

# Attack at MICHILIMACKINAC



Paramount Press

*The Conspiracy-Fort Michilimackinac is a painting by Robert Griffing. It shows Ojibway men discussing plans to surprise the British.*

**T**he Indian uprising that began at Detroit soon spread all across the western frontier as other British forts came under attack. One of the most brilliant attacks came at the Straits of Mackinac.

On June 2, 1763, Captain George Etherington and about 40 British soldiers at Fort Michilimackinac watched as the visiting Sauk Indians challenged the Ojibway to a game of lacrosse in front of the fort.

Although warned by a local fur trader that he should be **suspicious** of the Indians, Etherington ignored the advice. The fort's gates were left open and the soldiers' muskets stood unloaded.

Indian women, who were wearing blankets

on this hot and humid day, watched the game. Several times the ball was thrown over the fort's walls and retrieved. One time after the ball flew into the fort, the Indians grabbed tomahawks, knives, and clubs that had been concealed beneath the women's blankets and attacked.

The Native Americans captured the fort in a matter of minutes. One British trader who watched the attack later wrote, "The dead were scalped and mangled, the dying were writhing and shrieking under the [Indians'] knife and tomahawk." Seventeen Englishmen were killed in the attack.

The North American sent Etherington and his other men to Montreal. The following year, the British army reoccupied the fort.