

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON

“Whereas, I have received information of a body of French forces being assembled in a hostile manner on the river Ohio, intending by force of arms to erect certain forts on said river within this territory, and contrary to the dignity and peace of our sovereign, the King of Great Britain: These are, therefore, to require and direct you, the said George Washington, forthwith to repair to *Logstown*, on the said river Ohio, and, having there informed yourself where said French forces have posted themselves, thereupon to proceed to such place; and, being there arrived, to present your credentials, together with my letter to the chief commanding officer, and in the name of his Britannic Majesty to demand an answer thereto.

“On your arrival at *Logstown* you are to address yourself to the Half-King, to *Monacatoocha*, and the other Sachems of the *Six Nations*, acquainting them with your orders to visit and deliver my letter to the French commanding officer, and desiring toe said chiefs to appoint you a sufficient number of their warriors to be your safeguard, as near the French as you may desire, and to wait your further direction.

“You are diligently to inquire into the numbers and force of the French on the Ohio and in the west; how they are likely to be assisted from Canada, and what are the difficulties and conveniences of that communication, and the time required for it.

“You are to take care to be truly informed what forts the French have erected and where; how they are garrisoned and appointed, and what is their distance from each other and from *Logstown*; and, from the best intelligence you can procure, you are to learn what gave occasion to this expedition of the French, how they are likely to be supported, and what their pretensions are.

“When the French Commandant has given you the required and necessary dispatches, you are to desire of him a proper guard to protect you as far on your return as you may judge for your safety against any straggling Indians of hunters that may be ignorant of your character and molest you.

Wishing you good success in your negotiations, and safe and speedy return,

“I am, etc.,

“ROBERT DINWIDDIE.

“WILLIAMSBURG, 30th Oct., 1753.”