from whence they send these partys into the different Provinces The People on this side are excessively terrified and some are mov'd in here, and 'am inform'd by severals who are come up the River that most of the Inhabitants on this side the River quite down to the Mouth of Shannandoe¹ have resolv'd to fly so soon as we decamp from here, therefore I am much at a loss what to do without Your orders for our Number is too small to divide and should we deferr Marching we will not have time to compleat our Operations before the rigorous Season comes on, and should we March, this part of the Country will by the timidity of the Inhabitants be laid Waste I am With great respect Sir Your Obedt. huml Servt. ROBERT STEWART

1 Shenandoah.