

1755. be landed there, and dragged over a Carrying-place of about 50 Yards; that from thence down to *Oswego*, the River was very rapid and dangerous in many Places; that for almost the whole Length of the Passage from *Schenectada* to *Oswego*, being 240 Miles, the Banks of the Rivers and Creeks were covered with thick Woods and Brush, which put it into the Power of the Enemy to ambush the Battoes in their Passage whenever they pleas'd, unless Precautions were taken to prevent them; and that it would be necessary to employ at least 500 Battoes between *Schenectada* and *Oswego* to carry down the Stores and Provisions requisite for the Expedition under his Command, there being not above 20 Battoes then to be purchased or hired in the Province of *New York*.

To get over as many of these Difficulties as might be, Mr. *Shirley*, before he left *New York*, gave Orders for a Number of Carpenters to be employed at *Schenectada*, *Albany*, and *New York*, in building 500 new Battoes, which were compleated in six Weeks; likewise for one Party to be employed in clearing the *Mohawks River* and *Wood Creek* from as many Obstructions in them as was possible; another to be sent to the Falls at *Conajohara*, to make a passable Road there, and another to build two Store Houses on the *Oneida Carrying-place*, at each End one; which last Party, after effecting that, proceeded to mend the Road over the Carrying-place; and widened the

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