Valuable as this biography is, it remains for some historical writer to use the Amherst Papers for the information they contain on other than personal aspects of the history of the last half of the eighteenth century.

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Alfred P. James

War out of Niagara: Walter Butler and the Tory Rangers (New York State Historical Association Series, no. 2). By Howard Swiggett. (New York, Columbia University Press, 1933. xxv, 309 p. Illustrations.)

During the American Revolution the two most direct sources of British-Indian war menace to western Pennsylvania were Detroit and Niagara. From the latter post originated many of the raids on frontier settlements from Bedford to Pittsburgh so well known to students of Pennsylvania Indian wars. This book, as its title implies, aims to reveal a phase of the hitherto little-known inner springs of this center of British power. It would be refreshing to the inquiring mind to profit by an opportunity to follow a fair-minded scholar into the camps of the “enemies” and to acquire a better understanding of the basis of British Indian policy at Niagara during the Revolution.

The book, however, fails to supply such an opportunity. The imposing title apparently connotes to the author nothing that would make it the symbol of dynamic treatment and organic analysis. There is nothing in the text to indicate that war comes “out of Niagara.” War merely appears, and soldiers and Indians march and fight and quarrel and blunder, and Niagara is merely the central and most important and most frequently mentioned place from which they departed and to which they returned. The work is chatty and pleasant reading. It has striking chapter headings and is on a more dignified plane than most local British and Indian history written by Americans. But withal it is so discursive and incoherent that the reader is soon lost in a forest of confused and unrelated facts.

The author has essayed to relate his subject to the larger field of which it is a part. But he does not understand the realities of British Indian policy. Nor does he understand the Indians and their point of view. He is more concerned with superficial chronology and with personalities, with the Butler-Johnson quarrels, with exculpating the hero, Walter Butler, for the butcheries of the Wyoming and Cherry Valley massacres, with the motivations of George Washington, with the tragics of Butler’s death, than he is in organic cause and effect. The distinguished auspices under which the work is published, and
the pleasing format in which it appears, to say nothing of the misleading and extravagant statements of the advertisers, deserve a more substantial product. It is to be hoped that the future volumes of the series will be of a higher quality.

The work is based largely on primary sources. But the author cannot lay claim to a proper presentation of Indian affairs in New York during the Revolution without making use of more of Washington's correspondence than Ford's edition and without the voluminous material in the Continental Congress Papers. There is not the slightest reference to the *Pennsylvania Archives*. Although he has used the Johnson Papers, the *New York Colonial Documents*, and the Haldimand and Claus papers in the Canadian Archives, he has failed to grasp their message.

*Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey*  
RANDOLPH C. DOWNES

**Fort Ligonier and Its Times: A History of the First English Fort West of the Allegheny Mountains and an Account of Many Thrilling, Tragic, Romantic, Important but Little Known Colonial and Revolutionary Events in the Region Where the Winning of the West Began.** First Edition. By C. HALE SIPE, A.B., Litt.D., of the Pittsburgh and Butler Bars; Member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Member of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania; Member of the Pennsylvania German Society and Other Historical and Scientific Societies. Author of "The Indian Chiefs of Pennsylvania," "The Indian Wars of Pennsylvania," "Mount Vernon and the Washington Family" and Other Historical Works. (Harrisburg, The Telegraph Press, 1932 [c1933]. xiii, 699 p. Illustrations.)

At last we have the definitive story of old Fort Ligonier. This fort was erected during General Forbes's campaign against Fort Duquesne in 1758, and it served through various vicissitudes as an outstanding sentinel on the far-flung frontier until the ending of the Indian raids in Westmoreland County in 1783, when "the history of Fort Ligonier, as a post occupied by regular or citizen soldiers, comes to a close." It was "a fort that never surrendered" —a unique distinction in its day and time. This striking fact is driven home to the reader as he turns the hundreds of pages devoted to the rise and fall of a countless number of border defenses that were the outposts of British-American civilization. Fort Ligonier, according to the author, was "the first fort