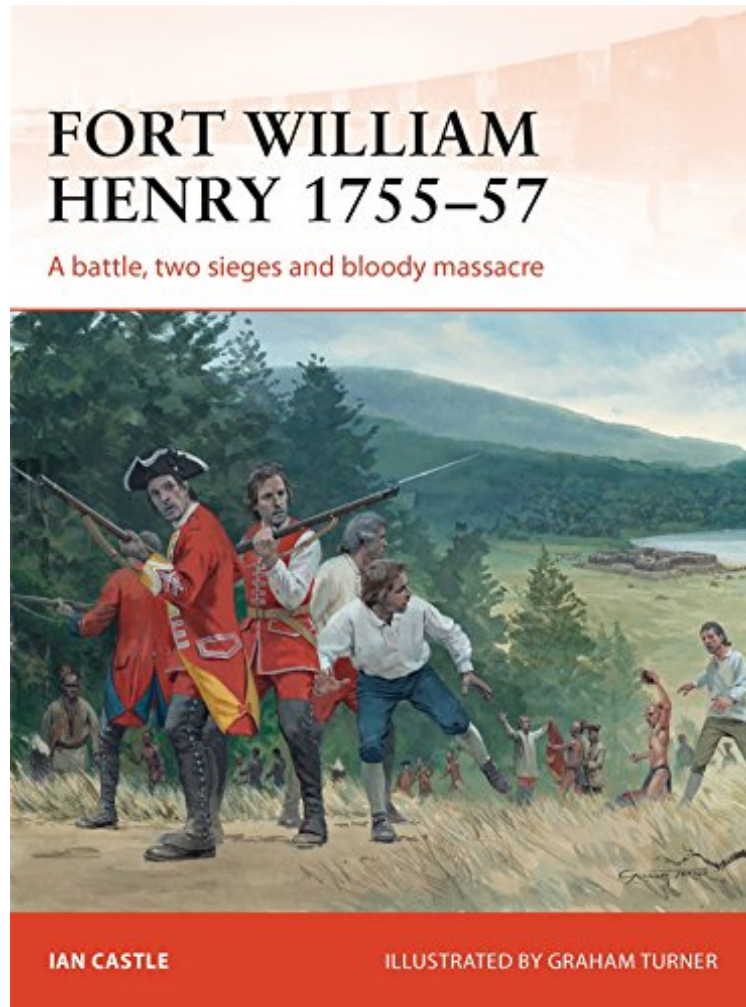


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Ian Castle

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Ian Castle : Fort William Henry 175557: A battle, two sieges and bloody massacre (Campaign) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fort William Henry 175557: A battle, two sieges and bloody massacre (Campaign):

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. The French and Indian War at Fort William Henry By Steven Peterson Another fine entry in the Osprey "Campaign" series. Have you ever watched "Last of the Mohicans"? Then you are looking at a fictionalized view of the battles depicted in this volume. And the reality is quite different from the movies. Think of the Daniel Day-Lewis version and the massacre of the British troops and the death of Colonel Monro. Forget it. Monro survived the battle only to die in Albany in 1758. Most of the British troops were able to get to safety

at Fort Edward. French troops and General Montcalm himself helped many British to survive the massacre. At any rate, the book covers several issues--the Battle of Lake George, two sieges of Fort William Henry, and the bloody aftermath of the British surrender (while most of the British lived--many did perish). It is a story of the failure of the British to plan adequately for the conflict in New York. It is also a story of the French forces using personnel at its disposal--from regulars to Native Americans to militia. Montcalm's force available at the second siege of Fort William Henry was much larger than anything available to General Webb and Colonel Monro. The book is filled with many illustrations and some key maps that work well for the reader (sometimes, Osprey maps can confuse as much as illuminate). This slim volume provides the interested reader with a coherent and accessible account of the struggle for Fort William Henry. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A level-headed account without hype... By HMS Warspite

The siege of Fort William Henry in 1757 has come down to us through the filters of James Fenimore Cooper's dramatic 1826 novel "The Last of the Mohicans" and an even more vivid 1992 movie, both making much of the Indian massacre that followed the siege. Ian Castle's "Fort William Henry 1755-1757" is a carefully written account that puts the siege and massacre in fact-based context. This Osprey Campaign Series entry follows the usual format, with an introduction, chronology and discussion of the opposing commanders and armies. The bulk of the narrative follows the campaign season of 1755 in what is known as the French and Indian War, proceeding to the two sieges of Fort William Henry and its capitulation in August 1757. Castle's analysis makes clear that the French outfought the British around Lake George over the period in question. French commanders make excellent use of their limited resources of regulars, Canadian militia, and allied Indian tribes against their clumsy and less experienced opponents. Ironically, the one clear British victory in the period, the Battle of Lake George, was gained by William Johnson, a businessman and Indian agent with no military experience, who used just such a combination to hold a good defensive position against a French attack. "Fort William Henry 1755-57" is clearly written and easy to follow. Castle cites a variety of period accounts. The narrative is enhanced by an excellent selection of maps, period and modern illustrations, and photographs. Especially interesting are a series of photographs of re-enactors in period costume and equipment. Castle's analysis is even-handed, especially of the notorious massacre. Highly recommended as an excellent introduction to a key event of the French and Indian War. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating history of a landmark event in American history and culture. By Walter Lee Campbell

Covers a battle, two sieges and a legendary massacre of prisoners during the seven years war in the Lake George area of New York State. I would highly recommend this to anyone interested in colonial history or the cultural roots of European relations with Native Americans. the contrast between Montcalm's management of logistics, conduct of a formal siege, and relations with indigenous allies with John Burgoyne 's is stunnin. this book picqued my interest in visiting a region where my family camped when I was a toddler.

This book details the French and Indian War massacre by Iroquois of British and colonial troops in the Hudson River Valley that was fictionalized in *The Last of the Mohicans*. After the British garrison of Fort William Henry in the colony of New York surrendered to the besieging army of the French commander the Marquis de Montcalm in August 1757, it appeared that this particular episode of the French and Indian War was over. The spirited defence by Lt. Col. Munro of the 35th Regiment secured the British and Colonial troops the full honours of war, allowing them to march away with colours flying. What happened next became the most infamous incident of the war - the 'massacre' of Fort William Henry. As the garrison prepared to march for Fort Edward a flood of enraged Native Americans swept over the column, unleashing an unstoppable tide of slaughter. The incident forms an integral part of James Fenimore Cooper's classic novel *The Last of the Mohicans*. It is this version, later dramatically reconstructed in the film versions of the story, that has coloured our view of the incident to this day. But what really happened? As part of a wide-ranging British strategy, Colonial troops were dispatched to the southern end of Lake George in 1755. At the subsequent battle of Lake George, these troops repulsed a French attack before commencing construction of a fort close by: Fort William Henry. Developments on other fronts in 1756 meant little occurred at the fort that year, but in 1757 it became a focal point for French ambition. Its garrison withstood an initial siege in March, but the French returned in August with a large army, and, following a siege conducted along formal European lines, the British garrison surrendered and marched away - only to be swept up in the most infamous incident of the French and Indian War. Much new research on this campaign - including some fascinating archaeological work - has taken place over the last 20 years and yet, for many, it is still the image created by Cooper's novel that colours our understanding of what happened at Fort William Henry. This new study will update that view.

About the Author Ian Castle has lived in London all his life and balances writing with work in the advertising industry. He has been writing for Osprey for over 15 years. Ian regularly lectures at the National Army Museum in London and is a member of the Airship Heritage Trust. The author lives in London, UK.