

of the French Possessions together and for cutting of[f] all communication between the English & the Indians & the securing them & their trade to themselves that the French are determined at all events to make themselves masters of it if possible for this purpose besides the Forts already mentioned that command the most important passes upon & out of the Lakes, They last Year marched a large Army of French Indians from Canada & another from Mississippi to the Ohio built a large Fort mounted with Cannon near the carrying place to the River o beauf and another within Fifteen Miles of that on this River, have this Year [1754] seized a Fort built by the Govnm^t. of Virginia on the Forks of Monongahela where that River empties it self into the Ohio⁹³ and they propose another Fort within a Few miles at a Place called Logs Town the chief place of Resort of the Indians that live at the Southward of the Lakes & upon the Ohio or the Rivers that run into it. They have also lately, built a small Fort where the River Oubasch joins the River Ohio.⁹⁴

⁹³Forts Presqu'isle and Le Bœuf were built in the summer of 1753, by the expedition under Sieur Marin, the former on the site of Erie, the latter at Waterford, Pa. At the latter fort Washington met Le Gardeur de St. Pierre in December, 1753. In the spring of 1754 Fort Machault was built by the expedition under Sieur Contrecoeur, who later seized the stockade begun by the Virginia troops on the site of Pittsburgh, and erected there Fort Duquesne—ED.

⁹⁴No fort was built by the French at Logstown, but they here erected numbers of log huts for the use of the tribesmen. The report of a fort at the mouth of the Wabash probably arose from the following circumstance: When Marin was sent out with his expedition in 1753, the commandant of the Illinois was ordered to send by way of the Ohio a convoy with provisions to join the Canadian detachment. Accordingly one hundred men with a large quantity of provisions, under the command of Captain de Mazilières, left the Illinois on Sept. 1, 1753. When this expedition reached the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville), Lieutenant de Portneuf was detached on a reconnaissance by land. After some blind wanderings, he finally arrived at the Shawnee village at the mouth of the Scioto, where information was received of Marin's expedition. But on the chiefs assuring Portneuf of the hostile disposition of the savages, and that his own life