

## Bushy Run, A Decisive Battle of Pontiac's Rebellion

## French and Indian War

## Worksheet 1: Skit—The Tension Builds

**Reader:** The time is May 1763. The setting is woods in Western PA. Let us listen to the conversations taking place.

**Indian:** We are angry! The English no longer give presents to us to bribe us to take their side against the French. They have cut back on trade in rum, powder and lead. They are taking over our hunting grounds. They are disrupting our way of living.

**Englishman:** We are the sole owners of all the land west of the Mississippi.

**Frenchman:** We signed a Peace Treaty and this was part of the agreement. We gave up the land to the west. *(Pretends to sign paper with quill pen.)*

**Indian:** One of my brothers was killed by an Englishman and the white man was permitted to go free. But if we should kill a white man, we would be tried and imprisoned or executed.

**Pontiac** (to the Indian): I want you to go and spread the word to all of the western tribes that they should meet and settle their differences. We must launch an uprising!

**Reader:** In May 1763, 100 traders and at least 2,000 settlers were killed or captured from as far away as Carlisle. Eight of the frontier forts fell. Colonel Bouquet wrote a letter to General Amherst.

**Bouquet:** *(writing a letter with a quill pen)* "The desolation of so many families. Reduced to the last extremity of want and misery; the despair of those who have lost their parents, relations, friends, with the cries of distracted women and children who fill the streets—form a scene painful to humanity and impossible to decide."

**Reader:** The tension was too great. The rubber band had broken!



### Worksheet 3: Pittsburgh's Pentagon, A "Point" of Discussion

A. Location of the fort:

B. Why was this area so valuable to each of the following groups in the mid-1700's?

French:

English:

Native Americans:

C. The fort at the forks of the Ohio changed names and belonged to different groups of people. Complete the chart providing the following information:

Fort name/Place name	Group that built fort	Year built	Year over-thrown
<b>Fort Prince George/ Forks of the Ohio</b>			
<b>Fort Duquesne</b>			
<b>Fort Pitt/ Pittsburgh</b>			

D. Why was the development of Pittsburgh so successful in the eighteenth century that it became known as the "Gateway to the West" and the "Workshop of the World"?

E. Why was this fort called the "Pentagon"?

### Worksheet 3: Pittsburgh's Pentagon, A "Point" of Discussion, con't.

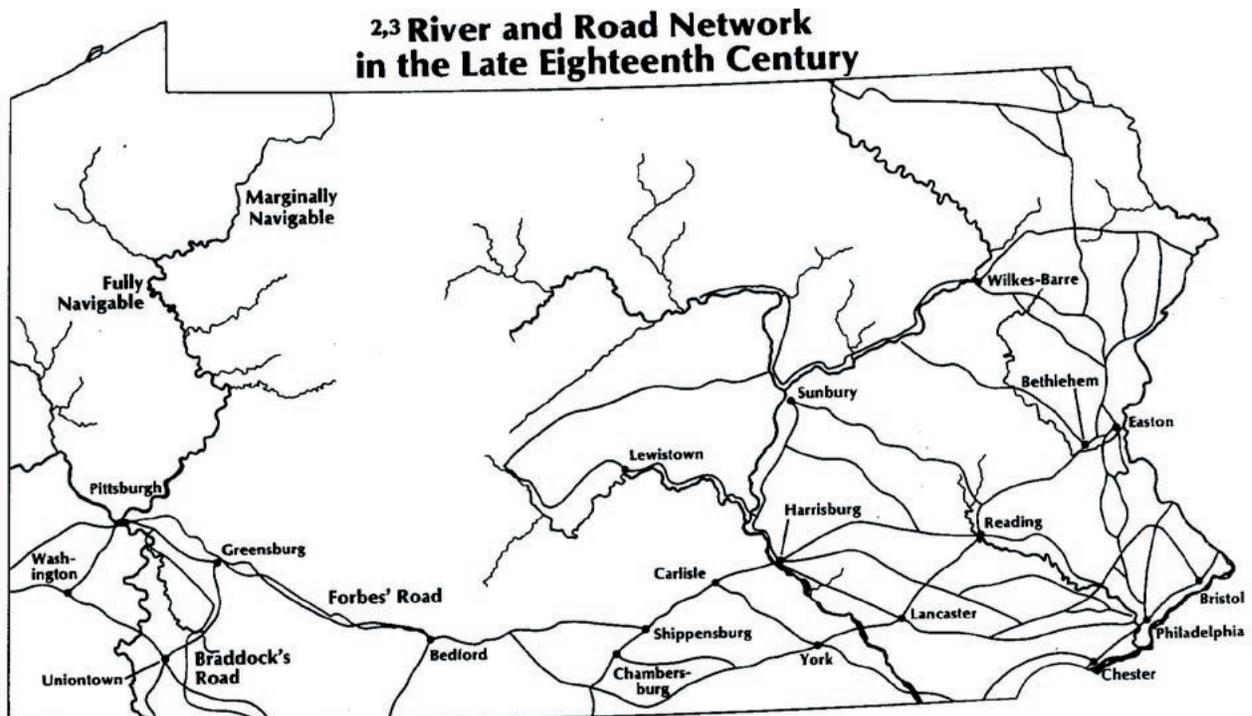
**To learn about the early fort**, read Captain Gordon's report on Fort Pitt to Col. Bouquet below. Then look at the site plan of the fort and see if you can locate the parts mentioned in the report. Write the parts on the site plan as you locate them.

"The revetment is 13 feet high with a drawbridge, the parapets in a defensible state and the bastions full. The outside slopes are securely and well-sodded, the casemate is 180 feet by 20 and covered with 2 feet of earth. Round the low bastion the outside slope is sodded 10 feet high and along the left flank the sodding is 20 feet high. There is a magazine for provisions 180 feet long and 20 feet wide."

#### Identify these terms in the description:

1. Revetment:
2. Parapet:
3. Bastion:
4. Casemate:
5. Magazine:

### Worksheet 4a: Route of Colonal Henry Bouquet's March to Fort Pitt, 1763



### Worksheet 4b: Student Information Sheet—Bouquet's Journey to Fort Pitt

**On July 18, after supplies and transport had been gathered**, Colonel Bouquet and his troops left from Carlisle. Winter storms and spring rains had washed out bridges and had made the trip difficult. Bouquet did not reach Bedford until July 25th. A short stop was necessary here to rest men and horses, repair wagons, and recruit scouts. Bouquet's men were unfamiliar with wilderness fighting so they could not be used as flankers. As soon as one was sent out, he was lost. Bouquet recruited 14 woodsmen from Fort Cumberland.

On July 26, Bouquet and his troops left Fort Bedford, pushing on slowly to Fort Ligonier. They entered the welcoming protection of the fort on August 2. There had been no news from Fort Pitt since Ecuyer's letter of June 26. After two days rest at Fort Ligonier to gather strength for the final section of the march, the expedition left on August 4. The men transferred their flour from barrels to flour bags to be carried by pack horses. The wagons and some of the powder and provisions were left at Ligonier. Plans for the next day called for a rapid march to the Bushy Run way station, halfway between Fort Ligonier and Fort Pitt. After a short halt at Bushy Run, the march would be timed so the men would enter the Turtle Creek valley at dark to minimize the danger of an ambush. The resting place at Bushy Run was only a mile away when they were attacked by Indians on August 5! Attempts to drive the Indians away were of no avail. Bouquet reported that no sooner had they dislodged the enemy from one position, he appeared in another spot. Soon Bouquet's forces were completely surrounded by Indians and were under fire both from the front and rear. From one o'clock in the afternoon until nightfall the battle continued. Bouquet loss included over 60 killed or wounded. Bouquet quickly wrote a report to Amherst that evening, fearing that his losses might prevent him from completing his journey to Fort Pitt. With the death of men and horses, and the additional responsibility of caring for the wounded, the possibility of surviving another Indian attack in the morning seemed remote.

That night, Bouquet organized his troops on the top of a hill. The men were deployed behind the flour bags, which were piled in a circle to form a make-shift fort and protection for the wounded.

As expected, the Indians mounted a vicious attack the next morning, August 6, again disappearing from one spot only to appear in another. The men were exhausted, not only from the previous day's fighting,

### Worksheet 4b: Student Information Sheet—Bouquet's Journey to Fort Pitt, con't.

but from their long march into the wilderness. They were further handicapped by their lack of water and their inability to reach it without weakening their central defense.

Bouquet's men, although unused to wilderness fighting, earned the praise of their commander by the steadfast way in which they responded to his orders. Bouquet knew that some maneuver had to be devised so that he could gain advantage over the Indians. Bouquet formed an ingenious plan to fool the Indians into thinking that part of the line had bolted and to draw them into that part of the circle. The men who had pretended to retreat would surround and attack the Indians. The plan worked perfectly. The Indians rushed into the weakened line and were quickly attacked by the men who had appeared to retreat. Having no time to reload, the Indians were dispersed and chased back into the woods for two miles.

There was little time for rejoicing. Bouquet's men made litters for the wounded, destroyed supplies they could not take because of the loss of horses, and made their way to Fort Pitt. The Indians attempted a small skirmish later that night, but were quickly driven off. Bouquet arrived at Fort Pitt on August 10th without further battle.

On arriving at Fort Pitt, Bouquet immediately reported to Amherst. Women and children were escorted back to Fort Ligonier under military guard, and from there would be sent back to the east. The escort returned from Ligonier with supplies. Plans were made for the future security of Fort Pitt and its companion forts.

Bouquet's victory at Bushy Run stopped the Indian attacks and made it possible for many settlers to return to their homes and salvage their crops. However, it was not until 1764 when Bouquet led an expedition to Ohio to punish the Indians did the settlers return to their homes in great numbers.

Bouquet's victory relieved Fort Pitt and was a serious setback to the Indians. Losing the battle would have meant giving up Fort Pitt and control of the Ohio lands. Traders would have ventured forth, but not colonists. Any truce with the Indians would have been precarious.

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### Worksheet 4c: Colonel Henry Bouquet's Journal

Date	Place on route	What occurred
July 18	Carlisle	Left with troops and supplies.  Winter storms and spring rains washed out bridges. Travel was difficult.
July 25		
July 26		
August 2		
August 4		
August 5		
August 6		
August 10		

### Worksheet 5: Bouquet to J. Amherst Letter 5th August, 1763

Discuss these questions with your group. Select someone to write the group's response.

1. Why did Bouquet decide to leave the wagons with the powder and some provisions at Ligonier?
2. What happened at 1:00 in the afternoon? Draw a picture and write a paragraph to describe the situation. Include the location of Bouquet and his troops. How long did this event last? What were the casualties?
3. Why did Bouquet write this letter to Amherst?
4. What were Bouquet's feelings toward his troops and officers?
5. What do these words mean as they were used in the letter?
  - a. stores
  - b. craggy
  - c. defile

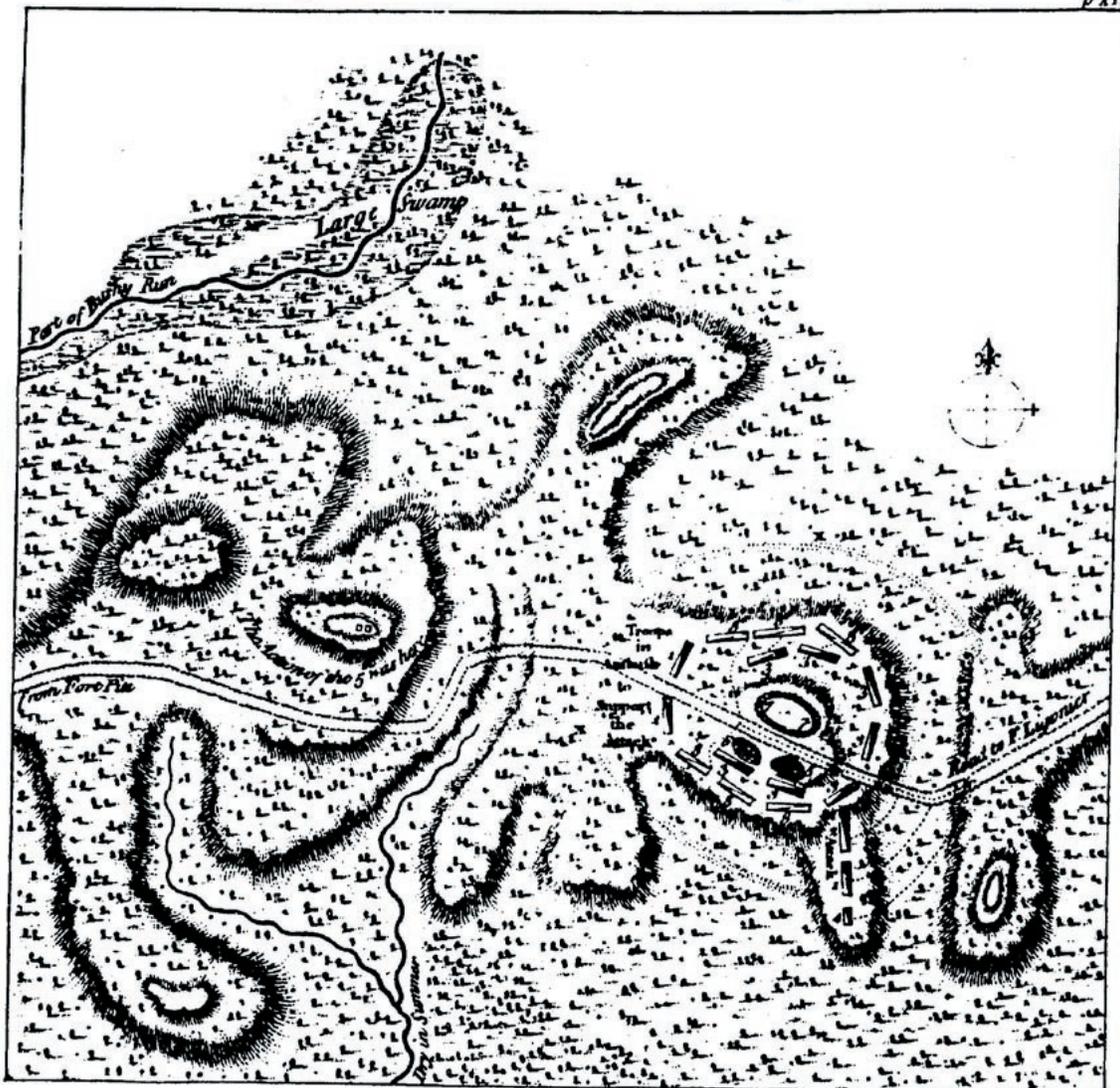
### Worksheet 6: Bouquet to J. Amherst Letter 6th August, 1763

Discuss the following questions with your group after reading the letter. Select someone to write the responses to each question.

1. Where did Bouquet and his troops make camp after the August 5<sup>th</sup> attack?
2. What was done with the wounded? Speculate on why this was done.
3. Describe what happened the morning of August 6<sup>th</sup>.
4. What was the condition of Bouquet's troops?
5. Where were the pack horse drivers?
6. Explain this quote from the letter. " Our brave Men disdained so much to touch the dead Body of a vanquished Enemy that scarce a Scalp was taken, except by the Rangers and the Pack Horse Drivers."
7. What do these words mean as used in the letter.
  - a. disdained
  - b. convoy
  - c. audacious
  - d. litters
  - e. stupefied

### Worksheet 7: Thomas Hutchin's Map of Bushy Run

PLAN OF THE BATTLE NEAR BUSHY-RUN,  
*Gained by Colonel Bouquet, over the*  
 Delawares, Shawanese, Mingoes, Wyandots, Mohikons, Miamics, & Ottawas;  
*on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of August 1763.*  
*Survey'd by Tho<sup>s</sup> Hutchins, Assistant Engineer.*



#### REFERENCES

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Grenadiers     | 7. Entrenchment of Bags for the Wounded |
| 2. Light Infantry | x. The Enemy                            |
| 3. Battalion Men  | 8. First Position of the Troops         |
| 4. Rangers        | o o Grass                               |
| 5. Cattle         |   |
| 6. Horses         |   |

### Worksheet 8: USGS Topographic Map of Bushy Run

