MAP OF THE WESTERN PARTS OF THE COLONY OF VIRGINIA
From the Archives de la Marine, Paris
BELLIN'S MAP OF THE BELLE RIVIERE, 1755

Courtesy of Public Archives of Canada
TWO hundred years ago, in the spring of 1753, the French sent armed forces from Canada to occupy and garrison the Ohio country, which included what is now western Pennsylvania. This military expedition was part of a development which may be called The French Invasion of Western Pennsylvania, as in the recent bulletin of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, but only if it is considered in present-day terms. Western Pennsylvania did not really exist in the middle years of the eighteenth century when the rival empires of France and Great Britain began to dispute the ownership of the Ohio region. Until that time, the Ohio valley had attracted little attention, for the nations of Europe were busy claiming, annexing and settling more accessible parts of the New World. No one really owned it, if the rights of the native inhabitants be ignored in the usual fashion of empire-builders.

The French gradually came to feel that their colonies of Canada and Louisiana must be linked together by the Ohio River, if they were to be secure and self-sustaining. At about the same time, the British colonies, and particularly Pennsylvania and Virginia, were growing conscious of the Ohio country as a natural area for expansion, by trade and settlement. Therefore, both the Brit-
ish and the French sent traders and agents to the Ohio, to com-
peete for the furs and for the good will of its Indian inhabitants.

The French soon realized that peaceful methods of trade and
diplomacy would not be enough to win control of the Belle
Rivièere, their name for the Ohio and Allegheny together, as well
as for the region through which they flowed. French Canada could
not send out enough traders nor supply enough trade goods at
low enough prices, to counter-balance the activities of the British
traders. A passing expedition like the one led by Céloron de Blain-
ville in 1749 might indeed strengthen their claims, but it could in
itself have no permanent effect. To establish effective control of
the Ohio, the French had to send out a military expedition to oc-
cupy the territory, and to build and garrison forts at key points.

From their point of view, the French had good justification for
occupying the Ohio country, and it would be unfortunate if the
title, French Invasion of Western Pennsylvania, gave any im-
pression to the contrary. One French Canadian scholar, Father
Honorious Provost, has objected to this title, not so much for him-
self as that he felt it would prejudice French Canadians against
the work. Father Provost is in charge of the Archives of the
Seminary of Quebec, from which came most of the new source
materials on the French in western Pennsylvania. Therefore, he
felt much concerned, and wrote a brief explanation of the French
Canadian view of the matter:

“At that time, the contest about the boundaries was open. There
was neither settlement nor official occupation on the Ohio from
the side of the English. Notwithstanding the terms of a charter
that probably no one then could have drawn on a map, the French
by their previous exploration of the country were no less justified
to pretend to its possession. They had the Mississippi under peace-
ful control, and the Ohio could well be considered as an exten-
sion of, and a vital communication with it. So, objectively speak-
ing, at the break of the conflict (1753), the word invasion sounds
pejorative.”

In other words, this French Canadian archivist felt that such
a title pre-judged the case—that it implied that the French were

*Father Provost kindly permitted this quotation from his letter of March
9, 1954.
aggressors when they sent armed forces into the Ohio country. Here in Pennsylvania where the events of two hundred years ago are so nearly forgotten that it takes a concerted effort on the part of state and private historical organizations to call them to the attention of the public; here in Pennsylvania where the word invasion was used primarily to arouse interest, it comes almost as a surprise to realize that those events of long ago may still be so alive and real to French Canadians that they may object to a term with possibly critical connotation, even as Southerners dislike hearing of the "Civil War."

Of course, that title was more for domestic consumption than for export. It was used mainly for the sake of force and picturesque, and without any thought of passing on the merits of the French claim to the Ohio. We Pennsylvanians are inclined to memorialize and commemorate our invaders, even when they are less far removed in time than the French of two centuries ago. Many are the monuments and markers honoring the Confederates who invaded Pennsylvania during the Civil War. Memorials to the French in Western Pennsylvania would be more numerous than they are, if people were more generally aware of what happened there two hundred years ago, and of its significance in the history of Pennsylvania.

But that title did emphasize an important point, that the French expedition was a direct threat to the security of Pennsylvania and other British colonies. The expedition was an invasion of Pennsylvania in terms of the boundaries assigned in the Charter from King Charles the Second to William Penn, and also—of course—in terms of the present-day boundaries of the State. Of course, Pennsylvania law did not yet run in the territory beyond the mountains, no Pennsylvanian witnessed the landing of the French at Presque Isle, now Erie, in the spring of 1753, and the Governor in Philadelphia had only vague and indefinite information about what was happening in a remote and unsettled corner of the colony.

At this point, it might well be asked: Why was this French invasion important to Pennsylvania as a whole? Isn't it merely a part of the local history of western Pennsylvania, and of little importance to the rest of the State? When the first vague news of
the coming of the French reached Philadelphia in May of 1753, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania was reluctant to do much more than provide for presents to the Indians, to keep them friendly to the English. The first active efforts to withstand the French were made by Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia, a colony which also claimed the region. But the invasion and the war which followed had many and sweeping effects in all the settled parts of Pennsylvania. Governor Hamilton of Pennsylvania foretold some of these effects in a message to the Assembly on May 22, 1753:

"Think, Gentlemen, I beseech You, of the Consequences of Having Forts built and Indian Nations settled by the French within and near the Limits of this Province, and within a small Distance from the inhabited Part of it. Are the People settled on our West Frontiers like to live in Peace and Quietness, or to be able to preserve their Possessions? or will they not desert them and the Fruits of their Labour and seek for Habitations elsewhere rather than see themselves continually exposed to the Inroads and Depredations of Enemy Indians? But there is no need for me to enlarge on this disagreeable Subject, or to set forth the sad Effects that must unavoidably arise from the Neighborhood of French Forts and Settlements, since these will naturally offer themselves to the Mind of every one."

The Governor's forebodings were not long in being realized, even though he failed to mention the first consequence of the invasion, the expulsion of Pennsylvania's Indian traders from the Ohio country. Later, Indian war parties led by the French came to ravage farms and settlements on the frontier, and the French invasion then became pressing and actual to the people of Pennsylvania. Blocking a route by which the French might come in a further invasion of the settled parts of the colony, Fort Augusta was to be erected at the junction of the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River, and a whole chain of forts was to be established by the Province to cover the northern and western frontiers of settlement.

The French invasion was a challenge which led the Pennsylvania government to provide for the protection of its people, to

*Colonial Records, V, 609.*
aid in driving out the French, and ultimately to extend its rule into western Pennsylvania. It upset the traditions of peace and neutrality which had prevailed in the Province since its foundation. It was a turning point in the history of Pennsylvania, for it marked the end of the period of peaceful development. None of the earlier colonial wars had actually touched the colony which William Penn and the Quakers had founded along ways of peace. The French thrust for the Ohio threatened the peaceful Province, and eventually involved it in a world war.

It is one of the ironies of history that the French should have disturbed the peaceful development of Pennsylvania, for the leaders of French thought in that so-called Age of Enlightenment were admirers of the Pennsylvania experiment in peace, toleration, and free government. Not long after the founding of Pennsylvania, one Frenchman exclaimed: “Happy Country! it deserves to be called Paradise!” And that more or less represents the prevailing attitude toward Pennsylvania among the writers of France. Voltaire, it will be remembered, coined the famous phrase about William Penn’s treaty with the Indians as “a treaty never sworn to and never broken.” Voltaire also wrote about William Penn, that he had “brought back to earth the golden age” in “the celebrated Pennsylvania, a country unique on earth because of the singular ideas of its colonists”—their singular ideas, of course, were peace and toleration. And Voltaire was the principal literary lion in the circle of Madame du Pompadour, who was actually running the French government when the French invasion of western Pennsylvania took place. But, as is usually the case, the national interests of France outweighed the sentimental admiration expressed by her thinkers. France herself threatened the Earthly Paradise of Pennsylvania.

In all her history, Pennsylvania can be said to have suffered only three invasions, the French in 1753, the British during the American Revolution, and the Confederates during the Civil War. Of all these, only the French invasion was truly a threat from an entirely foreign power, with differing languages, cultures, and tra-

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5 Voltaire, *Lettres philosophiques*, IV.
ditions of government. Conceivably, Pennsylvania could have survived the success of the British or the Confederates, and still have remained something like our Pennsylvania of today—as a Dominion in the British Empire or as a State in a smaller United States of America. But the success of the French invasion would have greatly reduced her territory and resources, and left her subject to a tremendous burden of defence against a foreign power across the Alleghenies. Perhaps it might even have reduced her to vassalage, for it was seriously proposed that Pennsylvania should be made a neutral republic under the protection of the King of France. Such French officials as Bougainville, who was Montcalm’s chief aide, felt certain that Pennsylvania could be brought to accept such neutral status, and French sources have tantalizing but unproven hints about their dealings with certain elements of Pennsylvania’s population who would welcome the idea of neutrality. This might be a fruitful but embarrassing field for further research, for who knows what well-intentioned persons among the Quakers and Pennsylvania Germans may have flirted with the treasonable but attractive idea of peace through neutrality! In the light of this suggestion of a neutral republic, the French invasion becomes one of the greatest threats ever offered against the integrity of Pennsylvania.

The French invasion of the Ohio country was only one part of a sequence of events leading to a world war, known in America as the French and Indian War, and in Europe as the Seven Years’ War. While the French were making their bid for control of the Ohio, the imperial interests of France and Great Britain were clashing over all the world. Europe, of course, was still the main stage of events, and it was not until French and British diplomats had exchanged complaints and found suitable military allies that war was formally declared in 1756, three years after the French invasion of western Pennsylvania began. With all the tangle of conflicting interests between France and Great Britain, and between their European allies, it cannot be said that the French expedition to the Ohio by itself caused the Seven Years’ War. But the Ohio question was the real sore spot. French Canadian historians who have considered the problem thoroughly, see in this

7 See Bougainville’s Journal, in Rapport de l’archiviste de la province de Québec [RAPQ], 1923-1924, page 258 ff.
Ohio affair the immediate cause of the ruin of their colony and of its separation from their mother country. Both the British and the French came to feel that in this matter they could concede nothing, that they could make no compromise, without dooming their respective colonies to impotence or destruction.

The conflict over the Ohio marked the entrance of western Pennsylvania into world history. The civilized world had known of it but vaguely, as scattered bits of information drifted out from Indian traders and agents. This rich and smiling land drained by the Ohio and its great tributaries, the Allegheny and the Monongahela, now came into the full light of history. It became a stage where events took place affecting the whole civilized world; and names like Buckaloons, Venango, Presque Isle, Le Boeuf, the Forks of the Ohio, Logstown, and the Great Meadows became familiar to all who followed the course of contemporary events.

Yet the government and people of Pennsylvania knew almost nothing about what was going on west of the Allegheny Mountains, when the French invasion began in the spring of 1753. If we may adapt a modern term, a "wilderness curtain" hid all the details of the French operations during the critical first year. Thus, on July 5, 1753, Richard Peters, Secretary of the Province, wrote the Proprietor Thomas Penn that the French were building two forts, one at "Boccalunce" and the other near "Winingo"—that is, near present-day Irvine and Franklin. He was wrong in both sites, for two months earlier the French had begun to build Fort Presque Isle at what is now Erie, and they were soon to begin Fort Le Boeuf at Waterford. Richard Peters would have had as good sources of information as anyone in the government of Pennsylvania, and yet he was groping in the dark. That wilderness curtain was more effective than any iron or bamboo curtain of the present time, for throughout the year 1753 the British government and the Pennsylvania government were almost completely in the dark as to the intentions of the French, and the scope of their operations, the locations of their forts, the size of their army, and even the names of their commanders. Now, in the bicentennial period, two hundred years after the events took place, the wilderness curtain can be lifted on the expedition of

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8 Richard Peters to Thomas Penn, July 5, 1753, Penn Papers, VI, 73. Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
1753. Important French sources have come to light in the past few years, mainly through the historical research program of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Thanks to these sources, the story of the French invasion of western Pennsylvania is now known with details and particulars which were unknown to Pennsylvanians of an earlier day.

The expedition to occupy and fortify the Ohio country was planned in October, 1752, by Governor Duquesne and the Intendant Bigot, the two partners in the government of Canada. They prepared to send out an army of more than two thousand men during the spring and summer of 1753, and to build three or four forts. The most important of these was to be at the great Indian village and trading place of Chinigué or Logstown, near present-day Ambridge, eighteen miles down the Ohio from its Forks. They had no idea of building a fort at the Forks where Pittsburgh now stands, but planned to build their main fort at Logstown, a place already well known to them from the activities of French traders. The Intendant Bigot, who was the business head of the Canadian government, had a hard time scraping up enough supplies for this campaign at a time when crops had been short in Canada. In the end, he made up the difference by buying flour and corn from New England. No wonder that the French talked as they did about the internal corruption and divisions of the British colonies, and felt certain of success in spite of the smaller population and resources of Canada!

A French advance party under the young Charles Deschamps de Boishébert set out from Montreal on the first of February, 1753, to establish the Lake Erie "beachhead" for the Ohio expedition. Boishébert was only twenty-four years old, but he had already been in the service for eleven years. He had recently returned from Paris, where he had taken dispatches for the previous Governor, and he happened to come back to Canada on the ship which brought the new Governor, Marquis Duquesne. Probably it was their acquaintance on shipboard which led to this important assignment for the young officer.

After a long and tiresome journey up the St. Lawrence and along the north shore of Lake Ontario, after a halt at Fort Niagara to rest and receive orders from Captain Contrecoeur, who
commanded there, Boishébert and his men finally landed at the Lake Erie end of the Chautauqua portage, at what is now Barceloná Harbor, near Westfield, New York. The landing was made about the middle of April; it had taken them two months and a half to journey from Montreal to their supposed destination. The Governor originally intended to have the expedition enter the Ohio country by way of the Chautauqua portage, Chautauqua Lake, Conewango Creek, and the Allegheny, the route which earlier expeditions had used in 1739 and 1749. But while Boishébert and his men were on their way, the Governor changed his mind about the route. On March 23rd, he wrote to Contrecoeur, and announced his plans, explaining his reasons carefully:

"A famous voyageur who has made seven trips on the Belle Rivière, and who is said to be a reliable man, has pictured for me all the risks he foresaw in the Chatacouin portage. The approach to it, he says, is very, very risky, especially for boats loaded as much as ours will be. They could not be dragged up on shore like a bark canoe when wind and waves are beating high on a shore bordered with rocks, where there are reefs and no shelter. On the map which this voyageur made from memory and gave me, I immediately chose the harbor marked H, which you will notice is thirteen leagues to the west of Chatakoin, formed by a peninsula which makes a secure refuge in all sorts of weather."\n
Because of this new information, which marks the first historical mention of Presque Isle Bay, now the harbor of Erie, Pennsylvania, the Governor decided to "send an order to Sieur de Boishebert to land at this harbor, and to have the fort built at a small elevation marked I, which I have been told is there, and easily recognized because the ground has been burned over."

From this it is apparent that the site of Fort Presque Isle was chosen by Governor Duquesne looking at a map in Montreal, and not by any French officer on the ground.

But carrying out such a change in plans was easier said than done, because it took so long for a messenger to reach Fort Niagara from Montreal. Boishébert had already landed at the Chautauqua portage, before the Governor's letter arrived. Meanwhile, the Governor changed his mind again, this time about command-

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ers, and with results which were very confusing to anyone trying to figure out and explain what happened.

He decided that the landing at Presque Isle would be too risky to entrust to a junior officer, and sent word to Contrecoeur that Boishébert should go no farther until the chief commander, Pierre Paul Marin, should arrive to lead the landing. Once again, the Governor was too late. Contrecoeur had already ordered Boishébert to leave for Presque Isle. Probably he was already there when the Governor wrote the delaying order, for Contrecoeur had instructed him to leave for the new location on the first of May, and the Governor's letter was dated May third.

But the Governor was pleased when the landing took place without any trouble. He wrote on the first of June to congratulate his officers, and said that he would do his best to make their achievement known. The Governor may have had good intentions about giving credit for this successful beginning, but it never reached the pages of history until Contrecoeur's papers became available. For two hundred years, all the historical accounts of the French expedition have stated that Presque Isle was discovered by Marin's engineer Le Mercier, and that it was Marin who decided to build the fort there. But this was on the basis of incomplete evidence which the new materials have at last corrected.

Now it can be said with certainty that the landing which began the French invasion of western Pennsylvania was led by Boishébert. He was later to be an important figure in the war in Acadia—you will find a lot about him in that connection in the pages of Parkman's *Montcalm and Wolfe*. But not for two hundred years was it even suspected that this handsome young Frenchman belonged to Pennsylvania history, too.

Now that the beginning of the expedition has been straightened out, we can proceed more rapidly. Boishébert's advance party had packed up and moved thirty miles up Lake Erie from the Chautauqua portage, landing at Presque Isle about the third of May. Here they began to build Fort Presque Isle, the first establishment on the site of Erie, and the first fort in western Pennsylvania. Early in June, the elderly commander, Pierre Paul Marin, arrived with the main part of the army to complete the fort, and to prepare for the advance southward.
This tough and bad-tempered old veteran of many an assignment to wilderness posts in Acadia and on Lake Michigan proceeded with due care and precaution. He transformed the old Indian path from Presque Isle to Le Boeuf Creek into a military road, with bridges across the streams and a storehouse at a halfway point. Over this road moved the men and supplies and equipment to the point on Le Boeuf Creek which was the head of canoe navigation for that part of the Ohio River system. At this point he began to build Fort Le Boeuf, on July 12. This would be the base for his descent to the Ohio and to Logstown, where he planned to build a third fort bearing the name of his Governor. With the completion of these two forts and of the twenty-mile portage road between them, the northern gateway to the Ohio country was securely in French hands.

If Marin had been able to accomplish all that he had set out to do in 1753, it seems likely that Logstown would have been the site of Fort Duquesne, even as his orders directed. But that year the French could go no farther than Fort Le Boeuf. A dry spell made the stream too shallow to float their canoes, and disease broke out among the troops. Some of the Indians of the Ohio country were hostile to the French advance. The famous Half King, leader of the Iroquois in the area about Logstown and the Forks of the Ohio, came to Presque Isle and warned the French on September third not to come down the Allegheny. Dry weather, disease, and Indian hostility halted the campaign for that year. In the fall, most of the men were sent back to Canada to recuperate. Marin himself, frustrated and ailing, died at Fort Le Boeuf on October 29th, and the Governor wrote that the old commander had preferred to die “on the field of battle” rather than return to Montreal to recover his health.\(^1\) The delay to the French plans gave them time to reconsider the location for their third fort; it also gave the British time to act to reassert their claims to the Ohio.

Governor Duquesne was not on the ground, he could not see for himself the advantages of the Forks of the Ohio as the site for a fort, as could the young Virginian who passed that way late in November on a mission which was the first British effort to counter the French invasion. George Washington was carrying

\(^{1}\) Duquesne to the Minister, October 7, 1754, *Wilderness Chronicles*, 63.
a notice of trespass from Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia to the French commander at Fort Le Boeuf, a letter ordering the French to leave British territory. But on his way Washington had his eyes open for useful information. He noted of the future site of Pittsburgh that it was "extremely well situated for a Fort." Washington delivered his summons to Legardeur de Saint Pierre, Marin's successor, and returned to Virginia with the expected reply that the French refused to move out. But he also took back the first trustworthy information about the French operations and intentions, noted in his Journal which Governor Dinwiddie ordered to be published.

Washington's recommendation of the Forks as the site for a fort undoubtedly influenced the location of the Virginia fort which was begun there in March, 1754, but it had nothing to do with Governor Duquesne's choice of location for his fort. The Governor of New France was getting similar advice from other quarters.

In December, 1753, when Duquesne assigned Contrecœur, the commander of Fort Niagara, to take over the command of the Belle Rivière from Saint Pierre, he did repeat his earlier instructions to build the third fort at Chiningué, the French name for Logstown; but, a month later, he told Contrecœur, "Go build Fort Duquesne at Chiningué or thereabouts, wherever the place seems to you most advantageous." He even suggested the Forks of the Ohio as a more suitable location, since it was "on the usual route of the English who came from Philadelphia"—where it would "bar their passage" and "block their trade." He had heard, too, that lumber for building a fort was plentiful near the Forks, while Logstown was "almost devoid of wood."13

Late in December, 1752, Saint Pierre had sent a French officer named La Chauvignerie with a party of thirty men to establish an advance post at Logstown, and to cut and gather timber for the projected fort. La Chauvignerie reached Logstown on January 16, 1754, and soon reported that "There is not a single piece of wood worth sawing here in this region." Logstown must have used up all the trees for miles around, both for firewood and for

12 Fitzpatrick, ed., The Diaries of George Washington, I, 44.
13 Duquesne to Contrecœur, January 27, 1754, Papiers Contrecœur, 93, 94.
building cabins, so that it now belied its name. It would be better to look for another site than to build a fort at a place where wood was scarce.

Soon a Virginia detachment began to erect a small fort at the Forks of the Ohio, in accordance with Washington’s recommendation. This, too, drew French attention to the location. On March 6, the French commander at Logstown sent a scouting party to the Forks to spy out what the English were doing. News of the English fort aroused Governor Duquesne’s anxiety, so that he wrote Contrecoeur on April 15, urging him to “hasten to interrupt and even destroy their work from the start,” and not let the English consolidate their position.15

Even as the Governor wrote these words, Contrecoeur and his army had almost completed their voyage down the Allegheny River. In the spring there was plenty of water in the streams, and this year the French were using both the Chautauqua-Cone-wango route and the Presque Isle-Le Boeuf route to expedite the movement of troops and supplies. On April 16, Contrecoeur approached the unfinished Virginia fort, and by threat of force compelled it to surrender the next day. Then he built Fort Duquesne at the place where the Virginias had begun. He made use of their materials and half-finished buildings in the structure of the greater fort, which was fully enclosed by June 15, 1754. The Governor was jubilant about this success. He was pleased that Contrecoeur had “found a good supply of stakes and beams, because the English are good judges of wood and excel in workmanship.” But he was especially glad that Contrecoeur had taken the fort “without firing a shot” and that “nothing occurred which would resemble an act of hostility.”16 No one had yet invented the term “cold war,” but the idea already existed.

While the French were descending the Allegheny in April, Virginia troops under George Washington were starting toward the Ohio, to come to the aid of their new fort. They had not gone far when news came of its capture by the French. Washington went forward even then, but hesitated when it appeared that the French might be too strong for him. While he was in this frame of mind, and even fearing French attack, the Half King sent word

15 Duquesne to Contrecoeur, April 15, 1754, Papiers Contrecoeur, 113-116.
16 Duquesne to Contrecoeur, May 11, 1754, Papiers Contrecoeur, 125.
that a party of Frenchmen were lurking nearby in a hidden place, Washington and his men marched through a rainy night to join the Half King and his Indians in an attack on this French detachment, the morning of May 28, 1754. The French leader, Jumonville, and several of his men, were killed, and the rest were captured, except for one who escaped at the beginning of the skirmish. This little skirmish, which took place in what is now Fayette County, east of Uniontown, was the first battle of the French and Indian War, in the sense that the first shots were fired there. To take revenge, Contrecoeur sent out from Fort Duquesne a stronger force of French and Indians under Jumonville's brother, Coulon de Villiers. Villiers came upon Washington entrenched in Fort Necessity, southeast of the present-day Uniontown, and compelled him to surrender on July 4, 1754. The Jumonville affair and the capitulation of Fort Necessity were to provide fuel for French propaganda later in the war.

In 1755 the British made a stronger effort to drive the French from the Ohio country. General Braddock with an army of British regulars and provincial troops marched toward Fort Duquesne, and Contrecoeur feared the worst, because his forces were inferior to the English. He remained in Fort Duquesne, ready to destroy it and make a quick retreat; while Beaujeu and Dumas went out with 250 Frenchmen and 650 Indians to meet Braddock's army of some fourteen hundred men at the Turtle Creek crossing of the Monongahela, on July 9, 1755. Beaujeu was killed at the start of the battle, by the third volley of the British, and this for the moment demoralized his men. But Dumas rallied the French and Indians, and by use of Indian methods of fighting completely routed the British army.

For weeks after the battle, the French had to work hard rounding up stray horses, and gathering up British cannon, guns, tools, and other spoils from the field of battle. It was not only a glorious victory to them; it was a windfall! One humane Frenchman reported with horror that "The bodies of slain men in great numbers... are mingled with the bodies of dead horses along a road for more than half a league."17

The French invasion had reached its climax, and the British

17 Account of the Affair of the Belle Rivière, attributed to the Chevalier de La Pause, in RAPQ (1932-1933), 310.
colonies were now fully alerted to the danger it meant to them. In the fall of 1755, the French began to send out Indian raiding parties against the frontiers of Pennsylvania and other British colonies. But years were to pass before the French could be dislodged from the Ohio country, as the superior strength of Britain and her colonies was finally brought to bear. Not until 1758 were the French finally driven from Fort Duquesne by a British army under Brigadier General Forbes; not until 1759 were they compelled to abandon their forts in northwestern Pennsylvania, after Sir William Johnson captured Fort Niagara. In the meantime, the Indian war parties sent out by the French ravaged the frontiers of Pennsylvania and other colonies with such frightful effect that the conflict was called the French and Indian War. The war cry and the tomahawk brought fear and death into the peaceful Province of Pennsylvania, which had never before had cause to fear the Indians, which had not been touched by any of the earlier colonial wars.

CHARLES DESCHAMPS DE BOISHEBERT
From Parkman's *Montcalm and Wolfe*