

the spies, dispatched for observation, inform us, that ^{1756.} the works are intirely demolished, and the enemy departed. In what manner, and by what numbers, it was taken, or upon what terms surrendered, I cannot give your Lordship any satisfactory account. How many were killed on either side is also unknown; tho' certain it is that Lieut. Col. Mercer, the commanding officer, is among the slain.

It is much to be wished, my Lord, that Mr. Shirley's advice to General Abercrombie had been followed: and equally to be regretted, that Sir William Johnson returned with such precipitation from Onondaga to Albany. Nor ought the discharge of 400 battoe-men, after Bradstreet's return, to pass without some remark.

They arrived at Schenectady, as I observed before, on the 11th of July; and methinks the recent proofs of their courage, and the account they gave of the strength and designs of the enemy, might have been a sufficient antidote against the poison of that council for their discharge; which was unquestionably designed by Mr. Shirley's enemies for throwing an odium on his measures. To the same influence, my Lord, it was undoubtedly owing, that General Webb's march, with the 44th regiment from Schenectady, was delayed till the 12th of August, but two days before the garrison was actually surrendered. He had proceeded no farther than Burnet's Field, with his regiment of 900 men, and the remaining 800 battoe-men, when the deserters brought him the news of the siege. Upon the receipt of

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which,

Circumstances of the siege unknown.

Battoe-men imprudently discharged.

there was no Battoe-men discharged till after the loss of Oswego when there was a further service then —

General Webb's march delayed.