

Abraham Bosomworth to George Washington, July 11, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM CAPTAIN A. BOTOMWORTH.

CAMP AT RAYS TOWN 11th. July 1758

DEAR SIR

I recd. your favor of the 6th. and Communicated the Contents to Colonel Bouquet; I acquainted you in my last of a Party of 24 Indians being gone off to Fort Du Quesne, when they come near the Place they will divide into two or three small Parties by which means we shall have the greater Chance of getting a Prisoner, I expect them back in 14 days when I hope to send you good news, I really believe the French are but weak & that there are but few Indians at Du Quesne tho' Moskingo is so far distant that there's little Dependance upon the Intelligence we receive from that Quarter, I hear Paris has Carried the Indians who took the Scalp in all 17 down to Fort Loudoun & is now on the road to this place; Majr. Lewis arrived here last night Colo. Bouquet is mightily pleased with their Dress,¹ I am Dr. Sr. your most Obedt. Servt.

A. BOTOMWORTH

¹ Washington had equipped Major Lewis's companies with the Indian costume. In writing on this subject to Colonel Bouquet he said: "My men are bare of regimental cloathing and I have no prospect of a supply. So far from regretting this want during the present campaign, if I were left to pursue my own inclinations, I would not only order the men to adopt the Indian dress, but cause the officers to do it also, and be the first to set the example myself. Nothing but the uncertainty of obtaining the general approbation causes me to hesitate a moment to leave my regimentals at this place, and proceed as light as any Indian in the woods. It is an

Library of Congress

unbecoming dress, I own; but convenience rather than show, I think, should be consulted." It appears that Colonel Bouquet so much approved of "the dress" that he encouraged the army to adopt it.