All you French and Indian War fans will love this book. The massacre at Fort William Henry, fictionally portrayed in the 1992 movie, ‘the Last of the Mohicans’, is an iconic event of the F&IW. The truth, different than the movie portrayal, is still quite as terrifying. Massacres are hardly a common wargame subject, but sieges are. Fortunately, this book is more than just about the 1757 siege. It addresses the entire campaign and is sufficiently detailed to provide scenarios to keep the wargamer busy for a long while.

The campaign was situated along the Richelieu River/Lake Champlain/Lake George/Hudson River invasion route that connects Montreal to New York City. Fort William Henry was at the southern end of long, narrow Lake George and guarded the portage between that lake and the Hudson. Fort Edward was on the Hudson, only fourteen miles away. However, twenty miles to the north lay Fort Carillon, a French fortress. Except for waterways, the terrain was mountainous and heavily forested. Tracks through the woods could hardly avoid the numerous sites that provided opportunities for ambush.

Montcalm established a formal siege. French guns smashed the fort. Monro’s superior failed to send a relief force. Monro surrendered and received generous terms. His men would be paroled and allowed to march to Fort Edward with their weapons - but no ammunition. Not a cartridge. The natives, thoroughly angry at Montcalm for denying them scalps and captives, fell upon the column and satisfied their blood lust.

This book is a real page-turner. The maps are sufficient to design any number of solo
scenarios. Hughes provides enough detail to easily flesh out a game from ambush in woods or on water to the fight for the fort itself. He provides numbers and types of troops to establish a ‘close enough’ order of battle for many of the engagements. There is enough biographical data on the key players - French, native, British, and American – to incorporate personality into your game. Rarely has a non-wargaming book provided so much for the soloist. And if you just want to read a gripping story, this is a winner!

**The Siege of Fort William Henry: A Year on the Northeastern Frontier**
Westholme Publishing, 2011
337 pages
$28
Fort William Henry 1755–57: A battle, two sieges and bloody massacre (Campaign). Paperback. Ian Castle. First, Hughes does a splendid job of addressing the year and the siege while placing the events in the larger historical context of the F&IW. He also adds a very significant number of details about the principals and the composition and disposition of the respective fighting forces, many, I’m reluctant to say, new to me. All in all, throughout the work, and entirely due to his meticulous explanations, the reader is always comfortable in understanding who is doing what to whom, and why. It was a tough life on the frontier back then and one never knew how or when their end would be met. The only deficiency I would note of this book is a lack of maps other than at the beginning of the book. Fort William Henry on the southern shore of New York’s Lake George was a key fortification supporting British interests along the frontier with French America. Monro and his regiment occupied the fort in the spring of 1757 while Britain planned its attack on the key French fortress at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia. Learning that most of Britain’s military resources were allocated to Louisbourg, the French launched a campaign along the weakened frontier. Language: English. Brand new Book. The Siege of Fort William Henry uses contemporary reports, official documents, private letters, and published memoirs to bring the story of one of the most important events of the French and Indian War to life. Seller Inventory # AAS9781594161926.