“Massacre at Fort William Henry”

Background: British colonists were enraged by the “Massacre at Fort William Henry” in 1757. It became a rallying call for revenge against both the French and Indians.

A. Misunderstanding between French Major General Montcalm and his Indian Allies
The terms [by which the British could leave Fort William Henry] so honorable by European ... [standards] were not only alien to...Montcalm’s Indian allies, but had been negotiated...without consulting them....When it became clear that the man whom they called “Father” [Montcalm] intended to...deprive them of the reward they had earned [captives, plunder, and trophies], most of the warriors decided...to take what they had come for, and then to leave. And that was exactly what they did.

B. “Horrid Scene of Blood and Slaughter”
“…the savages still carrying away Officers, privates, women and children, some of which later they kill’d & scalpt in the road. This horrid scene of blood and slaughter obliged our officers to apply to the French Guard for protection. Which the[y] refus’d…”
(Up to 1500 were killed reported witnesses to Fort Edwards)
Colonel Joseph Frye (leader of the Massachusetts Militia)

C. What happened to the 2308 British soldiers plus American militia from Fort William Henry and their 500 women and children on August 10th when they left the fort

Killed	Taken Captive	Took Refuge with the French
185	300–500* * of whom all but 200 were ransomed by the French	300–500

Guiding Questions:

1. How did Montcalm’s failure to consult with his Indian allies or to understand their expectations at the battle of Fort William Henry affect the future conduct of the war?

2. How did the “massacre” at Fort William Henry affect the attitudes of British colonials toward Indians? Towards Montcalm and the French?

Sources: A and C: Anderson, Fred. The Crucible of War: The Seven Years’ War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766. New York: Vintage Books, 2000, p. 196. as well as Steele, Ian K. Betrayals, Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 1990 and http://www.mohicanpress.com/mo08009.html B: Dodge, Edward J. Relief is Greatly Wanted: The Battle of Fort William Henry. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1998.

“Massacre at Fort William Henry”

Captives: prisoners to ransom or keep to increase the size of the tribe
plunder: steal to make themselves wealthier thru items like clothing, arms, ammunition, supplies, rum
trophies: scalps of warriors they had defeated
obliged: to be obligated or required to do something
scalpt: to cut off the hair of a victim, usually an opposing soldier or warrior

Background: British colonists were enraged by the “Massacre at Fort William Henry” in 1757. It became a rallying call for revenge against both the French and Indians.

A. Misunderstanding between French Major General Montcalm and his Indian Allies
The terms [by which the British could leave Fort William Henry] so honorable by European ... [standards] were not only alien to...Montcalm’s Indian allies, but had been negotiated...without consulting them....When it became clear that the man whom they called “Father” [Montcalm] intended to...deprive them of the reward they had earned [**captives, plunder**, **and trophies**], most of the warriors decided...to take what they had come for, and then to leave. And that was exactly what they did.

B. “Horrid Scene of Blood and Slaughter”
“…the savages still carrying away Officers, privates, women and children, some of which later they kill’d & **scalpt** in the road. This horrid scene of blood and slaughter **obliged** our officers to apply to the French Guard for protection. Which the[y] refus’d…”
(Up to 1500 were killed reported witnesses to Fort Edwards)
Colonel Joseph Frye (leader of the Massachusetts Militia)

C. What happened to the 2308 British soldiers plus American militia from Fort William Henry and their 500 women and children on August 10th when they left the fort

Killed	Taken Captive	Took Refuge with the French
185	300–500* * of whom all but 200 were ransomed by the French	300–500

Guiding Questions:

1. How did Montcalm’s failure to consult with his Indian allies or to understand their expectations at the battle of Fort William Henry affect the future conduct of the war?

2. How did the “massacre” at Fort William Henry affect the attitudes of British colonials toward Indians? Towards Montcalm and the French?

Sources: A and C: Anderson, Fred. The Crucible of War: The Seven Years’ War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766. New York: Vintage Books, 2000, p. 196. as well as Steele, Ian K. Betrayals, Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 1990 and http://www.mohicanpress.com/mo08009.html B: Dodge, Edward J. Relief is Greatly Wanted: The Battle of Fort William Henry. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1998.

“Massacre at Fort William Henry”

Enraged: greatly angered

Captives: prisoners to ransom or keep to increase the size of the tribe
plunder: steal to make themselves wealthier thru items like clothing, arms, ammunition, supplies, rum
trophies: scalps of warriors they had defeated
obliged: to be obligated or required to do something
scalpt: to cut off the hair of a victim, usually an opposing soldier or warrior

Background: British colonists were **enraged** by the “Massacre at Fort William Henry” in 1757. It became a rallying call for revenge against both the French and Indians.

A. Misunderstanding between French Major General Montcalm and his Indian Allies
The terms [by which the British could leave Fort William Henry] so honorable by European ... [standards] were not only alien to...Montcalm’s Indian allies, but had been negotiated...without consulting them....When it became clear that the man whom they called “Father” [Montcalm] intended to...deprive them of the reward they had earned [**captives, plunder**, **and trophies**], most of the warriors decided...to take what they had come for, and then to leave. And that was exactly what they did.

B. “Horrid Scene of Blood and Slaughter”
“…the savages still carrying away Officers, privates, women and children, some of which later they kill’d & **scalpt** in the road. This horrid scene of blood and slaughter **obliged** our officers to apply to the French Guard for protection. Which the[y] refus’d…”
(Up to 1500 were killed reported witnesses to Fort Edwards)
Colonel Joseph Frye (leader of the Massachusetts Militia)

C. What happened to the 2308 British soldiers plus American militia from Fort William Henry and their 500 women and children on August 10th when they left the fort

Killed	Taken Captive	Took Refuge with the French
185	300–500* * of whom all but 200 were ransomed by the French	300–500

Guiding Questions:

4. How did the “massacre” at Fort William Henry affect the attitudes of British colonials toward Indians and towards the French?

Guiding Questions:

1. Why were the Indians on the French side angry after the surrender of the fort?

2. What did the Indians on the French side to the soldiers as they left the fort?

3. How many British and Americans died or were taken prisoner by the Indians?