

winter; in summer the water is very low, and provisions must be hauled to most of the posts.

This post is a necessary entrepôt for fort Duquesne, but it should be rebuilt and protected against a sudden attack. The commandant there has a thousand francs; the garrison is somewhat strong; it is not a commercial post, being but a new establishment.

Fort Machault.—Fort Machault²⁴ is situated at the discharge of the river au Boeuf into the Ohio. it is the last outpost for Fort Duquesne, it should be protected against a sudden attack. This is not a trading post. The commandant has a thousand francs gratification.

*Fort of La Presqu'Isle.*²⁵—La Presqu'Isle, a square fort built of squared timber, is situated on Lake Erie, seven leagues

²⁴ For the building of this fort also, see *ante*, p. 148, note 93. In 1758, before the fall of Fort Duquesne, the garrison consisted of but a single officer and six men; see journal of Christian Frederick Post in *Early Western Travels*, i, p. 191. Upon the evacuation of Fort Duquesne, its garrison was removed to Fort Machault and preparations made during the winter of 1758-59 for a descent upon the English Fort Pitt. This was prevented by the advance of Prideaux and Johnson against Niagara, and the orders of Pouchot from the latter post to Des Ligneris to come to his aid. The English on taking possession built a new stockade forty rods nearer the mouth of French Creek, which they called Fort Venango. This was captured by the Indians in 1763; the commandant, Lieutenant Gordon was murdered, and the post burned. Fort Franklin was garrisoned on this site (1788-96), and the present town of Franklin laid out in 1795 around the post.—Ed.

²⁵ For establishment of this post, likewise, see *ante*, p. 148, note 93. In 1759 a large force gathered here from Illinois and Detroit to recapture Fort Pitt; but the war party turned aside to the relief of Niagara and was there defeated, and Presqu'isle was abandoned by the French. The next year, Col. Henry Bouquet from Fort Pitt took possession, and a garrison was maintained until, while under Lieutenant Christie's command, it was captured in 1763 by hostile Indians. No fort was rebuilt on this site until 1793, when Gen. Anthony Wayne reared a blockhouse thereon, where three years later he died. A garrison remained here until the War of 1812-15, when Erie (as it was then known) became an important naval station that was maintained until 1825.—Ed.