

George Washington Papers, Series 3, Subseries 3B, Varick Transcripts, Letterbook 15

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Philadelphia, March 1, 1782.

Dear Sir: I am requested by the Superintendent of Finance to make you acquainted with a mode which he has fallen upon to supply the Officers with Cloathing and to explain to you the reasons why it will operate upon the Officers under your command in a manner different from what it will upon those to the Northward.

Our dependance for Officers Cloathing was upon a quantity expected in the ship Marquis de la Fayette from France, but she having unfortunately miscarried, it became necessary to devise other means, as the Officers could not, as formerly, look up to their respective States, they having been called upon by Congress for a sum adequate to the whole expences of the War.

The Financier, unprovided with present Funds, was obliged to seek means of anticipating the Taxes which he might expect to receive in the course of the year. He therefore sought for and found Gentlemen willing to supply the necessary quantity of Goods upon a credit of six months, which were to be delivered at the different places of Cantonment. And in order to enable the Officers to take up and pay for them he gave each Subaltern a Note equal to three Months of his pay and to each Captain and all others of superior rank a note equal to two Months pay, payable in six Months. These Notes the owners of the Goods are to take at their full Value. But there is no obligation

upon any Officer to receive them, or after he has taken them to lay them out with the public Agent. Should he have already provided himself with Cloathing, he may keep his Note, or dispose of it in any manner he may think proper. The foregoing relates to the Officers in the Northern Army.

The Financier proposes furnishing the Officers under your Command with Notes of similar nature, but no Goods will be sent to the southward, as by your information, subsequent to having sent off Majr. Burnet, you had had an opportunity of providing a Quantity sufficient for the supply of your Officers.

As the Notes will be most punctually paid in 6 Months after their date, I would wish you to recommend to the Officers who accept of them, not to part with them but at their real value. Any persons wanting to make remittances to the Northward ought gladly to purchase them up; and those Gentlemen who have connections at this place or at Baltimore may lodge them with their

Friends and Order down the specie or any kind of Clothing or Stores. It is possible, but of that I cannot give an assurance, that specie may be sent to the southward to redeem these Notes at the stipulated time.

I have been thus full upon the subject that the Officers under your command may know that they are put upon the same footing with the Officers in this Quarter, and that measures would have been taken to have sent Goods from hence, had not you, as I have before mentioned, informed the Financier that you had luckily procured a supply upon or near the spot. I am &c³⁵

35. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, March 1, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 22d of Febry enclosing the Proceedings of a Court Martial on James Fury, a Soldier of the 2nd Regt of Jersey, who is sentenced to Death for desertion. I have approved the sentence, without appointing the time for his Execution; should it upon further consideration, be deemed necessary that an example of this kind should be made at the present time, and that the person now under sentence is a proper subject for such an example, you will be pleased to signify the same to me and a Warrant will be made out accordingly; otherwise the punishment may still be remitted.

I had heard thro another channel of the sailing of the Fleet you mention, but am not perfectly satisfied with regard to the supposed object of it, should that be ascertained, or any other movement take place, I shall be glad to be advised thereof as soon as may be, and also whether there is any truth in the Report that Barracks are building in New York and preparations making for the reception of Troops, which would be a strong circumstance to corroborate the opinion that the Fleet is destined to CharlesTown. If the fact is so (that is respecting the preparations) it must be a matter of such public Notoriety, as cannot escape the most cursory or superficial observation. I am etc.³⁶

36. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANCIS MENTGES

Philadelphia, March 1, 1782.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the recet. of your two Letters of 26 Dr. and 9th feby. and to thank you for your care and attention to the Hospital Department. I am sorry that you have had so many difficulties to Struggle with in the execution of that duty, they were the unavoidable consequences of the deranged state of our affairs in that State.

It was entirely owing to my being unacquainted with your having drawn on the Paymaster Genl. that your Bill was protested. I have given orders for its being paid and have acquainted Count Rochambeau therewith.

A small supply of Cloathing is ordered on to you, but should it not arrive before the Hospital is broke up you will take the proper measures to have it Sent on to the Southward.

From your last letter I should suppose the number of Sick at this time to be very small and if the Hospital could be entirely broke up it would be a pleasing circumstance. Those Convalescents who belong to the Northward might be sent by water to the Head of Elk and those of Virginia to the Genl Rendezvous at Cumberland old Court House.

I cannot say I approve of furloughing the Sick when it can possibly be avoided, in general it is so

many men lost to the Service for few of them Join their Corps when recovered. I am &c³⁷

37. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, March 2, 1782.

Sir: I received yesterday your Letters of the 8th and 9th of Feby. and have duly noticed the contents of them.

Altho the first Orders for holding the Court Martial for your trial directed the Court to assemble at West Point, yet by an after Order of the same day (which, I am informed was regularly transmitted from the Orderly Office) permission was given for it, to be holden at West Point, or some convenient place in its vicinity. This was done solely for the greater convenience of all concerned; and I hoped

the spirit of accommodating one another, would have prevailed so far as to have prevented any trouble on that account.

I have written to General Heath to cause Copies of such Returns and Official Papers to be furnished to you, as may be necessary in the course of the trial; by this means the difficulties on that head will be obviated.

It would be a matter of great concern to me, that a practice should prevail of publishing to the World the opinions which are given in Councils of War, as I have always considered the transactions on such occasions to be, under the inviolable sanction of secrecy and honor; however if you judge a Copy of the Minutes of the Council of War, which was held on the 12th

of Sept 1776 essential to your defence, I shall comply with your request; and have given directions to Colonel Varick my Recording Secretary, for that purpose. I am etc.

P.S. I have recd your Letter of the 24 of Feby.⁴¹

To COLONEL CHRISTIAN FEBIGER

Philadelphia, March 2, 1782.

Sir: I have recd. your favor of the 10th. ult. and am happy to find that the Officers had been sensible of the impropriety of the manner and stile of their representation and that the detachment had marched to the southward.³⁸

From the situation in which matters were, I cannot blame you for the prompt execution of Hawkins?³⁹ The necessity of the case, especially in military concerns, must often justify what is in fact an irregular mode of proceeding.

Lt. Colo. Carrington is now here, making arrangements for the regular support of the Quarter Masters department in the state of Virginia and will be down before another detachment can be ready to march; you will therefore I hope have no further difficulties upon that score; And I shall

41. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

38. At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "Necessity must sometimes justify going somewhat out of the regular line of proceeding."

39. Joseph Hawkins, a mulatto soldier in Major Posey's department.

direct the Cloathier General to have three or four hundred suits of Cloathes dropped at the place of General Rendezvous in Virginia, to equip the Recruits as they may come in. The supply can be occasionally kept up. The Cloathing will go to the care of you or whoever may be the superintending Continental Officer and it must on no account be issued but for Continental use.

I wish it were in my power to give you and the Officers remaining in Virginia any immediate hope of Money. The superintendant of Finance is making every effort so to arrange the affairs of his department that he may make regular payments to the whole Army. In order to this he is obliged totally to suspend, for the present, all partial payments. His dependance is upon the compliance of the states with the requisitions of Congress, and the moment they furnish him, either with Money or Money's worth he will commence his payments. We have long struggled with difficulties which seemed almost insurmountable, but I am confident if the Officers will have patience to wait for the operations of the systems which have lately been introduced, that they will no longer have the same reasons of Complaint, that they have formerly had.

You will let me hear from time to time what success you have in recruiting. I am &c.⁴⁰

40. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COLONEL JAMES WOOD

Philadelphia, March 2, 1782.

Sir: I have to reply to your favor of the 2nd feby. With respect to the proposition of the Prisoners, tho' in some instances it might be attended with advantage yet if once the precedent is established the applications of that nature will [it is to be feared] become general and [that] the far greatest part of them would have no other intention but to return to the Enemy especially the British; besides, tho' from the present appearance of things we are not likely to want them as objects of Exchange, the events of War are uncertain and it would not be proper to put them intirely out of our power, however a very good judgment may be formed of the inclinations of many of them and such as fully

evinced a desire of remaining in the Country may be distinguished from the rest and kept with us till the last [for I only want to have something evincive.]⁴²

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

[Philadelphia, March 4, 1782]

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favor of the 16th. ulto.

42. The remainder of this draft is missing. It is in the writing of Benjamin Walker; the words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

and am extremely obliged by the pains you have taken to ascertain the matter respecting the Vessels said to be in the Ice in Lake Champlain. The season is so far advanced without hearing any thing further of the thing, that I imagine it will be too late to make an attempt upon them, supposing they had been caught in the Ice in the course of the Winter: But that no time may be lost, should you, upon the return of the scout, think the measure still practicable, I have written to General Heath to furnish a proper party upon your application, equipped as you shall direct.

Congress have come to some determination upon the Affair of Vermont. I have not seen the Resolve, but from what I hear, it will not be agreeable to the people of the Grants. I am very apprehensive that we shall experience trouble in that Quarter in the course of the approaching Campaign. I am &c.⁴⁸

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, March 4, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 20th. Inst with the several inclosures has been duly received.

I cannot but hope your decision respecting the soldiers under sentence for desertion will be attended with

48. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

beneficial consequences.

It is a fortunate circumstance that the Troops will be recovered from the small Pox at so early a period as will afford time for establishing Discipline and making preparations for the Field before the opening of the Campaign; not a moment should be lost in having the recruits drilled and instructed in their duty as soon as they arrive and in having the Corps as much collected and as perfectly disciplined as the state of the Service will admit. The former discouragements and difficulties arising from the want of Cloathing I flatter myself will be removed and a new Stimulus will therefore be given to the ambition of both Officers and Men. I wish it may also be impressed on them that the Regiments being now on an equality with respect to the Articles received of the public; whatever difference of appearance there shall be discovered in different Corps, must be owing to the superior attention of the Officers and Emulation of the Men, in those Regts. which shall be found to make the most Soldierline appearance; and cannot fail to attract the notice and applaus of their Generals, as well as gain that just preference in the eyes of their Allies which must be extremely flattering to them as Military Men.

To a determination on the objections which Major General McDougall has made to the President and three of the Members of the Court Martial appointed for his Trial, recourse must be had to the *precedent* established on a similar occasion in the trial of General Arnold in which the validity of

Challenges is ascertained. You will be pleased therefore to apply to my recording Secretary Colo Varick, in whose possession I believe the original Paper is for a Copy of it that the present dispute may be decided upon the principles there laid down. I inclosed a line to Colo Varick for that purpose. I am etc.

P.S. I wish you to furnish Genl McDougall with the Copies of such Returns and Official papers as may be necessary in the Course of his Trial.

Your letter of the 24th is just come to hand.⁴⁹

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Philadelphia, March 4, 1782.

Dear Sir: Upon an intimation that the Enemy's Vessels had been caught in the Ice at Lake Champlain in returning to St. John's last Fall, General Schuyler sent a scout of Indians to ascertain the fact, and I had determined, had they returned in time with a favorable report, to have attempted the

destruction of the Vessels. Not having yet heard any thing more of the matter, I have little doubt but it will be too late to make the attempt, supposing the situation to have been as represented. But as I

49. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

would wish not to have missed an opportunity of striking a stroke so very detrimental to the Enemy, I have desired General Schuyler to communicate his information to you, and if the thing should be deemed yet practicable to make you acquainted with the strength of the party necessary for such an operation and with the manner in which it ought to be equipped. You will give the Officer such instructions as shall be concerted between General Schuyler and yourself. I am &c.⁵⁰

[MS.H.S.]

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, March 4, 1782.

Sir: In reply to your Letter of yesterday I have to observe; altho I am not so particularly acquainted with the different uses and conveniencies of different kinds of Water Craft, as to able to judge with accuracy of their respective utility from my own knowledge; yet from the reasons you have given, I am induced to believe that the advantage of Pettiaugers over Batteaux and Flat-bottomed Boats, in certain services will more than counterbalance the difference of expence, and that it would be expedient for them to be made use of in the manner you propose, at West Point and Kings Ferry.

50. In the writing of George Augustine Washington.

I am also of opinion, that all things considered, it will be a saving to the public in the end; to raise a Company of Watermen, for the purposes you suggest, to be employed under the care of an active, faithful, and skilful Superintendant, who shall be immediately responsible for the preservation and repair of the Boats in Ordinary use as well as others. That measure will therefore meet the approbation of Sir Your etc.⁵¹

To MAJOR DE GENTON DE VILLEFRANCHE⁵²

Philadelphia, March 4, 1782.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 24 feby. inclosing the Several plans therein mentioned and I beg you to accept my thanks for your Services in constructing the Several Works on the Mohawk River.

Your representation respecting your Rank and claim of promotion is also come to hand. I am very sensible of the Zeal, professional knowledge and Activity you have shewn during your Services in this Country and should be happy in contributing to your advancement; but it is a matter in which I have not in the least interfered those Gentlemen of your Corps who have obtained promotion owe it intirely to

51. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

52. Jean Louis Ambroise de Genton, Chevalier de Villefranche, major of Continental Engineers.

their good fortune in having assisted at a successful Operation and to the representations which were made to Congress by General Du Portail in consequence thereof.

That you had not the good fortune to share in that success was not your fault; nor can the Minister of France or any other person on that account take up any Idea injurious to your reputation as an Officer. Your Character in the Army will always command such Testimonials as will not only remove every such Idea but will in France give that just Value to your Services which they Merit. I am &c.⁵³

CERTIFICATE TO CAPTAIN ALLEN McLANE

Philadelphia, March 5, 1782.

Captain Mc. Lane having informed me that he and some of the Officers who acted under him have had suits brought against them for the seizure of Horses and sundry Articles of provision near the lines of the Enemy while they had possession of this City. I think it but Justice as well as my duty to declare that from the Month of November 1777 untill the evacuation of this City in June following Capt. McLane commanded a Body of Light Troops upon the Lines and that his Orders particularly were to stop all improper intercourse between the City and Country

53. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

and to seize supplies of every kind going from the Country to the City; in doing which, I was not only authorised by the usage and custom of War but by virtue of Resolves of Congress passed specially

for that purpose. And I do further certify that to the best of my knowledge Capt. McLane made no improper use of the powers with which he was vested but confined his seizures intirely to the objects of his Commission.

[N.Y.H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Philadelphia, March 7, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 5th Inst has just come to hand. Exclusive of the objection I have, to the establishment of a precedent, for granting Passports to Citizens, without the interference of the Civil Authority of the States to which they belong, I think, the circumstance of my deviating from a fixed Rule, might in the present instance, be an occasion of suspicion to the Enemy and frustrate the ends you have in view. I cannot therefore consider it adviseable or consistent with the line of conduct I have adopted, to grant the Passport in question, but I have written to Governor Livingston on the subject, and doubt not if there are

no particular reasons of policy operating against it, that the business will now be put in an easy and proper train of execution.⁶³ I am etc.⁶⁴

INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, March 8, 1782.

Sir: You will proceed with all convenient dispatch to Fort Pitt, the object of your command, and you will take such measures for the security of that post and for the defence of the Western Frontier as your Continental Force combined with the Militia of the neighbouring Country will admit of. Under present appearances and circumstances, I cannot promise any further addition to your

63. Forman's application was for a passport for "Mrs. Provoorst" to go into New York City. She was to be accompanied by a gentleman through whom Forman expected to obtain valuable information and who would also "Establish a line of intelligence."

64. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

regular force, than a proportion of Recruits for the Virginia and Pensilvania Regiments which are already upon the Western Station, consequently offensive Operations, except upon a small scale, cannot just now be brought into contemplation. You may however still continue to keep yourself informed of the situation of Detroit and the strength of the Enemy at that place.⁶⁸

With respect to the subject of the Letters which you have lately received from Colonel Gibson, I can only repeat what I have said to you personally: You must endeavour to convince both Officers and Men, that measures are actually taking to put them upon such a footing with regard to their provisions, Cloathing and pay, that it is to be hoped they will e're long have no reason to Complain. They will have already found the difference between the past and the present mode of obtaining Provisions and Cloaths, and they cannot therefore doubt, that the only remaining difficulty, which is on account of Pay, will be removed as soon as the Financier can reap the advantages of the Taxes for the current Year, which are but just laid and cannot therefore come yet into use. The Officers and Men must on a moments reflection be convinced of the Wisdom of applying the public Money in hand, to procuring Victuals and Cloaths, they cannot be dispensed with even for a day, and when both are assured that, Certificates of pay due to the first of the present Year, will be given with Interest, and that pay thence-forward will be more regular, and as frequent as the public Treasury will admit, they ought to be satisfied.

68. In a very brief note, dated March 7, Washington ordered Lieutenant Colonel Wuibert to Fort Pitt to take orders from Irvine. The draft of this note is in the *Washington Papers*.

Should the Troops composing the Western Garrisons be discontented with their situation and think that they are partially dealt by, you may make them an offer of being relieved and of taking their chance of the emoluments which they may suppose accrue to those serving with either the Northern or Southern Armies, there may be policy in this offer, because, if I am not mistaken, most of the Men who have connections in the upper Country would rather remain there at some disadvantage than be brought away from their families.

You will make such arrangements, as shall comport with the above Instructions, and the strictest principles of (œconomy with General Knox and the Quarter Master General respecting Military and other Stores necessary for the posts under your Orders and will I am persuaded use every means in your power to prevent any waste or embezzlement of them.⁶⁹

[H.S.P.]

***To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE**

Philadelphia, March 10, 1782.

Sir: If your application is not to Congress, directly, I think it had better pass through the hands of the Secretary at War,

69. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

than mine, because the⁷⁴ enquiry into your conduct was instituted in consequence of an Order of Congress and was once before the board of War; and because your coming to this place was by no order of mine, and⁷⁵ the necessity of it unknown to me. The Accts. will, no doubt, be referred to the board of treasury or Auditors for Settlement, and for such⁷⁶ information respecting the necessity of your coming to this City, and continuance in it after the Sentence of the Court was approved, as you alone can give. I am etc.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX AND GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Philadelphia, March 11, 1782.

Whereas a proposition was made by me on the 6th. day of December last to General Sir Henry Clinton

74. The autograph draft has been altered in several places by Tench Tilghman. This first sentence as changed by him reads: "If your application is not to Congress, directly, it must be through the Secretary at War agreeable to a Resolve of Congress. The enquiry Etc."

75. Tilghman here inserts the word "consequently."

76. Tilghman here crossed off the words "for such" and substituted the word "the."

to the following effect "That Commissioners mutually appointed should meet at such time and place as might thereafter be agreed upon for the purpose of obviating all difficulties in exchanges; for liquidating the expenses of maintaining prisoners, and for making solid arrangements for providing

for them in future" which proposition was acceded to as will appear by letters from him the said General Sir Henry Clinton bearing date the 2d. and 23rd. of January last.

In order to carry the said proposition into effect and to make the most liberal, permanent and extensive provision for the exchange release and accommodation not only of prisoners of War but of Citizens who by the fortune of War may fall into the hands of either party.

You Brigadier General Henry Knox and Gouverneur Morris Esqr. are hereby appointed and authorized to meet such Commissioners as shall come duly authorized on the part of His Excellency General Sir Henry Clinton at Elizabeth Town in the State of New Jersey on Friday the 15th. day of this Month or at any other time and place afterwards to which it may be thought proper to adjourn; with them to treat, confer, determine and conclude upon a Cartel or Cartels either general or special stipulating for the subsistence, safe keeping, exchanging, liberating and better treatment of all *land* prisoners of War in such manner and on such terms as you may judge expedient and beneficial to the United States: to take such measures for the liberation of Citizens who have not been captured *in Arms* as may seem expedient,

or to negotiate any separate treaty concerning such Citizens for the mutual prevention of any future Captures; provided such Cartel, Cartels and agreement establish Rules for the similar treatment of Prisoners of War and Citizens captured by either power in all cases whatever. You are likewise authorized and empowered to liquidate and settle all past accounts respecting the maintenance and support of Prisoners of War or of the Prisoners under the Convention of Saratoga; and whereas numberless inconveniencies and distresses have mutually arisen and happened for want of some permanent establishment for subsisting, safe keeping and exchanging Marine Prisoners, I have by letter of the 26th. of February last proposed to His Excellency Robert Digby Esqr. at present commanding His Britannic Majestys Ships of War upon the American station, to send Commissioners at the time and to the place before mentioned properly authorised and empowered to treat, confer, determine and conclude upon a Cartel for the exchange and accommodation of all persons in the Naval Line. Should therefore Commissioners come properly authorised and empowered by him the said Robert Digby Esqr. or other senior Officer commanding His Britannic Majestys ships of War upon the American Station, you are authorised and empowered to treat, confer, determine and conclude upon, with them, a Cartel or Agreement either general or special for the subsisting, safe keeping, and exchanging all Marine Prisoners of War; provided such Cartels or Agreements establish Rules for the similar treatment of marine Prisoners captured by either

power in all cases whatever.

For all which this shall be your Warrant and your engagements being mutually interchanged shall be ratified and confirmed by me.⁷⁸

INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX AND GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Philadelphia, March 11, 1782.

Gentlemen: The powers of equal date herewith authorise you to proceed to Elizabeth Town in the State of New Jersey in order to meet Commissioners on the part of the enemy on Friday the 15th inst for the purposes in the powers fully recited.

You will consider the settlement of accounts, for the subsistence of Prisoners of all descriptions from the commencement of the War, to ; obtaining payment or security for the payment of the large Balance which it is presumed was due to the United States at that period, and establishing some certain arrangements or the regular payment of the subsistence of Prisoners from that time forward as the principal objects of your Commission.

78. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

From the want of an appointment of a Commissary of Prisoners, untill some time after the commencement of the War from the variety of hands to which the charge of prisoners was committed, and from the little attention which was for a long time paid to the Sums expended for their support, I fear, it will be difficult for you to collect the materials necessary to form an account sufficiently accurate to satisfy yourselves, or to gain credit with the Commissioners on the part of the enemy: And it is also probable, that the accounts, which will be produced by them, will be alike subject to many objections for want of proper Vouchers and other causes. You are therefore at liberty, if you find no probability of being able to make a regular settlement, to compound the matter, by fixing upon such a sum as shall appear to you reasonable, which sum shall, upon payment, be looked upon as a full and final discharge of all demands on the part of the U.S. from the commencement of the War to the time which you shall specify. You are then, in Order to prevent all future disputes, to determine, of what a Ration for the support of a Prisoner of War shall mutually consist; the value of that Ration not only in whole but in its component parts; what Vouchers shall be esteemed mutually valid, and obtain and give proper assurances for the regular monthly, quarterly &c. payment of the balances as they may respectively become due.

Before you proceed to the negotiation of exchanges, you will pay due regard to the Resolve of Congress

of the 23rd. of February last (with Copy of which you are furnished) which authorizes the exchange of Lieut. General Earl Cornwallis only, upon certain conditions therein specified. By the word *liberated*, in the Resolve referred to, it is not to be understood, that Mr. Laurens is to be given up without any equivalent; At what the enemy will rate him is uncertain. Congress once offered a Lieutenant General for him, and if the same should be demanded now and insisted upon, you are at liberty to comply. If circumstances should render the exchange of Lord Cornwallis impracticable, the respective Commissaries of prisoners may proceed to the exchange of other Officers; and if the enemy should persist in their resolution of detaining a certain number of our Officers of Rank as a counter security to our detention of Lord Cornwallis, it may be submitted to, upon the following principle, that it will be better for four or five Gentlemen (the number who will be involved) to remain in Captivity, than the whole; amounting to considerably above one hundred.

In compliance with a Resolve of Congress of the 20th. of Decemr. last (Copy of which and some papers relating to it you have herewith) you will enter into a discussion with the British Commissioners upon the Powers and conduct of the Board of Directors to the associated Loyalists in New York, and you will endeavour to devise some means for the prevention of that kind of depredation which is complained of. On this subject you will do nothing conclusive, but report to me the substance of the measures which may have seemed to the British Commissioners and

yourselves most likely to answer the end.

I recommend to your particular attention, the case of one Summers a native of Pennsylvania taken in 1778 and yet detained upon Long Island notwithstanding every reasonable offer has been made to procure his exchange; the Commy. of Prisoners can inform you fully of his situation and circumstances.

Should you enter into either a general or special Cartel you will endeavour to stipulate that, in future, Citizens not in Arms shall not be considered as subjects of Capture, but in particular cases; such as for instance, for Guides; for intelligence, and such like purposes; that they shall be well treated and discharged after the ends for which they were captured are answered.

Should the Admiral accede to my proposition of sending Commissioners to meet you on the subject of the treatment and exchange of Marine prisoners, you will endeavour in the first place to obtain a change in the mode of keeping our seamen confined. The daily complaints of the miseries incident to confinement on board prison ships will authorise you to remonstrate warmly on that Head and

to insist upon an alteration of conduct. In respect to the support and mode of payment for the subsistence of seamen you will be guided by the instruction relating to the Rations of Soldiers.

You are acquainted with the difficulties under which we labor as to the means of procuring the exchange of the

American seamen who fall into the hands of the enemy. It but rarely happens that those captured by private Vessels of War are given up to the Continental Commissaries; some are taken into our service, many escape thro' negligence, and therefore it is that the Balance of Marine prisoners has been generally greatly against us. The mode proposed by Admiral Digby, of giving up Land prisoners for seamen, is altogether inadmissible. It would prove a constant source of reinforcement to the enemy. Under present circumstances, I do not see that you can come to any final determination upon the mode of exchanging or liberating seamen; should Commissioners meet you on that subject, you will, in conjunction with them, form a plan which may be deemed mutually equitable and convenient and report upon it.

You have herewith the Copies of the letters which have passed between the British Genl. and Admiral and myself upon the subject of your Commission. The superintendant of Finance will furnish you with materials for stating our Claims for subsistence of prisoners so far as he has been able to obtain them; And the Commissary of Prisoners will furnish you with any Official papers which may be in his possession and which may be found necessary to the accomplishment of a general or special Cartel.

Since the above I have been furnished by Congress with a number of representations respecting the treatment of our Marine prisoners. I have thought it proper to put them into your hands, that you may make the necessary use of them.⁷⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Philadelphia, March 12, 1872.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your several letters of the 23d. 27th. and 28th. ulto and 5th. and 6th. instants.

I approve of your having sent a detachment to possess the Huts of the Connecticut State Troops, untill a Body of Militia could be again assembled for that purpose. I am glad to hear that the greater part of the Stores have been removed from Claverack, and I will see that means are provided to comply with General Schuylers promise of pay to the Militia who guarded them.

Supposing that all possible care has been taken to make an equitable arrangement of the Subalterns of the Massachusetts line, I approve of it, and desire it may be published accordingly.

General Pattersons information respecting the Indian Chief, is yet so vague, that there is no coming to any determination upon it. He may desire his Friend to prosecute

79. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

the enquiry, and if he finds there are good grounds to believe the Indian sincere, measures may be taken to bring him over.

I perceive you had not, upon the 27th. ulto., received Mr. Morris's letter explaining the reason of the Contractors charging a seeming advanced price upon the Officers extra Ration of Rum. But as you must have gotten it since, I shall say no more upon that subject. I cannot conceive how any difficulty should arise upon the prices of the other Articles, which are expressly specified in the Contract. Lord Stirling appears not to have had a Copy before him, as the prices, at which he says the Articles were to have been furnished, do not agree with those stipulated in the Contract, extracts from which I inclose. The Officer is upon the safe side. He draws his Rations, and if the Contractor charges more than he is intitled to do by his agreement, the appeal will go to the Superintendant of Finance, who will oblige him to do justice.

Those Artificers who, by the terms of their engagements, are to have an addition to the common Ration, must undoubtedly draw it; and it will lay with the commanding General to order an addition to Fatigue Men or to those upon extra duty when he sees occasion.

I am pleased to hear of the several partizan strokes upon the enemy's light Corps. It is a spirit which I would wish to see encouraged. You will be good enough to present my thanks to the Officers concerned. I have had information

similar to Capt. Prays thro' other channels, and have communicated that and the several matters contained in your last letters to Congress. I am &c.⁸⁰

To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG

Philadelphia, March 12, 1782.

Sir: The Adjutant General informed me some little time ago that you had written to him to know whether you were to go on to the southern Army or remain in Virginia. I desired him to acquaint you that you should remain there 'till further orders.

By a late letter from his Excellency The Governor I find that a Bill has passed for recruiting the Line, and as there cannot be at present any command for you in the southern Army, you cannot be so well employed as in superintending the recruiting service, which I desire you will undertake. I write to Colo. Febiger,⁸¹ who formerly had the direction of that business, to take his orders in future from you. The recruiting Law having been mislaid, I cannot proceed to point out your line of conduct particularly; I can only recommend a strict conformity to the Law, and make an

80. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

81. A draft of this brief note to Colonel Febiger, dated March 12, is in the *Washington Papers*.

earnest request that the Recruits may be drawn to the place of General Rendezvous as *soon as possible* after they are raised; [for want of which heretofore, the Men after they were raised, have] been [dissipated and lost to the injury of the Service and burthen of the State].

I had directed three or four hundred suits of Cloathes to be sent to Colo. Febiger; You will upon their arrival receive them and see them carefully and properly distributed, [and regular accts. kept thereof]; should your success in recruiting be rapid, a further supply can be forwarded.

Lt. Colo. Carrington will, before he leaves town, make the necessary arrangements for the support of whatever post may be fixed upon for the General Rendezvous, which will remove many former difficulties.

You will inform Major General Greene of the duty which you are upon. You will acquaint him from time to time of your proceedings and take his directions for the manner of forwarding the Recruits; and for any other matters respecting the arrangement of the Line, as it falls under his immediate command. You will only observe that a proportion of the Recruits are to be reserved and destined for the Regiment of the state which is at Fort Pitt.

You will also keep me advised of your progress in the business upon which you will be employed. [I shall expect these advices once a fortnight by Post.] I am &c.⁸²

82. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX AND GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Philadelphia, March 13, 1782.

Gentlemen: Messrs are delegated by the Merchants of this City to apply a sum of Money which has been raised by subscription to the relief of the Marine Prisoners in New York belonging to the Port of Philada. They are directed to consult you upon the most proper and efficacious mode of answering the benevolent intentions of the subscribers. The Gentlemen do not propose going themselves into New York. The Business may possibly be negotiated through the British Marine Commissary. I am
&c.⁹⁰

90. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX AND GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, March 14, 1782.

Gentlemen: I inclose to you, an Extract of a Letter of the 7th. Inst. from Sir Henry Clinton, by which it appears, he had for certain reasons, thought proper to nominate different persons for Commissioners from those he had first named; and that he wished to postpone the time of the meeting untill the 10th of April; I have written to him respecting the inconveniences which will be occasioned by delaying the meeting, and have proposed that his New Commissioners should meet you at an earlier day. That Letter I request you will cause to be forwarded; and at the same time, that you will address him on the same subject, in order to your determining the expediency of waiting their arrival or returning as soon as you shall receive an Ansr from New York.

I have sent you also under cover, a Copy of Admiral Digby's Letter of the 5th which you will observe he has only partially acceded to the proposal I had made to him. With great regard etc.⁹³

93. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To COLONEL RICHARD BUTLER

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, March 14, 1782.

Sir: I have duly received your favor of the 4th. and also, (in the absence of General Irwin) the Letter of the same date addressed to him.

I am sorry to hear the success of the recruiting service is not so great as could be wished or reasonably expected. I have reiterated the direction before given to Col Humpton, to have the recruits as soon as may be assembled at Carlisle, and I am informed there will be two Hundred Suits of Cloaths, with an equal number of Arms and accoutrements, ready to be forwarded to the same place in a few days; Instructions are also given to the Quarter Mastr Genl to have Carriages and Camp Equipage provided for the Detachment as soon as may be necessary for the movement; he will likewise make arrangements with Col Carrington the Depy Quarter Mastr for the Southern Army (now in this Town) for the accommodation of the Troops in the March.

I wish every exertion may be made to augment the detachment to the greatest possible number, and to put it upon the most respectable footing. But from a consideration of the present circumstances, I would not have the Troops move untill you receive further Orders, in the mean time, nothing should

retard the preparations, or prevent their being held in the most perfect state of readiness for a Movement. I am etc.⁹²

To CAPTAIN BARTHOLOMEW VON HEER

Philadelphia, March 14, 1782.

Sir: I yesterday desired you to have as many of your troop as you could equip and mount at Burlington in New Jersey by Tuesday next. I now repeat it, with a further request that they may be punctual, as I propose setting off from hence on Wednesday Morning; should you find that they cannot be there at the time abovementioned, you will let me know it beforehand. I am etc.⁹⁴

To CAPTAIN ISAAC CRAIG¹

Philadelphia, March 16, 1782.

Sir: Brigr. Genl. Knox having laid

92. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

94. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

1. Captain in the Fourth Continental Artillery. His majority ranked from October, 1781; served to June, 1783.

before me the respective claims of Capt. Porter² and yourself signed by each of you, I am of opinion, from a consideration of all circumstances, that Captain Porter is entitled to that Rank in the Line of Artillery, which the Board of Officers appointed to arrange it, conferred upon him. I am etc.³

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Philadelphia, March 18, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 20th. of February, by which, I am surprised to find that my letter of the 1st. of November from York in Virginia, in answer to yours of the 22d. of May and 7th. of October last, had never reached you. I take the liberty of inclosing a Copy of it.

You will perceive by a Resolve of Congress of the 19th. of December last, of which I inclose you a Copy, that after the arrangements of the Campaign are made, it will lay with the Secretary at War to nominate the General Officers for service, and to give them the necessary notice. You may therefore expect to hear shortly from him. Had not General Lincoln been called to Boston, from whence he only returned last

2. Capt. Andrew Porter, of the Fourth Continental Artillery. His majority ranked from April, 1781. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in January, 1782, and served to June, 1783.

3. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

evening, the business would have been determined before this time. It will however be settled before I leave town which will be in two or three days.

I return you thanks for your congratulations and kind wishes, and have the pleasure to inform you that our affairs, especially in Europe, wear a most favorable aspect. Our own exertions, in which I

hope we shall not be wanting, seem only necessary to insure us the reward of our toil and labor. I am etc.⁶

[N.Y.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Philadelphia, March 18, 1782.

My Dear Sir: I have your favr. of the 24th. of January and your public and private letter of the 7th. of February. It gives me the more pain to hear of your distresses for want of Cloathing or other necessaries, as you are at so great a distance that you cannot be suddenly relieved, even if we had the means. I am not however without hopes, that should the War be continued to the southward (of which I have my doubts for reasons which I shall presently give) matters will be put into much better train than they have hitherto been. The arrangements made already by

6. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

the superintendent of Finance have been attended with infinite public advantages, and he is extending those arrangements as fast as circumstances will possibly admit. I am sorry to see a jealousy arising from a supposition that there has been a partiality of conduct. I am certain there has been no such intention, and that instead of a charge of having done too little, it will soon be a matter of wonder how Mr. Morris has done so much with so small means. As I know he corresponds with you on the affairs of his department, I shall content myself with saying, that before Colo Cartington leaves town, measures will be taken to enable him to make provision in future, for the ready transportation of Stores, and for the accommodation of Troops moving to the southward. It is agreed that the Elaboratory shall be removed from Richmond to New London.

In my former letters upon the subject, I acquainted you with the reasons which operated against Count de Rochambeau's detaching more than the Legion of Lauzun towards South Carolina, upon your requisition for a reinforcement. Altho' my instructions to you did not mention a power to call upon the Count for assistance, yet I look upon it as implied in my desire to you to correspond with him. The circumstances of the moment must determine whether any or what can be spared by him.

By late advices from Europe and from the declarations of the British Ministers themselves, it appears, that

they have done with all thoughts of an excursive War, and that they mean to send small if any further reinforcements to America. It may be also tolerably plainly seen, that they do not mean to hold all their present posts, and that New York will be occupied in preference to any other. Hence, and from other indications, I am induced to believe that an evacuation of the southern States will take place. Should this happen, we must centre our force as the enemy do theirs: You will therefore, upon the appearance of such an event, immediately make preparations for the march of the Army under your command to the Northward. What troops shall in that case be left in the southern States will be a matter of future discussion.

No other reinforcement went from New York to south Carolina than that of the 400 which had arrived. Letters, which you had not received when you last wrote, will have informed you, that our first intelligences respecting the number of Men embarked were false. With the highest sentiments etc.⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Philadelphia, March 18, 1782.

Sir: As the Season for Opening the Campaign

7. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

now approaches, it becomes necessary that you collect and keep together the Officers and Men of the Regiment under your Command and hold them in readiness to March on the Shortest warning. I must also request that you will embrace every Opportunity the Weather affords to perfect the Regiment in its Discipline and Exercise. I am &c.⁸

To COLONEL RICHARD HUMPTON

Philadelphia, March 18, 1782.

Sir: You will immediately have all the recruits raised for the Pensilvania Line collected at the General Rendezvous and Armed and Equipped for the Field, and as fast as any more are recruited you will have them Collected and Equipped in the same manner.

You will embrace every Opportunity to Exercise and Discipline the recruits and have them held in readiness to March at the Shortest warning. I am &c.⁹

8. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

9. This same letter was sent to the officer commanding the Rhode Island regiment.

To COLONEL JOSEPH VOSE

Philadelphia, March 18, 1782.

Sir: In consideration of the Situation of your private affairs as mentioned in your Letter to me of the 1st Mch and of General Lincolns representation on your behalf I consent to your remaining absent from Camp 'till the 10th. of May but must desire you to be punctual to that time. I am &c.¹²

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Philadelphia, March 18, 1782.

Sir: I have to acquaint you that I propose leaving Town on Wednesday or Thursday next, and as I would wish to have you at the Army as soon as you have made the necessary Arrangements for your Department I must desire you to acquaint me when you think you will be able to follow me. I am &c.¹⁴

12. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

14. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To JOHN MOYLAN

Philadelphia, March 18, 1782.

Sir: I propose leaving Town in a day or two and before I set out I would wish you to acquaint me how far the Army are Supplied with Cloathing what quantity of that Article you have on hand, and what are your prospects for the summer Cloathing. I am &c.¹⁷

To MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS

Philadelphia, March 19, 1782.

Dear Sir: I was yesterday favoured with your Letter of the 11th of March, on the subject of your retiring from service on certain conditions therein Mentioned.

I have without delay referred your application to the Secretary at War; which is now the only proper Channel through which all business of this kind can be negotiated; In two or three days I shall set out for the North River, where I shall expect the pleasure of seeing you in a short time; and in the interim I am etc.²²

17. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

22. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY KNOX AND GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Philadelphia, March 19, 1782.

Gentlemen: Your favor of the 16th. reached me last Evening. I do not see that any alteration is necessary in your instructions relating to Mr. Laurens. From what we yet know, he is not at liberty to leave England and therefore as much a prisoner in fact as before the extension of his limits. I am etc.²³

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Philadelphia, March 19, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored with your several Letters of the 9th and 18th of Febry and 8th. of March. I am much obliged by the particular information you have communicated in them; it is from such reports alone I can be enabled at present to form any judgment of the force which may be calculated upon, for the Campaign.

If you judge it necessary, that the

23. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Officers, who are on the Committee for settling the accounts of the Connecticut Line, should remain in the State after the 10th of April; you are at liberty to retain them. You will also be pleased to direct two Officers to be stationed at the places you mention for the purpose of mustering and superintending the Recruits. Was I not fully convinced of your zeal for promoting this service; I should reiterate (in the strongest language) all my wishes, anxieties and expectations on that subject; but I will confide in your ardor, and activity in doing every thing that is possible to be done, to have the Recruits obtained, collected, and forwarded as soon as possible. I am etc.²⁴

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN CUMMING²⁵

Philadelphia, March 19, 1782.

Gentlemen: I have recd. your favor of the 13th: Inst.²⁶ At the request of Major Barber and Captain Anderson I wrote to the Legislature of New Jersey expressing my approbation of the Exchange which was in Negotiation between those two Gentlemen, but it was upon the following condition, that the consent of all the Officers junior to Capt. Anderson,

24. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

25. Of the Second New Jersey Regiment. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel commandant in February, 1783, and served to November, 1783.

26. Cumming and 12 others signed the protest of March 13 against the proposed exchange. This protest is in the *Washington Papers*.

and who would be affected by the exchange, should be obtained. You have therefore only to make your disapprobation of the measure known to the Legislature should the matter be carried before them. I am etc.²⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD HAND

Philadelphia, March 18, 1782.

Sir: I intend in a day or two to set out to join the Army on the North River and wish you at the same time to forward your Official papers and send on some of the Gentlemen of your Office; but as the Adjutant Generals Department is not yet Arranged you are yourself to remain in Town untill it is compleated or untill you hear further from me. I am &c.

P.S. I could wish your stay in this City may not exceed 12 or 14 days.¹⁸

27. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

18. In an unidentified writing, in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 78, XII, fol. 209. The P.S. is in the writing of Washington.

To COLONEL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Philadelphia, March 20, 1782.

Sir: I have recd. your favour of the 5th. instant accompanied by a letter from Colo Ternant inclosing the Inspection Return of your Legion for the present Month.

When I sent you the order to march the Legion by detachment, to join the southern Army, it was from an apprehension that the enemy intended to reinforce their Army largely in Charles town from Europe as well as from New York; But as that does not appear to be the case, you will remain where you now are, taking every method to get compleatly equipped and ready for service. However, should circumstances make it necessary for Genl. Greene to call upon you for assistance, you will, in such case, look upon yourself obliged to march by detachment without hesitation. You will acquaint Genl. Greene with what I have said upon the subject, and inform him, that for the reasons you have

given me, you would not wish to move until you can carry forward your whole Legion in proper order.

It really gives me pain to hear you so often mentioning a subject in which I cannot interfere for reasons which I have given you at full in my several late letters.²⁹ As to an Officer of Horse, elder than yourself, going to the

29. Armand had complained of having been passed over in promotion.

southward, it will be a thing inevitable should the War continue in that Country. Colo. Moylans own Regiment and the Bulk of the Cavalry are already there, and that Gentleman would certainly have a right to complain should he be deprived of his command.

Measures necessary for the compleat equipment of your Corps, may not go on as rapidly as you could wish, but I assure you every thing that can be done for you, is doing. You know and must make allowance for the embarrassed situation of our affairs. We are just emerging from a mass of confusion and a little time will be necessary to put things in regular order. Believe me to be etc.³⁰

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, March 21, 1782.

Sir: I propose setting out for the North River in a short time, and wish you to detach a Captain and 40 Men of the Jersey Brigade so as that the party may be at Somerset Court House by Monday night next without fail; it will be expedient for them to be furnished with three or four days provision, to provide against any contingency of bad

30. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Weather or unforeseen delay. I am etc.³⁶

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Philadelphia, March 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: You will be pleased to make yourself acquainted as accurately, but with as much secrecy as possible, with the nearest and best Route from Fort Pitt to Niagara. Whether up the Allegany River and from thence thro' the Woods, or by the River La Beuf and along the side of the Lake. You will, in both cases, mention the different distances of land and Water transportation.

The Indians and Traders, who have been used to traverse the Country above mentioned, must be well acquainted with it. In order to deceive those of whom you inquire, appear to be very solicitous to gain information respecting the distances &c. to Detroit. The other matter you may converse upon as if curiosity was your only inducement.

I shall leave town this day to go to the Army upon the North River. Your letters to me may be put under cover to the Secy at War. I am &c.³⁷

[H.S.P.]

36. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

37. In the writing of Tench of Tilghman.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX AND GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Trenton, March 24, 1782.

Gentlemen: I received last Evening at this place, your favor of the 22d. with several Enclosures; it gives me satisfaction to find that you are so soon to proceed upon the business of your commission;³⁹ in the mean time, I propose being at Morris Town on the 26th Inst. where I shall probably have the pleasure of seeing you. I am etc.⁴⁰

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX AND GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Morristown, March 28, 1782.

Gentlemen: I have had intimations, that under the idea of the cessation of Hostilities within certain limits, a number of People intend to come over from New York to our Lines; to prevent all intercourse of this kind is the principal design of this Letter. Sir Wm Howe on a former occasion

proposed that a neutrality should take place to a certain distance from the spot where our Commissioners were to assemble, in order that they might not meet with any interruption

39. Sir Henry Clinton appointed March 28 for the meeting of the exchange commissioners at Elizabethtown.

40. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

in the transaction of their business, from the hostilities and alarms which might otherwise have happened in the Neighbourhood of them. It was upon this principle and for this reason, the present proposal was made on my part; nor was it indeed or could be construed to extend any farther.

It is therefore my particular desire that no Persons coming from the Enemy be permitted to land, except the Commissioners and those immediately connected with them.⁴² And as I think it expedient not only to prevent new Channels of communication with the Enemy from being opened; but as far as practicable to shut the former; I could wish you would take the trouble to inform yourselves of the practice of sending and receiving Flags on the Lines and point out such alterations and regulations as you shall deem proper to prevent the evils which have been complained of, as resulting from too frequent an intercourse with the Enemy.

I have been informed by the Commissary of Prisoners, that the Enemy are preparing to send out a considerable quantity of goods under the sanction of passports granted by me for bringing out Cloathing and necessaries for the use of their Prisoners. This is so contrary to my intention, and may be productive of such ill consequence, that I have sent Col Smith⁴³ to explain the matter to you and to request you will examine the List and signify what Articles should be considered as necessaries and what quantity ought to be permitted to

42. At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "and that no Flags should be suffered to pass or repass, except such as may be employed on the business of the Commission, to which every facility and aid ought to be given."

43. Lieut. Col. William Stephens Smith.

be sent out. Mr. Skinner is directed to give you the necessary information; he will also explain to you the mode which has prevailed of making partial exchanges, this subject I need not recommend particularly, as it is comprehended within the limits of your Commission. I have the honor etc.⁴⁴

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Morristown, March 28, 1782.

Sir: It is long since I have been extremely solicitous to cut off all communication with the Enemy as much as is practicable, and to regulate the affair of sending and receiving Flags so as to prevent all improper intercourse thro that channel; but not having yet been able fully to digest a plan for the purpose (the matter being now before the Commissioners) I can only repeat that it is my earnest wish, that the number of Flags which pass and repass may be as small as possible; and that every attention may be paid to prevent their being abused to illicit purposes. And in the mean time you will consider it as a positive standing Order, that no person coming from the Enemy's Lines in a flag of truce shall be permitted to land or remain on shore, or to go from us into their Lines without

44. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

liberty is first obtained from the Executive of the State, the Secry at War, or myself; And indeed I have made it an invariable rule, that liberty should be obtained from the Civil Authority, previous to my granting passports for any Citizens, or Civil Characters to come within our Lines or go into the Enemy's. I am etc.⁴⁶

***To COLONEL MATTHIAS OGDEN**

Morristown, March 28, 1782.

Sir: The spirit of enterprise so conspicuous in your plan for surprising in their quarters, and bringing off the Prince William Henry and Admiral Digby, merits applause; and you have my Authority to make the attempt; in any manner, and at such a time, as your own judgment shall direct.

I am fully perswaded, that it is unnecessary to caution *you* against offering insult or indignity to the persons of the Prince, or Admiral, should you be so fortunate as to capture them; but it may not be amiss to press the propriety of a propr line of conduct upon the party you command.

In case of success, you will, as soon as you get them to a place of safety, treat them with all

46. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

possible respect, but you are to delay no time in conveying them to Congress, and reporting your proceedings with a Copy of these Orders.

Note: Take care not to touch upon the ground which is agreed to be Neutral, viz from Newark to Raway, and four miles back.⁴⁵

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Morristown, March 28, 1782.

Sir: Upon the application of the Magistrates of Morris County in 1780, soliciting that repairs should be made to the Court House, which had been made use of as a Guard House, and considerably injured by the public service; I gave them encouragement, that the damages would be examined into, and such compensation should be made, as justice required and the state of the public Finance would admit of. I have now to request, that you will cause the damages done by the public to that building to be estimated as equitably as may be, that measures may be taken, whenever the Finances of the Continent will allow of it, to repair the injuries, or make compensation in some other way. I am &c.⁴⁷

45. On the letter sent, which was sold at auction in 1920, is an indorsement by Robert Gilmore that he secured this letter from Louis McLane, then United States Minister to Great Britain, who at one time showed it to the King (formerly Prince William Henry and then William IV, of Great Britain), who had remarked: "I am obliged to General Washington for his humanity, but I'm damn'd glad I did not give him an opportunity of exercising it towards me."

47. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX AND GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Pompton, March 30, 1782.

Gentlemen: Your favor of yesterday's date came to my hands just as I was leaving Mr. Lots⁵⁴ house; your Messenger came on with me to be the bearer of this.

Altho the information I had recd and communicated in my Letter of the 28th that a number of people intended coming over from the Enemy's Lines under the idea of the cessation of hostilities, might not be well founded when it is understood of characters indiscriminately friendly as well as unfriendly to our interest, and its utmost extent may not be well founded; yet I thought there was sufficient ground for taking precautions to prevent an unlimited opportunity for that kind of intercourse, which has ever been considered as greatly detrimental to us. For in the first instance, I know that no Persons could come out except by permission, and in the next place, I was well persuaded that none could obtain permission from the British General or Admiral, who were considered as violently opposed to their interests, and consequently that the greater part of those who should come without any public business, would be sent for illicit or insidious purposes; And on the other hand, it was evident, we could not (after countenancing such communication) on our part restrain the

54. Abraham Lott.

ignorant, the designing, or the disaffected from going to Elizabeth Town and conversing or negotiating any private matters with them without interruption.

Notwithstanding there might be some advantages resulting from the measure at this time, and altho there is less danger of the Enemy's seducing the Citizens of America, than at any former period, yet perhaps there never was an occasion, when the Mischiefs arising from illicit commerce, and improper transferences of property ought to be guarded against more rigidly than at present. I might also mention, that every new interview and channel of intercourse tend insensibly to wear off the sentiments our people formerly entertained of the Enemy, and to substitute different dispositions and passions in the room of them.

These were some of the reasons which induced me to write to you Gentlemen on this subject, and in which it appears to me there is considerable weight; but as you on the spot will be able to judge much better of the propriety of the measure than I can at a distance, and as I have the highest opinion of your judgment, I shall confide very much in your discretion, and that whatever indulgences may be granted Measures may be taken as far as may be to guard against the evils, I had apprehended. I have the honor etc.⁵⁵

55. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

***To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL**

Newbourg,⁵⁷ April 1, 1782.

Sir: Majr. Genl. Heath has made no application for leave of absence. The other parts of your letter (of this date) I shall be better able to decide upon when the reasons and charges which are proposed as the subject of another letter are exhibited. I am etc.

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 1, 1782.

Sir: I received on my way from Philadelphia your favor of the 23d of March respecting the allowance of Servants to Officers in your Department. I have taken the earliest opportunity of communicating to the Secry at War my sentiments on that Subject; and am etc.⁵⁶

57. The headquarters at Newburgh were in what is known as the Hasbrouck House, which had been built by Jonathan Hasbrouck in 1750, who added the western half of it in 1770. Jonathan, who died in 1780, was a grandson of Abraham Hasbrouck, one of the founders of New Paltz.

56. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

***To COLONEL MATTHIAS OGDEN**

Newburgh, April 2, 1782.

Dr. Sir: After I wrote to you from Morris Town, I received information that the Sentries at the doors of Sir Henry Clinton's quarters were doubled at Eight O clock every night from the apprehension of an attempt to surprize him in them. If this be true it is more than probable the same precaution extends tends to *other* personages in the City of New York, a circumstance I thought it proper for you to be advertized of.

It is of great importance that I shou'd know the exact strength of the enemy's Corps in New York and its dependencies, and how they are disposed of. Either of the persons whose names you mentioned to me when I was at your house can, if they are inclined and would be faithful, give very good information in these matters; and it is very much my wish that they should do it speedily and with accuracy.

The list which you, and another which Colo. Dayton sent me sometime ago, were both incorrect as some Corps were inserted that were in the West Indies and others omitted which were known to be here. No man in the Military line, of common abilities and who has access to New York, can possibly be at a loss to know the total number, and the names of the Corps in the department where he himself is. To ascertain

the strength of each, I acknowledge is more difficult; but by no means impracticable with a little address, to accomplish in a short time. To keep me regularly advised of the Enemy's strength, and how it is disposed of; of their reinforcements, and detachments, and of the state of the Kings Ships in and belonging to the Harbour is of great importance, and it is my earnest wish that you would impress this upon the persons in whom you seem to place confidence, urging them to be pointed, regular and accurate in all their communications. No service can be greater than this, if it is well performed; these, with an acct. of the nature and progress of their public works is of infinite more consequence than all the chit-chat of the Streets and the idle conjectures of the Inhabitants respecting the policy and mode of carrying on the War, &ca. I am etc.

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 4, 1782.

My Lord: Having been informed that the Court Martial for the trial of Major General McDougall, whereof your Lordship was appointed President has been hitherto

prevented from sitting, by Challenges having been made to the President and some of the Members of the Court; and finding no Rule established in our service for the determination of the matter; I shall be constrained to submit the decision of the point in question to Congress or a Board of General Officers; but as a reference to the former would occasion considerable delay (if the present prosecution is to be suspended in the interim), and as it would be impracticable at this time, to have a determination in the other mode, by reason of the absence of many of the General Officers; I would take the liberty to propose, whether it might not be for the good of the service (without entering into the principles of the main question at all) for your Lordship to hint a desire of being excused from sitting on the Court Martial. The business might then proceed without farther embarrassment; And this need not be considered as forming any Precedent, or affecting the merits of the matter in dispute in any way whatever; Otherwise I fear some new difficulties may be involved, by the inevitable delay, which will be occasioned before a decision can be had as to the mode of practice in case of Challenges.

I beg your Lordship will favor me with an Answer as soon as is convenient, and believe that I am etc.⁶⁵

65. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING AT OR NEAR STAMFORD⁶³

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 4, 1782.

Sir: You will be pleased to grant Flags of truce to Mr John Lister, Mr. Jacob Hendrickson and Mrs. Jacoba Carman, agreeably to the permission of His Excellency Governor Clinton which will be handed to you herewith. I am etc.⁶⁴

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 9, 1782.

Dear Sir: Colo Trumbull handed me your Favor of the 30th ulto. Mustering Officers for the several rendezvous within the State of Connecticut, will be sent on by Colo Swift, agreeable to your Request.

It will doubtless be for the Benefit of the service to have suitable Officers and Serjeants to conduct the Recruits to Camp; but as no particular provision appears to be made by the Resolutions of Congress, I am at a Loss how the Expencc which will be incurred by this mode, is to be defrayed; unless

63. Maj. Hugh Maxwell.

64. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On or about April 4 Washington granted a passport to Mrs. Francisco Pitner and her daughter, with their baggage, to come out from New York to reside with her brother-in-law, Dr. James Latham. The draft of this passport is in the *Washington Papers*.

it may be comprehended under the general Expression of the States supplying the respective Recruits untill they reach Camp, and the Individual States take it upon this Ground. You will be

pleased to be particularly Careful on this Head. The State of the public Finances requires that we manage them with the greatest œconomy, and the Military Chest can afford no Money for the support of this Expence. I am &c.⁶⁷

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL COMMANDANT JEREMIAH OLNEY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 9, 1782.

Sir: Your two letters of the 26th of Febry and 19th ulto. have been received.

I am so well persuaded of your Care and Attention to the Business committed to your charge, that no Arguments are needfull to press your utmost Diligence.

The Recruits as they are forwarded, may be directed the nearest Rout to peekskill, where on their Arrival, they will report themselves and receive further Orders.

The Time of your comg on to Camp dependg on your Success in Recruitg, and other Circumstances not as yet decided, you will be duly noticed of the period at which you are to join your Regiment. I am &c.⁶⁷

67. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 10, 1782.

Dear Sir: His Excellency has received your Letter of this date by Major Tallmadge, and has given it in charge to me to inform you he has no objection that the Detachment under Major Maxwell should continue at Stamford untill the 25th Inst. by which time he hopes the State Troops will have arrived,⁶⁸ and beyond which, the Troops cannot be dispensed with from their Corps. The Gen desires you will therefore be pleased to give peremptory Orders that they shall return accordingly. I have the honor etc.⁶⁹

To EZRA LUNT

[April 10, 1782.]

Sir: You will upon application from the Regimental Paymasters of the Massachusetts Line, deliver them such Species and quantities of Clothing as shall be directed in General Orders, taking temporary receipts for the same; And when it is finally determined whether the Troops shall receive the Clothing through your hands,

68. The militia had not arrived in any number and the inhabitants of Stamford feared a lack of protection when the Continentals left.

69. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys ADC."

or from the Clothier General, The proper persons shall account to you for what you deliver in consequence of this Order. I am &c.⁷⁰

***To BARON STEUBEN**

Newburgh, April 12, 1782.

Sir: The propositions of Count Beniowsky which you put into my hands for consideration, I have read, and beg leave to observe thereupon, that the utility of his plan for introducing a Legionary Corps of Germans into the Service of the United States of America, depends, in my opinion, upon the Political state of Affairs in Europe, the probability of the Wars continuing, and the mode of conducting it. As also, on the time which will be required to bring this Corps into Action.

Of the first I have not the means of judging, but I think the second is not so problematical as to induce Congress to reject a contract, which with some alterations, and a surety of receiving the Men in twelve Months from this date, may be attended with considerable advantages.

Political considerations must, no doubt, have their influence in determining upon a plan of this nature, and magnitude, and there may be an impropriety in my hazarding

70. A contemporary copy is in an unidentified writing.

an opinion, too pointedly, on the policy of it. but, at your request, and the desire of His Excellency the Minister of France, I shall offer my sentiments on the several articles in the order they stand, in the plan before me.

The expence of 518,000 Levres for raising, cloathing, Arming, equiping, and transporting to America, a Corps of 3483 Men is moderate indeed, but the

First Arte. Is too indefinite, as there is no knowing what may be comprehended under it. and the

Secd. Arte. May, ultimately, make this Corps exceedingly expensive, and I do not think it can, or ought to be agreed to, so far at least as respects the Non Commissiond Officers and private Soldiers.

3d. and 4th. Articles I think reasonable and proper. So is the 5th. Article, if I comprehend the true import of it, viz, that no pay Shall be drawn except for those who are actually in service, and shall appear on the Inspection or Muster Roll's; but to effect this, there must be an assignment of pay to the different grades of Officers, and to the privates, as the 8th. Art. requires a lumping sum for the pay and Subsistance of the whole Legion; and the 9th. a further Sum for the Staff thereof.

Art. 6th. If confined to the recruits which may be necessary to compleat the Corps from time to time (after it is established and in the actual Service of the United States) would be reasonable, and it may be necessary to advance the three

Months half pay for the purpose mentioned; but, if it is intended as a fund for defraying the expenses of the passage of the Legion in the first instance, I do not believe that the present finances of the United States could afford such an advance, or, that Congress would make it, unless the Men could absolutely be insured.

Art. 7th. If Count Beniowsky should be required to help his Legion compleat, and the recruits intended for that purpose should be taken on their passage, he ought, I think, to be allowed full pay for those which are actually taken. Provided a suffit. convoy is obtaind for them; without which the hazard would be too great, as there can be no doubt of an attempt on the part of G. B. to intercept them; and six months to replace them, is as short a time as can well be asked.

Art. 8th. and 9th. Are, in my opinion, inadmissible; because it would be giving a certain quantum of pay and subsistance pr. Month to a Corps which may by Deaths, desertions, and other casualties, be rendered very incompleat; it is, besides, repugnant to the ideas I had conceived of the equity of the 5th. Article, and would have a tendency to place the interest of Count Beniowsky and that of the

United States in opposite Scales; which policy forbids, tho' I am persuaded no improper motives ed. influence the conduct of the Count.

Art. 10th. It would undoubtedly be proper, that the Horses which may be wanted for the Cavalry and Artillery should be provided at the cost of the United States; But I shall add,

in my observations on this Article, that if the Enemy have in contemplations to change their mode of conducting the War, and mean by establishing strong Posts to commence a defensive one by Land, we shall have but little occasion for Cavalry, consequently the number of Squadrons (which are designed to compose the Legion) ought to be reduced, or, which may be still better, an express stipulation made with the Dragoons that they shall act as Infantry, or Cavalry, not only temporarily but permanently, as circumstances may require.

Art. 11th. I think 24 Livres would be a moderate demand for each recruit; but where is the propriety of allowing 50 livres for every Man that is killed? rather than both should be established as a Recruiting fund, would it not be better to encrease the former? To compleat the Legion every Six Months is as often as could be expected; more I fear than would be accomplished.

Arts. 12, 13, and 14th. are quite reasonable and proper.

Art. 15th. How far this may interfere with the expectations of Colo. Armand ought to be considered, as he is not a little tenacious of the rights of the Corps he commands.

Taking the Oaths of fidelity and Allegiance will be the natural consequence of Commissions and employments.

A pressure of other matters would not allow me to be more explicit; the sentiments I have offered are candid and free, tho' they may be a little indigested. With

much esteem etc.

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE SAPPERS AND MINERS AT BURLINGTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 12, 1782.

Sir: Immediately on the Receipt of this, you will be pleased to march with the Corps of Sappers and Miners under your Command to the Garrison of West Point, where you will receive further Orders. I am etc.⁷²

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 13, 1782.

Dear Sir: I send you inclosed a Copy of a Letter which I yesterday received from the Minister of War.⁷⁵

You will be pleased upon its Receipt to convene the principal Officers of the several Regiments, and collect

72. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

75. Secretary at War.

their Opinion how far it will be agreeable to the Army that the Commutation mentioned should take place. I wish to make the Contracts as acceptable and easy to both parties as Circumstances will permit, and hope, from the Characters of the Undertakers, that this Contract will be conducted in such a manner as to give mutual Satisfaction.

The Opinion of the Officers on this Subject when collected, you will be so good as to transmit to Mr. Phelps at Grenville, who wishes to receive an Answer as soon as possible. With Esteem etc.⁷⁶

[MS.H.S]

76. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 14, 1782.

Dear Sir: The inclosed paper, consistg of Copy of a Letter from Mr Morris Copy of the Contract made between the Superintendt of Finance and Mr. Duet⁷⁷ for Supply of the Posts Northward of Poughkeepsie; Extract of Letter from Majr Genl Heath respectg Magazines of Salted provisions to be laid in for supply of sd posts, where necessary, and Letters from Mr Duet on the Subject, I have just received from the Financier with a Request which you will find contained in his Letter.

Your knowledge of those posts which are

77. William Duer, one of the contractors for supplying the Army.

included within the Description of this Contract, is so perfect, and their relative Situation and Necessary provision so intimately known to you, that I take the Liberty to submit these papers to your Consideration, and to request that you will be pleased to make the necessary Determination respectg the Quantities of salted provisions which shall be kept at any of the several posts and the periods to which they shall Extend. And also to agree with the Contractor and fix upon such Compensation as shall be tho't reasonable for the Services which he shall render, in Consequence of your Determination, over and above the Terms of his Contract.

If this Business should prove too troublesome for you to undertake, will you be pleased to fix upon and Authorize some suitable person for the purpose, and your Determination and Argreement in either Case, transmitted to me, will be conclusive and bindg on the Financier.

I am very sorry to give you this Trouble; but the full persuasion I have of your ardent Zeal in and readiness to serve the common Cause, I hope will apologise for the Liberty I take. I am &c.⁷⁸

78. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, Jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 15, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your Favor of the 19th ulto came to Hand as I was on the Road from Phila to this place.

Immediately on my Arrival here, in a Letter I had Occasion to write to the Secty of War, I took the Liberty to mention your Request for Cloathg and Equipments for the Recruits of your Line, and

desired him to send on such Supplies as our Circumstances will admit; you may expect to hear from him on that Subject.

As soon as the Rendezvous at which the Recruits are to be assembled, shall be fixed upon, you will be pleased to point out such active, intelligent Officer or Officers, as may be needed, for the purpose of Musterg, receivg and forwardg them to the places of their Destination, agreeable to the Act of Congress of the 18th Decmbr and assign them to that particular Duty.

The Uneasiness which you mention to have Arisen in your Line on Acco of Pay, Is I fancy, built upon a mistaken Ground no pay havg been lately given to the Troops of any State, from the United States funds; whatever has been given to any of them, has been by the Advancement of their particular States, and even this but in few Instances, and to very small Amount. As soon as the financier shall be enabled

to take up the pay of the Army upon a general Scale, I trust you will find no Occasion for Complaint on the Score of Partiality but every State's Troops will receive their proportions agreeable to his Ability for Payment. I am &c.⁸²

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, April 16, 1782.

Dear Sir: The Fish mentioned by the Secretary at War, are doubtless meant to be those of the Season, as Shad or Herring; whether Salted or fresh I cannot determine, perhaps both.⁸⁷

On the subject of your request for leave of absence, Major General McDugal has so early as the first of this month entered his caveat against your obtaining it; his reasons are assigned in the inclosed copy of his Letter to me; which is transmitted for your observation.

I am unacquainted on what principles or by what Authority the Arrangement of the Captains of the Massachusetts Line has been established agreeable to the List you was pleased to send me. Whatever the principles may have been, I wish the matter may be satisfactorily conclusive and that no further uneasiness may subsist in the Line on account of the disposition of rank. I am &c.⁸⁸

[MS.H.S.]

82. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

87. The fish were proposed by the contractors as a part of the ration. At a meeting of the field officers of the main Army, April 16, it was decided "that it will not be agreeable to the army to receive any fish as part of their rations." This paper is in the Washington Papers.

88. In the writing of George Augustine Washington.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 16, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received a Letter from the Secretary at War respecting the complaints which have been made against the Contractor for the Post of West Point, of which the following is an Extract.

The terms of the Contract prescribe the mode of trial in cases of delinquency; it is wished that your Excellency would be pleased to take the matter up, and give the necessary directions for an Enquiry.

Mr. Sands (who says he is conscious of having in every instance demeaned himself properly) is willing to submit an investigation of the whole business to any impartial persons, not of the Army, who may be appointed for the purpose.

Mr. Morris, who is the Contractor, says it could never be supposed, that an issue of Salt should be made with salted provisions, nor can it be done; so that this will not come under consideration.

Altho the Copies of the Letters and Papers which have passed on this subject, have been transmitted to me; the matters in dispute do not appear to be stated together, in a manner sufficiently explicit to found an investigation upon; it is therefore my desire that the Charges against the Contractor may be exhibited in one point of view, in such a manner, as that the question of Duty

on his part, and of right on the part of the Public, as grounded on the Contract itself, may be drawn into a fair discussion, and ascertained by an equitable decision.

It may not be improper to observe, that, at the same time, it should be the great object, to have the Enquiry instituted on such principles as that ample justice may be obtained for the Troops; No Matters unimportant in themselves, or foreign to the spirit of the Contract should be brought into

disquisition, as any complaints not well grounded must of course recoil upon those from whence they originate.

I need not impress upon you, who are so well acquainted with the matter, the vast Utility of the Contracts to the Public at large, the great advantages which must eventually result to the Army from being subsisted in that mode, and the necessity of putting the execution of it on a just footing. These are objects of such interesting and momentuous consequence to the service, that I shall spare no trouble or pains on my part, to have the business properly adjusted and executed. With great regard etc.

P.S. I have just recd. your favor of the 15th.⁹⁰

[MS.H.S.]

90. In the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 17, 1782.

Dear Sir: The enclosed state of Queries I transmit for your consideration and beg to have your observations thereon as soon as may be convenient; an early period will be most agreeable, as it is impossible for me to say how soon I may be obliged to make use of them. You will be pleased to communicate the same to Major Genl. Howe, and Brigadier Gen. Patterson, that I may also be favored with their opinions on the subject. [Let me add also Baron De Steuben, who I believe is at West Point.]

I have not yet seen the Contract of the

moving Army, but am told by the Gentlemen concerned, that the Places for the Deposit of Magazines, are to be determined by me; as also what are to be deemed the Dependencies of West Point. That I may be enabled to decide on these two points, I shall be much obliged by your opinion and that of the General Officers above mentioned. In giving your sentiments on the former, many contingencies of the Campaign are to be taken into consideration; the latter may be ascertained with precision. I am etc.

PS. It is necessary to premise that, the Contracts for West point and its Dependencies, and the other for the moving Army, are in different persons, which creates the distinction, and the necessity of determining; which I am called upon to do.⁹¹

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 18, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received your three several Letters of Yesterday.

I do not certainly recollect the reports of M Genl Lincoln on his Return from Boston, but have supposed that he took the necessary Measures to forward the recruitg service in

91. In the writing of David Humphreys. The P.S. and also the words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

that State. Indeed this appears to me to be the Case by Majr. Pettingells Letter to you; who says that Lieut Colo Badlam was appointed, by Genl Lincoln's Orders, to supersede him, as Superintendant for that State.

I inclose for your Information, a Copy of the Resolutions of Congress respectg. the recruitg. Service, which were regularly forwarded to Massa. What Resolutions that State have taken on the Consequence, I am unacquainted with; not having been favored with a Line from Govr Hancock since the transmission of the Resolves of Congress.

By the Doings of Congress you will see that the States are to point out the Rendezvous at which the Recruits are to be collected, and that Mustering Officers from the Army are to be sent to muster, receive and forward them. I cannot think that Genl Lincoln has made any Omission in any part of so important a Service; but least any Mistake may have happened. I think it will be very well for you to write to Colo Badlam, and give every Instruction that may be needfull to compleat the Business; the Recruiting Service is a point of too great Importance to suffer any Delay, or to be obstructed by any Impediment in our power to remove.

If Capt Bannister is not retained as a Mustering Officer, I think it will be very well to order him to join his Regiment.

The powder may be removed, under direction of Colo Crane as soon as possible. With much Regard
etc.⁹⁶

[MS.H.S.]

To COLONEL RICHARD BUTLER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 18, 1782.

Sir: I have recd your favor of the 28th. March with its inclosures and now transmit you copy of the General Orders approving the several sentences of the Court Martial held at Carlisle.

I also inclose you a Petition and Letter, which will shew you that application has been made to me in behalf of Harling. I did not however chuse to determine finally on the matter but refer it to you. From a more particular knowledge of the circumstances attending the Affair and of the parties, you will be best able to Judge if Mercy can be extended to the Prisoner without prejudicing too much the public Interest.

I have only to repeat my request that you will Collect Equip and Discipline the Recruits and hold them in readiness to move when circumstances may require it as to the Artillery and Dragoons they ought to be held in readiness, it is probable the whole will move together. I am &c.⁹⁷

96. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

97. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To THE GENERAL AND FIELD OFFICERS OF THE ARMY

April 19, 1782.

The Commander in Chief submits the papers accompanying this, containg the Case of Capt Joshua Huddy⁹⁸ lately hanged within the County of Monmouth in N Jersey State, by a party of the Enemy, to the Consideration of the Genl Officers and Commandg Officers of Brigades and Regiments. And

thereupon requests from them, seperately and in Writing, a direct and laconic Reply to the followg
Queries: Vizt:⁹⁹

1st. Upon the State of Facts in the above Case, is Retaliation justifiable and expedient?

2d. If justifiable, Ought it to take place immediately? Or should a previous Representation be made to Sir Hy Clinton, and Satisfaction demanded from him?

3d. In Case of Representation and Demand, who should be the person or persons to be required?

4th. In Case of Refusal, and Retaliation becomg necessary, of what Description shall the Officer be on whom it is to take place; and how shall he be designated for the purpose?¹

98. Of the New Jersey State artillery, according to the affidavit of Daniel Randolph, Apr. 15, 1782, sworn to before Brig. Gen. David Forman (who was also a judge of the court of common pleas of Monmouth County). He was captured at Tom's River by a body of Refugees on March 24; carried to New York and kept in irons until April 8, when he was put on board a sloop and carried to Sandy Hook and there confined on a guard ship until April 12. On that date Captain Huddy was hanged by the Refugees, who accused him of having killed the Refugee, Philip White. White, by Refugee affidavits, was killed on March 30, while Huddy was a prisoner in irons in New York. The first information Washington received of Huddy's death came in a letter from the Exchange Commissioners, Knox and Morris, at Elizabethtown, April 16, which was brought to the Commander in Chief by General Forman, who brought, also, sundry affidavits respecting Huddy's death.

99. Heath's *Memoirs* state that the officers answered the queries in writing without conversing on the subject, until all the answers had been signed, sealed, and sent to the Commander in Chief. Twenty-five officers sent in their opinions and all 25 agreed that retaliation was "justifiable and expedient." Twenty-two were in favor of a representation to Sir Henry Clinton before acting. It was the unanimous opinion that the leader of the party of Refugees who had hanged Huddy should be demanded from the British and be made the subject of retaliation. The 25 opinions, dated Apr. 19. 1782, are in the *Washington Papers*.

1. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX AND GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 20, 1782.

Gentlemen: I have been favored with your Letter of the 16 of April by General Forman. Convinced, from the state of facts which has been exhibited to me, that justice, expediency and necessity require that satisfaction should be obtained for the Murder of Captn. Huddy; I have in the first instance made a representation to Sr. H Clinton and demanded that the Officer who commanded the Party or if he was not a Captn such a number of Agents in the execution, as are equal by tariff to that rank should be delivered up to condign punishment. In case of refusal, I have formed the resolution that retaliation shall take place upon a British Officer of equal Rank. It therefore remains with the Enemy alone to prevent this distressing alternative; for having² formed my Opinion upon the most mature reflexion, and deliberation I can never recede from it. I have the honor etc.³

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 20, 1782.

Sir: I have been informed that a certain Col

2. At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "confirmed my own Opinion with the concurring sentiments of all the General Officers, Commandg. Officers of Brigades and Corps, I can never recede from it."

3. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Asher Holmes⁴ of Monmouth County has been concerned in making partial exchanges, sending and receiving Flags, giving indulgence to People within the Enemy's lines, and obtaining Paroles in consequence for some of our People in the power of the Enemy; and that when questioned for so doing by the Executive of the State he attempted to exculpate himself by asserting he acted under proper authority derived from your Department. As I know you have frequently made complaints (and not without great occasion) respecting such irregularities; I request to be informed explicitly, whether Col Holmes has received any *authority* from you, or any Person acting under you, and in that case, of what nature, and under what limitations or restriction it was. In order, that if any thing improper has been done, it may be amended; or if otherwise, the report may be refuted.⁵

You will be pleased to collect and transmit to me as early as possible, a List of the Officers belonging to the Enemy's Army who are Prisoners to us; noting particularly together with the Names and Rank, whether they are unconditional Prisoners of War, or under any Convention or Capitulation; and mentioning the Places, at which they are now confined or paroled. This is not meant to comprehend those who are absent from the continent or within the Enemy's Line. I am etc.⁶

4. Colonel of Monmouth County militia.

5. Skinner replied (April 22): "I know not how Colo. Holmes cou'd assert that he acted under Authority from my department in the making partial Exchanges; he has no such Authority from me and I have written to him on the Subject." Skinner's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

6. The draft is in the writing of David Holmes,

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 21, 1782.

Dear Sir: I am this moment favoured with your several Letters of the 18th 19th., 20th. Inst. and of this date.

I approve of your relieving Major Maxwell for the purpose you mention.

I fear you have not received my Letter of: the 16th respecting the Contract, as I do not find it acknowledged in any of Yours, I wish to be informed, and am, etc.¹³

[MS.H. S.]

To OLIVER PHELPS

Head Quarters, April 21, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Favor of the 19th. inst. A variety of Circumstances at present operate to prevent my being able to decide on the places of Deposite for your Salted provisions and as the

Season is at this Time unfavorable for their Movement, I suppose it will be agreeable to you that they rest at the Several places where they are purchased, till I am better

13. In the writing of David Humphreys.

able to give you my Decision.

I have not yet received a Copy of Your Contract, which forms an additional Reason against my Deciding at this Time on the places of Deposite. I am Sir.¹⁴

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have occasion immediately for the sentiments of the General Officers on the question mentioned in a former Letter, viz, what are to be considered the subordinate Posts or Dependencies of West Point?

Respecting the salted Provision of which you enclosed me a survey in your Letter of the 20th, I have to observe, it should be demanded immediately of the Contractors what proportion of it, they will receive from the Public. That which is fit for use should be issued before it is spoiled by the approaching Warm Weather; if there is any remaining so tainted as to be improper to be issued, and yet such as may be applied to some other purposes, it should be disposed of in such manner as will be most beneficial to the Public. That which has become nauseous and is too

14. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

bad for any use, should be buried instantly. I am etc.

P.S. Mr. Elias Hosbrook¹⁷ complains, that after the Army left the White Plains, last Campaign, the Guard under Captain Pray took a large quantity of Cyder belonging to him from Tarry Town, which they refused to deliver to the owner. I wish the matter may be investigated, and justice done in the case, upon his application to you.¹⁸

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 23, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your Favor of the 8th. of Feby was acknowledged in mine of the 18th. of March. I have now received yours of the 9th. Ulto from Ponpon, covrg the Correspondence you have had with the Count de Rochambeau, and a Genl Return of your Army.

Your Apprehensions, in Consequence of the Movement of the Legion of Lauzun, need not be much alarmed *the present Situation of the Enemy in NY I am persuaded will not afford any Reinforcements to your Quarter .*

The Recruits raising in the States from whence your Army is composed, are compleating as fast as

17. Elias Hasbrouck (Hosbrook), colonel of Ulster County militia.

18. In the writing of David Humphreys.

Circumstances will admit and (if needed) will be ready to go on to you as early as *the Operations of the Campaign are decided ; which at present, from a Variety of Circumstances, (among which a Want of Intelligence from Europe is not the least), are held in a State of Uncertainty . The State of Maryland had some Time ago, about 300 Men inlisted, and waiting only for their Cloaths , which have been sent on from Phila. a Number also are collected in Pennsylvania. But untill our Information respecting the Enemy's Intentions, and their future Mode of War is more clearly ascertained; as well as Our knowledge of the Support and Assistance which we expect from our Ally, it may not be well to hasten on the²⁹ Recruits to your Army . You are not insensible of the Disadvantages we have ever experienced in Attempts to Reinforce at your Distance by Land ; it having hitherto proved a Weakening of the Main Army, without any essential Augmentation to yours .*

In present Circumstances, without the Aid of Naval Force and Water Conveyance, your own Experience and the general Knowledge you have of the Country, will readily decide upon the Impracticability of transportg by Land such heavy Stores and Artillery as would be necessary for great Operations. So that you have only to content yourself with such a Force as will be competent to the purpose of confining the Enemy to their Lines, and prevent them from carrying their Ravages into the Country .

I wait with Impatience for intelligence

29. At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "these Reinforcements which at present are allotted."

*which will decide the Intentions of the Enemy, and fix the Operations of the Campaign on our part ; this I hope is not far Distant. I am &c.*³⁰

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN PATERSON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 23, 1782.

Sir: Upon application of the Contractors for supplying the Garrison of West Point &c with Provisions, you will from time to time inform them as exactly as you are able, of the number of Rations that will be required for the Garrison of West Point and the Posts in its vicinity on the eastern side of the River, the Posts of Kings ferry, Dobbs Ferry, Fish Kill, or New Windsor and Newburgh. I am &c.⁴¹

To COMFORT SANDS & CO.³¹

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 23, 1782.

Sir: Having just received a Copy of the Contract

30. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., and has the following note by Washington: "Such parts of this letter as are marked with lines were written in Cypher." These are shown above in italics.

41. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys, and addressed to the commanding officer of the garrison of West Point.

31. Contractors for supplying the Army with provisions.

for supplying the moving Army,³² and conceiving (from what was observed when I saw you and Mr. Livingston³³ together) it will be necessary for the Company engaged in that Contract, as well as for the Contractors for furnishing the Garrison of West Point &c. to be apprised of the particular Troops to be supplied under each Contract on the first of May; I have taken the earliest occasion

of giving you my Opinion fully on that Matter. Previous to which, I think it expedient you should be informed, that it may be difficult and even impossible to ascertain any length of time beforehand with any degree of precision, what the Garrison of West Point, and its dependencies will consist of. The strength of that Garrison must and will vary according to circumstances, or as the general Plan of operations for the Campaign may require; which depends upon so many contingencies, that I cannot possibly take upon me to inform you now, what number of Rations you will have to supply after the Main Army takes the Field; as it is obvious the number of Men requisite for the security of those Posts will depend entirely upon the position of the remainder of our Army for covering them and the state of the Enemy at that time. All I can say further on this subject is, that the last Campaign the Garrison was composed of two Garrison Regts. which were made up, by detachments of the weakest Men from the whole line of the Army, together with some artillery and Militia; and that in future, the good of the service, not the interest of any Individuals whatever, will point out the line of Conduct, I shall pursue respecting the dispositions of

32. In the *Washington Papers*, under date of Apr. 6, 1782.

33. Walter Livingston.

the Troops.

It is because, I fear, some difficulty or foundation for dispute, or obstructions to the Public interest, in consequence of this fluctuation of the number of Rations to be issued, may arise between the Contractors for supplying the Moving Army and those for furnishing the Garrison, that I mention these things; and I would take the liberty to suggest, whether it might not be the best way, for removing all grounds of disputes and Altercations, to have some mutual agreement between the different Companies of Contractors,³⁴ (if it could be found practicable and convenient to them), so that the whole business might be executed upon one great scale.

In the mean time untill the Army takes the field, I shall consider the Garrison of West Point as being composed of the 1st & 2d Massachusetts Brigades, the 3d Regt of Artillery, and such small Corps or parts of Corps as are now, or may be occasionally employed there.

The immediate Dependencies of West Point at present are, the Posts in its vicinity on the eastern side of the River, the Posts of Kings Ferry, Dobb's Ferry, and Fishkill, and there must be one at Newburgh or New Windsor.

The Commandt at West Point, upon application to him, can from time to time inform you nearly of the Number of Rations to be issued at the aforesd Posts.

The remainder of the Troops I shall

34. Tench Francis and Comfort Sands & Co., of Philadelphia; Thomas Lowry, of New Jersey; Oliver Phelps and Timothy Edwards, of Massachusetts; and Walter Livingston, of New York.

comprehend under the general idea of the Moving Army; and they are to be supplied accordingly; but as before suggested I think it would be much more advantageous to the Contractors as well as the Public, that a Union of interests, or mutual agreement, should supersede the necessity of discrimination. I am etc.³⁵

To COMFORT SANDS & CO.

Head Quarters, April 25, 1782.

Sir: You will be pleased to issue provisions for the Subsistence of the Levies of this State, which will be assembled at Fishkill in a few Days in Consequence of the Orders of Governor Clinton, takg care that your Issues to them be made under the same Restrictions and Regulations as are established for your Government in the Issues made to the Continental Troops and particularly observing that no Man is to be furnished until it is certified that he is regularly mustered and received, agreeable to the Orders of the Governor. I am &c.⁴⁸

35. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

48. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On April 25 Washington wrote to William Duer practically this same letter, ordering him to supply the New York levies assembling at Albany. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To CAPTAIN JONATHAN DAYTON

Head Quarters, April 27, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter without Date⁵⁶ with a packet from Sir Hy Clinton.

You do not inform the Channel through which you have obtained the important Intelligence you mention; But from the positive Manner in which you transmit it, I hope it may be depended on.

It has been rumoured to me that a large Fleet has lately been seen near the Hook; but who they are or from whence they arrive is not known. I wish you to be active in collecting every Information in your power respecting the arrival or departure of their Fleets, and other important movements of the Enemy, and to be early and punctual in the conveyance of any particulars which you deem proper to be sent to me.

It will be very well for you to detain the two British Officers you mention, untill something further is determined respecting Lieut Thomas.⁵⁷ I am &c.⁵⁸

56. In the *Washington Papers* under the assigned date of April 23. Dayton, who was then stationed at Elizabethtown, wrote of the capture of Minorca by the French, and of a treaty between France and Holland.

57. Lieut. Edmund Disney Thomas, of the Second New Jersey Regiment. He served to September, 1783.

Sir Henry Clinton wrote to Washington regarding Thomas: "Being this Morning informed that an Officer under a Flag of Truce has been detained, and sensible that all Persons so circumstanced are to be held Sacred; I have, without enterring into a Discussion of the Pretence for his Detainer, directed that he be set at Liberty." Clinton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

58. The draft is the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Newburgh, April 28, 1752.

Dear Sir: I have received your several Fays. of Yesterday. I beg you to close the matter of the damaged provisions with Messrs. Sands's; they will doubtless take them at what they may be worth, and pass them to the Credit of the United States.

I am sorry the recruitg. Service in your State wears no better an Aspect. Lieut Robinson may remain at present as an Assistt. to the Musterg Service.⁶⁴

If any number of Recruits should be collected at the different Rendezvous Colo Badlam I fancy must yet want additional Assistance. I am etc.⁶⁵

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 30, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your two favors of yesterday, with their enclosures, were duly delivered to me.

I do not think any considerable alteration, need be made, respecting the out Posts, I approve your holding

64. The draft has "to Colo. Badlam."

65. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

the Troops you mention, in readiness to support them; but it would not be eligable, to advance any more Artillery at present. The Detachments on the Lines, ought to be extremely vigilant. I have written to Mr. Sands, to furnish the Reserves, agreeably to your requisition of the 6th. of Feby. last, and have no doubt of his compliance. I am etc.⁷⁰

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX AND GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 30, 1782.

Gentlemen: It is with great pleasure, I make use of the earliest occasion to acknowledge the receipt of your several Dispatches, by Col. Smith, which contain an ample account of your Proceedings in consequence of the Commission you were charged with by me. I have also received from Sir Henry

Clinton an abstract of the same negotiations as stated by his Commissioners. From the whole Aspect of the matter, I have little doubt, the reasons you mention as the operating principles with the Enemy; have been the real cause of defeating the success of a Negotiation so desirable in itself and which promised to be so beneficial in its consequences.

I have transmitted to Congress a Copy of your Report, and have submitted solely to their decision the

70. In the writing of William Stephens Smith.

subject of future Exchanges not less lamenting the unreasonableness of our Enemies, than regretting the Miseries of War, which may be augmented and protracted by such unreasonable conduct.

I should do injustice to my own feelings on this occasion, if I did not express something beyond my bare approbation of the attention, address and ability exhibited by you, Gentlemen, in the course of this tedious and fruitless Negotiation; the want of having succeeded in the great objects of your Mission, does not however lessen, in my estimation, the merit which is due to the unwearied assiduity for the public good and the benevolent zeal to alleviate the distresses of the Unfortunate, which seem to have actuated you on every occasion, and for which I entreat you will be pleased to accept my most cordial thanks, and at the same time believe, that I am etc.⁶⁹

To COMFORT SANDS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, April 30, 1782.

Sir: As the Contractors for supplying the Garrison of West Point &c are to keep constantly on hand a sufficient quantity of the Articles composing a Ration, for one Month's supply of such Posts falling under this Contract as shall be pointed out to

69. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

them, by the Secry at War or Commandg Officer &c. I must therefore request you will pay the most pointed attention to the Requisition of Major Genl Heath on this subject, as stated in his letter to you of the 6th of Febry last. I need not inform you, that the want of compliance might be attended with

very serious consequences; I am therefore persuaded you will constantly make such Arrangements as will render any future applications unnecessary. I am etc.⁷¹

71. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To COMFORT SANDS & CO.

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 1, 1782.

Sir: You will issue Provision to the People employed in the Departments of the Quarter Master Gen and Comissy of Military Stores, upon the Returns of the Principals of those Departments now with the Army, until Notice of the new system of issues can be given by them to the Quarter Master Gen and Commissy of Military Stores, and their directions transmitted to the Contractors. I am etc.⁷³

73. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, May 3, 1782.

Sir: The Enemy, persisting in that barborous line of Conduct they have pursued during the course of this War, have lately most inhumanly executed Captain Joshua Huddy of the Jersey State Troops, taken Prisoner by them at a Post on Tom's River, and in consequence, I have written to the British Commander in Chief, that unless the Perpetrators of that horrid deed were delivered up I should be under the disagreeable necessity of Retaliating, as the only means left to put a stop to such inhuman proceedings.

You will therefore immediately on receipt of this designate, by Lot for the above purpose, a British Captain who is an unconditional Prisoner, if such a one is in your possession; if not, a Lieutenant under the same circumstances from among the Prisoners at any of the Posts either in Pennsylvania or Maryland. So soon as you have fixed on the Person, you will send him under a safe Guard to Philadelphia, where the Minister of War will order a proper Guard to receive and conduct him to the place of his Destination.

For your information respecting the Officers who are Prisoners in our possession I have ordered the Commisry of Prisoners to furnish you with a List of them; it will

be forwarded with this. I need not mention to you that every possible tenderness, that is consistent with the Security of him, should be shewn to the person whose unfortunate Lot it may be to suffer. I am &c.⁸⁹

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, May 4, 1782.

Sir: I expected, in obedience to my order of the 20th. and agreeable to your Letter of the 22d. Apl that a Return of the Officers Prisoners in our possession would have been transmitted me immediately, and I cannot account for your delay. You will now inclose it to Genl Hazen and deliver it to Lieut Hywell who will be the bearer of this, and you will be particular in distinguishing in it such as are unconditional Prisoners and such as are taken under any Convention or Capitulation with the places where they are.

I must also desire that you will immediately Join the Army, prepared to continue bringing with you a Copy of the above Return. I am &c.

P.S. Be pleased to give me the circumstances of the detention of Badgly and Hatfield who are said to have been apprehended when under the sanction of a Flag.⁹⁷

89. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

97. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker; the P.S. is in that of George Augustine Washington.

To COMFORT SANDS

Head Quarters, May 4, 1782.

Sir: You will be pleased to issue provision to the Taylors employed in making Clothing for the Army, upon Provision Returns signed by the Assistant Clothier General, specifying the person to whom, the Number of Rations, and the Number of Garments to be made by the person in whose favour the

Order is drawn. This order to continue in force only until application can be made to and directions received from the Secry at War. I am etc.⁹⁸

98. The draft is in the writing of David Brooks and David Humphreys, and on it the following is entered by Brooks: "The above is the term of an order which the Contractors conceive will be the best on this occasion, as I cannot well specify the Number of days in the Return. D.B."

To COLONEL HEMAN SWIFT

May 6, 1782.

Sir: I have this moment received your Letter of this morning, and am exceedingly obliged to you for your care in preventing the dangerous commotion which was threatened in your line.⁷

I have now to desire that you will apply to Major General Heath to appoint a Court Martial for the immediate Trial of the two Serjeants who were the Ringleaders and report their proceedings to me.⁸

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 7, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 6th. and am

7. The Connecticut line mutiny was discovered and suppressed by Colonel Swift before it could come to its planned head. Two sergeants, Bunce and Parker, of the Third Connecticut Regiment, were arrested as the ringleaders.

8. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

obliged to you for the Papers and Intelligence contained therein. Altho I can by no Means imagine the Enemy will give over an Offensive Naval War, or that all the Reports respecting their granting Independence, have any other design or tendency than to lull us into a state of more profound security and activity, if possible.

Some time ago the Proceedings of a Court Martial held in the Jersey Brigade were sent back, on account of their wanting that formality which is requisite in Capital Cases. I have since received

certain Proceedings in form of a Letter but without signature, which I return by this conveyance, and cannot but observe that such things carry too great an appearance of negligence and inattention.

Urged by public duty and private friendship, I must take the liberty of telling you, that reports unfavorable to the attention of some of the Officers of the Jersey Line have prevailed, and that the discipline of the Troops is in consequence much relaxed. I am very sensible of the difficulties which attend the Command of Troops when Cantoned in their own State and of the causes which conspire to dissipate their Morals and ruin their discipline; but let me entreat you, Sir, that the utmost care may be bestowed in preparing and training the Men for the field; and that no officer of any rank whatever may be a single Moment absent from his Corps, without there shall be the most pressing and indispensable necessity for it. Col Stewart is now setting off to inspect the York and Jersey Brigades, I

expect a particular Report by him. I am &c.

[P.S.] When did Sr. Henry Clintons Letters come within our Lines? they are dated so long back as the 25 and 27.¹¹

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 8, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your Dispatches of yesterday have been handed to me.

I am astonished to hear the Recruits which have arrived from Massachusetts are so very improper for service, after all the precautions and pains that have been taken to avoid a repetition of such horrid impositions on the Public; unless there are some circumstances that I am unacquainted with, and

11. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys; the P.S. is in that of Benjamin Walker.

cannot conceive of, I think the Officer who mustered them ought to be instantly relieved, ordered to Camp, and arrested upon his arrival; the two french Deserters should be sent back if there is an opportunity, if not, they may be confined until they can be returned, or delivered over to some of the Commanders of His most Christian Majesty.

I wish to know what Arrangements you have lately made respecting the Recruiting Service in Massachusetts, and that you would give any additional Orders you may think necessary.

An Order was issued yesterday that Artificers while actually at Work, and Capt Prays Water Guard, should be supplied with a ration and a half pr day. I cannot conceive there is any necessity for extending the order to my own Bargemen, or any common Watermen on the River.

The matters in dispute respecting the Contract are under consideration. Most of the difficulties as to the mode of issues complained of since the first of May, appear to result from the Contract itself. 'Tho it were much to be wished, I do not very well see how the Commissys under the Contractor are to be prevented from becoming acquainted with the strength of the Troops to which they issue;¹⁵ they will at least know very nearly the efficient force, by the number of rations delivered.

Your regulation concerning the small

15. The draft at this point has the following crossed out: "and all possibility of imposition at the same time avoided."

Pox is perfectly satisfactory. There is no mode pointed out for returning Invalids, who have recovered, to their former Corps; but I will advise with the Inspector upon it.

I would not have the New Arms broken in upon, so long as there are old Ones in the Store fit for use, when there are not, new ones must be drawn for the Recruits; but those out of repair, are by no means to be exchanged for New Arms. I am etc.¹⁶

[MS.H.S.]

16. In the writing of David Humphreys.

On May 8 Washington wrote briefly to Lieut. col. Samuel Canfield, commanding the Connecticut levies at Stamford, to allow Mrs. Brinkerhoff and Mrs. Adriance, attended by Mr. Wycoff, to visit their relations in Queens County on Long Island. Mrs. Close was also to be passed through. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (May 8) Washington wrote briefly to Philip Schuyler that circumstances prevented accepting his invitation to visit Albany. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 10, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have enclosed to your care Letters for Col Canfield, and Major Woodbridge (the latter under a flying seal) forbidding Flags of Truce to be sent or received except by way of Dobbs Ferry. Similar instructions are given to the Commanding Officer in Jersey. And you will perceive

that the same prohibition is announced to the Army in the Orders of this day. I am etc.³¹

[MS.H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 10, 1782.

Sir: I have given the most preemptory Orders, that no Flag from the Enemy shall be received at any other place or post but Dobbs ferry, on any business or pretext whatever; and that no Flag from us to them shall, (for any reason however pressing), be permitted to pass to the Enemys Lines, except from the same place.

You will take measures for carrying this Order *effectually* into execution, so far as relates to the Posts in Jersey within the limits of your command, and the Places at and from which Flags have been received and sent, by immediately putting in Arrest any Officer who shall presume to contravene the intention of this Order on our side; and by detaining as Prisoners all persons who may come from the Enemy with Flags, after this regulation has been announced in such a manner as that the British Commander in Chief may give directions for the prevention of this practice in future. I have written to Sir Guy Carleton on the subject, and presume the Letter will reach him by the time this is delivered to you.

31. In the writing of David Humphreys.

[A Copy of this I have also communicated to Governor Livingston, whose concurrence and assistance in the execution of the measure I have solicited]. I am etc.³²

To CAPTAIN JOHN PRAY

Head Quarters, May 10, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favor of Yesterday accompanied with Dispatches from Sir Guy Carleton and a note from Major Scott.³³

I cannot omit to express to you the pleasure I have experienced from the propriety of your Conduct in stopping Majr Scott at your post, and forwardg the Dispatches by an Officer of our own. And I beg you will accept my sincerest Thanks on this occasion.

The inclosed packet contains my Reply to Sir Guy Carlton, which you will be pleased to deliver to the Officer bearing the flag, and let him depart as soon as possible. I am &c.³⁴

32. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. This same letter, omitting the part in brackets, was sent to Lieut. Col. Samuel Canfield and Maj. Theodore Woodbridge.

33. Pray, in his letter of May 9, calls Scott a brigade major.

34. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To COMFORT SANDS & CO.

Head Quarters, May 10, 1782.

Sirs: We have received your proposals of Yesterday; In consequence of which we now send you Heads of the several Complaints which the Officers have exhibited to the Commander in Chief against your Execution of the Contract. We wish you to examine them severally, and to give us your Ideas upon each seperately, specifying to us under which Mode of Settlement proposed by you, each Article of Complaint shall be ranged, and how far your proposals will apply to each. Upon this ground we will make our further Reply to your proposals. Only observing that your proposition for layg the Army under Bonds, we fear, if insisted upon, will cast an insuperable Bar against a Composition in this Way. Because the Army, not being the contractg party, will not conceive themselves under any Obligation to come into such a Measure.

To shew you what Sentiments the Secty at War has conceived respectg a Mode for settling the Difficulties complained of, we now inclose you an Extract from his Letter of 3d. Aprl. to the Commandr in Chief,³⁵ on this Subject: you will make such improvement of it as you think proper. We are &c.³⁶

35. The letter (April 3) from the Secretary at War is in the *Washington Papers*. The extract was: "Mr. Sands (who says he is conscious of having in every instance demeaned himself properly) is willing to submit an investigation of the whole business to any impartial persons, not of the army, who may be appointed for the purpose."

36. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., and the letter sent was signed by Humphreys and Trumbull.

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, May 11 1782.

Sir: My present uncertainty respectg the Operations of the Campaign prevents my giving you at this Time a decided Answer to your Request respecting the Invalids you mention being in Phila. If your Regt. should be ordered to Pennsylvania (as is possible) it would subject the poor fellows to a very needless and tedious March. This Indecision I suppose will prevent your sending at present for your Family. I am &c.³⁷

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, May 12, 1782.

Sir: You will be pleased to settle with the Engineer what number of plank and other materials will be necessary for the proposed Operations of the Campaign; and as soon as this is ascertained you will make immediate and effectual provision for obtaining them in the earliest and best Manner.

You will also take Measures to inform yourself what Number and kinds of public Boats there may be remaing in

37. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

any part of Connecticut and on the Sound, of those which were provided in that Quarter in the Year 1780, or at any Time since, and make your Report to me as soon as possible. I am &c.⁴⁰

To MAJOR DE GENTON DE VILLEFRANCHE³⁸

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 12, 1782.

Sir: After making the proper Estimates of Plank which will be necessary for Platforms in the Batteries in case of the seige of New York, I have to request you will without loss of time arrange that business with the Quartr Mastr Genl or his Asst with the Army, and that you will inform him in writing specifically, of all the Articles which will be required of that Department, that measures may be instantly taken for Providing them.

You will be pleased to advise me as soon as may be, of the result of this Arrangement. I am &c.³⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 13, 1782.

Dear Sir: In reply to your favors of the 8th. 10th. and 11th.

40. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

38. Jean Louis Ambroise de Genton, Chevalier de Villefranche, major of Continental Engineers.

39. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

I have to observe: that Mr. Parker⁴² ought to be transferred; that the subject mentioned in your private Letter of the 10th. should excite particular vigilance on the part of the Officers; that Lieut Col Badlam should be relieved; that as General Glover (an extract from whose Letter I enclose) has at the request of the General Court appointed Mustering Officers, the necessity of sending others to the different places of Rendevouz will be superseded, unless you think you can send more suitable characters, in which case you are at full liberty to do it; that it will be certainly best to send on the

Sergeants you propose to conduct the Levies; and also the Subalterns, upon condition they will go at their own choice and expence, or that the State will support them: for Congress having Resolved that the Recruits shall be brought on at the expence of the States to which they belong, no money can be allowed, by the public, for the purpose. I wish you to consider yourself authorized to take any further measures in this business you may deem expedient.

I approve your sending the french Deserters to the Consul at Philadelphia.

As soon as the season will possibly allow it with safety, the first Mass. Brigade may go into Tents.

I am making Regulations respecting the commutation of Rum or Whiskey, which will be published in Orders.

By the Orders of the 30th. Ult. all Troops except those composing the Garrison of West Point, or actually stationed at the enumerated Posts dependent thereon, were meant to be

42. Lieut. Levi Parker, of the Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He was transferred to the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment in May, 1782, and retired in January, 1783.

comprehended under the general idea of the moving Army; and consequently the Connecticut Line, 3d Mass. Brigade and 10th. Regt. were to be supplied under the Contract for the moving Army. I did not suppose the Contractors for West Point were compellable to supply any Troops except those at the above mentioned Posts, without their own particular concurrence, after the other Contracts took place; altho I was sensible there would be a discrimination in the issues. I am etc.

P.S. I am favored with yours of this day; the Deserter from the York line is sent back to the Provost of West Point.⁴³

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, May 13, 1782.

Sir: I transmit you herewith, a complaint of Lt. Allen⁴⁴ against the settlement of Rank as fixed by the Board of Officers for the Massachusetts Line.

It signifies very little to appoint Boards of Officers for these matters, if their determinations are not to be final, and am to be eternally troubled on the subject. If, thro' any mistake or otherwise, manifest injury is done to any individuals by the late Arrangement, those mistakes should be rectified by the

43. In the writing of David Humphreys.

44. Lieut. Nathaniel Colt Allen, of the Tenth Massachusetts Regiment. He was made captain of same in October, 1782; transferred to the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment in June, 1783; served to November, 1783.

Board, or at least such steps taken, as will for once put a final Stop to disputes of this Nature. I am &c.⁴⁵

To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG

Head Quarters, May 15, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 23d of April, with the several Returns inclosed.

It being very necessary that the utmost Care should be used in the Disposal of our Military Stores; I shall

45. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On May 13 Humphreys wrote to Pickering, by order of the Commander in Chief, to furnish hospital tents and other articles for the accommodation of the sick in the field, agreeable to the requisition of the Chief Physician of the Army. Humphreys's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

be glad to be informed by whose order and for what purpose, the 1060 Muskets mentioned in the Return, were delivered; also the 2 Brass pieces of Ordnance, the Bayonets Cartridges and other Stores.

As these Deliveries are since the first of febr'y last, I can scarcely think that the Muskets mentioned can be those I directed last Fall to be delivered to the Order of the State of N Carolina, and cannot well conceive for what other purpose they could have been delivered. I am &c.⁵²

52. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

***To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING**

Newburgh, May 15, 1782.

Sir: If you are not detained in Philadelphia by unavoidable means, and for valuable purposes, it is much my wish that you should repair to this place as soon as it can be done, conveniently.

I am in total ignorance of your powers, and prospects of carrying the Army into the Field; and indeed of many other matters which are essential for me to know. The hourly expectation which I have been in, of seeing you with the Army, has prevented me from issuing some very necessary orders, and caused delays which I fear will be injurious to the operations of the Campaign.

I am induced to write thus, as I learn from your assistant, that it may yet be sometime before you arrive at this post.

[Your two Letters of 23d and 30th April have been received. A Daily expectation of your Arrival has prevented their being acknowledged before this.⁵³ I am &c.]⁵⁴

53. Pickering answered (May 29): "I have been favoured with your Excellency's letter of the 15th instant, which would have been acknowledged by the subsequent post, had I not been made to expect a small supply of money the same week, by the bearer of which I meant to write to your Excellency: but in this expectation also I was disappointed." Pickering then relates what measures he has taken and how he is forced to remain in Philadelphia until he can obtain a supply of money with which to satisfy, to an extent, the creditors of the Quartermaster Department. Pickering's letter is in the *Washington Papers*, indorsed by Trumbull: "Excuse for remaing in Phila."

54. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, May 15, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter¹ by the Baron Steuben; and take the earliest opportunity to return the Enclosure. I could easily have excused your sending it to me; as I have so bad an opinion of the Writer of that Letter to you, that I wish never to hear or see any thing more of so infamous a character.⁵⁶ I am etc.⁵⁷

To MAJOR COGGESHALL OLNEY OR OFFICER COMMANDING THE RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 15, 1782.

Sir: Immediately upon the receipt of this, you will put the Rhode Island Regt. in motion, and conduct it by easy marches and the most convenient route, to join the Army on the North River. You must take care to bring on with you every man who is able to march, except such a Detachment as the Secry at War may think proper to order as an Escort for the British Officer who is to be sent to the Jersey Line for the purpose of Retaliation; this detachment which ought to be composed of picked Men

56. Tallmadge's letter to Washington of May 9 says: "I have just received a Letter from Mr. Silas Deane, which at the request of its Author, I beg leave to present to Your Excellency." Tallmadge's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

57. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

under a careful Officer to join the Regt. wherever it may be as soon as that duty is performed.

You will pay particular attention to the discipline and regularity of the Regt while on the March, seeing that the Men do not straggle from the Corps, destroy fences for fuel, or commit any other outrages whatever against the persons or property of the Inhabitants. I am etc.

P.S. You will come by the way of Kings ferry and give me notice two or three days before your arrival there.⁵⁵

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, May 16, 1782.

Sir: As soon as you have concluded with the Officers, the Quantity of Rum or Whiskey which will be best to be commuted, agreeable to the Orders⁵⁹ of this Date, you will be pleased to notify Mr. Sands (who if necessary will attend you for the purpose) and agree with him upon the particular Articles in which the Compensation shall be made. With Regard etc.⁶⁰

55. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

59. The draft reads "General Orders."

60. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To COMFORT SANDS

Newburgh, May 16, 1782.

Sir: When I conversed with you last on the subject of an Issuing Store at this place, or New Windsor, it was suggested that one might be so placed as to supply the Post at fish Kill, the Hospital &c. without much inconvenience, and for this purpose I requested a return of the Number of Rations which were deliver'd for each that I might be enabled to judge with more propriety of the expediency of the Measure.

Upon more Mature consideration of this Matter, resulting from the frequent complaints of the Hospital, and other department for want of an Issuing Post on this side of the River, where they can be furnished with more ease and less loss I am convinced of the absolute necessity of two, and therefore desire in pointed Terms, that you will no longer delay to establish them accordingly.

Alth' the Weather hitherto has been remarkably cool, the Meat of the last Issues to the Hospital I am informed was spoiled before it could be used; the same has happened in other instances. That justice therefore, which is due to the Army, must be attended to, as well as your particular convenience and Interests; a Contract not conducted to the reciprocal advantages of both parties must dissolve itself or dissolve the

Army; it is unnecessary therefore to add any thing more on the subject unless it is, that if you can substitute any other mode that will give satisfaction to the parties concerned it will be agreeable to Sir, etc.⁵⁸

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, May 18, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received your two favrs. of the 16th and this Day. In Reply to the postscript of the first, I can only say, that the Report of the Commissioners who met at Elizabeth Town, has been sent on to Congress, with a Submission to them, how far Exchanges in future shall be practiced. However desirable all Exchanges may be, nothing further can be done untill I am furnished with the Determination of Congress to govern my future Conduct in this matter. I am &c.

P.S. Col Swift may be absent as requested.⁶³

[MS.H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, May 18, 1782.

Sir: It was much my Wish to have taken for the

58. The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith.

63. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.; the P.S. is in that of David Humphreys.

purpose of Retaliation, an Officer who was an unconditional prisoner of War. I am just informed by the Secy at War, that no one of that Description is in our power. I am therefore under the disagreeable necessity to Direct, that you immediately select, in the Manner before prescribed, from among all the British Captains who are prisoners either under Capitulation or Convention, One who is to be sent on⁶⁴ as soon as possible, under the Regulations and Restrictions contained in my former Instructions to you. I am etc.⁶⁵

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, May 18, 1782.

Sir: Yours of the 14th. Instant, I have rec'd and am obliged to observe that the proceedings of the court martial of which Lt Colo. Cummings is president are executed in such a manner as to carry the strongest marks of hurry and inattention. The opinion of the Court is noted in a most singular Manner, viz "The Court are of opinion, after the most mature deliberation that three of the Prisoners are Guilty of the Charges exhibited against them and sentence the five to suffer Death," not in consequence of their being Guilty of a breach of any of the Articles of War by which Courts Martial are to regulate their opinions, but according to what they stile

64. From Lancaster, Pa.

65. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

the Customs of War and usages of Nations in similar Cases.

Congress having been particular in pointing out the Cases wherein Courts Martial may pass sentence of Death, any opinion given upon different Principles be the crimes ever so notorious cannot with propriety meet with my approbation. I must therefore dissolve the Court and wish that the Civil Power may take such steps for the punishment of the Offenders as may seem to them proper.

I am of opinion that the Court could not, consistent with the strict Letter of the oath as contained in the Article of War submit their proceedings to any other than the General Commanding a separate department or the Commander in Chief; though the Custom of our army has in many Instances been different. I am &c.⁶⁶

To COLONEL PHILIP VAN CORTLANDT

May 19, 1782.

Sir: The inclosed papers have been produced to me to prove the term of inlistment of John Chamberlayne of your Regt.⁶⁷ By these papers it appears that his time of Service expired some time since.

66. The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith.

In the William Ely Collection, Providence, R. I., is an interesting memorandum, headed "Notes for Genl. Washington." It is indorsed with the date May 18, 1782, and was found among Baron Steuben's

papers. It is a list of 8 things suggested as needing attention since Steuben's Regulations were put in practice. The eighth item reads: "When the regulations were published the Establishment of the Army was three serjeants and three Corporals to each Company but the Establishment having been since altered to five Serjeants and three Corporals, insted of the former method of posting the N. Comssd. Officers the following is for the future to be Observed: A Serjeant to cover the Captain. A Serjeant to cover the Lieutenant. A Serjeant to cover the third file from the right of the 1st. platoon. A Serjeant to cover the 3d. file from the right of the 2d. Platoon. The first serjeant to cover the third file from the left of the 1st. Platoon. The first Corpl. to cover the third file from the left of the 2d. Platoon. The other two Corporals in Rank and file on the left of the Company agreeable to the following Plan of the formation of a Complete Company:

67. Second New York Regiment.

I desire you would have an enquiry made into this matter and acquaint me with the result. Chamerlayne has my permission to remain at home 'till the affair is determined. I am &c.

P.S. Two Judicious Officers must be immediately Sent on to receive the proportion of Levies destined for your Line; they will call on me for Orders.⁶⁸

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL FREDERICK WEISSENFELS

May 19, 1782.

Sir: I have recd your favor of yesterday. Orders shall be given to the Contractors at the upper Posts to furnish Provision for the Levies in those parts in such quantities and to such persons as the Governor shall direct. The Levies at Bedford may draw from the nearest Continental place of Issue and those at Orange Town from Dobbs ferry. Orders will be given accordingly.

I have given Capt. White⁶⁹ an Order for the Ammunition necessary for the troops to go to the frontier. I am &c.

N.B. The order was for 24 Rounds Cartridges and flints for 300 Men.⁷⁰

68. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb and Hodijah Baylies; the P.S. is in that of Benjamin Walker.

69. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker and Hodijah Baylies.

70. Capt. Andrew White, of Weissenfels' New York levies.

To COLONEL BENJAMIN TUPPER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 20, 1782.

Sir: I have recd your Letter of the 11th. Inst and another without date the former inclosing the proceedings of a Court Martial held for the Trial of Shem Kentfield.⁷¹ Inclosed you have copy of the General Orders approving the proceedings and a Warrant for the Execution of the Prisoner. The place of Execution is left to you; the necessity of the Contractor's furnishing Hard Bread when required has been mentioned to Mr Morris who will doubtless take measures accordingly. I am &c.⁷²

71. Private in the First New Hampshire Regiment.

72. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL FREDERICK WEISSENFELS

Head Quarters, May 20, 1782.

Sir: It has been suggested to me that a considerable number of the Levies raised by the State⁷³ for 8 Months, might be Inlisted into the Continental Regiments for longer periods, provided such a measure was encouraged by their Officers.

When it is considered of how little Service these Men are, when detached for so short a time, and what Essential benefits will accrue, not only to the public at large but to this State in particular, from their being Inlisted into the Continental Regiments of this State; I cannot but be persuaded, that you will do all in your power to forward it; but as much will depend on the Encouragement given by the inferior Officers, who are more intimately connected with the Men, It would not be amiss for you to explain to those Gentlemen, the very Essential Service they will render Country by encouraging these Inlistments, and as the Continental line must be compleated it will make no difference in their Commands whether we Inlist them or they are obliged to send them by Detachmt.

In conversation with Governor Clinton I was glad to hear he had already recommended this matter to your attention, I wish you to follow any directions he may have given you. I am &c.⁷⁴

73. Of New York.

74. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To COMFORT SANDS, WALTER LIVINGSTON, AND OTHERS⁷⁵

Head Quarters, May 20, 1782.

Gent: I think it proper to acquaint you that such of the Levies of this State as shall be directed to serve in the lower parts of this State are to be considered as part of the moving Army and are to be supplied accordingly.

A Detachment of them is ordered to Bedford and another to Orange Town.⁷⁶ I have directed them to draw from the nearest place of Issue to their respective Posts. You will be pleased to give the necessary orders to your Commissaries accordingly. I am &c.⁷⁴

To WILLIAM DUER AND OTHERS⁷⁷

Head Quarters, May 20, 1782.

Sir: I think it proper to inform you that Such of the Levies raised by this State as may be ordered to serve in the upper Country are to be supplied under your Contract.

You will please to take Govr Clintons directions to whom you are to issue and Should any of the Levies be detached on the Frontiers to places so remote as to render it

75. Contractors for supplying the moving Army.

76. These detachments were composed of New York levies.

74. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

77. Contractors for supplying the Northern Department.

impossible for you to issue to them, the Governor will in that case draw on you for such quantities of Provision as will be necessary and appoint proper persons to Issue it. I am &c.⁷⁸

To CAPTAIN JONATHAN DAYTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 21, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 18th. by Mr. Skinner, from whom I have also learnt that a flag which lately arrived with Prisoners from New York, has been detained in conformity to my orders on that subject until further directions should be received; in which you have acted very properly. But you will on the receipt of this suffer the flag to return, informing the Officer that no more flags are to be sent from or received at Elizabeth Town, and that any Persons coming from the Enemy to that place with a flag hereafter, will be considered and held as Prisoners. I am &c.⁸⁰

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, May 22, 1782.

Sir: Your two favors of Yesterday have been received.

78. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On May 20 Washington wrote to Maj. Gen. William Heath granting permission to send a sergeant to Boston to assist in forwarding hats for Colonel Greaton's regiment "provided no charge is to be brought against the public therefor." This letter is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

80. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

The General just going out, directs me to reply, that it is his Desire that upon the Arrival of Colo Badlam, you should Order him immediately in Arrest, producing such Charges against him as you find can be properly supported, for which purpose at will be necessary perhaps to take an Examination of the Recruits who are rejected.

The Baron will be inspectg in a few Days and will determine what shall be done with the Men you mention. It is his Excellencys Opinion, that they should be sent back at all Events, even if we never get a Man in their place; retaing them with the Army will be insuring an expense without any real Service.

The Intentions of the Enemy, be they what they may, should sping [sic] the Officers in general and those on the Lines and Out post more particularly to double Vigilance and Activity; the lulling Opiates lately handed out to us from the Enemy, have not been administered without Design. I hope they will fail to produce the Effect Desired.

The inclosed Letter for *Sir Guy* , the Genl Desires may be forwarded to Capt. Pray, who may be furnished with a Flag for its Conveyance, at a convenient Opportunity. I am etc.⁸⁷

87. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J. Trumbull Jr."

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, May 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your three Favors of the 7th. 13th and 15th of April are received, with their several Inclosures.

A Variety of circumstances at this Time conspire to prevent an ultimate Decision upon the Operations of the Campaign.

Before this can reach you, a total Change of Men and Measures, which has taken place in G Britain, will be announced to you; what will be the consequences of this Revolution, cannot with certainty be declared. Already, Sir Guy Carleton is arrived at N York, charged, as he says, with a Commission of peace, in conjunction with Admiral Digby; his Terms of Conciliation, which have been sent to me, bear the Aspect of those brot by former Commissrs. in the Year 1780, merely ostensible and Delusory.

As soon as our plan of Operations is fixed, which I hope will soon be done, you will be informed of every Measure necessary to be communicated to you. In the mean Time I forbear entering into any particular Details.

Genl St Clair is not yet arrived at my Camp. I shall defer makg any reply to your proposed Regulations of the Army till I have seen him.

I am very glad to hear of the safe Arrival

of Mrs Greene at your Quarters, and most sincerely give you Joy of the Event. Mrs Washington joins me in most cordial compliments to Mrs Green, and our hearty good Wishes for her and your Health and happiness.

Within a few Days the happy Event of the Birth of a Dauphin of France, has been formally announced to Congress by the Minister of France; its Celebration has been observed in Phila and is directed to be noticed in the Army, with such demonstrations of Joy as are thought proper for the Occasion. This will be done here, and I now make the Communication to you, that the Officers of your Army may take an Opportunity to participate in the General Joy. I am &c.⁸⁸

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN GLOVER

Head Quarters, May 22, 1782.

Sir: I have received your two favrs. of 30th Apr. and 4th instant.

It was very well, in the Situation of the Recruiting Business in your State, that you interposed to put it on a more promising footg. I wish it may now proceed with better Success and more Dispatch than has hitherto attended it.

88. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

In the Situation of your Health, as described by you, it would I think be impossible for you to attend your Duty in Camp. It would therefore be useless for you under such Circumstances to join the Army. But, altho I have no reason to doubt your Report, yet as the absence of Officers of your Rank from active Service, is apt to be particularly noticed, and is liable to be construed into partial Indulgence [unless there is evident cause for it,] I must request, for my Justification, as well as your own sake, that you will attend to the general Regulations prescribed in Cases like yours, and send me the necessary Certificates of your Physicians, of your State of Health. As soon as it shall be judged that your Health will permit, I shall expect that you will immediately join the Army without loss of Time. I am &c.⁹¹

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Head Quarters, May 22, 1782.

Sir: I have been favored with your two Letters of 20th April and 2d May, and am much obliged by your Vigilance and Attention.

An Extract respecting the removing and Support of the Indians, I have transmitted to the Secty at War, and desired him to take measures for the relief and Comfort of

91. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

those distressed wretches.

Any further particulars you can obtain of the Route to Niagara and its practicability, you will please to forward to me as early as possible; the more minute and circumstantial the better. I am &c.⁹²

To COLONEL ANN HAWKES HAY

Head Quarters, May 22, 1782.

Sir: Yours of the 27th. Ulto. I have received. The Artillery stationed at the post at Stoney Point, is considered as barely sufficient for its defence; should any detachment therefore be made for the purpose mentioned it might be exposed, as the ships should they make their appearance, favour'd by a small breeze, would be able to pass the fort before it would be possible to return the piece to its station. I cannot therefore with propriety give the order you request.

I must acknowledge myself obliged for your spirited offer, and if it does not interfere with the arrangements of the Artillery that Genl. Knox may make upon his arrival, a piece shall be station'd at the fort for the purposes alluded to in yours.⁸⁹ I am etc.⁹⁰

92. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

89. Hay had requested the loan of a cannon for Haverstraw with which to oppose British craft that came up the river occasionally. Hay's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

90. The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith.

To CAPTAIN THOMAS MACHIN

May 24, 1782.

[Sir:] You will proceed to Fishkill and there apply to Colo. Weissenfels for the proportion of the Levies destined for your Line one half of which are for the Regiment of Artillery and the other half for the two Regiments of Infantry.

You are to receive no Men but such as are able bodied and every way fit for Soldiers.

So soon as you have received your proportion of Colo. Weissenfel's Regt. you will send them on to the Regiments for which they are destined under the Care of an Officer and the remaining Officers will wait at Fishkill to receive those which will be sent from Colo Willets Regiment which are to be divided in the same manner.

Before you send away the Recruits you will make a Return to me of the number you have reced. I am etc.⁹⁶

96. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The same letter was sent to Lieut. John Furman, of the First New York Regiment, and Ensign Bernardus Swartwout, of the Second New York Regiment.

To COMFORT SANDS

Head Quarters, May 25, 1782.

Sir: After the conversation between Cols Trumbull and Humphrys and yourself on the 6th of May (which was reported to me in writing) and the subsequent Papers which passed between them and you, to your Letter of the 11th inst. inclusive; I am astonished beyond expression to find the following Words in a communication from you to the Field Officers of the Army dated the 14th of May, viz, "we have offered the Commander in Chief to submit *all disputes in any equitable mode which he may direct* ." An assertion so diametrically opposite to the fact, and which carries so strong marks of willful equivocation (as all these transactions were so recent they could hardly have escaped your memory) that I am at a loss on what principle to account for this preposterous conduct; unless you meant to exculpate yourself, by an appearance of candor and fairness on your part, and to insinuate

to the Army, that if all matters in dispute were not speedily terminated, I must be considered as the sole cause of it, because you had offered that all of them should be decided in any equitable mode I might direct. Whether this was the principle or not is very unimportant to me; it is enough, that this was the apparent tendency of your assertion, and that all the Papers necessary to elucidate the entire proceedings are still in existence.

And now, Sir, in order to refresh your

Memory, I must beg leave to draw your attention to two simple facts; did I not propose to you thro Cols Humphrys and Trumbull immediately upon my receiving the Complaints of the Officers against you, to have all those charges candidly and fairly examined into and decided by three judicious impartial Persons, not belonging to or connected with the Army, one to be appointed by you, another by me, and the third to be nominated by the two chosen as beforementioned? And did you not positively refuse any such reference without you were allowed to dictate your own conditions and restrictions, and did you not even obstinately persist in such terms of settlement as in my opinion defeated the whole object of the reference? but the truth is incontestable, and your answer to these points unnecessary.

In consequence of this, and to avoid any farther altercation or shifting of ground, I transmitted the whole Proceedings to the Secretary at War, on whose decision the matter now rests.

But, Sir, if you have not again altered your mind on this subject; I wish to be informed in very clear and explicit terms which cannot admit of misconstruction or misconception, whether you do now offer to the Commander in Chief, to submit all disputes respecting the Contracts to be decided in any equitable mode which he may direct. I shall expect your answers to this question and am etc.⁹⁹

99. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, May 25, 1782.

Sir: After maturely considering the Circumstances that attend, the communication with Mr. — and the little advantages that have originated from it, I am Induced to believe that he is acting a double Part for private and self interested Purposes, if nothing more in View by it and that he is conducting it in such a manner as to render it almost impossible for you to detect him, this with other particular

Reasons induces me to think it most advisable to bring his affairs to a Crisis by availing myself of his offers and the advantages that present themselves for the purpose.

Colo. Ogden has forwarded to me a Plan to accomplish the matter referr'd to which has met with my approbation and he has recd my order to carry it into execution; you will therefore please to permit him to march his Regt. from your Camp at such Time and in such Manner as may appear to him most proper, and that you will afford him every other assistance that may be in your power and consistent with the good of the service. I am &c.¹

1. The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith.

To COLONEL MATTHIAS OGDEN

Head Quarters, May 25, 1782.

Sir: The Plan as proposed to me by you thro' Capt Ogden² appears Eligible, you have therefore my Permission to carry it into execution.

Colo. Dayton has my Order to permit you to march your Regt from Camp at such Time and in such a manner as may appear to you most eligible.

Capt Ogden will deliver to you my sentiments upon the affair more fully than it would be proper for me to commit to paper.

I can only request you to be particularly guarded against deception, and hope the Plan may succeed to your wish. I am &c.³

***To COMFORT SANDS**

Newburgh, May 25, 1782.

Sir: I have this moment received a Letter from General Heath of which the inclosed is a Copy. Why Sir are the Troops without Provisions? why are the deposits which have so

2. Capt. Aaron Ogden.

3. The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith.

often, and so long ago been required by General Heath, and pressed by myself, neglected? Why do you so pertinaciously adhere to all those parts of the Contracts as are promotive of your own Interest and convenience (several of which from the plain import, and natural meaning of the Words, and were these out of the question, from usage and custom in like cases) you cannot be justified by, and at the same time disregard the most essential claims of the public; thereby hazarding the dissolution of the Army, and risking the loss of the most important Post in America? Is it because it is a little more expensive to keep a stock of Cattle on hand at Pasture than to slaughter them one by one as they arrive? Is it because it suited your interest and convenience better to delay making the deposits of Salt Provision &c. at West point to a more convenient season that important Post has stood, and now stands in jeopardy? and is it to these causes I am to attribute the want of Vinegar (so essential to the health of the Army) and other breaches of your Contract?

I am very sorry to find myself under the necessity of informing you, that there are two parts to these contracts, and that while you seem so well disposed to exact, with great rigidness, the fulfilment of the one, it becomes my duty to look to the performance of the other. I am further to observe to you, that the Contract for the moving Army does not exonerate, the Contractor for West point and its dependencies from the performance of any, and every clause which was designed for the benefit

of the Garrisons of them. I mention this, because I am informed your Issuers are disposed to apply all the advantageous parts (for the Contractor) of the Contract for the moving Army, to the injury and inconvenience of those who are to be supplied under the latter; which can be attempted under no rule of reason or Justice that I am acquainted with and must be the effort of an improper spirit. I am etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 26, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received your Letter of the 25th containing the Dispatches from Sir Guy Carleton, and the other Papers mentioned therein; I return those belonging to the British Officers on Parole at Dobbs Ferry, who may be permitted to go into the Enemy's Lines.

In future you will be pleased in the first instance to grant Flags to all such Persons as shall have Passports for the purpose from Congress, the Secretary at War, or the Executive of any of the States; all other applications are to be referred to me.

Colonel Putnam may send a Serjt. to Massachusetts as requested, but his expence is not to be defrayed

by the Public.

Mr. Aaron Olmsted (who goes down the River by this conveyance) has permission to proceed with a Flag to the Enemy's Lines to enquire for and obtain the release of his brother who is on board a prison ship at New York; it rests with the Enemy to suffer him to go in, or not.

Yours of this day, and the German Deserter have just arrived. I am etc.⁷

[MS.H.S.]

To COLONEL MATTHIAS OGDEN

Head Quarters, May 27, 1782.

Sir: I requested Colo Smith⁸ to reply to yours of Yesterdays Date, by the Return of Lieut. Rhea.⁹ I cannot see into the Necessity for the Removal of the party under Major Hay,¹⁰ for the purpose mentioned, for if you have been able to keep up the Communication hitherto without his Knowledge, it surely can be carried through with the same Address, until brought to the last Stage, when I think he may be of Service. The very act of removing them will give suspicion. Should Mr. —¹¹ be apprehended, I would recommend that you treat him with every Civility in your power consistent with his security, and that you remove

7. In the writing of David Humphreys.

8. Lieut. Col. William Stephens Smith.

9. Lieut. Jonathan Rhea, of the Second New Jersey Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

10. Maj. Samuel Hayes(?), of the New Jersey Militia.

11. Pierre de Peyster, loyalist of Essex County, N.J.

him immediately to the Jersey Huts, forward a particular State of the Circumstances, with Copies of the original papers to His Excellency Govr. Livingston, and as — is a Citizen, and a subject of the State over which he presides, take his further Orders respecting him. If it should be, to subject him to a Trial by Law-martial, let him be sent to Major Genl. Heath, with all the Papers and proofs necessary to it.

With respect to the other matter, should it turn out agreeably to your Expectations, the sooner you retire to the Hutts the better. Lodge the prisoners in a place of Safety and forward to me the earliest Intelligence of your Success, and the Number of prisoners, the Circumstances attending them and the Enterprise; when the necessary steps will be immediately taken for their further Security.

The sooner you bring this matter to a Close the more agreeable it will be to me, and I have great Reason to believe the more advantageous to the public at large. I am &c.¹²

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 28, 1782.

Dear Sir: In Addition to the Instruction I gave in my Letter of the 26th. respecting Flags, I think necessary to observe, that

12. The draft is in the writing of Hodijah Baylies.

On May 27 William Stephens Smith wrote to Postmaster General Ebenezer Hazard, in reply to Hazard's query, that Washington did not consider Kakiat, N.Y., a safe place for the mails to remain over one night, "the risk being evidently too great as it is considerably advanced of any post that we occupy in that Part of the Country." The draft of Smith's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

no persons ought to be permitted to pass or repass under Cover of Flags, except those whose Names are properly inserted: as it is reported, that some people having availed themselves of such Opportunities, have formerly come into Jersey without any legal permission.

By the Contract for the Moving Army, all Stores and other Apparatus made Use of by our Issuing Commissaries were to be furnished to the Contractors, they being responsible that the public Property shall not be wasted or destroyed.

I am taking every possible Measure for replenishing our Magazines.

Mr. Sands, I know, is very much occupied, at present, in making preparations for the Celebration of the Birth of the Dauphin. I hope as soon as that is over, he will settle with you the Commutation of Articles to your Satisfaction. If he will not do it agreeably to the principles of the Contract, I beg you to inform me of it, and believe that I am etc.

P.S. Your Letter of the 23d. respecting the Forage consumed in the County of West Chester shall be attended to, as soon as I can get Leisure for the purpose.

As a further regulation of Flags, I wish the following may be adhered to, and considered as a standing Order.

No Person coming from the Enemy's Lines with a flag, is to be permitted to come within

our Lines, or proceed into the Country, without having first obtained permission in writing for the purpose, from the Executive of the State to which he or she wishes to go. No Persons coming from the Enemy on business of a Military Nature are to be suffered to advance within the out Post, unless liberty shall be first obtained from the General Commandg the Army at the time.¹⁹

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS

Head Quarters, Newburgh, May 28, 1782.

Dear Sir: In the conversation I had with you, when I saw you last at Head Quarters, you appeared to be so unalterably fixed in the determination of leaving the Army at all events, that I had in my own mind made the arrangements accordingly, and to prove that I was not precipitate in my judgment, the whole Army had formed the same opinion of your intentions from your repeated and unequivocal declarations on the subject. Since which I have received your favor of the 17th of May, in which you solicit leave of absence until called for; happy in your further services, I should with pleasure grant you any indulgence, I judged consistent with my duty, which I cannot suppose will

permit me to give leave of absence for an unlimited time; if you persist in that idea, your application must be to the Supreme Authority of the Continent, who I believe are alone competent to the gratification of your wishes.

19. In the writing of Hodijah Baylies; the P.S. is in that of Baylies and David Humphreys.

If your request had been for permission to continue absent a month or Six Weeks or the establishment of your health; I should have consented to it, but, as I observed before, I do not think myself warranted in doing it, on the footing you have placed the matter. I am &c.²⁰

To COLONEL BENJAMIN TUPPER

Head Quarters, May 29, 1782.

Sir: I think it best under present Circumstances that you should remain in your present Command, untill the Arrival of Colo Reed, or the Removal of the Troops from Albany. I wish it was in my power to comply with your request, for an additional Allowance of Rations, so long as you remain. I think it perfectly reasonable, but a pointed Resolve of Congress absolutely forbids it. It is equally out of my Ability to furnish you any Money for the Completion of the Block House at Fort plain.²⁷

I approve your Conduct in forwardg the N York State Levies to the upper posts as fast as possible and collectg the Continental Troops together as much as you can; that they may be reinstated in their proper Discipline, and be ready for any compact Service. I am &c.²⁸

20. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

27. Now the town of Oquago, on the Mohawk River, in Montgomery County, N.Y.

28. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 2, 1782.

Sir: I have to reply to your three favors of 29th May and 1st Instant.

The private Soldiers paroled by Sir Guy Carleton, must be ordered to join and do Duty in their Regiments. I have given Directions to the Comry of Prisoners to inform the British Comfy. that such will be my Orders in all such Cases, and that they will be credited in their Account.

Capt Ray is directed to send in the Officers Servants, and measures will be taken to direct those Matters in future; a Deputy Comry. of Prisoners will reside in the Neighbourhood of Dobb's.

The Soldier Gilbert may be accepted to join his Regiment.

The Judge Advocates Resignation is inclosed to the Secty at War to be laid before Congress. And I have desired that a New Appointment may be made as soon as possible.

One Regiment of the 2d Brigade of Massachusetts will be Ordered to encamp. I am &c.²⁹

[MS.H.S.]

29. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On June 3 Trumbull wrote to John Ruddock, deputy commissary of military stores at Fishkill, who pleaded the Commander in Chief's orders for having detained 1,000 stands of arms directed to be sent to Philadelphia. "The Commander in Chief, not recollecting any such Order, will be glad to be informed from you immediately, the particular Order under which you suppose yourself to be justified in this Detention." The draft of Trumbull's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, June 4, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favr of the 27th May and am much concerned to find that Capt Asgill has been sent on notwithstanding the Information which you had received of there being two unconditional Prisoners of War in our possession.

I much fear that the Enemy, knowg our Delicacy respectg the propriety of Retaliating upon a Capitulation Officer in any Case, and being acquainted that unconditional prisoners are within our power, will put an unfavorable Construction upon this Instance of our Conduct. At least, under present Circumstances, Capt Asgills Application to Sir Guy Carleton will, I fear, be productive

of remonstrance and Recrimination only, which may possibly tend to place the Subject upon a disadvantageous footg.³²

To remedy therefore as soon as possible this Mistake, you will be pleased immediately to Order that Lieut Turner, the Officer you mention to be confined in York Goal, or any Other prisoner who falls within my Description may be conveyed on to Phila. under the same Regulations and Directions as were heretofore given, that he may take the place of Capt Asgill.

In the mean Time, least any Misinformation respectg Mr Turner, may have reached you, which might Occasion further Mistake and Delay, Capt. Asgill will be Detained untill I can learn a Certainty of Lieut Turners or some other Officers answerg our purpose; and as this Detention will leave the Young Gentleman now with us in a very disagreeable State of Anxiety and Suspence, I must Desire that you will be pleased to use every Means in your power, to make the greatest Dispatch in the Execution of this Order. I am &c.³³

32. Hazen had written (May 27) that when the lots were drawn, in the presence of Major Gordon and all the British captains, "the unfortunate Lot had fallen on the Honourable Capt. Charles Asgill, of the Guards; a young Gentleman seventeen Years of Age; a most amiable Character; the only Son of Sir Charles Asgill; Baronet; Heir to an extensive Fortune; an honourable Title; and of course he has great Interest in the British Court and Armies. The British Officers are highly enraged at the Conduct of Sir Henry Clinton; they have solicited my leave to send an Officer to New-York on this Occasion, or that I would intercede with the Minister of War to grant it. Being fully convinced that no Inconvenience could possibly arise to our Cause from this Indulgence, but en the contrary, that good Policy and Humanity dictates the Measure, I was pleased at the Application, and with Cheerfulness have recommended to the Minister of War to grant the Honourable Capt. Ludlow, Son to the Earl of Ludlow, leave to carry the Representations of those unfortunate Officers, who openly declare to have been deserted by their General, and given up to suffer for the Sins of the Guilty." Hazen's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

33. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, June 4, 1782.

Sir: I am just informed by the Sectry at War that Capt Asgill of the British Guards, the unfortunate Officer who is destined to be the unhappy Victim to atone for the Death of Capt Huddy, was arrived in Philadelphia, and would set off very soon for the Jersey Line, the place assigned for his Execution. He will probably arrive as soon as this will reach you, and will be attended by Capt Ludlow, his friend, whom he wishes to be admitted to go into N York, with an Address to Sir Guy Carleton in his Behalf.

You will therefore give permission to Capt Ludlow to go, by the way of Dobb's Ferry into N York, with such Representation as Capt Asgill shall please to make to Sir Guy.

At the same Time I would wish you to intimate to the Gentlemen, that altho I am deeply affected with the unhappy Fate to which Capt Asgill is subjected, yet that it will be to no purpose for them to make any representation to Sir Guy Carleton which may serve to draw on a Discussion of the present point of Retaliation; that in the Stage to which the Matter has been suffered to run, all Argumentation on the Subject is entirely precluded on my part, that my Resolutions

have been grounded on so mature Deliberation, that they must remain unalterably fixed. You will also inform the Gentlemen, that while my Duty calls me to make this Decisive Determination, Humanity dictates a Fear for the unfortunate Offering, and inclines me to say that I most devoutly Wish his Life may be saved; this happy event may be attained; but it must be effected by the British Commander in Chief. He knows the Alternative which will accomplish it, and he knows that this Alternative only can avert the dire Extremity from the Innocent, and that in this Way alone the Manes of the Murdered Capt Huddy will be best appeased.³⁴

In the Mean Time while this is doing, I must beg that you will be pleased to treat Capt Asgill with every tender Attention and politeness (consistent with his present Situation) which his Rank, Fortune and Connection, together with his Unfortunate State, demand. I am &c.³⁵

To COLONEL JOHN CRANE

Newburgh, June 4, 1782.

Sir: I should have taken an Opportunity of expressing in public Orders how much I was satisfied with the Gentlemen who were so kind as to assist in preparing for the celebration

34. At this point in the draft the following is crossed off: "I wish you also to inform Capt. Asgill, with all the tenderness possible, that no Address from him or any of his Friends can be admitted from

them directly to me; that I can attend to no Application but such as shall be made by the British Commander in Chief.”

35. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

of the birth of the Dauphin, but the matter being not altogether of a Military nature, I thought it best to communicate my sentiments in this manner.

You will therefore be pleased to accept my thanks for your exertions on that occasion [and present the same to the Officers of your Regt. who assisted you on that day], and believe me, Sir etc.³⁶

To CHEVALIER DE VILLEFRANCHE

Newburgh, June 4, 1782.

Sir: I take this early Opportunity of Expressing to you the high Satisfaction I reced at the taste [*sic*] Elegance displayed in the preparations you made for the Celebration of the birth of the Dauphin; the very great part you had in contributing to the pleasures of that day deserves my warmest acknowledgement and I beg you to receive this Testimony of my thanks for your exertions on that occasion. I am &c.³⁷

36. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The same letter, excepting the phrase in brackets, was sent to Col. Hugh Hughes, Col. Henry Emanuel Lutterloh, and Comfort Sands.

37. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburg, June 5, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your favor of yesterday has been duly received. A Deputy Commy of Prisoners for the post at Dobb's Ferry, has been already ordered, who will, I hope, liberate you from those constant applications from that post; and as Capt. Pray's duty must be encreased at that post, I wish you to grant him what additional Boats and Men you may think necessary.

I must depend upon your constant attention to the recruiting service of Masstts, and highly approve your sending Lt. Colo. Popkin to relieve Majr. Pettengail at Boston, and let Colo. Popkin be informed, that I wish him to write to the several Mustering Officers in that State, that I expect their constant attention to their duty, and that they may' depend on being bro't to a Court Martial for any deficiencies.

Mr. Gardner⁴⁹ may pass to the Enemy's Lines with the prisoner he has with him.

The Recruits that have been mustered out by the Baron, must remain where they are for the present. I am etc.⁵⁰

[MS. H. S.]

49. Thomas Gardner (Gardiner), of Cornwall, Conn.

50. In the writing of David Cobb.

To CAPTAIN-LIEUTENANT CALEB BREWSTER⁵²

Head Quarters, June 5, 1782.

Sir: His Excellency commands me to acknowledge the Rect of the Dispatches addressed to John Bolton Esqr.⁵³ by the bearer of this: and also to request that you will keep up the communication, and give him regularly every information in your power. I am etc.⁵⁴

52. Of the Second Connecticut Artillery. He was wounded in December, 1782, in an encounter with British armed boats on Long Island Sound. Captain-Lieutenant Brewster received and conveyed the intelligence from the Culpers to Major Tallmadge.

53. John Bolton was the alias of Maj. Benjamin Tallmadge, under which he corresponded with Samuel Culper, sr. and jr.

54. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys Aide de Camp."

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 6, 1782.

Dear General: I have recd. yours of Yesterday. I am sorry to hear that Desertion still prevails. To render this practice less frequent, I wish you would order the Officers commanding at the different Rendezvous in Massachusetts to give Directions to those Officers, who are charged with the Conducting of the Recruits to Camp, in Case of Desertion on the March, to return to them immediately discriptive Lists of the Deserters, that they may take Measures for their Apprehension.

It gives me much pain to hear that the Distresses of the Army, from the Want of provisions, yet continue, although I have done every Thing in my power to prevent them. I am just informed by Colo. Stewart that Beef has arrived, which will afford you Relief for the present; and I hope that in future you will not experience any want of that Article. I have the Honor etc.⁵⁷

To HEZEKIAH WETMORE⁶⁰

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 8, 1782.

Sir: I have it in charge from His Excellency the Commander in Chief, to direct that you should remove your Office to West Point, as soon as room can be made in the Barracks for your accommodation, by the Officers going into Tents. A principal object is to prevent detachments and reduce the number of Guards as much as possible. A Single Sentinel from the Main Guard at West Point will then answer all the purposes for which six Men or More will otherwise be required. I am etc.⁶¹

57. In the writing of David Cobb.

60. Deputy Paymaster General.

61. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys, A.D.C."

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, June 10, 1782.

Sir: It is extremely painful to me to have continually to remark on the irregular manner in which business seems to be conducted at your Post.

In my Letter of the 27th. May I directed Colo. Ogden to transmit Governor Livingston a particular State of the Circumstances respecting Mr De Peyster and take his Orders and that if the Governor directed him to be delivered to the Military he should be sent with all the Papers to Genl Heath. Instead of this being complied with, the Prisoner is sent to Head Quarters, without even a Line from any body, or a Single paper respecting the matter; whilst the Prisoner alledges that the Civil Authority has taken the matter up, and did actually Issue an Habeus Corpus which Colo Ogden refused to pay any regard to. I must request Sir that you would immediately transmit me Copies of all the papers that have passed between you and the Civil authority of the State on this occasion, with every other information you have. In a matter of so serious a nature as the Trial of a Citizen for his Life, it is certainly necessary that we should be well assured of the legality of the proceedings, and till this is the case nothing can be done in the affair. I am &c.⁶⁸

68. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To COLONEL RICHARD BUTLER

Head Quarters, June 10, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Favor of the 1st. with the several proceedgs of the Court Martial. In Consequence I inclose to you Copy of the Genl Orders approvg the Sentence of the Court against Thomas Glen, with a Warrant for his Execution. Accompanying these, you will find the petition of Glens Father in behalf of his unhappy Son. I feel much for the poor old Man, but the Son seems to have been an Adept in Villainy. However in Consideration of the parents Distress and Character, I submit to the Determination of yourself and the principal Officers at the post, the expediency and necessity of carrying the Warrant into Execution or not. Upon your Decision therefore, takg all Circumstances into Consideration, I consent that Glen may be pardoned or executed, as you shall think proper to direct.

The Trial of Capt McCurdy⁶⁹ I have not had Time fully to consider; at first reading however it appears singular in all its parts; I shall take time to give it a more attentive perusal and inform you my Opinion. I am etc.

P.S. I inclose to you the Depositions in Case of Reed;⁷⁰ it is impossible for me to decide upon it; you will call a Court of

69. Capt. William McCurdy, of the First Pennsylvania Regiment. He served to June, 1783.

70. Thomas Reed, private in the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment.

Enquiry to determine upon his inlistment, And if it appears he has a Right to his Discharge you will give it him. I send you a Blank for that purpose.

Serjeant Andw Nelson,⁷¹ I wish you to prevail upon him, to remain in Service if possible; your Recommendation of him as a good Soldier is very pleasing, and forms a Reason for me to wish him to be retained, but if no persuasions will prevail upon him you will give him a Discharge which I have inclosed.

The prisoner John Glover, who is recommended by the Court, I consent should be pardoned.⁷²

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, June 11, 1782.

Sir: After Writing to you Yesterday, your Letter of the 8th. came to me, a Letter from Justice Symes, remandg Mr Depeyster to be delivered over to the civil power, accompanied yours.

I more and more lament the Conductg of this Matter; your knowing that a habeas Corpus was taken out to rescue the prisoner from the Military, ought at least to have Occasioned your delaying to send on Mr De peyster, until you had obtained my further Instructions; some fatality seems to attend this Business, and I fear is such, as will prevent any thing being effected for the Detection of Mr De peyster in his Correspondence. On Enquiry I can learn nothing of Cadmus, unless it is that he has been so loosely kept, that he

71. Sergt. Andrew Nelson, of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment.

72. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

is suffered to be taken off, by which means your principal proof will be defeated.

Mr. De peyster is now delivered over to the Civil Authority of the State that he may be bro't to his Trial upon a civil process. It rests therefore upon you and Colo Ogden to use your utmost Industry and Vigilance to obtain and produce every Evidence in Support of the Charge that can possibly be come at. This I shall rely upon.⁷³ The paper said to have been taken from the prisoner, and which you sent to Majr Genl. Heath, is now returned to you by Ensn Hopper.⁷⁴

You will inform me as early as possible the present Situation of Capt Asgill, the prisoner destined for Retaliation, and what prospect he has of relief from his Application to Sir Guy Curleton, which I have been informed he has made through his Friend Capt Ludlow. I have heard nothing yet from N York in Consequence of this Application. His fate will be suspended 'till I can be informed the Decision of Sir Guy; But I am impatient least this should be unreasonably delayed, the Enemy ought to have learnt before this, that my Resolutions are not to be trifled with. I am &c.

P.S. I am informed that Capt. Asgill is at

73. At this point the following is crossed off in the draft: "This will become your and Colo Ogdens particular Duty in support of your own Honors and Characters; since, if nothing can be adduced in Support of the Charges against Mr Depeyster, your Apprehension of him, will appear at least in a most ridiculous Light, if nothing more."

74. Ensign John Hopper, of the Second New Jersey Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

Chatham, without Guard, and under no constraint. This if true is certainly wrong. I wish to have the young Gentleman treated with all the Tenderness possible, consistent with his present Situation. But untill his Fate is determined, he must be considered as a close prisoner and be kept in the greatest Security. I request therefore that he be sent immediately to the Jersey Line, where he is to be kept close prisoner, in perfect Security 'till further Orders.⁷⁵

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 11, 1782.

Sir: I am informed by casual report that a Captain⁷⁸ of the 57th Regt British, lately taken by Captain Hyler⁷⁹ at the Light House, is on his parole at Elizabeth Town, or in that vicinity, as it is improper he should remain at any place so near the Lines, and as I am informed he is wounded in such a manner as to be incapable of being removed to a distance, I wish you to pay immediate attention to the Matter and to have him without loss of time taken into safe custody, conveyed to the Jersey Line or some other place of security, and guarded in such a manner as that he cannot possibly make his escape, at the same time that you must be answerable for his safe keeping you will be pleased to have him treated with every species of tenderness and delicacy his circumstances may require, and his situation will admit. I am &c.⁸⁰

75. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

78. Capt. John Schaak, of the Fifty-seventh Foot, British Army. He had not been wounded.

79. Capt. John Hyler (Huyler), of the Bergen County (N.J.) militia.

80. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To CAPTAIN HENRY SEWALL⁷⁶

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 11, 1782.

Dear Sir: In answer to your favor of the 9th. (which is just come to hand) I am directed by the Commander in Chief to inform you, that when it was proposed Lt Col Popkin should go to Boston to superintend the recruiting Service, the General conceived it would be at the same time a matter of private convenience as well as of public utility; that as he does not know that he is authorized to promise any public Money for the expences of the Recruiting Service, and not having given any pecuniary encouragement to the other Officers employed in any branch of that duty, he cannot think himself at liberty to do it in the present instance; if therefore Col Popkin does not choose to go without looking to the Public for Payment of his extra expences, another Officer may be appointed for the purpose.

The General further observes that he believes it will be impossible for the Quarter Master to furnish a bat-horse, both on account of the scarcity of public Horses, and the appropriation of those on hand to other Services.

As to the size of Recruits, His Excellency is of opinion that none ought to be accepted under five feet two inches high; and that Boys of that stature, whose limbs have not spread and who not acquired strength and firmness to

76. Of the Second Massachusetts Regiment and aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. William Heath. He served as such to June, 1783.

perform the exercises and bear the fatigue of service are by no means proper subjects to make Soldiers of, therefore much must be left to the judgment and discretion of the Mustering Officer, to whom it is His Excellencys wish that Gen Heath will give such further Instructions as he may think proper. I am etc.

P.S. Pray what directions did you give respecting sendg back the Dragoon who comes with a flag to Croton.⁷⁷

To COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

Head Quarters, June 12, 1782.

Sir: Your Letter to me of April last was transmitted to the War Office to be laid before Congress for their Order.

Inclosed is the Report of the Secretary at War thereon, from whence it appears that no promotion has taken place, nor Liberty granted for your retiring.

It not being in my power to permit your Absence any longer, I have to request that you immediately return to your Duty in the Army, and take Command of your Regiment. I am &c.⁸¹

77. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys.

81. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEREMIAH OLNEY

Head Quarters, June 12, 1782.

Sir: It appears that Mr. Johnson⁸⁵ made an irregular application to resign and his Commission not being accepted he was guilty of indecent behaviour towards the Secretary at War and finally broke his Arrest and went off. The Secretary at War is willing to pass over his Conduct towards him, but such a wilful disobedience and Contempt of Orders as Mr. Johnson has been guilty of, besides breaking his Arrest cannot be excused.

If Mr. Johnson is Sensible of the Impropriety of his Conduct and will immediately Join his Regiment to answer the Charges against him you may release him from his Confinement but if you think that he will persist in his contempt of Orders and will not Join you may send him under Guard to his Regiment in Camp.⁸⁶ I am &c.⁸⁷

To CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY⁸⁸

Head Quarters, June 12, 1782.

Sir: I have to acknowledge your favour of

85. Ensign Reuben Johnson.

86. Washington had written briefly to Lieutenant Colonel Olney (June 5) that he had written General Lincoln on the subject of Ensign Johnson; "so soon as I receive the necessary information from him, proper directions shall be sent to you," This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

87. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

88. Of the Continental Navy, then commanding the Continental frigate *Alliance*.

the 30th of May. It has ever been my Wish to mitigate in every respect as far as in my power the disagreeable Circumstances attendg a State of War; this general Disposition, as well as a Desire to oblige you, would operate strongly in favor of a Compliance with your Request in behalf of

your Friend; but unhappily some Disputes between the Contendg Parties, at present prevents all Exchange; but upon principles inadmissible on our part.

The Case of Capt Austine has been committed to the Comy of Prisoners, who, I am informed has written to Gov Trumbull on the Subject.

I have no Advice of the french fleet mentioned by you, but what is contained in your Letter; no Notice of their Arrival in the Chesapeak has reached me. I am &c.⁸⁹

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 12, 1782.

Sir: I am directed to authorize you to exchange forty of the Prisoners now in our possession at Fish-kill or West Point for an equal number of our Men now in confinement in the Sugar House at New York, provided there are so many subjects of Military

89. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

exchange at that place of which you will be well assured before you consent to the exchange, for even the bare assertion of Men languishing for liberation from captivity may perhaps not be sufficient to prove they were actually taken in arms.

As this exchange can not be considered as a Matter of right you will be pleased to put it upon the footing of affording more convenient accommodation for our Naval Prisoners, to whom the General is anxious every possible attention should be paid.

You will apply to the Adjt General for an escort, to the Qr Master for the Means of conveying them by Water, to Dobbs Ferry, and you will be particularly careful to prevent any imposition or deception from the Enemy, by retaining the Prisoners in your hands until the exchange can be fairly carried into execution.⁹⁰ I am etc.⁹¹

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JACOB BAYLEY

Head Quarters, June 13, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favr. of the 30th of May pr Capt Bayley, with other Letters and papers which accompanied it.

90. The Secretary at War had written to Washington (June 12): "The state of our naval prisoners is pitiable indeed, and ought to claim every attention. Their distresses are from several causes; to obviate them and if possible give perfect relief, is now the subject of the deliberations of Congress. The Matter has been sometime before them. They find many embarrassments in the Way of a system which will answer their wishes. Indeed until the several States will throw the whole matter into the same hands, under the direction of Congress, and our masters of vessels will, with more punctuality, bring in their prisoners, and until an Agent or Agents are appointed in Europe to receive and support the prisoners landed in the several ports, I see little prospect of matters becoming much better. Your Excellency is mistaken with respect to the power I have over marine prisoners; to safe keep is all the connexion I have with them." Lincoln's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

91. The draft is in the writing of and is signed: "D. Humphrys A. D. Camp."

The Information given by Capt Johnson⁹² is of a very serious Nature. The insidious Designs of the Enemy, I believe, are not to be doubted; but the Evil he mentions has not, I hope, reached the Minds of the people at large, however it may have influenced the Conduct of some Individuals.

In present Circumstances, I can afford no further Assistance than is already given; the Brigade of New Hampshire Troops, with one Regiment of the N York Levies, are now on the Western and Northern frontiers. Their duty will extend to keeping a watchful look out upon the Motions of the Enemy in that Quarter and on the Lakes. I can only advise you to attend very critically to the Movements of the Enemy on your Borders, and to the internal Machinations of evil Men and Emissaries who may be sent among you, or be contained in your own Bosoms. And to counteract them by every Means in your power; And at the same time to keep the Exertions of the people active and alert, and always prepared for speedy Action, in Case of an Appearance of the Enemy on your frontiers.

It is surprising to me, if the Enemy are establishing a post in force at Crown point, that I have not been informed of it from Albany. Colo Reid⁹³ who Commands there, in a Letter of the 8th June mentions nothing of it; And Colo Tupper in a Letter of the 30th May says "that the Enemy's Shipping were arrived at Crown point, but dont learn that they have any Troops with them."

Was it in my power to effect the Exchange of

92. Capt. Thomas Johnson, of the Vermont Militia.

93. Lieut. Col. George Reid, of the New Hampshire Regiment. He served to November 1783.

Capt Johnson, it would be very agreeable to me; but the Commissioners of the two contendg powers, who met at Elizabeth Town this Spring, to negotiate a general Exchange of prisoners (in which your people among others were to have been included) have unhappily seperated without being able to agree to any thing, by which Means my benevolent Intentions have been entirely frustrated, and all Exchanges at present are at an End. If any Mode can be pointed out by you, to attain Mr Johnson's wishes, in which I can be influential, I shall be glad to afford every Assistance in my power, that may be consistent with my Duty.

I wish you to be industrious to obtain every Intelligence you can, and to communicate whatever you shall think of Importance. I am &c.⁹⁴

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLONEL JOHN GREATON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 14, 1782.

With your Regt. you are to relieve the Garrison's of the Posts at Dobb's and King's Ferries; those at the latter, viz. Stony and Verplanks points, are to be relieved by whole Companies, consisting, as nearly as may be, of the same number of Men which are now stationed there; with these you will leave a Field Officer; and proceed yourself with the remainder of

94. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

the Regt. to the Post of Dobb's ferry, where you will relieve the Garrison of the Block House in such manner as you shall judge proper,⁹⁵ and encamp the rest of your Regt immediately under the cover of the Block House.

As the mode of doing Duty by Corps enables an Officer to have his Men constantly under his own eye, and to be responsible for their behaviour; I must recommend that you will be particularly attentive to the discipline and good Order of your Regt., that when it is impracticable to exercise and manœuvre the Men collectively, you will have them instructed and practised in the use of Arms by detail.

To keep up the reputation of the Corps, it will be essential to preserve the utmost regularity, to prevent any abuses of the persons or property of the Inhabitants, and to restrain the Soldiers from straggling, without permission, from their Quarters. Every possible precaution should be made use of to prevent desertion; if it should begin to prevail, the Rolls must be called every hour in the day time, and the Quarters or Tents must be visited by an Officer or non-commissioned Officer, every Hour in the night; besides which patrols and small Scouts of trusty Men, should be frequently sent out, as well for the sake of apprehending Deserters, as to prevent surprise from the Enemy; For notwithstanding all the pacific expressions of the British, you are hereby strictly directed to make use of the utmost vigilance, and not put any confidence in their pretended plan of defensive War; for should there be an opportunity of making

95. At this point the following is crossed off in the draft: "and if you cannot cover the rest of the Men conveniently in the neighbouring Buildings, I think it will be advisable for you, to"

a stroke at you, with a probability of success, you may depend upon it the Enemy would instantly seize the occasion.

As the post of Dobbs ferry is now the only avenue of intercourse with the Enemy, by Flags, and as there is great danger the same illicit practices may prevail there which have taken place at other posts of the same kind; a principle object of your Command is to prevent, absolutely, all kind of commerce or illegal communications with the Enemy.

All Flags from the Enemy are to be stopped at your out post, the dispatches there received from them, and the Flags sent back as soon as the business is performed; a Guard with an Officer or non-commissioned Officer should always, in the mean time, be kept on board.

No Military Character from the Enemy, is to be permitted to land, nor is any Citizen or private person to be suffered to come within our Lines, untill permission, in writing for that purpose, shall be obtained from the Executive of the State into which he or She is desirous of passing.

No passport is to be deemed sufficient for granting a Flag to pass to the Enemies Lines, but from Congress, the Secretary at War, the Executives of the States or Major Genl Heath; except you shall receive particular Instructions from me to the contrary.

Capt. Pray who has long commanded at that post, and who has acquitted himself, in that service with great reputation, is still to retain the command of the Water Guard; he will undoubtedly be able to give you very useful information respecting the state of the Country, the disposition and character

of the individuals, and the sources of intelligence from the Enemy; I wish you on the other hand to give him every aid in your power for promoting the service, and if necessary, that you will furnish him with some oarsmen for the additional Boat or Boats he may be supplied with; these Men to remain on that duty only untill your Regt. shall be relieved.

On any emergency, for which particular directions cannot be given, you are to act agreeably to the best of your discretion.

You will be pleased to communicate to me immediately, every extraordinary occurrence, together with any intelligence particularly of the State, strength or movement of the Enemy, which you may obtain.

Upon your being relieved, you will deliver over these to the relieving Officer, as a standing Regulation for the direction of the Commandant of the before mentioned posts; and on your arrival in Camp, will make a general Report to me in writing, of your Command, noting the casualties and every other remarkable event within the sphere of your observation.⁹⁶

96. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

To CAPTAIN THOMAS JOHNSON

Head Quarters, June 14, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favor pr Capt Baily, and thank you for the Information contained, and would beg you to continue your Communication whenever you shall collect any Intelligence you shall think of Importance.

It would give me real pleasure to have it in my power to effect your Exchange; but some unhappy Circumstances have lately taken place, which for the present cut off all Exchange. If you can fall upon any Mode to accomplish your Wishes in which I can with propriety give you my Assistance, I shall be very glad to afford it. I am etc.⁹⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, June 15, 1782.

Dr Sir: It was a very unlucky Circumstance which you mention in your Favor of the 10th June, and has taken place without any order from me, or Concurrence of mine.¹

I am sorry however that the Assembly have taken

97. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

1. "The Assembly resolved to issue Execution against the delinquent Classes for the Recruits not procured by the 20th. of this Month; since that Resolve the lower House have taken great Offense that some Recruits who had been received by the Continental Mustering Officers (appointed for the Purpose here) and their Bounty paid, should be mustered out at Camp; it unluckily happened that one of them had served 3 Years to good Acceptance, others had served one or two Campaigns, wanted only an Inch or two of the Standard; the Indignation of the House has carried them so far as to suspend the Publication of the Act for levying Execution against the delinquent Classes, and to resolve that the Classes which have procured Men to the Acceptance of the Continental Mustering Officers in the State, shall be exempt from any Penalty, and that, in the future, the Sanction of the Colonels of Militia shall be an Exemption; the Governor will endeavour to prevent these Resolutions passing the upper house; he has his Fears, and wishes that the Men, who have been approved by the mustering Officers here, might be accepted, except where there has been some Imposition. The exact Height required by the Inspector General is now attended to, though I could wish, considering the Difficulty of getting Men, some Latitude was given to the Discretion of the mustering Officers."—*Huntington to Washington*, June 10, 1782. Huntington's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

such hasty Offence at the Measure, and have carried their Resentment so far as you inform. It could never be my Intention to call for, or Expectation to receive, other Men in the Room of those who have been rejected after being passed by our own Mustering Officers; neither can any blame of deficiency fall upon the people or the Classes after having furnished Men to the Acceptance of the Muster Masters from the Army. I am sorry that the latter in many Instances have been so little attentive to their Duty, which I am sure, is by this Time, made very plain and explicit to them.

To remedy, as much as may be this unhappy Mistake, I think it may still be well, if it can be done, to send on the rejected Men again to Camp, [who are engaged for a suffct. length of time]; unless there may be some, who thro Imposition have been accepted, and are too notoriously insufficient; such I think will be but a Burthen upon the Army; others, altho they may be small, yet may be put to many Duties where they will render Service, and give us good Men to the field.

The Size that is fixed, is very small and it would seem almost impossible, that a person under that, could be by any Means competent to the Duties of a Soldier; the Instances, if any, must be very extraordinary. You will please therefore to direct the Officers that in future they attend very strictly to the rules given them, as it is better to save Expence to the Public, by havg no Recruits, than by takg. such as are unable to render the Service expected from them.

I am glad to hear that your State have passed the 5 pr Cent Impost, and that they are makg the provision of Taxes

for the Supply of Mr Morris's Requisition. It is of the utmost Importance, that they not only lay the Taxes, but that they should also be vigorous and punctual in their Collection. I fear the greatest failure lies in the latter part of the Duty.

Considering that your Line has been a long Time without any Genl Officer, and supposing that you have by this Time probably done all in your power to forward the Recruitg Service, I must request that you will please to repair to the Army as soon as your Convenience will possibly admit. I am &c.²

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, June 14, 1782.

Sir: His Excellency directs me to put the inclosed under Cover to you, and to inform that the passports of your Deputy will not be sufficient for Prisoners to go within the Enemy's Lines upon parole. But in the present Instance you can exchange the persons in Question on the Spot. I am &c.⁹⁸

2. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

98. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE REID³

Head Quarters, June 15, 1782.

Sir: I have been favord with your Letter of the 8th. instant. I have directed your Wants both in the Military Stores and Quartermasters Department, to be supplied, and you will soon receive a Quantity of Cartridges from General Knox's Order.

I am sorry for the Misfortune you suffered from your fall, and am glad that you are so far recovered as to be able to return to your Duty.

I must recommend to you to be very active and vigorous in your Command, and to give particular Instructions to your Scouts to be watchful and Alert in their Duty; not only to prevent Surprises from the Enemy; but to gain every Intelligence possible of any Movements or Approach of the Enemy, either from the Westwd or Northwd. I have been lately informed, from high up Connecticut River, that the Enemy are coming in force across the Lake Champlain to take post at Crown point; you don't make mention of any Discoveries from that Quarter: have any Scouts lately been on that Rout? I wish you to be punctual in giving me every Intelligence of this Nature that you can obtain and that you think may be depended on.

[I am to desire that you will, as far as it is practicable in your dispersed situation, attend closely to the

3. Lieutenant colonel commandant of the New Hampshire battalion then stationed at Albany, N.Y. He served to November, 1783.

disciplining and training the Men of the New Hampshire Regt, make the rules and regulations for the governmt. of the Army your guide, that uniformity may prevail in the Army, however seperated and dispersed the sevl. parts of it may be. I am &c.]⁴

***To THE CONTRACTORS FOR THE MOVING ARMY**

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 15, 1782.

Gentn: Under the present prospect of the Campaign, and a full consideration of all Circumstances, I do, agreeably to the powers vested in me by the Contract for the Moving Army, fix upon West point as a Magazine of Provision, and wish you to exert yourselves in laying them in accordingly, [(except the Salted Meat)]⁹⁹ at that place.

I think it incumbent on me to advertise you, that your estimate of fourteen thousand Rations daily, I conceive to be inadequate to our certain wants; and may, eventually, be greatly short of the demand, if the Army should be increased for offensive operations in this Quarter. I am etc.

4. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

99. The phrase in brackets has been added by Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 17, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have to reply to your three favors of the 15th. A Copy of your Application in favor of Colo Greatons Appointment to be a Brigadier, is submitted to the Consideration of the Sectry. at War, with my Approbation, and the promotion will probably take place.

The Commandg Officer at the post of Dobb's Ferry should undoubtedly be furnished with a public Horse for the purpose of sendg by Land such Dispatches as he may have Occasion to convey in that Manner. You will please to give an Order for the purpose.

I had written thus far, when your Letter of the 17th. arrived. I know nothing more respectg the Forage used by the french Army in this State, than I did when you wrote me upon that Subject. I now return you the Letter from Genl Beville; with this Observation, that I do not recollect any thing more than a cursory Conversation with Genl Rochambeau on that Head; nothing determinate respectg Pay for it was ever said, that I remember; the Idea, when we arrived on that Ground was not that I know entertained by any one. But the Orders of Congress must be attended to. If the Arbitrators are driven to a Decision under present Circumstances, they must make the best Estimates they can; I have no Directions to give. I dont at present see anything to prevent

Colo Hulls Attendance on the Arbitration. If any Danger or Inconvenience should be observed, it may be remedied on its Appearance.

Lieut Frye must remain in his present Situation untill some Determination can be made respectg him; his Case will be laid before the Secretary at War. I am &c.

PS. If Genl Beville's Letter is communicated to the Arbitrators, I beg you will let my Observation upon it be laid before them also.⁹

[MS.H.S.]

To COMMODORE ALEXANDER GILLON¹⁰

Head Quarters, June 17, 1782.

Sir: I have received by the post your two favors of the 4th March and 6th of June.

I feel myself much obliged to you for the Care and Attention you have paid to the two Boxes sent on Board your Ship at Amsterdam; they contain a Press for Copying Letters, and were ordered on Board by Messrs De Neufville and Sons, and designed as a present from them to me.

If you will be pleased to deliver the Boxes to the Order of the Sectry at War, who will take charge of their forwardg to me, it will add to the Obligation I am already under to your Care. With much Regard etc.¹¹

9. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

10. Of the South Carolina State navy, then at Philadelphia.

11. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To DOCTOR JOHN COCHRAN

Head Quarters, June 18, 1782.

Sir: It appears to me that keeping up an Hospital at Boston is a very needless expence to the Public; the only pretext that could be offered for it, was the Corps of Invalids being there; that Corps being now removed and no Continental Troops remaining or likely to be there, I see nothing to prevent the Hospitals being broke up immediately and I desire you to take measures accordingly. I am &c.¹²

To EGBERT BENSON¹³

Head Quarters, June 18, 1782.

Sir: Some Disputes having arisen between the Army and Mr Sands in the Execution of his Contract; It becomes necessary to have them decided in the Mode prescribed in the Contract, which is by the submittg them to the Decision of three Indifferent Men not of the Army. One to be chosen by the Army, the second by Mr Sands, and the third by the other two.

Havg named you on the part of the Army, as one of the Arbitrators, I have to request the favor of you to inform me

12. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

13. Attorney general of New York; commissioner to superintend British evacuation of New York, 1783; New York Delegate to the Continental Congress, 1784; Member of Congress, 1789–93.

whether it will be convenient for you to undertake this Business, and when it will best suit you to attend; begging leave to observe that the earlier you fix the Time, in case of Acceptance, the more agreeable to me, and the more Beneficial to the public and the Army. I am &c.¹⁴

To MAJOR JAMES RANDOLPH REID

Head Quarters, June 19, 1782.

Sir: His Excellency the Commander in Chief directs me to reply to your Favor of the 30th May, and inform you, that considering the Footg on which your Arrest stands,²⁵ and upon a View of all Circumstances attendg it, it is his Opinion that your Trial should be deferred until an Opportunity presents of havg a Court formed from the Line of the Army. I am &c.²⁶

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 20, 1782.

Sir: I am directed by the Commander in Chief,

14. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

25. Reid had been arrested by General Hazen for disobedience of orders, unmilitary conduct, and ungentlemanly behavior.

26. The draft is in the writing of and is signed by Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

who went to Poughkepsie early this morning, to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 18th. and 19th, and to inform you that he has placed the Contract on such footing, that in future, he hopes, no complaint will arise from a want of provision, or from the Officers not having their wishes gratified by the mode of Issues; the alteration of the Contract only waits for Mr. Morris approbation and that the pay of the Army depends altogether on the compliance of the several States with the requisitions of Congress, without which it is utterly impossible for Mr. Morris to give the Army a farthing.

Inclosed is a furlough for honest Jones³¹ of the 9th. Regt, the place of his abode must be mentioned and the furlough registered in the Books of the Regt.

Your private Letter³² which the Genl. has recev'd will be answered when he returns from Poughkepsie. I am &c.³³

To TIMOTHY EDWARDS

Head Quarters, June 21, 1782.

Sir: The thousand Barrels of salted provisions which the Contract obliges you to furnish, I conceive to be intended for the contingent purposes of the Army, dependg on particular Operations, and not for immediate Issues; previous therefore to

31. Abel Jones, private in the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment.

32. Heath's letter to Washington (June 19) bears the following indorsement by Jonathan Trumbull, jr.; "furlough for Soldier of 9th. to repair *the Injury* done his Sweetheart last Winter—granted."

33. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Cobb.

replying to your Question respectg the places of Deposite, I will be glad to know, whether the Contractors for the movg. Army, mean to supply any Quantity of salted provisions for immediate Issue, or occasional Expenditures; for the latter, should it be your Intention, I have no hesitation to give you an instant reply, and upon a resolution of that point, I shall be enabled better to determine the former. I am &c.³⁴

[N.Y.P.L.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, June 22, 1782.

Sir: I have received your two Letters of the 17 and 18 Inst. The only object I had in view in ordering Capt Asgill to be confined at the Hutts was the perfect Security of the Prisoner; this must be attended to; but I am very willing and indeed wish every indulgence to be granted him that is not inconsistent *with that* . The same with respect to Captain Schaack.

When I ordered on an Officer for the purpose of retaliation I mentioned my willingness that he should make any application he thought proper to the British Commander in Chief in whose power alone it lay to avert his destiny but I at the same time desired it to be announced that I would receive no application nor answer any Letter on the Subject, which did not inform

34. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

me that Satisfaction was made for the death of Capt. Huddy. I imagine you was not informed of this circumstance, or you would have prevented Majr. Gordon's applications on the subject. I am &c.³⁵

To MAJOR COGGESHALL OLNEY

Head Quarters, June 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: The Commander in Chief has no other objection to your proposals for reinlisting the Recruits, than your offering a bounty before you have the permission of the State to do it; but when

you have obtained that permission, he has no objection to giving furloughs for one or two months next Winter for those you reinlist.

Those Recruits who have been furlough'd from the Connecticut Line, reinlisted without any bounty, if any in your Regt. choose to reinlist on the same terms, they will no doubt be indulged in the same manner; if any do reinlist on these terms, you must be accountable, in some measure for their return. I am &c.³⁶

35. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

36. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Cobb.

To PHELPS & COMPANY³⁷

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: Since my conversation with you yesterday, I have been informed that the terms proposed to you by the State of Connecticut for taking their salted provisions, are grounded on an expectation of their being delivered at this River,³⁸ and that their price is fixed on that ground; in which case, I suppose, an additional sum is fixed beyond that which could be proposed upon a certainty of its delivery at Connecticut River, only sufficient to cover the expence of its transportation; if this is the case, unless you have something in view more than is in my Mind, perhaps there is no necessity of fixing, at this time, on the places of Deposit for the moving Army, as the expence of transportation will be no more by and by than at present. You are fully acquainted with the difficulties on my Mind, which prevent my being able to fix on the places where it will be best for the provision to be lodged; If therefore my information is well founded, and my observations thereon appear to you in the light they do to me, I think it is necessary at this Time only for you to decide on taking the provisions from the State, fixing the price on a supposition of their being deposited at Connecticut River, and leaving the contingent transportation to a future determination as circumstances may turn up.

37. Contractors for the moving Army.

38. The Hudson.

But if your objections to this proposition should be insuperable; then fix on West Point as a place of Deposit for the 100 Barrels of provisions mentioned in the moveing Contract. I am etc.³⁹

[N.Y.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: As the Referees, who are to settle the disputes between the Army and Mr. Sands & Co., will sit for that purpose in a few days, it will be necessary for the Gentn. of the Army to appoint some Person to attend in their name to conduct the business; I wish you therefore to make it known to the Army under your Command, that such person may be appointed, and that he properly prepare the necessary papers, in defence of the Charges, against the meeting of the Referees, the time and place of their meeting will be notified to you. I am etc.⁴⁰

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: By the Order of this day you will see the

39. In the writing of David Cobb.

40. In the writing of David Cobb.

Army is to go into Tents as soon as conveniently may be. The ground of Encampment for the different Corps ought to be as contiguous to their present Cantonments as the nature of the ground⁴¹ will admit. I am etc.⁴²

[M.S. H.S.]

***To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH**

Newburgh, June 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: In answer to your private letter of the 19th, I have to observe, that it was not my intention by the Order of the 4th. of April, to call in question, or deprive you, of any part of the Command which was confirmed in the subsequent one of the 9th. Instt. The Order of the 9th. (last mentioned) did not proceed from any doubt in *my* mind of the meaning of the first, but because different interpretations was put on it by *others* ; because confusion and disorder was about to ensue, and because I had *understood* from the Adjutt. Genl. that you, yourself, required an explanation of it to the Army; to prevent those evils which were resulting from misconception; had I known that Captn. Williams was in arrest, and to be tried on the merits of that order, I certainly should not, at the time I did, have issued the explanatory one of the 9th.; which was, in some measure, prejudging for

41. The draft has the word "Country."

42. In the writing of David Humphreys.

the Court; as it was upon the construction of the order of the 4th. of April that the matter, ultimately, would rest.

As you are pleased to ask my opinion on the propriety of dropping, or prosecuting the point in dispute, I shall give it in favor of the latter; because I have too good an opinion of Colo. Putnams sense, and knowledge of Discipline, to suppose he would have forbid the Brigade Majr Williams to comply with your order (thereby incurring responsibility) unless he had conceived himself justified under the order of the 4th. of April. I am, etc.

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received your favors of yesterday and of this date by Major Lyman. I can have no objection to the assembling of the Officers of the Masstts. Line for there obtaining, in a decent manner, the regular settlement of their Just dues, but am very sorry there should be any occasion

for such proceedings; I supposed that Congress had passed Resolutions, directing the several States or Mr. Morris to adjust all the Accounts of the Army up to the year 1782, and believe I mentioned that circumstance in a

Letter to you last Winter; and had no doubt but a settlement had taken place accordingly.

It is very indifferent with me what Court Colo. Badlam is tryed by, so long as the truth of his proceedings are made known, I shall therefore leave it at your discretion. I am &c.⁴³

[MS.H.S.]

43. In the writing of David Cobb.

To DOCTOR ISAAC LEDYARD

Head Quarters, June 23, 1782.

Sir: Your Letter to the Commander in Chief was received some time since, but for want of a Judge Advocate to

conduct a Court Martial, an answer was delayed; since then the Adj. Genl. has been requested to obtain some person to act in that Character, if this can be effected, your Trial may come on immediately, as it is his Excellencys opinion that no person ought to be kept in arrest at the pleasure of the Arrestor. I am etc.⁴⁷

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 24, 1782.

Dear Sir: I am this moment setting out for Albany, and shall be absent a few days; I give you this information for the Regulation of your own conduct; and request in the mean time, you will give me any intelligence you may receive, which you shall deem of sufficient consequence for communication by Express. I am etc.⁶¹

[MS. H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Poughkeepsie, June 24, 1782.

Dear Sir: Mr Benson the Attorney General of this

47. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Cobb.

61. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

State, who was appointed by me, and Mr. Melachton Smith⁶⁴ who was nominated by Mr Sands, have undertaken as Refferrees to settle the matters in dispute between the Army and the Contractors for furnishing the Garrison of West Point &c. These two Gentlemen are to name a third agreeably to the mode pointed out in the Contract; and are to meet on the 8th day of July next for the completion of that business. This information is given that preparation may be made accordingly. I am etc.⁶⁵

[MS. H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, June 24, 1782.

Sir: I enclose you the Copy of a Letter from His Excellency Governor Livingston to me, informg that two Persons coming from N York in a private manner to Elizabeth Town have been suffered to pass from thence by Captain Dayton; this (whatever the particular circumstances might be) is so diametrically opposite to the spirit of my directions expressed in my Letter of the 10th. of May to you, that I must confess I was not a little surprised to hear of it. When I prohibited all intercourse at that Post by Flags, it was impossible for me to conceive that a door of private communication would be opened, by the knowledge of our Officers, and therefore could not think it necessary to take particular precaution against

64. Melancton Smith, a New York merchant. He was later a member of the firm of Daniel Parker & Co.

65. In the writing of David Humphreys.

it; But Sir, you will now consider it as my most positive Order, that none of our Prisoners or any other characters of any discription whatever shall be permitted to pass in any way whatever to or from the Enemy with the privity of any Officers commandg under you. And if you should find Captain Dayton or any other Officers not disposed to carry this Order zealously into execution, you will have them relieved by others who will pay the strictest attention to it, and to put a total period to all kind of intercourse whatever with the Enemy. I am etc.⁴⁹

CERTIFICATE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters of the American Army, June 24, 1782.

Lieutenant Colonel William S. Smith entered the Service of the United States at the Commencement of the present War; in August 1776 he was appointed an Aid de Camp to Major General Sullivan with the Rank of Major in the Army, on the 1st day of January 1777 he was promoted to be a Lieutenant Colonel in one of the additional Battalions raised by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; after which he had the honor of serving as Inspector and Deputy Adjutant General to the Corps of Lt Infantry, under the Command of Major General the Marquis de la Fayette in the Campaign 1780; and in the

49. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Month of July 1781 he was appointed Aid de Camp to the Commander in Chief of the American Army; in all which several Military Stations, We hereby Certify he has behaved with great fidelity, bravery, and good conduct.

During the course of Service Colonel Smith has had many opportunities of signaling himself by his gallantry, intelligence, and professional knowledge, in the several Enterprizes, Battles, and Seiges at which he has been present; particularly in the Actions of Long Island and Harlem Heights, at the Seige of New Port, in the expedition under the Orders of Major Genl Sullivan, against the Savages, in the Battle of Springfield, where he commanded a Regt. at the successful Siege of York in Virginia, where the Army of Lord Cornwallis surrendered Prisoners of War, and on many other important occasions. In consequence of which he hath merited my approbation and this Testimony of his being a Brave and valuable Officer.⁵⁰

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH AND MAJOR MATTHEW CLARKSON

Head Quarters, June 24, 1782.

Gentlemen: I have this Moment received your

50. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Application to me requestg Liberty to join the combined Armies in the West Indies, for this Campaign.

I applaud Gentlemen the noble and generous Ardor displayed on this Occasion. But having never taken upon me to grant Leave of Absence to Officers in the American Army, without permission of Congress, your application shall be conveyed to that Hono Body for their Approbation.

If your Desires should be gratified in obtaing the Leave you ask, I most sincerely wish you every Success your Military Genius and good Intentions demand; and that you may return again to your Country, crowned with Laurels, to enjoy the Honor and Satisfaction of your generous Services.⁵¹

CERTIFICATE TO MAJOR MATTHEW CLARKSON

Head Quarters, June 24, 1782.

Major Matthew Clarkson commenced his Military Services as a Volunteer early in the present War. In the Year 1777 recd a Majority in the Army of the United' States and was present at the Surrender of Lt. Genl Burgoyne at Saratoga having been active in all the principal antecedent Engagements that produced that Event. In the Year 1779 was appd A D C. to Majr. Genl. Lincoln (now Secretary at War) then

51. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

commanding Officer in the Southern Department. In that Character he served at the Siege of Savannah. In 1780 He acted as a Major of a Corps of Lt. Infantry during the Siege of Charles-Town; In 1781 he returned to his former Situation as A D C. to Mr G Lincoln and was present at the Reduction of the British posts of York and Gloucester under the Command of Lt. Genl. Earl Cornwallis. Soon after this when Major Genl. Lincoln became Secretary at War, he was appd his Assistant. In all which

Stations from my own Knowledge and the Report of the General officer under whose immediate Orders he has Served I am authorised to declare that he has acquitted himself with great Honour.⁵²

To COMFORT SANDS & CO.⁶⁶

Poughkeepsie, June 24, 1782.

Sir: I think it proper to advise you, that Mr. Benson, the Attorney Genl. whom I had nominated as one of the Referrees to decide the disputes between the Army and yourself, has signified his intention to undertake that business, and has mentioned the 8th day of July as the earliest period, at which he can enter upon it. In the mean time he proposes agreeing with Mr Melanchton

52. The draft is in the writing of Hodijah Baylies.

66. Contractors for supplying the garrison of West Point.

Smith the Referree on your part, on a third person, according to the mode of Settlement, which has been adopted. I am etc.⁶⁷

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, June 28, 1782.

Sir: I have just received your Letter with the inclosed intelligence from Dobbs ferry;⁷¹ if it is true, you will have further information; and as I think there is some doubt of the certainty of it, if it is agreeable I will defer the Express 'till tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Sands, I suppose, is the Issuer to all the Army, untill Colo Stewart makes further arrangements. I am etc.⁷²

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE REID

Head Quarters, July 2, 1782.

Sir: I have been favoured with your Letter of

67. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

71. Heath's letter, dated June 28, is in the *Washington Papers*. It is indorsed by Cobb: "Supposed evacuation of Staten Island—premature."

72. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Cobb."

the 23d. ulto. and have given Direction to the Qr. Master to furnish all the Materials in his power to put Fort Plain in a state of defence as well as for the Reparation of its Magazine. I am &c.⁷⁶

76. The draft is in the writing of Hodijah Baylies.

Washington reached Newburgh July 2.

On July a Washington wrote to Nicholas Quackenbas, the deputy quartermaster at Albany, of the bad state of Fort Plain and the magazine at that place. "As it is of the greatest Importance that they should be repaired, I must request you to make every possible Exertion to supply the necessary Materials." The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To COLONEL PHILIP VAN CORTLANDT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 3, 1782.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter

of the 27th. ulto.

The late Resolution of Congress deranging three Lieuts. from each Regt. I have not received officially, and therefore do not think myself at liberty to put it in execution; the Regts. will remain as they are at present, 'till further information is received from the Secrety at War.

On your Application the Q. Master will deliver Tents for your Regts. which may be encamped on any convenient place near your present position. I am etc.⁷⁹

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL HENRY BROCKHOLST LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 3, 1782.

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your favor of the 16th. of June, with the enclosures.

I am much pleased with the narration you have given me of the part you acted while a prisoner in New York; and cannot conceive there was any impropriety in your giving a Parole as a Lt Col in the Army, at a time when you had the commission in your pocket and could not be acquainted with the Resolves of Congress of the 31 of December 1781 and 21 Janry 82.

79. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

Under these circumstances, I should suppose you ought to be considered and exchanged as such; but in the mean time I think it would be proper to report the Matter to the Secry at War, and likewise take his opinion thereon. I am etc.⁸⁰

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT COCHRAN

Head Quarters, July 4, 1782.

Sir: I am informed that some uneasiness has arisen from a late Regimental order issued by you, requiring the Surgeon and Mate of the Regiment you Command to attend the Parade at every Roll Call and to Post themselves in a line with the Company Officers on the right of the Batallion.

It is certainly right in you, Sir, as Commanding Officer of the Regiment to see that those Gentlemen are always at hand to attend to the duties of their Office, nor can it admit of a doubt, that you have a right to order their attendance on the Parade whenever you may think their presence there necessary; but as it has not been the Custom in our Army for them to attend and take post at Roll Calls with the Company Officers and as it is not necessary to the Service the introducing that custom now can answer no good purpose and may be productive

80. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

of disputes. Viewing it therefore in this light I think it will be best not to insist on it in your Regiment. I am &c.⁸⁵

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 4, 1782.

Sir: The Superintendent of Finance hath informed me, "that several of our Officers have left behind them in New York considerable sums of Money unpaid, which had been advanced to them while they were prisoners. The humanity of those who have made such advances; as well as the principles of Justice, require that they should be repaid." In consequence of the foregoing information, and at the request of the Financier, you will take immediate measures to have the amount of those Debts particularly ascertained; and if you shall find it necessary you will proceed without delay to the British Lines for the purpose I am etc.⁸⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, July 5, 1782.

Sir: I have received a Letter of the 1st. Instant

85. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

87. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

from Captain Dayton, informing me that Lt. McDonald⁸⁸ of the 71st. British had come from the Enemy. Many reasons may be alledged to justify the Desertion of a Private Soldier, but such a Conduct in an Officer cannot but impress a very unfavorable opinion of his Character. Experience has proved that I am right in my suspicions of such People, and therefore I wish them always removed as soon as possible from every part of the Army or indeed any other place where they can do any Mischief.

As he will not be suffered to come here he will probably go to Philadelphia; should that be the case, it will not be amiss to drop a line to the Secy at War that such a Character is gone on, that he may have an Opportunity of watching his Conduct in that place. I am &c.⁸⁹

To CAPTAIN JOHN PRAY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 5, 1782.

Sir: I have learnt by accident, that there may probably arise some difficulty in the command at Dobbs Ferry, unless an early measure is taken to prevent it.

You cannot be ignorant, Sir, that when

88. Lieut. Angus McDonald, of the Seventy-first Foot, British Army.

89. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

two Officers come in contact in the course of service, the senior must always command. And you will please to understand that your being entrusted with the immediate command of the Water Guard, (with which, as to its internal regulation and duties the Commanding Officer of the Post has not I presume attempted to interfere) could not exempt you from the general direction of the Officer Commanding at the Post. But I consider it entirely unnecessary to point out your particular line of duty, as I am persuaded your knowledge of Military Order and subordination, and Zeal for the service will prevent my hearing any thing Officially on the subject; than which nothing could be more irksome. I am etc.⁹⁰

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 7, 1782.

Dear Sir: Mr. Benson and Mr. Smith have nominated Judge Hobart⁹¹ as a third person to determine with them the Disputes between the Army and the Contractors. The Gentlemen will attend to the Business on Wednesday next, and wish it may be accomplished at Poughkeepsie as that place will be much more convenient to them than any other; but if it should appear necessary that a

90. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

91. Egbert Benson, Melancton Smith, and John Sloss Hobart.

large Number of Witnesses must attend from the Army, they will forego their own Convenience for the Sake of accommodating those concerned, by meeting at Fish Kill. As this is a Matter of Delicacy on their part, I could wish the Gentlemen, who have undertaken to settle the Disputes, may not be put to more Trouble than is absolutely necessary. I am etc.

P.S. It will be proper for a Gentleman from the Army to go to Poughkeepsie on Wednesday next, where the Referees will assemble that Day, in Order to fix upon the place and mode of proceedings.⁹²

[MS. H. S.]

92. The draft is in the writing of Hodijah Baylies.

On July 7 Washington wrote to Maj. Theodore Woodbridge: "Capt. Pray has been wrote to on the subject of his Command, which I hope will remove your present discontents. Your Letter shall be particularly answered by the next oppertunity." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

In the museum of Independence Hall, Philadelphia, is a brief note in the writing of Washington, dated July 7, 1782, to an unknown officer (possibly Brig. Gen. James Clinton), introducing Francisco Rendon, John Holker, and a Mr. Terresson, who wished to visit the Saratoga battlefields. "I desire you will give them such guards, or dispose the Troops ... to give them security in their jaunt."

***To COLONEL SAMUEL MILES**

Head Qrs. Newburgh, July 8, 1782.

Sir: By the receipt of a Mr. White your Assistant

2 Tureens

2 Sallid Dishes.

29 Dishes of diff. Sizes

5 dozn. and 7 Plates: shallow

2 doz. and 10 Soup Do., and

8 Salts

Were left in his care to be sent to me when ordered; but in lieu thereof, consequent of the Order, I have received the following.

2 Turens

8 Dishes

2 Doz. and 10 Shallow Plates

3 Doz and 7 Soup Do. 9 more than were left and

6 Salts.

The deficiency I expect to receive by the first opportunity, if they are not already on their way. Only two Plates were found broken in the Package that came to hand. I am etc.

[H.S.P.]

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 9, 1782.

My dear Sir: Your Letter of the 22 Of April also your two favors of the 19th of May, with the Returns of the Army under your command, have been duly received; but having been in momentarily expectation *that intelligence would arrive from Europe, or some other event turn up, which might disclose the intentions of the Enemy, and give a clue for the final determination of the Operations of the Campaign* , I have delayed for a few days, giving you my answer. Notwithstanding *I am at this hour as much in the dark as ever* , I can defer no longer the pleasure I always experience from indulging myself in a free communication

and interchange of sentiments with you. To participate and divide our feelings, hopes, fears, and expectation with a friend, is almost the only source of pleasure and consolation left us, *in the present languid and unpromising state of our affairs* .

It gives me infinite satisfaction to find that by your prudence and decision, you have put a period to the progress of a dangerous Mutiny; and by your example of patience and firmness reclaimed the Army amidst all their aggravated sufferings to that good disposition, which it has been your great merit to preserve in your command, through the Worst of times. *Their distresses are truly deplorable* ; and while the almost insurmountable difficulty of transporting Cloathing and the smaller Supplies (which General St Clair reports are still detained on the road for want of the means of conveyance) gives me the most sensible pain and anxiety; *it but too clearly proves the impracticability of removing by land, under our present prospects of Finance* , the Artillery of Seige and immense quantity of Stores necessary for a serious operation against Charles Town .

The disastrous event of the naval action in the West Indies may indeed, and probably will now give a total alteration to the complexion of the Campaign: this will in all human probability operate more than any other circumstance *against the Evacuation of the Southern States* ; for what would have before been a very hazardous line of conduct, and would have exposed the Enemy to a fatal blow *in case of a naval co-operation on this Coast* , may now be considered as a rational and prudent measure

on their part. But the mode of defensive War (which the Enemy affect to have adopted, in which I would however place but very little confidence) and especially the detachment from Charles Town, which must have weakened them considerably; will I hope enable you, in all events to hold your own ground, untill the Southern and Middle States shall have made some efforts for your reinforcement; *and untill the pecuniary affairs of the Continent in general shall be put in a better situation* ; some little I flatter myself will be done, although I must confess my expectations for the Campaign are not very sanguine. I feel with you, my dear friend, *all the regret and mortification, that can possibly be conceived* , from a consideration that we shall be able to *avail ourselves so imperfectly* of the weakness and embarrassments of our Enemy. While on the other hand, I think there is reason to apprehend from some late indications the Enemy have given, by taking Post at Oswego and extending themselves on the frontier, that they Mean, availing themselves of our languor and looking forward to the hour of pacification, to occupy as much territory as they are able to do, before a negotiation shall be entered upon. I wish we may be in a capacity to counteract their designs.

I have given my opinion to Congress through the Secry at War, that it will be adviseable to make a permanent incorporation of all the Troops southward of the Delaware in the manner you propose;

but as the observations did not apply to the other Troops, these Regts ought to remain on their present

Establishment.

As to the movement and disposition of the french Army, I will tell you exactly my idea and plan respecting it, and how the matter now rests. While we continued in the state of *uncertainty which has so long perplexed and prevented us from forming any projects whatever* ; I wished to have the Corps of the Count de Rochambeau remain in a situation equally capable of looking either way as circumstances might eventually require; being well persuaded in my own mind, that with their assistance (*without the aid of a Naval force*) *we should not, at this time be able to do any thing effectual against New York defended by its present Garrison; and presuming still greater difficulties would oppose themselves to an attempt against Charles Town* , I proposed to postpone my final resolution *untill we should hear from the other side of the Atlantic* . For allowing your Army in conjunction with the french Troops to be compleatly competent to the object, *the transportation by land of heavy Artillery, Stores and Apparatus appeared to me an inevitable obstacle* ; which I have fully explained in my letter of the 23d of April last. Besides the diminution of an Army in so long a March, and the innumerable advantages the Enemy must derive from the command of the Water, were considerations with me. And as I flattered myself we might be able to keep the Enemy in check with our present force, both in the Northern and Southern Departments; I therefore thought it expedient, *that the select Corps of our Allies in Virginia should continue unimpaired as a Corps de Reserve* in that State, untill new

information or circumstances should produce New Orders from me; unless *the Count de Rochambeau* should first be apprized of some contingency or event, which should render a movement, *in his opinion proper* ; in which case the matter was left *to his determination* . I have this moment learnt from his Excellency the Minister of France *that the Count has already commenced his March Northward* ; what circumstances have led to this, I am unable to say; but expect *to see the Count* himself in a few days (*by appointment*) *at Philadelphia* , where it is proposed to enter into a discussion of the possible objects and views of the Campaign, so far as our general and imperfect knowledge of affairs will admit, and from whence I shall have the pleasure to inform you of any thing of Moment, that may in the mean time take place, or ultimately be in contemplation.

Under an idea, *that the french Troops would certainly be withdrawn from Virginia* at some moment of the Campaign and perhaps unexpectedly, I have long since *written to Govr Harrison* on that subject, and requested that a body of Men might be in readiness *for the defence of the state* on that occasion. Indeed I have written almost incessantly to all the States, urging, in the most forcible terms I could make use of, the absolute necessity *of complying with the Requisitions of Congress in furnishing their*

Contingents of Men and Money and am unhappy to say the success of these applications have not been equal to my expectation .

I am happy to assure you there was no foundation for the report of my having had a narrow escape in passing the Clove. In return we have had a similar account respecting yourself, which I hope was equally groundless. Believe me, My dear Sir, I shall always consider myself deeply interested in whatever concerns you; and shall ever rejoice at your health, safety and felicity.

Mrs. Washington, who is just setting out for Virginia joins me in her most affectionate regards to Mrs Greene and yourself. I am etc.

P.S. Although the Campaign does not promise much activity, Yet I shall wish you to keep me as regularly and accurately informed of the state of your Department as possible, noting the strength, movements and position of your own Army, and that of the Enemy; it may also be essential for me to be made acquainted with the Resources of the Country and every thing of a Military or Political Nature, which may be interesting to our future plans and operations.⁹⁷

To BARON STEUBEN

Head Quarters, July 9, 1782.

Sir: In answer to your Letter of yesterday date

97. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys; the parts in italics were so marked for putting into cipher in the letter sent.

containing the following queries.

“Is the Department of Inspector General necessary in the Army, or is it not?” “Has this Department been conducted during the Course of five years agreeable to your wishes, and have the consequences resulting from my exertions as Chief of the Department answered your Expectation?”

I give it as my clear Opinion that it has been of the utmost utility and continues to be of the greatest importance for reasons too plain and obvious to stand in need of enumeration; but more especially for having Established one uniform System of Manœuvres and regulations in an Army composed of the Troops of thirteen States (each having its local prejudices) and subject to constant interruptions and deviations from the frequent changes and dissolutions it has undergone.

It is Equally Just to declare that the Department under your auspices has been conducted with an intelligence, activity and Zeal not less beneficial to the Public than honorary to yourself and that I have had abundant reason to be satisfied with your abilities and attention to the duties of your Office during the four Years you have been in the Service. I have the honour etc.⁹⁸

98. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS

Head Quarters, July 9, 1782.

Sir: I am favord with your polite Letter of the 2d. Inst. It would have given me great pleasure to have had the opportunity of congratulating you personally on your late Promotion, but your business not permitting that, I am happy in this Opportunity of doing it, at the same time assuring you that your Merit more than any Interest of mine influenced Congress in your favor.

I sincerely hope your applications to the Legislature in behalf of the Sick and Wounded Soldiery of your Line may have been attended with Success; nothing surely could be wanting to excite the gratitude of the People, but the bare mention of their distress.

Tho' the present inactive State of Affairs does not render your presence here necessary; should circumstances change I shall be very happy in availing myself of them [if I can do it with propriety] and in the mean time I remain etc.⁴

4. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker. The phrase in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

On July 9 Washington wrote Maj. Gen. William Heath a brief note that the two French deserters, who had been sent on by Massachusetts, as recruits, could be attached to one of the regiments, as Marbois consents, "until they are demanded." This letter is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

To EGBERT BENSON, MELANCTON SMITH, AND JOHN SLOSS HOBART

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 9, 1782.

Gentlemen: I have the honor to transmit to you a Copy of the contract for supplying the garrison of West point and its dependencies, also the hospital contract; together with the charges exhibited by the officers of the army against Comfort Sands Esqr. & Co. respecting the execution of those contracts; with sundry other papers relative to the same subject: and have to request of you, Gentlemen, that you will be pleased to examine into the matters in dispute in such time, place and manner as you shall deem proper, and report your Opinion thereon as soon as convenient. I have the honor etc.

P.S. I will thank you Gentlemen for the return of the papers committed to you, with your report.⁹⁹

***To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD**

Head Qrs. Newbg, July 8, 1782.

Dr. Sir: Altho' the Levies of Maryland are

99. In the writing of Hodijah Baylies; the P.S. is in the draft, but not in the letter sent.

considered as part of the Southern Army, and you an Officer under the immediate Orders of Major Genl. Greene It is my wish, nevertheless, to receive regular reports of the Progress you make in the recruiting Service, and every other matter and thing relative to your Command; without these reports I am unacquaintd with my own strength, and do not know how to make that disposition of the troops which may be adjudged necessary and which the good of the Service shall require.

You will be pleased therefore and as the Plan of Campaign must speedily be determined on to give me a return of your Troops, the appointment of them, how Armed, Cloathed &ca. I am etc.

To MAJOR GENERAL JAMES MITCHELL VARNUM⁵

Head Quarters, July 10, 1782.

Sir: Colonel Olney delivered me your favor of the 23 June. I am much indebted to that Gentleman for his close attention to the good of Service whilst in your State. He has certainly proved himself a valuable Officer.

Though your State has not fully complied with the desires of Congress, some credit is due them for what they have done: I am sorry I cannot say so much of the other States,

5. Of the Rhode Island Militia.

but tho' the conduct of the people at large is truly alarming, I cannot consent to view our situation in that distress light in which you seem to do. I still hope that some fortunate Crisis will arrive, when those destructive passions, which I confess too generally pervade all Ranks, shall give place to that love of Freedom which first animated us in this contest.

From the Deposition you inclosed me, it appears, that the negro was hired for three Years, and the person who hired him took the Bounty and sent him to the Army. If his Term of Service in the Army is not longer than that for which he was hired I do not see that the owner of the negro suffers by it; at all events it would be an injustice to the Country to discharge a Man who it appears has cost them three hundred Dollars. If the sending him was illegal, recourse should be had against the Class that sent him, and they should be obliged to furnish another Man in his place, without which he cannot be discharged. I am &c.⁶

6. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 10, 1782.

Sir: I have been favoured with your Letter of the 16th. June,⁹ apprizing me of the Disaster that befel the Militia at Sandusky.¹⁰ I am persuaded you did every thing in your power to insure them Success. I cannot but regret the Misfortune and more especially for the Loss of Colo. Crawford, for whom I had a very great Regard. I am etc.¹¹

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE REID

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 10, 1782.

Dear Sir: I am favored this moment, with your Letter

9. Irvine's letter with its inclosures is in the *Washington Papers*. Another letter from him (July 11), telling the story of the torture of Colonel Crawford by the Indians, is in the *Washington Papers*.

10. Ohio.

11. The draft is in the writing of Hodijah Baylies.

of the 2d. Inst. The intelligence communicated therein appears to me to be vague and not perfectly founded; it ought however to have so much influence upon our conduct as to excite unusual vigilance and preparation in order to baffle any of the barbarous designs of the Enemy should they attempt to carry them into execution. For my own part, I am more apprehensive for the safety of the Country on the Mowhawk River than for any other part of the frontier; because I think from circumstances, the principal effort (should there be any invasion) would be made against it, and therefore it seems to me, that withdrawing the Companies of State Troops from Saratoga and that Quarter (where they cannot be very necessary) and extending them together with the other Levies on the frontier of the Mowhawk, and at the same time concentrating your Regt to the neighbourhood of the place you mention, would be a judicious plan; 'tho I do not pretend to be myself sufficiently acquainted with the local situation, to determine with absolute certainty on the expediency of this disposition, it will, in my opinion, be adviseable to consult and arrange this matter with Colo Willet, who is particularly well informed of the Geography of the Country. Any little dispute about Rank or command, I am persuaded will not, on such an occasion, or any other where the public good is concerned, intervene to prevent your consulting and acting together for the promotion of the service. These disputes, as I before observed, may be determined whenever the claims and documents of both

parties are handed in.

If there are any public Boats at Albany, I have no objection to your having some of them got up the Mowhawk. Of the other Articles you are in want, there should be a specific Return made to the Quartr Mastr. that he may furnish in proportion to your necessities, and the stock on hand.

As to Cartridge Boxes for the Levies, it will be impossible to supply them from the public Store; because we have not more than are absolutely necessary for our troops; the best substitute that can be devised, must therefore be made use of; and I have a confidence, that you and the other Officers commanding on the frontiers will Oeconomize the means in your possession to the best advantage; and exert all your zeal and activity in the public service. I am etc.¹²

***To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH**

Head Q[arters, July 10, 1782.]

Dear Sir: The inclosed (one for yourself and the other for Major Clarkson) comes in consequence of Generl Knox's application. To give you such Letters, was my first intention; but not knowing who was to command the Forces destined for the Invasion of Jamaica, I had resort to the Certificates with which you were furnished;

12. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

conceiving it would appear odd to write, and not be able to direct. Or to direct to the General otherwise than by name.

The direction is now left to yourself when the knowledge is obtained. You have, both, my best wishes, and I am etc.¹³

To COLONELS HUGH HUGHES, HENRY E. LUTTERLOH, AND MAJOR THOMAS COGSWELL

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 10, 1782.

Gentlemen: The Commander in Chief sensible of the immense importance of preserving the Horses and Teams of the Army in good condition for service through the Campaign, and considering that the movements, supplies and success of an Army frequently depend on this Article alone, hath commanded me to request, from you Gentlemen in writing, a joint Report on the following Points, viz What number of Horses and Teams have arrived, What number more are expected, when, and from whence? In what condition are they? where disposed of, or how employed?

13. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by E. F. Bonaventure, of New York City.

How, or by what means are they now supplied with forage? What are the prospects of the Campaign in this article? In case of deficiency of Money, and public supplies, what provision is made by the laws of this state for furnishing Grass, or any other species of Forage?

His Excellency directs, besides the report on the forementioned Questions, that you do also as soon as may be, give in an Estimate of the quantity of forage necessary for this Army, together with

your sentiments of the *best practicable Plan* under our circumstances, for keeping up the supply, particularly of *pasturage* , through the Campaign.

The General is the rather induced to give this order, at this time, in so explicit a manner; that, if the present means are not adequate to the object, Measures may be taken while the Legislature is sitting, to prevent the public Cattle from suffering and the service from being essentially injured on the one hand; as well as to supersede the necessity of an arbitrary seizure of private property (without compensation) for their subsistence, on the other. I am etc.¹⁴

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, July 11, 1782.

Sir: The Resolve of Congress relative to the Forage

14. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys Aide de Camp."

belonging to this State, which was used by the Army during the last Campaign, was particularly addressed to you; and as that matter has hitherto been wholly under your direction, I return you the Report of the Arbitrators, and request you to bring this matter to a conclusion agreeably to the Instructions that have been given.

I also return you the report of the Board which sat to enquire into the reasons of the absence of sundry Officers, you will please to take the necessary steps therein. With respect to Genel. Glover, he has sent on the necessary Certificates of his incapacity to take the Field on account of his health, and that matter is now before Congress. I am etc.

P.S. The inclosed to Lt. Genl. Lossberg you will be kind eno' to forward by the first opportunity.²⁴

[MS.H.S.]

24. In the writing of David Cobb.

***To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH**

Head Quarters, July 11, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have this moment received a Letter from Count De Rochambeau (by one of His Aids in five days from Williamsburg) informing me that he is on his way to Philadelphia; that he will be there the 13th. or 14th, and wishes for an Interview with me, for this purpose I shall set out in the Morning very early, and have only to request your usual attention. I am etc.

P.S. I entreat that great diligence may be used in Manœuvering the Troops. If Genl. Carleton should, in my absence, send out the proceedings of the Ct. Martial on the case of Lippencut let them be forwarded to Head Qrs; that they may follow me. Accompany them with your own, and the opinion of the General Officers whom you can readily consult; as my measures must be taken so soon as these proceedings come to hand and my stay in Philadelphia for ought I know at present will be very short. Yrs. as before

[MS.H.S.]

***To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON**

Head Qrs. July 11, 1782.

Sir: Notwithstanding the pointed orders which have been issued against receiving Flags at Elizabethtown, and the subsequent one, which appeared to me, *before*, altogether unnecessary; as the first certainly included the other, that no Persons should come from, nor communication be had with New York, I am informed that People are daily coming out and the intercourse as open with the City, as ever. I have now to order that Captn. Dayton²⁶ be relieved from that Post; that all correspondence with *Ward* Charmichael and every other Person within the Enemys lines do *positively* cease; and that you hold the Brigade in readiness to move at the shortest notice. I am etc.

26. Captain Dayton wrote to Washington (July 12): "The persons ... permitted to pass contrary to the spirit of the orders, are, I trust, (for I have seen no others) two officers who declared they had by stratagem effected their escape from the prison ship. ... The lines about this place are so very extensive as to admit numbers to come privately from the other shore and make their way undiscovered into the country." Dayton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE REID

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 11, 1782.

Sir: This will be handed to you by Captain Montour, who is going to Schenectady on a Visit to his Friends, the Oneidas and Tuscaroras. He has heretofore been employed in the Indian Service on the Frontiers of Pennsylvania. During his stay it will be necessary that he should have a Subsistence, you will therefore be pleased to direct that he receive three Rations pr. day, and show him Some Attention so long as he may choose to remain with you. I am etc.²³

To CAPTAIN JONATHAN DAYTON

Head Quarters, July 11, 1782.

Sir: Passports having been granted by me for Genl Losberg to send out of N York One Q Master and

23. The draft is in the writing of Hodijah Baylies.

two Non-commissioned Officers havg charge of Money, Cloathg and Medicine for the Use of the Hessian prisoners in Phila. You will receive them at the post of Elizabeth Town, and suffer them to pass on by the nearest Rout to philadelphia, agreeable to the Tenor and strict Expression of their Permission, which they will produce to you, takg particular Care that no abuse is practiced by bringing out any Article not absolutely warranted by the passport. You will observe that their return is prescribed to be by the post of Dobb's Ferry I am &c.²⁵

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE REID

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 12, 1782.

Sir: Since his Excellency wrote to you on the 10th. he has learned from the Commandant of Artillery, that there are a number of damaged Cartridge Boxes in the Store at Fishkill; an Order is given to deliver 400 of them for the use of Col. Willets command; they will be forwarded by the D. Q. M. as soon as may be; and addressed to your care.

The Commander in Chief having this day set out for Philadelphia, I give you this information, that your arrangements may be made accordingly. I have the honor etc.³⁰

25. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

30. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys, but the letter sent was apparently signed by David Cobb.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG

Philadelphia, July 22, 1782.

Sir: I have not received the Return of Stores &c. mentioned in your Favor of the 3 instant, which Circumstance gives me reason to suppose your Conjecture to be right, that they have fallen into the Hands of the Enemy. You will be pleased to send me a Duplicate of that Return.

I shall be sincerely rejoiced if any Circumstance takes place to facilitate the Recruitg in Virginia.

The present State of intelligence and

uncertainty prevents an Order for your Recruits to be put in March; as soon as this is removed you will be furnished with Instructions. I am &c.³⁹

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, July 28, 1782.

My Lord: I am directed by the Commander in Chief, who returned last evening from Philadelphia, to present his Compliments to your Lordship, with a tender of any thing which

39. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Washington wrote again (July 22) to Muhlenberg, approving his conduct in executing deserters: "The Benefit resulting from a promptitude of Execution and the Necessity of Example, in this Case, serve to plead your Justification." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Head Quarters can afford, that may in the least, contribute to the restoration of your Lordships health, being happy to hear that your Lordship has so far recovered from a dangerous illness and that he will do himself the pleasure of calling on your Lordship in a few days; in the mean time he begs your Lordships acceptance of half a dozen Lemons. I have the honor etc.⁴⁵

[N.Y.P.L.]

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 28, 1782.

Sir: You are to commence the March of your Regt. as soon as may be after the receipt of this Order; you will proceed to New Town, Danbury, or some other convenient place in the State of Connecticut, on the route to the Army, where forage and accommodations may be best supplied, and where you will halt untill further orders.

You must move by easy Marches (as I expect the Regt will come into the field in perfect Order) taking care that no excesses or depredations are committed on the March.

When you have halted you will report to me the place you are at, the State of the Corps and any thing farther respecting the service which ought to be known. I am etc.⁴⁶

45. In the writing of and signed "David Cobb Lt Colo. Aide de Camp."

46. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, July 30, 1782.

Dear Sir: For your Information, and that you may know the Object of your Mission, I inclose you a Transcript of my Letter to Sir Guy Carleton, which is herewith committed to your Care to be forwarded as soon as possible.

Before the Time of your going to Phillips's House, I shall have the pleasure of seeing you, or communicating in Writing, my Sentiments more fully on the subject of your Meeting. With great Regard etc.⁴⁸

[M.S.H.S.]

48. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To COLONEL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Head Quarters, July 30, 1782.

Sir: I have a few Days ago received your Letter of the 3d of last Month, inclosing Copy of your Letter to the Secretary at War on the Subject of Captain Sigourne's⁵² Resignation.

I am much pleased to find that your Cavalry is so nearly compleated and that the Men are so constant to their Engagement. I wish it was more in our power to compleat your compliment of Horses, but I fear our finances will not admit it at present. The Secretary at War and the financier will do every Thing in their Power, consistent with other necessary and essential Demands for the general Service. In the Mean Time I am to acknowledge your Care and Attention to the Establishment of the Corps, without which, I am persuaded it would not be found in so respectable a Condition. I am &c.⁵³

52. Capt. Louis de Sigougné, of Armand's Legion.

53. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 31, 1782.

Dear Sir: Being very confident of your attention to the several objects entrusted to your care during my absence; in reply to your favor of the 28th., I have only to observe that I think it but reasonable that the Officers who have been prevented, by their attendance on the Court Martial for the tryal of Majr. General McDougall, from visiting their Families, should be indulged with leave of absence for a short time, and that it is also expedient an Officer should be sent after the Deserters you mention, whose absolute necessary expences will be defrayed by the public, in Order to which, an exact account must be kept of his expences, accompanied with the necessary vouchers and receipts.

I approve of the Order for furnishing hunting shirts to the Light Infantry Companies on the Lines, the remaining Companies can draw as soon as they please: the transportation of the remainder of the

Summer cloathing was urged in the strongest possible manner when I was in Philadelphia, but that almost insuperable bar⁵⁸ in all our affairs has hitherto prevented it, yet I cannot but hope the frocks will now be on speedily.

As to the cloathing &c, lost by fire in the 2d. Masstts. Regt., let a report and return be made by the Commanding Officer, and such measures will be taken as the

58. Lack of money.

nature of the case shall appear to justify. I am etc.⁵⁹

[MS.H.S.]

To COLONEL RICHARD BUTLER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, July 31, 1782.

Sir: I informed you verbally by the Return of your Messenger from Phila that I should make a Reply to your Letter of the 11th on my Arrival at Newburgh.

I am equally Sorry with you for the Occasion of so much Business for Courts Martial as you mention, but the Necessity of the Circumstance must be submitted to. You are therefore hereby authorized to appoint, from Time to Time, as Occasion shall require, such General Courts Martial as you shall judge proper, whenever there shall be sufficient Number of Officers for composing the Court; allways sendg to me all proceedgs and Sentences on Capital Cases, before they are carried into Execution; the smaller Matters to be approved and carried into Execution or not by yourself as you shall think proper, consistent with the Rules and Articles of War in their particular Cases.

The Sentences against John Connor, George Mason, Peter Huston and Danl Gallaher, were not attended to at the Time of my last Letter. I now submit to your Judgment the carrying into Execution their Sentences, or remitting them as you Shall find best; except that in the Case of Gallaher, the punishment of the

59. In the writing of David Cobb.

Gantlope Assigned him is unconstitutional and inadmissible, and cannot therefore be approved.

I am much pleased at your Report of the good Discipline and Manœuvres of the Troops assembled under your Command; and have Confidence in the Continuance of your Exertions.

I am very sorry for the Occasion of Uneasiness in the Minds of the Men for Want of pay; but it is not in my power to remove it; neither will it be in the power of the Financier unless the States are more punctual in the payment of the Taxes required from them.

In the present Circumstances, It will be best to continue the Recruits under your Orders, collected together, without makg any particular Distribution or Allotment of them until further Orders. I am &c.⁶⁰

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 3, 1782.

Dear Sir: By the Contents of Sir Guy Carletons Letter which came inclosed in yours of this Day, I find it is unnecessary for you to proceed to Phillips's House. As Sir Guy being disappointed in not obtaing Passports for M Chief Justice Smyth⁷² to come

60. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

72. Frederick Smyth, royal chief justice of New York.

out, he will not, he says, trouble an Officer of your Rank to be the Bearer of a Bundle of papers only; but adds that they shall be sent out in the ordinary course of Conve[yance. Your] Letter to Colo. Trumbull, covering the new adopted System of Issues &c. is received. With much Regard etc.⁷³

[MS.H.S.]

COMMISSION TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 3, 1782.

Sir: His Excellency Sir Guy Carleton having requested a Passport for Chief Justice Smith to repair to the Head Quarters of the American Army, in Order to lay before me the proceedings of a Court

Martial on the tryal of Capt Lippencut for the Murder of Capt Huddy, with other Documents and Explanations which he says "he has no doubt will give full Satisfaction."

I do therefore, from an earnest desire to proceed with Candor and deliberate Justice, appoint you to meet

73. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

an Officer of equal Rank at the house of Colonel Phillips⁶⁸ on Monday the 5th instant, or at any other time or place which you may think more convenient, for the purpose of receiving the proceedings and Documents abovementioned; with such Explanation *in Writing* as he may think proper to communicate. The Papers you shall receive you will transmit to me as soon as your business is concluded, together with a report of your proceedings therein.⁶⁹

[MS.H.S.]

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 3, 1782.

Sir: Having desired you to meet an Officer from Sir Guy Carleton for the purpose mentioned in your appointment and authority, you will proceed to execute said business. In the course of which, you may inform the Officer you meet, that as I have no connection with, or controul over any Person in the Line in which Mr. Smith walks; as the question before us is, in my opinion, purely of a Military nature and reduceable to this single point, whether the perpetrator of the wanton and cruel murder of Huddy is to be given up, or a British Officer to suffer in his place, that I could see no propriety or necessity in an interview with the Chief Justice.

68. Col. Frederick Philipse. His house is in what is now Yonkers, N.Y.

69. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

If you should find that the design of Sir Guy Carleton, is to procrastinate this business, to envelop it in as much intricacy and difficulty as possible, or that he means to justify it by recrimination and Law Cases, thereby attempting to avert our purposes of Retaliation, you may assure him (unless you shall judge it expedient to leave me more at liberty), if not explicitly, at least by strong insinuation, that he will miss his Aim; and that my deliberate and dispassionate proceedings in this case are intended

to give him, as he now has had, full time to determine whether the guilty person, or an innocent Officer, shall be made the subject of Retaliation.

You will be particularly cautious, that whatever passes in the conference you are to have, which is to be considered as official, be committed to writing; that no omissions or misconceptions may be plead hereafter; and you will inform the Officer in explicit terms, if you find the matter is not likely to end as justice dictates, and we could wish, that all oral conversation will be excluded from the official report of these proceedings now, or any share in the Account of them hereafter; or the recital of them will be considered as unfair, and an evident departure from that line of rectitude which we have wished to pursue for an unbiassed World to judge by.

If notwithstanding my Letter to Sir Guy Carleton, requesting his appointment of an officer of your Rank to meet you on this business, he should send Mr. Chief Justice Smith, you may at your discretion, either receive the proceedings of the Court, and such other documents as he is merely the bearer of,

without going into any explanation with this Gentleman, or refuse the whole, as circumstances of the moment shall dictate to you; Or if this Gentleman should be an attendant on the Officer aforementioned, you may refuse to admit him at your conference, in the first case, you may either return, with the proceedings &c, or you may write Sir Guy Carleton that you will wait a given time for an Officer, agreeable to the purport of my Letter to him of the 30th. of last month.⁷⁰

[MS.H.S.]

To JOHN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 3, 1782.

Sir: By the last Inspection Returns of the Army I find, that the Men in general are possessed of but one Shirt each, and that in a short Time they will be totally destitute of that necessary Article, unless a Supply is immediately provided. I wish therefore to point and fix your Attention immovably to this Subject. Let every Exertion be used, and every Resource be tried, for procuring such a Supply of Shirts as that two may be issued to every Soldier at the next Delivery, which must be as early as possible. This is not only essentially necessary for the Comfort of the

70. In the writing of David Cobb.

Troops, but will be found eventually the most Substantial and best Oeconomy. The Difficulty of obtaining Supplies and the Embarrassments of the publick for Want of Money are generally known and considered; but should it notwithstanding be discovered by the Army that any of the States had in possession a Quantity of Linen suitable for Shirts, and that no Efforts were made to obtain it for the publick, it will probably excite great Uneasiness, and may be attended with very pernicious Effects, especially when the Men find themselves exceedingly distressed for Want of a Single Shirt. This you will represent to those who are competent to have the Business put in a Train of Negotiation, if they should judge proper; and you will inform me of the Result.

I must again urge that the Remainder of the Hunting Shirts should be sent on without Delay, if possible, or the Season proper for wearing them will have elapsed. I am etc.⁷¹

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, August 4, 1782.

Sir: Before the departure of his Excellency the Commandr in Chief for Philadelphia, he wrote a Letter to you, dated the 11 of July, of which he has recd no acknowledgement, and

71. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

therefore suspects it may have miscarried. The purport of it was to relieve Capt Dayton, to stop all Correspondence with Ward McMichael and every other Person within the Enemy Lines, and to hold the Brigade in readiness for movement. These things he desires may be immediately done, if they have not already been attended to, and that you will inform him whether the beforementioned Order has been recd or not. I have the honor.⁷⁶

76. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent is signed by David Humphreys.

To COLONEL HUGH HUGHES

Head Quarters, August 4, 1782.

Sir: I have to request that you will Report to the Commander in Chief in writing without loss of time, the general state of the Department at this moment, so far as relates to this Army with

regard to Camp Equipage, Quarter Mastrs Stores &c. Noting as far as may be, the quantities and species in possession of the Troops, the deficiency of every Article according to the stated allowance, and the Stock now on hand. You will also mention by what time you can have the Means of transportation, either by *land* or *water* , ready for carrying the whole Baggage of the Army &c into the field, supposing the Encampment to be in the neighbourhood of Peekskill. You will be accurate in your calculation of the number of Teams, Waggon &c necessary; and the number that can be furnished compleat by the given time you shall fix upon.

The same information you will also please to give respecting Boats, in case conveyance by Water should be preferred. I am &c.⁷⁷

77. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys Aid de Camp."

To COLONEL HENRY JACKSON

Head Quarters, August 5, 1782.

Dr. Colo: The Commander in Chief directs that the American prisoners, who are now at your Post on Parole, should be allowed to pass to their respective homes; and in future 'till a D. Commy of Prisoners resides at the Post as was directed, all persons coming out under the same circumstances may be permitted to pass. This is to be considered as a standing Order and will be delivered to your relieving Officer. I am &c.⁸⁷

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 6, 1782.

My dear Sir: In my last Letter of the 9th of July, in which I acknowledged your several favors of the 22d of April and 19th of May, I mentioned my expectation of soon meeting the Count de Rochambeau in Philadelphia, and my intention of writing you from that place in case any thing of Moment should turn up in the mean while. But as our hopes, that public Dispatches would have arrived from France before our Meeting, have

87. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "David Cobb, Aide D Camp."

been disappointed; I can only inform you that matters now rest in the same situation, as discribed in my former Letters; except with regard to the negotiations, which are said to be carrying on by the belligerent Powers in Europe.

Indeed I hardly know what to think or believe of the disposition of the Court of Britain. Certain it is the new Administration have made Overtures of Peace to the several Nations at War, apparently with a design to detach some one or another of them from the general combination; but not having succeeded in their efforts for a seperate Negotiation; how far the necessity of Affairs may carry them in their wishes for a general Pacification upon admissible terms, I cannot undertake to determine. From the former infatuation, duplicity and perverse system of british Policy; I confess I am induced, to doubt every thing; to suspect every thing. Otherwise I should suppose, from the subsequent Extract of a Letter from Sir Guy Carleton and Admiral Digby to me dated the 2nd inst; that the prospects of and negotiation for a general Peace would be very favorable.

We are acquainted, Sir, by authority, that Negotiations for a general Peace have already commenced at Paris, and that Mr. Grenville is invested with full Powers to treat with all Parties at War, and is now at Paris in the execution of his Commission. And we are likewise, Sir, further made acquainted, that his Majesty, in order to remove all obstacles to that Peace which he so ardently wishes to restore, has commanded his Ministers to direct

Mr. Grenville, that the Independency of the Thirteen Provinces should be proposed by him, in the first instance, instead of making it a condition of a general Treaty; however not without the highest Confidence, that the Loyalists shall be restored to their Possessions, or a full Compensation made them for whatever Confiscations may have taken place.⁹¹

These communications they say had just arrived by a Packet. They further add that Mr Laurens was enlarged from all engagements, and that Transports were prepared for conveying all American Prisoners to this Country to be exchanged here. Whatever the real intention of the Enemy may be, I think the strictest attention and exertion which have ever been practiced on our part, instead of being diminished, ought to be encreased thereby. Jealousy and precaution, at least, can do no harm, too much confidence and supineness may be pernicious in the extream.

There having been a vague report that a small embarkation of Cavalry and Infantry was to take place at New York, to relieve part of the Garrison of Charles Town, I have made use of the occasion to desire the Secretary at War, to put Armands Legion immediately in motion to join you, and have requested he will use his endeavours to have the means afforded to facilitate and expedite the Movement.

A Mail has lately been intercepted by the Enemy between Philadelphia and Trenton, in which, I am informed there were Letters from you to me, these by the time of

91. The extract is from Carleton and Digby's letter of August 2.

their capture were probably of the same date as your Dispatches to Congress, wherein the Correspondence between General Leslie⁹² and yourself was enclosed. I mention these circumstances, that you may forward Duplicates in case you should judge it necessary.

You will, I imagine, have heard before this reaches you, of the arrival of M. Vaudreuil with a fleet of 13 Ships of the Line on this Coast; I can give you no particulars, as I have no Official account of his arrival.

The Army of the Count de Rochambeau having, as I advised you in my last, marched towards the Northward, at our Meeting in Philadelphia, it was concluded (upon a consideration of all circumstances) that this Corps should proceed to join the Army on the Hudson; they were at Baltimore by the last intelligence from that quarter.

Since the receipt of the Letter from the Commissioners Sir Guy Carleton and Admiral Digby; I have seen a New York Paper of the 3d. in which is a Speech of General Conway⁹³ and some other Articles, which appear to be designed to propose Independence to America on certain conditions not admissible: viz that the Legislature of America should be totally independant of the Parliament of Great Britain, but that the King of England should have the same kind of supremacy here as in Ireland. I have not information sufficient to determine whether this is the species of Independence alluded to in the Letter of the Commissioners or not. I wish my suspicions, however, may be ill founded.

92. Brig. Gen. Alexander Leslie, of the British Army, with the rank of major general in America.

93. Maj. Gen. Henry Seymour Conway, commander in chief of the British Army.

Wishing you all the success and happiness you can desire yourself, I am etc.⁹⁴

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM IRVINE

Head Quarters, August 6, 1782.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the Receipt of your two Letters of the 1st. and 11th. of July, the former containg. the plan of a proposed Expedition, of which you mention you are solicited to take the Command, and covering a Copy of your Letter to the Secretary at War on that proposition. I have not given you my Ideas on this Expedition, as the plan, if adopted, must probably have began its Execution, before my Letter would have reached you. If attempted, I have only to give you my good Wishes for its Success.⁹⁵

I lament the failure of the former Expedition, and am particularly affected with the disastrous fate of Colo. Crawford: no other than the extremest Tortures which could be inflicted by Savages could, I think, have been expected, by those who were unhappy eno' to fall into their Hands; especially under the present Exasperation of their Minds

94. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

95. A second expedition against the Sandusky Indian towns.

for the treatment given their Moravian friends.⁹⁶ For this reason, no person should at this Time, suffer himself to fall alive into the Hands of the Indians. With great Regards etc.⁹⁷

[H.S.P.]

To COLONEL SETH WARNER

Head Quarters, August 6, 1782.

Sir: Your Letter of the 16th June last reached me but a few Days ago, containing Intelligence from Canada similar to what I have received from that Quarter, thro various other Channels. As I am desirous to obtain every Information of the Motions and probable Designs of the Enemy that can be collected; I am obliged to you for your Attention in this Respect.

I am very sorry for the Situation of the prisoners who have been carried into Canada; some Circumstances which took place last Spring respectg a general Exchange, in which my Wishes were much disappointed, prevent at present my being able to give them any Relief. I hope however that the Time is not far distant when their Exchange may be effected on proper principles. Wishing you a Restoration of Health and Usefulness, I am etc.⁹⁸

96. The cold-blooded and inexcusable massacre of nearly 100 Moravian Indians in March, 1782.

97. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

98. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To COLONEL WALTER STEWART

Head Quarters, August 6, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received your two favors of Yesterday respecting your Brother, who you think, wishes to become an Inhabitants of the United States.⁹⁹

I know you are sensible of the Delicacy of Situation in which I am placed, and you are equally sensible of the impropriety of the Channel through which your Brother, has presented himself for Admittance as an Inhabitant. At the same time I trust you are persuaded of the Disposition I have to oblige you in every Thing that I can consistent with my Duty and you cannot be insensible that it is necessary for me to observe some general Rules in Cases of this Nature.

I have therefore to desire, that you will, previous to his comg out, either do it yourself, or take means to obtain from your Brother, the particular Views and Intentions with which he comes to this Country, with the Reasons of his comg thro' the Channel of N York, as also the Mode by which, he obtains permission from the Enemy to pass among us. Upon information of which, if satisfactory, no Difficulty will be opposed to his comg out.

Tho I have no particular Reasons to suspect your Brother of any evil Intentions, yet 'tis necessary on

99. On August 9 Trumbull, by Washington's direction, wrote to the commanding officer at Dobbs Ferry, that Colonel Stewart's brother was to be permitted to come on shore with his servants, etc., "and to proceed into the Country, or attend his Brother." Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

all Occasions to be guarded against the least Apprehension of Imposition.

If he does come out, his becoming a Resident does not depend on me; his Mode, I suppose, will be to apply to the Executive Power of the State where he means to reside. I am &c.¹

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS WILLETT

Head Quarters, August 6, 1782.

Sir: I have received your two Letters of the 9th. and 21st. of July, the first of which reached me but last Evening by the Hand of Mr. Ten Eyck.²

On the Subject of the Indians, I am at a loss what to reply to you; the matter has been often under the Deliberation of Congress, at times much more favorable for conciliating the affections of that people, but, either the Means of carrying the Measure you mention into execution, have not been in their power, or the Measure itself has not been tho't proper to be adopted. At the present time, I am persuaded, that the finances of the united States are not competent to the Object, in the Extent in which you view it. In the mean time it may be well to make the best we can of the favorable disposition of the tribe³ now under our immediate protection; but it is

1. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

2. Lieut. Abraham Ten Eyck, of Willet's New York State regiment.

3. Delawares(?).

not in my power to give you the Means; the Subject shall be mentioned to the Secretary at War; to whom your Ideas shall be communicated, with my Approbation of your Sentiments.

Not considering it to be within my province to give Directions for the Issue of cloathing to your three Years state Troops, I will transmit your Letter and Return to the Secretary at War, under whose Directions all Issues of Cloathing are to be made, and desire him to give Instructions respecting that Subject. With much Regard etc.⁴

[H.S.P.]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE REID

Head Quarters, August 6, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 3rd. Comparing the Resolution of Congress of the 18th. of Octo 1781. with that of the 10th. of Augst. 1776. to which it refers, it would seem that the Canadian Refugees as well as Volunteers, are included in that Resolution Under which the Commissaries have stopped issuing Rations to them. Genl Schuyler however is best able to give you information in this point, as the provision for those people has been committed to his Direction. Hard as it may appear, that those poor Refugees, who have been driven from their

4. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Country for their Adherence to our Cause, should be denied the pittance of provisions for their Subsistence, yet it is not in my power to contravene direct Resolutions of Congress.

If the Militia should be called into Service (of which I know nothing at present) they must probably be supplied with provisions by the Contractors, so long as in actual Service, unless the State should provide for them, which I have no Expectation will be the Case.

Genl. Stark has had no Orders from me to take Command at the Northward, nor have I any Intimations from him of his Intentions.⁵

5. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To MAJOR DE GENTON DE VILLEFRANCHE

Head Quarters, August 6, 1782.

Sir: I was informed by Genl. Paterson, that the place assigned by Majr. Genl. Knox and others for erecting the Magazine, was in your opinion, very unfit for the purpose; if this is the case, I wish you to point out some other place on West Point; and give your reasons in writing, as soon as possible, why you prefer it to the place first mentioned. I am etc.⁶

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 7, 1782.

Dear Sir: Your favor of yesterday has been duly received. I think it proper that the trial of Major Heith should commence as soon as possible. The affair of the Cartridge Boxes, together with the appointment of a Conductor to the 3d. Masstts. Brigade, have been referred to Genl Knox.

If Capt. Dorence⁸ is unfit for the Duty of the Field, it would be best for him to relieve Capt. Benton⁹

6. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.

8. Capt. David Dorrance (Dorence), of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment. He was transferred to the Third Connecticut Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

9. Capt. Selah Benton, of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment. He was transferred to the First Connecticut Regiment in January, 1783, and served to June, 1783.

at the Hospitals, as I know of no stationary Command he can be appointed to; however, if it is very disagreeable to Capt. Dorence, I wish you to conduct as you think best. I am &c.¹⁰

[MS.H.S.]

To COLONEL HEMAN SWIFT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 7, 1782.

Sir: In reply to your favor of Yesterday, I have to inform you; I am directed by the Commander in Chief to

10. In the writing of David Cobb.

write to Colonel Hughes D. Q. M, that ways and means may be devised by him if possible for payment of the expense of Forage furnished your Waggon Horses the last Winter; and in case he is not able to pay the Money, that he should adjust the account and cause the payment to be secured in the most speedy and effectual manner in his power. This is all the Genl can do on the subject. I have the honor etc.¹¹

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 7, 1782.

Sir: I have just been favoured with your Letter of the 5th instant; and am happy to find your Regiment in so compact a State and so well prepared for the Duties of the Field. As your present Situation admits of great Attention being paid to the Discipline of the Corps, I have no Doubt but they will emulate the astonishing proficiency made by the rest of the Army.

I must recommend great Caution to you to prevent such Intercourse with the disaffected Inhabitants as may have a Tendency to poison the Minds of the Troops with their baneful principles.

11. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphreys A D C."

Your pay master can obtain a Supply of Shoes and proportion of Blankets, by making Application to the Clothier at this post. In these Articles however there must be the greatest Economy.

I approve of your apprehending Smith.¹² He should be reported to the Comy. of prisoners, and continued in Confinement until his Directions shall be received respecting him. I am &c.¹³

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS GROSVENOR

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 7, 1782.

Sir: I have received and laid your Letter before the Commander in Chief, who is very desirous a field Officer, or Officer of singular experience and vigilance should command at Dobbs' Ferry, for which reason he would have had you relieved from the Court Martial, had he not been informed the Court were in the midst of the tryal of Doctr Ledyard, on which account he thinks it improper; but wishes that you would use your endeavour that an Officer of due consideration may be entrusted with the advanced Post. I have the honor etc.¹⁴

12. Thomas Smith. He was captain of a whaleboat from Lloyds Neck.

13. The draft is in the writing of Hodijah Baylies.

14. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys Aid de Camp."

To COLONEL HUGH HUGHES

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 7, 1782.

Sir: I inclose you a Letter from Col Swift respecting the expence incurred by keeping his Waggon Horses through the Winter; on the subject of which I am commanded by His Excellency to inform you it is his pleasure; that ways and means may be devised, if possible for the payment of this expence before the Horses, are returned in; but in case you are not able to pay the Money, that you adjust the account and cause the payment to be secured in the most speedy and effectual manner in your power. I am etc.¹⁵

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 8, 1782.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of this date. It is my opinion that Major Porter be bro't to a Court Martial immediately, as I have no idea of an Officer being absent, in the manner he has, without being made a public example of. Whatever shoes are wanted for the use of the men, over the number assigned them, may be drawn for and charged to their

15. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys."

respective Accounts.

I am much obliged by your mentioning the state of the Roads between Robinson's Farm and Peeks Kill, and I wish you to order immediate repairs to them, as they will be used in the course of a few days.

The Serjeants you mention for the use of the Rendezvous at Springfield, may be detached, whenever you think necessary. I am &c.²³

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, August 8, 1782.

Sir: The Army under my Immediate Command is on the point of takg the field. Your Services will be necessary. You will therefore be pleased to repair to this Department as soon as possible where a Command will be allotted to you. I am &c.²²

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, August 8, 1782.

Sir: In your last Conversation with me on the Subject

23. In the writing of David Cobb.

22. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

of Resigning your Commission as Brigr Genl. you concluded to take the Matter into further Consideration and to inform me of your Resolutions.

The Army is now on the point of takg the field; in which case it becomes necessary for me to form my Arrangements for the Several Commands; supposing therefore that you have had Time to bring your Mind to a Conclusion, I have to request that you will be pleased to communicate to me, as soon as possible, your final Determination; whether you mean to continue in Service or not.

For your satisfaction I have to inform you that Brigr Genl. Mcintosh has declared his Intention to continue in Service; and B Genl Moultrie had not signified, a few Days ago, any Resolutions to resign. I am &c.²⁴

24. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, Newburgh August, 10, 1782.

Dear Sir: The season being now come, when the frequent arrival of Ships and perhaps Squadrons may be expected on the American Coast, and it being highly necessary that I should be constantly

and perfectly informed of the state of the Enemy's Naval force in these Seas, and particularly at New York; I must again request you will take upon yourself the management of this very interesting and important business. I am the rather induced to trouble you with this Commission, from the convenience and opportunities afforded by your situation for executing of it successfully, from the specimen you have formerly given of address intelligence and discretion in discharging the functions of it, and especially from the ardent desire I know you are possessed of to advance the interest of your Country essentially, in every possible way; and I take the liberty to add you can never do it more opportunely or effectually than at the present moment, in the way I have suggested.

Without farther apology, I will therefore entreat you to make me minutely acquainted with the number, names and rates of all the Armed Vessels now in the Harbour of New York, to keep me continually advised of these things; as well as of the arrival or departure of all ships of War, or other fleets; together with any other information you shall be able to acquire, respecting

embarkations, debarkations, convoys, transports, movements, and in short every thing that can be interesting in a military or naval point of view. At the same time be so good as to discriminate distinctly whatever intelligence is obtained by ocular observation, from what is derived through hearsay or other channels, and note the degree of credit you think the latter may desire.

You will have the goodness to communicate by Express with the utmost celerity, every thing that comes under the foregoing description of intelligence, and whatever else you may judge proper. You will be pleased to keep exact accounts of the persons employed, the time for which they ought to be paid, the necessary expenditures of Money, and your other services, which debts shall be faithfully discharged; but as our Allies may be concerned in the payment, I beg leave to recommend perfect correctness in the Accounts, and œconomy in the expences, so far as may consist with the thorough execution of the important business in hand. I am etc.²⁵

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 10, 1782.

Sir: I find it very important, from a variety

25. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

of considerations, to have the most definite and regular information of the state of the Enemy at New York, which can possibly be obtained; particularly with regard to the Naval Force which now is

in that harbour, or shall be there in the course of the Summer or Autumn. As the communications which have formerly been made under your auspices, have been very much interrupted since I went to the southward last Campaign; I wish you without delay to open again, or at least to renew effectually, the channel of Intelligence through the C—s²⁶ or any other friends you can rely upon, in such a manner, as to keep me continually and precisely advised of every thing of consequence that passes within the Enemy's Lines.

I do not repeat what I have often said, of the *general and particular species* of Intelligence which alone can be interesting and necessary, because you are well acquainted with my ideas on that subject; but I think it expedient to inform you explicitly that the great object, of which I desire to be perfectly ascertained at this period, is, "the number of Ships of War and armed Vessels now in the harbour of New York, together with the *Names, Rates and condition* of the Ships" &c. This will be useful for the moment; but it is essentially necessary also that this information should be kept up, without intermission, for which purpose every fluctuation in the state and number of the Fleet, every arrival and departure of Ships of War, Transports &c. should be exactly observed and reported; and I must re. quest your Correspondents may be impressed with the necessity of acquiring their information from actual observation

26. The Culpers, senior and junior.

and the best possible sources of knowledge, instead of relying at all on vague reports and the misinformation of others. I know your correspondents have herefore, in general, been well informed; and that the only great difficulty has been in the circuitous route of communication; for which no other remedy can be applied but the greatest diligence and dispatch. Let that be attended to, let me hear from you soon and often on these points, and believe me to be, With great Regard etc.²⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, August 11, 1782.

Sir: I inclose you Copy of the General Order confirming the sentences on Gibbs and Young.³ You have also a blank Warrant, which you will fill up with the name of either of the Prisoners whom you may think it best to make an immediate Example of.

You will have your Brigade in as collected a State as possible and held in readiness to move at the shortest Notice. I am &c.⁴

27. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

3. Corporal William(?) Gibbs and Private Sylvester Young, of the First New Jersey Regiment. (See General Orders, Aug. 11, 1782, *post.*)

4. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

INSTRUCTIONS TO LIEUTENANT JOHN MIX⁷

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 11, 1782.

Sir: You will proceed forthwith to establish a Line of communication between Kings ferry and Boston; You will wait upon Col Sheldon with the inclosed Order for 12 Dragoons to form the Chain from Kings ferry to Hartford inclusive; these you will post at or in the neighbourhood of the places mentioned in the Margin (two at each), and will make effectual provision for their accommodation and subsistence.

1 Haight's

2 Danbury

3 Carletons Bridge

4 Breakneck

5 Southington

6 Hartford

From Hartford to Boston you will continue the line of Expresses by persons retained for the purpose by the Qr Mastr Department. These you will station at the distance of 15 or 18 Miles from each other as the state of the roads and other circumstances shall point out; and you will make efficacious Arrangements with the Dy Qr Mastrs of the States in which the Expresses are stationed, for paying and supporting them while in service, or at least for securing, in a satisfactory manner the future

payment, to them. Should any difficulties arise on this account I will ultimately see that these expences are defrayed.

You will after having made proper provision for the Dragoons and Expresses abovementioned, give each post of them a Copy of the instruction accompanying this, certified by you and inforce the strictest attention to their duty. On your return you

7. Lieut. and Adj. John Mix, of the Second Connecticut Regiment. He retired in June, 1783.

will make a Report of your doing to Head Quarters. I am etc.⁸

ORDERS FOR THE DRAGOONS AND EXPRESSES BETWEEN KINGS FERRY AND BOSTON

August 11, 1782.

1st Every Dragoon or Express will hold himself in constant readiness by night and by day to perform the service expected of him.

2d The Dragoons or Expresses will not Commence the Journey purposely to forward any Dispatches, except such only as are franked by the Commander in Chief, or are from the Commanding Land or Naval Officers of his Most Christian Majesty; but other Letters may be sent by this conveyance whenever the line is put in Motion for the beforementioned purposes.

3d Dragoons or Expresses are always to Note on the outside of the Letters, the hour they receive them, and the exact time they deliver them at the Next stage. If the Covers of Dispatches should be broken or in bad condition from any casualty whatever, it must be attested by a Magistrate or two respectable Inhabitants that this was the case before the Dispatches arrived

8. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

at the Stage where the Certificate was given; otherwise the person in whose possession they are found will be considered as the Delinquent and treated accordingly.

4th. Dragoons or Expresses being charged with Dispatches of the foregoing Description must carry them their stage with the greatest deligence; but whenever it is mentioned on the Letters themselves, that they are to be *forwarded with the greatest dispatch*, they must then Ride night and day without one Moments cessation (the time of receipt and delivery being Marked on the Letter).

The fidelity and exertion of every individual may be judged of, and should any be guilty of negligence they must abide the consequences.¹¹

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 12, 1782.

Sir: You will please to furnish twelve Dragoons, who are well mounted to form a Chain of Communication from Hartford to Peekskill. Mr Mix who is the bearer of this, has Orders to post them and make provision for their accommodation and subsistence. The service is temporary, and if the Horses are well supplied with forage and taken proper care of, they may be kept in good condition for the future purposes of the Campaign; [as it is not probable they will perform much duty on the Service they are order'd upon]; you will also have it at your option to relieve them as frequently as

11. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

you judge proper. I am etc.

P.S. Untill you shall hear that my Head Quarters are removed from this place, you will send the Dispatches which may be brought from the Eastward by the chain of Expresses, by a Dragoon directly to Newburgh.¹⁵

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

Head Quarters, August 12, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 30th. ulto. covering extracts of the several Laws passed by your Legislature for compleating their Line and Rolls of the Men recruited in consequence. I entertain not the least doubt of your exertions or of those of the Gentlemen who have been employed under you. It is only to be lamented that the circumstances of the times neither enable us to make prompt and proper satisfaction for past services or to hold up substantial encouragements to those who now engage. As you observe, things may alter for the better as they cannot grow worse.

I am really at a loss what Orders to give you at the present moment. If accounts from the Southward and appearances are to be depended upon the enemy mean to evacuate not only Georgia but South Carolina. Should the latter event

15. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

have taken place, the March of the detachment at Annapolis will be altogether unnecessary. At any rate, the season for moving will be so very unfavorable for this and the succeeding Month, that you had best remain for that time, where you now are, except you receive positive orders to the contrary from Majr. Genl. Greene, continuing to prepare for a march either one way or the other as circumstances may require. By that time we shall certainly be able to form a more competent judgment of the intentions of the enemy. I am &c.¹⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES SCOTT

Head Quarters, August 12, 1782.

Sir: I am just favored with your Letter of the 24 July informing me of your Exchange on which occasion I Sincerely congratulate you.

The French having had the generosity to give up to us the Prisoners taken by them, it is to them you are indebted for your Exchange.

You will please to report yourself to General Greene, and take his Orders, and in the mean time you will afford any assistance in your power to General Muhlenberg, who Superintends the recruiting Service in your State. I am &c.¹⁶

17. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

16. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To COLONEL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Head Quarters, August 12, 1782.

Sir: I have recd your favor of the 22d. July. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to find any of the Officers whom I have the honor to command turning their thoughts and attention to matters which will promote the regularity and good of the service, and that for that reason you have my thanks for the hints you have taken the trouble to furnish me with for the better formation and composition of the Cavalry. I have ever lamented the want of an uniform and regular system of manœvre and discipline for that useful Body of Troops. The principal reason perhaps why one has never yet been formed, has been the small prospect we have ever had of being able to carry it into practice from the necessarily dispersed situation of the Cavalry. Were the Horse all acting together or nearly so, your plan of a place of general rendezvous, or that of drawing a Troop from each Regiment for the purpose of instruction would certainly be eligible; but when you consider that the service requires the Horse to be dispersed from Connecticut to South Carolina, and that even Regiments or Corps cannot be preserved intire, you will see the impossibility of the measure. The same reasons operate against the formation of Grand Divisions of Horse recommended in the latter part of your plan.

Under present circumstances therefore, and untill a plan of manœvre and discipline for the Cavalry is formed, I can only recommend to the Gentlemen commanding those Corps to fit them for service either by Rules founded upon their own experience or agreeable to the directions of the best Masters upon that subject. The Regulations already established for the discipline of the Infantry will apply to the Companies of Foot attached to the Corps of Horse.

I do not think it necessary at this time to transmit a Copy of your plan to the Secretary at War. At some future day the matter will be agitated, and then yours with others which have been proposed will be taken into consideration. I beg you to be assured etc.¹⁸

To CAPTAIN SILAS TALBOT²⁰

Head Quarters, August 13, 1782.

Sir: Your Letter of the 8th. ulto. only reached me a few days ago. You may very well suppose that it is impossible for me, amidst the great variety of business which comes before me, to remember, with any tolerable degree of accuracy, what passed only verbally so long as the times to wh. you refer. It is more than

18. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

20. Of the U.S. Navy. He was also a lieutenant colonel in the Continental Army and served to the close of the war.

probable that I did, upon your expressing a Wish to be employed in the marine if you could not in the land service, signify my approbation so far as it depended upon me. But I am confident I could never have given you that liberty positively; because I had ever made it a rule, to refer the applications of those Officers in the Land service, who wanted to take a Voyage on account of their healths, to Congress; not looking upon myself authorized to grant a permission to any Officer under my command to go without the limits of the United States. Indeed your proceeding to Philada. after you saw me at Morris Town in February 1780, and there making application for employ in the Marine, to the only persons who could with propriety grant it, seems to me a proof of what I have above mentioned, that you had my approbation conditionally only.²¹

I know not what difficulties you find in obtaining your pay up to the time of your discharge from the service, but I do suppose they arise from your having taken the command of the private Ship of War the Washington. If such an objection is made, I can give no certificate that will invalidate it. It would probably operate against you, because it must set forth that you had only a conditional license from me for taking such a step, and it would then be incumbent upon you to produce the authority by which you took such command.²²

If you found your claim to this indulgence upon your merits and services, they are too well known and recorded

21. Talbot had been captured by H. M. S. *Culloden*, and sent to England. After being exchanged and returned to America he, with some others, were retired as supernumerary officers. He requested a certificate from Washington that "You did Verbally give me liberty to go into Sea Employ, but not till after I had made Frequent Applications to be Employ'd in the Army, this I want to make use of in acquiring my Wages." Talbot's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

22. At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "You may be assured I shall ever take pleasure in rendering services and obtaining justice for those Officers who have signalized themselves and suffered in the Cause of their Country."

to need any recommendation from me. I am etc.²³

INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN JOHN PRAY²⁷

Dobbs Ferry, August 14, 1782.

It is of great importance at this Crisis, to have the best possible information of the state of the Enemy's affairs at New York, His Excellency the Commander in Chief has commanded us therefore, to inform you, it is his wish that you will use your utmost endeavours to obtain such information, and that you will devote all the time and attention you can spare from your other Duties, to this very essential object.

The first great article of which the General requires to be ascertained is, the state of the British Naval Force at New York; and the arrival or sailing of any Fleet, Transports, Armed Vessels or single Ship of War, this information must, if practicable, be kept up constantly, untill further Orders.

In order to obtain this intelligence with certainty and accuracy (without which it will be worth nothing at all) you should have some trusty and intelligent Person or Persons ready in the City to give the earliest notice of any Movement or

23. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

27. Commanding the Water Guard at Dobbs Ferry.

alteration in the shipping, by express or some other way, to one of your Emissaries above the Enemy's Lines, who must communicate instantly to you. Money will be furnished for the payment of the actual expences and other absolutely necessary purposes; But it is expected that the greatest compensation and reward which can be given to well disposed persons within the British Lines, who mean to remain after the Enemy have abandoned New York, will be the promise of favor and security to those who shall recommend themselves in this way; It must also be impressed upon all those agents, that they should be exceedingly exact and accurate in their accounts, that they should see every thing themselves and make a business of it at this last hour, that they have intelligence thro' many different Channels and can detect any inaccuracy or falsehood, and that you have authority to promise attention and protection only in proportion to the fidelity, ability and precision discovered in the prosecution of this necessary duty. The Person who gives the first intelligence of the arrival or sailing of a Fleet &c, will deserve particular notice.

The other objects to which you should attend unweariedly, are the number, state and disposition of the Troops, so far as these things can be ascertained; embarkations, arrivals, movements of any kind, indications of remaining in or evacuating the Garrison, European advices, domestick or other intelligence contained in the News papers, which might and should be obtained every day; To these should be added the British Orders

and every thing else that can be interesting in a Political, Military or Naval light, The manner of effecting these things have been explained verbally, should any thing further be wanting, you may receive more particular Instructions when you shall be at Head Quarters, two or three days hence; We have only to add, by way of inducement, that you cannot more effectually serve your Country at this time than by deligence in this line of duty; while we remark, Your Reputation will be much concerned (from your advantageous situation) in giving the earliest, most particular and authentic intelligence of any person whatever.²⁸

***To COLONEL SAMUEL MILES**

Hd. Qrs. Newburgh, August 15, 1782.

Sir: Inclosed is a duplicate of my last. As I have neither received the Articles ordered, nor an acknowledgement of my Letter, I take it for granted that the latter has miscarried.³¹

I have requested the Secretary at War to let one of the Gentlemen in his Office put this into your own hands. I am &c.

28. In the writing of and signed "David Cobb, Lt Colonel A D. Camp"; it is also signed "D. Humphrys Lt Colo Aide de Camp."

31. Miles wrote (August 19) from Philadelphia, that he had been out of town for "upwards of six weeks past, on Accot. of my Health" and did not receive Washington's letter of July 8 until his return "last Thursday" (August 15). Rendon had given an entertainment "a day or two after you [Washington] had left the City, and...his Stewart had made use of those dishes, plates &c. and had also lent part of them to the Minister of France's Stewart, they' are, however, I am informed, all return'd and forwarded, except one dozn. plates." Miles's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

To COLONEL WALTER STEWART

Head Quarters, August 16, 1782.

Sir: I am directed by the Commander in Chief to acknowledge the recet of your Letter of the 12th.

It is but very lately that a pointed order was issued directing the forges to be set at Work; the General is unacquainted why that order was disobeyed.

The General directs that no new Arms should be furnished the Recruits whilst they can be supplied with repaired ones.

The reason why the Order relative to the belts was not issued was because on further enquiry it was found that there was not a Sufficiency for the purpose. I am &c.³⁵

35. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alker]."

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, August 17, 1782.

Dear Sir: Annexed you have extracts from a letter of the 12th. from the Secretary at War, relating to the proposed arragement of the office of Field Commissary of Military Stores. It being a matter intimately connected with your department, I would be glad of your opinion, and that as early as possible, that I may frame my answer without loss of time. That we may make a regulation, as nearly as may be, consonant to the wishes and opinions of the Brigadiers and officers commanding Brigades; keeping in view what seems now the grand object, Oeconomy, it might be well for you to consult them after you have digested your own thoughts upon the matter. I am &c.⁴³

43. In the writing of Tench Tilghman. The original of the letter from the Secretary at War is in the *Washington Papers*.

EXTRACT

I should be happy to have your Ideas the number of persons to be employed in the department of Field Commisary of Military Stores. If I remember right, it was your Excellency's opinion that the

conductors to Brigades might be dispensed with, and that the care of the Stores might safely be committed to the Brigade Quarter Masters, as also the travelling Forge and Armourers.

I take the liberty to submit to your Excellency the following plan for the Field Commissary's department.

A Field Commissary and two Conductors or Clerks.Main Army

A Dy. Commissary and two Conductors or Clerks.So. Army.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 18, 1782.

Dear Sir: After I have seen the troops maneuvered upon the point tomorrow morning, I shall go down to Peekskill to look at the Guard in that neighbourhood. You will be pleased to order a Company of light Infantry to march to Peekskill tomorrow morning by break of day and there wait my orders. They must go provided with two day provision. I am &c.⁵⁰

[MS.H.S.]

50. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To MAJOR WILLS CLIFT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 18 1782.

Sir: I perceive by the written Report you have forwarded to me by Colonel Humphrys that you have inadvertently suffered Mr. William Livingston to pass to the Enemy's Lines to attend his Father in Law, Mr. Lott,⁴⁸ who had a Passport from the Governor of N. Jersey; the Sd Livingston having no legal permission for the purpose. I am disposed, from your character and the circumstances to consider this as an error, and misconstruction of your Orders, rather than a willful violation of them: wherefore I have only to caution you to avoid such mistakes in future, and to declare that it was my intention and is my positive Command; that after Passports are obtained in the Manner specified in my Instructions of the 14th. of June 1782 to the Officer Commanding at Dobbs' Ferry; No Person or Persons, besides those mentioned in the Passports, the Flag Officer, and those under his

immediate Orders shall be permitted to go to the Enemy's Lines under Sanction of such flags, or to attend either on any pretext whatever; except such Prisoners of War as may have Certificates of their Exchange from the Commissary Genl of Prisoners, or one of his Deputies. Those Prisoners to pass by the first flag that offers, unless upon application one shall be granted for the purpose.

The foregoing to be considered as a

48. Abraham Lott.

permanent Regulation, and this Order is to be delivered with the other Instructions to the Relieving Officer.

The Prisoners who were reported by Cols Cobb and Humphrys to have been at Dobbs' Ferry when they were there may be forwarded by the first flag. Receipts should be taken for them and delivered to the Commissary of Prisoners on his Return; the Wives of these Prisoners may also go in. I am etc.⁴⁹

To COLONEL BENJAMIN TUPPER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 21, 1782.

Dear Sir: In posting Officers to the Light Infantry for this Campaign, I neither forgot, nor meant to neglect you; so far from it, I intend to convince you of my sense of your Merit by this proof of my attention [and an assurance that under a comparative view of all circumstances the arrangement as now made appeared most likely to promote the Public service in general.]

At the same time, that I was conscious you had a kind of claim to the appointment from your rank, character, zeal for the service in general, and proper behaviour the last year; I thought your continuing with your own Regt.

49. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

would be more beneficial to the public Interest, and full as reputable to yourself, as a command in the Light Corps; because if we should come to serious operations of any kind the Brigade to which you belong would in all probability be drawn together, and commanded by you, [for ought I know to the contrary at present] and in the mean time, your Regt. being detached, will require your presence much more than it would otherwise do; your command being thus in some measure separate will always be respectable and may be important; perhaps too, circumstances may require that you

should be employed at the Northward, I do not here speak of this as a certainty, but as a contingency which may happen.

I thought proper to give you this explanation of my Motives of conferring the command on another, when you might, from what was said last year, have had some occasion to expect it yourself, and to assure you that I am etc.⁷¹

To CHEVALIER DE CAMBRAY

Head Quarters, August 21, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 12th. instant. Were it reduced to a certainty that your exchange would not be effected for a considerable time to come, I should have no objection to

71. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

recommending your request for liberty to visit France, to Congress. But as the offer which I have just made to Sir Guy Carleton of appointing another meeting of Commissioners may possibly be productive of an exchange of a number of Officers I think your application had better stand suspended till we see the issue of the proposed meeting.

I return your Certificates for the present, without adding my name to them, not because I have any doubt of your abilities and merit, but because I would wish to do more than barely signify that due credit ought to be given to the honorable testimonials already in your possession, which is all I could do, having never had the pleasure of commanding you personally. I hope before you return to France to be able to speak from my own knowledge. I am &c.⁶⁴

To MAJOR WILLS CLIFT

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 21, 1782.

Sir: You will be pleased to furnish the Bearer Mr Richard Wells of Philada. who has permission to go into New York, with a Flag to the enemy's advanced Water Guard. And upon his return you will receive him with whatever he

64. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

may bring with him and send him up to Head Quarters in one of Captain Prays Boats. You will deliver this to the officer who relieves you, that he may be prepared to give Mr Wells the proper reception. I am etc.⁷²

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 22, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received your Favor of Yesterday, and return you Major Ashley's Letter, with Daking's⁷³ paper. You will direct Major Ashley to order the Flag with Mr Daking to return immediately to the Enemy's Lines.⁷⁴

As this is the second instance in which Genl Birch⁷⁵ has contravened my Intentions, in granting Flags to come from the Enemys Lines by other routes than that of Dobb's Ferry; you will be pleased to write to that Gentleman and inform him, that if any other flags are sent out by any other Way than the established post of Dobb's Ferry, they will be positively detained as prisoners.

The inclosed Letter you will be pleased

72. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

73. William Darking (Daking), formerly a sutler in the Second Battalion, British Light Infantry.

74. On August 26 a passport was made out permitting Darking to go to Lancaster to settle his accounts. It bears the note: "Sent down to the Comg Officer at Dobbs ferry to be given to Mr Dorking." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

75. Brig. Gen. Samuel Birch, commandant of New York. He was colonel of the Seventeenth Light Dragoons and a brigadier general of the British Army in America.

to send to Dobbs Ferry to be forwarded to N York. With much regard etc.⁷⁶

[MS.H.S.]

To CHEVALIER DE VILLEFRANCHE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 22, 1782.

Sir: Upon your application to the Adj. General for a number of Men from the Marching Regts to be employed as Blowers⁷⁷ in the Works under your direction, the Men are ordered to be furnished accordingly, that the Works may not stand still for want of their assistance; but I must inform you, Sir, it was my full expectation, that this species of business would always have been performed by the Corps of Sappers and Miners; if their experience prevents them at this time from accomplishing this necessary part of their duty, you will be pleased to have them, without loss of time, so far instructed in it as in future to supersede the necessity of Draughts from the Line for this or for similar purposes.

I need scarcely add that it was with a particular view of their utility in Works of this kind, that the Corps was instituted, and allowed greater pay than the Regts of Infantry are intitled to. I am etc.⁷⁸

76. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

77. Followers of the art in gunnery practice of fixing time-fuse plugs in shells so as to blow them out without bursting the shell.

78. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 22, 1782.

Sir: To prevent any confusion and irregularity in the Department of Commissary of Prisoners, which might ensue upon your leaving the Office abruptly in consequence of the late arrangement of that Department; it is my request you will continue to perform the functions of the Office of Commissary Genl of Prisoners, untill the accounts can be settled, and the business and Papers of the Department so arranged as that your retiring from it, will not be attended with any ill consequences on the part of the Public. I am etc.⁷⁸

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, August 23, 1782.

Sir: Lieut. LaMont⁸⁵ late of your Regiment having represented to me, that in consequence of his Dismission from the Service, and being in an advanced Stage of Life, he is reduced to a precarious prospect of future Support for himself and Family: and praying that I would recommend him to the public for

78. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

85. Lieut. William Le Mont (La Mont), of the Invalid Regiment.

Half-pay. I am obliged to inform him, that considering the cause and circumstances of his dismission, it would be highly improper, yea impossible, for me to comply with his request.⁸⁶

But, as he may have some Concerns to settle, and some Arrangements to make previous to his retiring to his Home, I have to desire that you will be pleased to Order that he may draw his Rations, so long as he remains about Camp, not exceeding one Month from this date; in which Time it is probable he will be enabled to retire from the Army. I am &c.⁸⁷

OPINION AT THE REQUEST OF A COURT- MARTIAL⁸¹

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 23, 1782.

The first and second Questions could only be answered generally, not as applying to the present case; the Proceedings of the Court of Enquiry produced to the Court Martial not being dated, approved or disapproved by Colo. Cortland who ordered it.⁸²

Upon the last Question the Commander in Chief is of opinion: That the Court ought to proceed against Ensign

86. Le Mont had been dismissed on Aug. 1, 1782. His letter to Washington (Aug. 18, 1782) is indorsed by Trumbull "cant be done. Col. Nicola to order Rations for one Month." Le Mont's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

87. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

81. This document is titled by David Cobb: "The Opinion of the Commander in Chief given at the request of the Court Martial whereof Colo. Mil. Jackson was President."

82. At this point the draft has the following crossed out: "General Answer to Quest. 1st: A Court of enquiry is not final and therefore an officer tho acquitted by such a Court may be brought to trial before a Court Martial. The acquittal before a Court of enquiry will Certainly operate much in the prisoners favor. do. Quest. 2d: While the conduct of an Officer is under enquiry by order of a superior Officer, no inferior has a right to arrest him for the same crime while his conduct is under consideration."

Bloodgood⁸³ upon the charge of behaving in an infamous and scandalous manner on the last of January or beginning of February last &c. &c.

But he is of opinion that he cannot be tried by this Court upon the other charge; it appearing to him that the crime alledged against him was committed before he entered the Continental service.⁸⁴

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, August 24, 1782.

Sir: I have to acknowledge your two Favours of the 23d. Your Resolutions respecting the prosecution of Major Genl

83. Ensign William Bloodgood, of the First New York Regiment. He resigned in December, 1782.

84. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Heath, are very agreeable to me; your reasons are good and do honor to your own Heart.

I am much obliged by your Sentiments on the mode of getting Wood for the Garrison of West Point; your Observations, founded in knowledge and Experience, will prove useful. My attention has been

for some time past turned to this necessary Provision, which will begin to be executed immediately on the Collecting the Army together, and I hope will be compleated with Dispatch and to good Effect. I am etc.⁸⁸

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 24, 1782.

Sir: The Commander in Chief having determined to seize the first Moment, after the Troops have taken their new position, to employ a number of them in cutting Wood for the Garrison of West Point; and as the summer is now far advanced, he wishes this necessary business may be accomplished as early as possible: to effect this he requests you to have the Axes immediately fitted with Helves and conveyed to Ver Planks Point, where they should be lodged in the care of the Officer Commanding the Garrison, untill called for. Grindstones will also be requisite at the same place.

88. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On August 25 Washington wrote to Heath that General McDougall had dropped the prosecution of his charges against Heath and, as "there is little probability of any active service in the Field," granting Heath leave of absence to go to Boston. This letter is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

The General farther commands me to advise you, he considers it highly expedient that Sloops and water Craft sufficient for the transportation of the fuel to the Garrison, should be provided by the time the Wood can be cut and hauled to the bank of the River; the execution of this business he the rather urges may be instantly entered upon with spirit, because the Navigation up the River will become every day more precarious and difficult, after the Northerly Winds set in, which commonly prevail through the Autumn as well as Winter. His Excellency therefore desires you to take the *whole execution of this business*, which he considers as very important, under your immediate direction and superintendance. I am etc.

P.S. His Excellency suggests whether it will not be eligible to contract for the transportation of Wood at a certain stipulated rate pr Cord.⁸⁹

89. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys A. D. C."

On August 24 Washington wrote briefly to Maj. Gen. William Heath, approving his suggestion of having 4 light infantry Companies “doing the Duty of the Lines” instead of 5. This letter is in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, August 25, 1782.

Sir: I have been favored with your Letter of the 18th. and am much obliged by the readiness and Zeal you manifest in your Endeavours to obtain the Intelligence I wish to receive from N York.

It is really very extraordinary that no British fleet has yet appeared upon our Coasts, in pursuit of the french squadron, which are now safely arrived in Boston Harbour.

Your Chain of Expresses may extend to Morris Town, where the Q Master will be directed to receive and forward your Dispatches without Delay; the particular Route to Morris Town you will judge better than I can; my only preference would be given in favour of Safety and Expedition. With much Esteem etc.⁹⁰

To COLONEL WILLIAM SHEPARD

Head Quarters, August 25, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 25th. expressing your Sentiments respecting the Appointment of Brigadiers to the Massachusetts Line.

Notwithstandg the Delay of Congress in making the promotions to that Rank, which I have recommended some Time ago, yet I do not despair of their Doing it when they have Leisure to attend to its necessity. I would therefore beg you not to be hasty in your Conclusions on this point; but exercise patience, and give Congress Time, among their other numerous and important Affairs, to attend to this.

But were your Resolutions fixed, and your Mind determined, to leave the Army immediately, I should not

90. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

conceive myself justifiable in granting a Discharge to an Officer of your Rank and Merits, without a particular reference to Congress. With much Regard etc.⁹⁶

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ELIAS DAYTON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 25, 1782.

Sir: You will be pleased to commence the March of the Jersey Brigade by the left on thursday Morning the 29th Inst. towards the Hudson. Your movements will be conducted so as to reach King's Ferry on the Evening of the third day's March: the Route will be by Dodds', Suffrans, and Kakeate, near the first mentioned place you may halt the first night, and in the vicinity of Suffran's the second; this will nearly divide the distance and make your Marches regular and easy. On your arrival at your destination, you will send an Officer to Head Quarters and receive further Instructions.

No officers or Soldiers capable of marching are to be left behind; except 20 of the Invalids or Weakest Men from both Regts, with a proportion of Non Commisssd Officers, who are to remain under the Orders of a vigilant Subaltern

96. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

Officer, for the preservation of the Huts, and other public property, or Regimental Baggage. Captain Schaack will be left in charge of this Officer, who will be answerable for his safe keeping.

Relying on the discipline of your Troops, and the regularity of your Order of March; I do not think it neccessary to give you particular Orders to prevent your Men from straggling, committing depredations, or injuring the good People of the Country thro' which you will pass; I shall therefore only recommend to the Corps a strict attention to military propriety in every respect, and wish them an agreeable March to join the Army. I am etc.

P.S. You will leave Capt Asgill on Parole at Morris Town untill further Orders.⁹¹

To COLONEL PHILIP VAN CORTLANDT OR OFFICER COMMANDING THE NEW YORK BRIGADE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 25, 1782.

Sir: On thursday Morning the 29th Inst you will march the New York Brigade by the left, towards Kings Ferry, at which place you will arrive on the Evening of the 2d. day's march, having divided the distance in such a manner as will be most convenient to the Troops, as well as the Teams. You will report to Head Quarters thro' an Officer immediately on your arrival at Kings ferry,

91. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

and receive farther Orders.

You will bring on every Officer and Man of the Brigade who is not detained by Sickness or inability, except a Sub. and 20 of the Levies (from the two Regts) who are to be left as a Garrison for the Block House in the Clove during the Campaign. The Baggage not absolutely necessary for the field may be left in charge of this Officer or in any other place of safety.

The high reputation of the New York Brigade for regularity and discipline, assures me the March will be conducted in the best Order imaginable; wishing it may be agreeable I am, etc.⁹²

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 25, 1782.

Sir: You will move your Legion from their present Cantonment, by the directest route to Pines Bridge or the nearest convenient place for forage on this side the Croton; Calculating your distances, and making your stages in such a manner as that you will arrive at the point of destination, on Saturday the 31st Inst without failure. You will send notice to me of your arrival, and receive farther Instructions.

92. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Some previous arrangements respecting Forage may be necessary on your route, to prevent inconveniencies and irregularities. I shall rely on your attention to have the march conducted in the most military and soldierlike Manner, and am, etc.⁹³

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 25, 1782.

Sir: I am directed by the Commander in Chief to inform you, that the York and Jersey Brigades are ordered to march to Kings Ferry. This communication is made with a view of giving you an opportunity of regulating your Measures according to the circumstances, in case any thing new should be necessary in your department, in consequence of the Movement.

The General proposes going to Ver Planks Point to morrow mornng, if he should not receive Letters by the Post to day, which shall detain him; he will wish you to accompany him, and will have a seat vacant in his Barge for you.

His Excellency likewise wishes you to provide sixteen small flags as signals for the Boats, viz, eight of white cloth, of any size you think proper from 18 Inches to 3 feet square; and eight others of blue, red, or green. These flags he would

93. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

have fixed each upon a convenient staff, to be made use of for the purpose abovementioned. The cloth may be of almost any quality provided the Colors are such as can be readily distinguished. I am etc.⁹⁴

To CHEVALIER DE VILLEFRANCHE

Head Quarters, August 25, 1782.

Sir: In my Letter to you of the 22d I had no Idea of casting any Reflexion, upon you, for the want of knowledge of the Sappers and Miners, in the Art of Blowing. I meant only to convey to you my Expectation of that being a particular Branch of their Instructions, and that, if they were not already informed in that necessary part of their Duty, they might be instructed.

The latter part of my Intentions, I am glad to find, you are engaged to fulfil, that they have not been heretofore informed in the Branch, I do not lay to your particular Charge, having ever viewed your Services in a very favorable Light. I am &c.⁹⁵

94. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

95. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To THE CONTRACTORS FOR THE MOVING ARMY

Head Quarters, August 25, 1782.

Gent: I think it necessary to give you notice, that the whole Army, the Garrison of West Point excepted, will move down and take a position upon Verplank's Point in the course of the present Week. The Brigades of New York and New Jersey from Pompton and Morris Town will be ordered to assemble there likewise. You will therefore be pleased to make the necessary arrangements for furnishing them with provisions agreeable to Contract.

The Troops on the lines will be increased by Sheldon's Legionary Corps which will call for between three and four hundred Rations pr diem. I am etc.

P.S. A subalterns Guard will be left at the Jersey Huts near Morris Town and another at the Block House in the Clove. You will take measures for having them supplied.⁹⁷

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, August 27, 1782.

Sir: On receipt of your Letter of the 17th. covering the

97. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

resolution of Congress of the 15th. and informg. your readiness and zeal to share a part in Active military Duty, I have assigned to you a Command in the Army under my immediate Direction, which is now on the point of entering the field.

As soon therefore as you have adjusted your Concerns in Berkley, and prepared yourself for the Campaign, you will be pleased to proceed to join the Army on the North River. With Regard etc.⁵

[N.Y.H.S.]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, August 27, 1782.

Sir: Doctor Vache² formerly Surgeon to the 4th. New York Regiment has made application to Congress, alledging that he was in justly deranged from the New York Line notwithstanding he was Eldest Surgeon of the line and had signified in proper time, his desire of remaining in Service: As the Secy. at War has referred the matter to me I must desire you to acquaint me fully, what were the reasons for which he was deranged and younger Surgeons appointed to the Regiments. I am &c.

5. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

2. Surg. John Francis Vache (Vacher, Vasche). He was deranged in January, 1781.

P.S. To prevent any misunderstanding I must request your explicit Answer in writing to my Letter of the 8th Inst. that I may be able to make my arrangements previous to the Army taking the field.³

To COLONEL HENRY EMANUEL LUTTERLOH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 27, 1782.

Sir: The Army will move to Ver Planks Point in the course of this week; a provision of Forage must be made for the Riding Horses of the Army and others which will be necessarily employed there with the Artillery, Stores, Baggage, &c. The number will be small; but as the Hay as well as grain must be brought from some distance, it behoves you to make your Arrangements accordingly under the direction of the Qr Mastr Genl. and without a Moments loss of time to lay in a temporary Magazine either by land or Water as you shall judge best. I am &c.⁴

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, August 28, 1782.

Sir: I have been favored with your private

3. The drab is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

4. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Letter of the 26th. In forming my Arrangement of Commands for the Army's taking the field, not knowg how long the Proceedgs of Congress on your Trial might be delayed, and not findg any other Command so proper for M Genl Knox, under present Circumstances, as that of West point, where the Corps of Artillery, [ordnance and Militry Stores] are to remain, and where his Attention in the particular Line of his Duty may be usefull, I concluded to assign that post to him.

The Resolution of Congress on your Trial, being now come to Hand, and to be published in this Days Orders, I have assigned to you the Command of One Division of the Army composed of [the 2 Connt Brigades] which I hope will be agreeable to you.

I am very sorry for the disagreeable Situation in which you find your private Affairs; but as the Army will take their first position on Verplanks point, where they will probably remain for some Time; and as the Operations of the Campaign will probably be rather inactive, you may have the Opportunity for some Time at least, of drawg from your Farm at Robinsons, all the Advantages for your Support at Verplanks, that you would receive at West point.

If your Health is on such a footg as not to admit your takg the Field, I should not expect, nor do I wish you to move with the Army; in which Case you will be at Liberty to remain in such place as you shall think most

beneficial and convenient. [I am &c.]¹²

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 28, 1782.

Sir: I was yesterday favored with your Letter of the 25th. I am much obliged by the intelligence you have forwarded. The List you inclosed appears to have the marks of authenticity, should you find there is any alteration in the state of the Enemy's shipping, or should you obtain any other important information I shall expect to hear from you by an early conveyance, in the meantime, I am, etc.¹³

To CHEVALIER DE LAUMOY¹⁵

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 28, 1782.

Sir: The Army is about to take a position in the field: it is my wish you would attend it yourself as Chief Engineer, and take one other Officer of that Corps with you. The remainder

12. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

13. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

15. Colonel and commandant of Engineers.

of the Gentlemen belonging to it, in this Department, you will be pleased to Order to West Point, to assist Major Villefranche in superintending and carrying into execution the Works now erecting at that Garrison and its dependencies. I am, &c.¹⁶

To CHEVALIER DE VILLEFRANCHE

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 28, 1782.

Sir: Upon mentioning the subject of your favor of the 27th to His Excellency, he was pleased to direct me to inform you, that, as the service of many Engineers will not be necessary in the Camp we are about to take, which indeed is but a change of Position, and as you are so perfectly acquainted with the plan of the Works now carrying on at West Point and its dependencies, he would have you at present continue to superintend them; but in case we should come to serious operations in the field, he will not be unmindful, in making his Arrangements, of employing your Talents in such a manner as will be useful to the Public and reputable to yourself. In the mean time, the General proposes that all the Engineers, (except Col Lamoy and one other who will be named by him) shall be employed under your Orders in carrying the Works now in hand into execution. I am &c.¹⁴

16. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

14. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys.

To DOCTOR ISAAC LEDYARD

Head Quarters, August 28, 1782.

Sir: I have rec'd your Letter of Yesterday requesting that the Court Martial may be ordered to proceed on your trial, notwithstanding you are dismissed from the Service.

However it might be my wish, it is not in my power to comply with your request; for being no longer in the Service, it would be illegal for a Court Martial to exercise any Jurisdiction over you; and the Trial so far as it has proceeded, must be for that reason considered as Null and Void.

Your Dismission from the service under your peculiar circumstances is certainly unfortunate, but as that Dismission proceeded, only from the Office you held being abolished it cannot convey any Censure on your Conduct. I am &c.¹⁷

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 29, 1782.

Dear Sir: Altho I must confess that it appears to me rather surprizing to have a request for so many Gentlemen, and of such Rank, to be

17. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

absent from their Commands, at this Time of the Campaign, on Business to their State;²¹ Yet as it is the particular Desire of the Officers of your Line, I give my permission as requested, for all the Gentlemen except Major General Knox; who cannot by any means be spared from the Command which is given to him: and besides that, I have an Expectation of employing him soon on another very important business, which cannot be dispensed with.

The Surgeon²² mentioned may have permission to go to Philadelphia, agreeable to request. With Esteem etc.²³

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, August 29, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received your Letter of this Day, accompanied with one from Colo. Canfield at Stamford, informg. the Detention of McCorne²⁶ and others as Prisoners.

I am pleased with the Conduct of Colo Canfield and his Attention to his Duty; and as it seems there is no other Way to reduce Genl Birch to an Observance of the Convention respectg the Place where Flags are to be received, than by the Detention of such as shall come in any other Way than by the Post of Dobb's Ferry. You will be pleased to order the persons sent to

21. Heath had written (August 28): "In the present stage of the war, the officers of the Massachusetts line have thought it an object highly interesting to them to know whether their state will conform to an ordinance of [Congress of October 1780, granting halfpay for life to the officers who should continue in service to the end of the war....They have...prepared a memorial to the legislature...and instructions to a committee to be sent...and have requested me...to solicit your permission that the officers chosen may proceed to Boston." Heath's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

22. The surgeon's name is not given in Heath's letter of August 28. His errand was to obtain payment for the officers on Paymaster Gen. John Pierce's notes.

23. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull jr.

26. Peter Corne, Gilbert Fowler, James Jenkins, "and a Mulatto Fellow" who came from New York with a flag of truce.

you by Colo Canfield to be kept as close prisoners untill further Orders can be taken respecting them. With much Regard etc.²⁷

[MS.H.S.]

INSTRUCTIONS TO LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 29, 1782.

My Lord: Agreeably to the Orders of this day your Lordship will be pleased to repair to Albany, as soon as is convenient, and take the command of all the Troops in that Department; after which Colonel Reid will join his Regt on the Mohawk River.

In case of any dispute respecting command between Lt Col Commandant Reid and Col Willet, you will, my Lord, enquire into the Matter, ascertain their claims of rank and the Commission under which they act, and settle the dispute if practicable; if it appears that Wilier is now acting in the field as full Colonel, he will, I suppose, take rank according to the practice established in such cases; if otherwise, the decision may probably be made at once upon the principles already adopted; but in every case I shall confide the accommodation of this dispute, to your Lordship's discretion, as well as all the Minuter dispositions of Command and arrangements of the Department.

One thing however, I must particularly recommend, that all superfluous and unnecessary Posts (if upon a strict

27. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

examination any such there should be) may forthwith be discontinued and broke up.

Major General Knox has instructions to draw from the Northward all the Ordnance, Stores, &c. which are not absolutely necessary there. The Qr Mastr Genl will also have directions to transport some of the public buildings from Albany, where they are useless, to W Point, where they are much wanted.

As there is a considerable Corps of state Troops serving in the Northern Department, it is my wish that the outposts may be garrisoned and the detached duties performed by these Troops, so far as circumstances anti the nature of the service will admit; in order that the Continental Regts may be kept as compact as possible, and held in a state of readiness to remove, should it become expedient to order them elsewhere at a short Warning.

I have only further to request your Lordship to point your attention, to the re-establishment of discipline in the regular Corps, to the protection and security of the frontiers, as well as to the general order and œconomy of the Department, especially in the issues of ammunition; as there have been great abuses in the consumption of this Article by the Militia and Irregular Troops at the Northward, notwithstanding all the measures which have been taken to prevent it, you will please therefore, my Lord, to suffer none to be issued, but upon your own Orders, in cases where it shall be judged essentially necessary.

Whatever of importance shall occur during your command, and whatever intelligence shall be obtained from Canada Your Lordship will take the trouble to communicate to me by the first conveyance.²⁸

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 29, 1782.

Sir: You are hereby appointed to the command of West point and its Dependencies. But as the Army will lay for some time upon Verplanks point, you will consider yourself as relieved, 'till further orders, from the care of attending to that post, Stoney Point and Dobbs's Ferry, which are part of the dependencies, except so far as relates to their being constantly supplied with the proper quantity of Ordnance Stores.

I have so thorough a confidence in you and so well am I acquainted with your ability and activity, that I think it needless to point out to you the great outlines of your duty; I recommended the following matters to your attention.

To visit the Redoubts frequently; see that they are kept in proper order; that the Garrisons allotted to them are alert, and that they make it an invariable Rule to sleep within the Works.

28. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

They should each be furnished constantly with ten days Wood and Water, and if the Contractors keep up such a Magazine of Salt provision upon the Point as they ought to do by Contract, the detached Works should be provided with ten days provision also.

The Rolls to be frequently called. No Officer to be absent without your leave, and no non Commissioned Officer or soldier without the leave of a Field Officer.

The Quarter Master having reported a scarcity of Tents, you will be pleased to remove the 10th. Massachusetts Regt. into the Barracks, that their tents may be delivered up.

No Buildings either public or private to be erected without your knowledge, and when applications are made to you for that purpose, you will, if the applications are admitted, direct the commanding Engineer to point out the situations, that they may not interfere with the defences of the place.

The public Buildings now carrying on, and the alterations and repairs of the Works will engage your particular attention. You know the necessity of bringing them to a certain state before the Frost sets in.³⁰

[MS.H.S.]

30. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COLONEL RICHARD HUMPTON

Head Quarters, August 29, 1782.

Sir: The Sergeant has delivered Your Letter of the 21st. inclosing two Courts Martial, and the Returns of Recruits in Phila.

Inclosed is an Extract from Genl Orders respectg Sergt Bourge, who upon your recommendation is pardoned.

The proceedgs of the other Court Martial are returned to you. The Court have tried and sentenced Wm Taylor to Death. In your Letter you mention him under the Name of Wm Robinson, as a person proper for an Example, because he is the same person who had been pardoned by me, for a like Offence when I was last in Phila. You will be pleased to explain this Matter. I fancy the Man has an Alias Name which has not been noted in the proceedings of the Court. I am &c.²⁹

To COLONEL TIMOTHY PICKERING

Head Quarters, Newburgh, August 29, 1782.

Sir: The Commander in Chief has made an

29. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

alteration in the disposition of the Brigades on the left of the Line, from that contained in the Order of Encampment given to you two days ago. The first Massachusetts Brigade occupies the ground on the flank, vice Pattersons, which takes the place of the 1st. Brigade, and in which the Senior Regt is posted on the left, the next oldest on the right &c. This change of disposition His Excellency

desires you will immediately make known to the Quarter Masters of the Brigades concerned, that the ground may be taken accordingly. I have the honor etc.³¹

31. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys Aid de Camp."

Trumbull wrote also to Pickering (August 29): "that the Oars are arrived...a Distribution of them may be made Tomorrow without fail, as the Troops must move on Saturday." Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

On August 29 Washington wrote also to Lieut. Col. Jeremiah Olney directing him to give Lieut. Joseph Wheaton, of the Rhode Island Regiment, a passport to enter the enemy's lines; and to Captain von Heer to put the Marechaussée corps in motion immediately for Crompond, by way of Newburgh and Fishkill which he must reach by Saturday evening. "Upon your Arrival there you will report to me at Verplank's point." These drafts are in the *Washington Papers*.

To COLONEL PHILIP VAN CORTLANDT

Head Quarters, August 30, 1782.

Sir: In my letter of the 25th. I desired you to send an Officer to Head Quarters to report your arrival at Kings Ferry. The Encampment upon Verplanks point being marked out, you will have no occasion to send up the Officer, but upon your arrival at Stoney Point send over your Brigade Qr. Masr. to Verplanks. He will there find Mr. Demler³² an Asst. of the Qr. Masr Genl. who will shew him the Ground for the Brigade. As soon as he has made the necessary arrangements you will cross and encamp.³³

32. Henry(?) Demler.

33. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Verplanks, September 1, 1782.

Sir: His Excellency directs me to reply to your Letter of the 30th. ulto which was received Yesterday at this place.

Your Arrangements for forage must be made with the Quartermaster Genl and forage Master, who will make the best Supplies in their power.

As your Corps is considered as part of the Main Army, your provisions must be furnished by the Contractors for the Moving Army; to whom you will apply immediately, they have already been informed that you are to compose part of the Troops which will be on the Lines.

The Dragoons which have been posted at Luddingtons, may now be withdrawn from thence and placed as in the first Establishment of the Chain, pointg to Kings ferry. I am &c.³⁸

38. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "[Jonathan] T[rumbu]ll."

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEREMIAH OLNEY

Head Quaretrs, September 1, 1782.

Sir: I have received your two favors of the 21st. of Augst with their Inclosures.

All Letters coming from N York to Dobb's Ferry, are to pass to Head Quarters for Inspection. No Letters are to be admitted into N York, but such as pass thro Head Quarters, except those which may be franked by the President of Congress, the Secty at War, or the Governors or Executives of the different States; this to be a standg Instruction at your Post, and to be delivered over to the Officers succeedg in that Command.⁴⁰ I am &c.⁴¹

40. A last paragraph, crossed out in the draft, reads: "Should Colo Wm Livingston of N Jersey, who lately passed by Imposition into N York, apply to return thro your post, you will please to detain him, until Information can be given. and Orders be received from Head Quarters. respectg him."

41. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On September 1 Trumbull wrote to Maj. David Smith, who had stationed a light infantry company at Pine's Bridge that as Colonel Sheldon would be posted in the neighborhood of Bedford, Smith should withdraw his company "to your Command and keep up a Communication with Colo Sheldon

for the purpose of Assistance and Intelligence By His Excellencys Command." Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (September 1) Humphreys wrote to Capt. David Hunt, of the New York Levies, to put himself under the orders of Colonel Sheldon "who is appointed to command at Bedford and in that quarter." Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (September 1) Washington wrote briefly to Capt. William Van Duerson, a sea captain, acknowledging the receipt of a book which the captain had brought from John Hanson, of St. Croix, West Indies. "I am much obliged by the Care you have taken in the Conveyance of the present to me, and for the Information you are so kind as to give me of that Gentlemans Health." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To MAJOR GENERALS WILLIAM HEATH AND HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, September 3, 1782.

Gentlemen: I have concluded to name you on the part of the United States, as Commissioners, to meet those of Six Guy Carleton, for the purpose of settling a general Cartel &c. agreeable to the inclosed Resolution of Congress.

I have therefore to desire you Gentlemen to undertake this Business, and if any previous preparation is necessary that you will be pleased to attend to it as early as possible, as I wait only for a reply from Congress to some Queries put to them, before I make out your Instructions, and appoint the Time and place of the Meeting, which are to be announced from me to Sir Guy Carleton.

The proceedings and Report of the late Commissioners are sent you by this Conveyance, and will be at your Service, by way of preparation, or in Course of transactg the Business. I am &c.⁵⁴

54. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr., who has addressed it to McDougall and Knox.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID FORMAN

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 3, 1782

Dear Sir: I have recd. your favors of the 28th. ulto and 1st. Inst; your accounts of the embarkation of the Foreign Troops correspond exactly with others immediately from New York. I had not before heard of their sailing. I hope no accident will befall your emissaries.

General Carlton sent me out the proceedings of the Court Martial upon Lippencut, by which he was acquitted, on proving to the satisfaction of the Court that he acted under the orders of the Board of Directors to the associated Loyalists. General Carleton does not however justify the proceeding upon the acquittal of Lippencut, he on the contrary reprobates in the most unequivocal terms and says he has given orders to prosecute the enquiry still further. I have given him no answer, but have transmitted a Copy of the proceedings to Congress, and await their determination before I take any further Steps: I, in the mean time, keep a British Captain in close confinement I am &c.⁵⁵

55. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEREMIAH OLNEY

Head Quarters, September 3, 1782.

Sir: I am directed by His Excellency to reply to your Letter of Yesterday.⁵⁶

The General is pleased with your Attention and Vigilance. Genl Hazens Permit is without the Mode prescribed in the Genl Instructions at your Post, and inadmissible on its own ground.

You will please to pass Mr Taylor⁵⁷ agreeably to his Passport from Genl Hazen, and suffer the packet of Letters to go in with him. The Horses are not to be admitted to pass into N York. I am &c⁵⁸

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL CANFIELD

Head Quarters, September 3, 1782.

Sir: I am favored with your Letter of the 28 August, which was delivered me by Lt Bull together with Mr. Corne and three other prisoners who came out in a flag to your Post contrary to the regulations in that respect.

56. Olney's letter (in the *Washington Papers*) is indorsed by Tilghman: "Mrs. Jonson to have her things and report them to the Govr. Lieut. Wheaton to have his Hamper." Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, of Monmouth County, N.J., had come out of New York City with necessary clothing, on a pass from the British (she was to report to Governor Livingston), and Lieut. Joseph Wheaton, of the First Rhode Island Regiment, had returned from seeing his parents in New York.

57. John Taylor, Commissary of Clothing, British Army.

58. The draft is in the writing of and is signed: "[Jonathan] T[rumbu]ll."

On September 3 Washington wrote to Mrs. Anne De Visme, of Paramus, N.J., who had requested permission for her daughter and herself to meet her son on the flagboat at Dobbs Ferry, that he could not comply with her request "without the concurrence of His Excellency Governor Livingston." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

As it appears that Mr. Come was ignorant that flags were confined to Dobbs ferry and as he has otherwise a very good character I have thought proper to permit him to return with the other Prisoners and the sloop which you will please to order to be delivered to him.⁵⁹

I must at the same time express to you my thanks for your Conduct in this affair and am, etc.⁶⁰

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 3, 1782.

Sir: I am just favored with your Letter of yesterday mentioning a certain Person⁶² you propose to be employing in communicating intelligence from N York; though I cannot say I rely perfectly on any of the Class to which this person belongs, yet as you appear to be acquainted with him and his circumstances, I shall submit the arrangement of the matter entirely to your discretion; Only remarking, that as we appear to be on the eve of some great Event, it is important that I should be furnished with as early and important information as can be possibly obtained. I am etc.⁶³

59. Washington wrote briefly to Knox (September 3) respecting Corne: "you will please to send them [Come and the other prisoners] with a Serjeant and the enclosed Letter to Colonel Canfield who commands at Stamford." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

60. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

62. This person, whose name is not given in Tallmadge's letter of September 2, is there described as "formerly an Officer in one of the Refugee Corps, and who is exceedingly intimate at Head Qrs."

63. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL EZRA BADLAM

Head Quarters, September 4, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 21st ulto. accompanied with sundry papers, tendg shew the Impositions which are attempted on Musterg Officers; that such Deceptions would be practiced I have ever been aware, and have viewed it as an argument which should induce the Officers to the greater Vigilance and Attention.

Such Impositions as are attempted by subjects, apparently fit for Service, and pushed by every Art of Deception which can be invented, may in some Instances succeed. But where an Officer passes a Man, who is *visibly* unable to discharge the Duties of a Soldier, his Want of Attention, and Obedience to Orders, to say nothing more of it, is certainly unpardonable. I am &c.⁷⁷

To CAPTAIN JOHN PRAY

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 4, 1782.

Sir: The Commander in Chief commands me particularly at this time to repeat to you the directions formerly given,

77. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull. jr.

that the utmost precaution and vigilance should be used to prevent surprize, and to announce instantaneously to him any sudden Movement of the Army.⁷⁸ For this purpose you will give the most pointed Orders to the person commanding your Guard Boats on duty, and will inform Col Olney or the Officer Commanding at Dobbs' Ferry of any Movement, that the concerted Signals may

be made accordingly, at the same instant you must dispatch a Boat with the intelligence to Head Quarters. The General has particular reasons for giving these Orders at this Moment. I am etc.⁷⁹

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, September 5, 1782.

Dear Sir: The Arms of the Army are daily getting out of repair without any possibility of remedying it there are no travelling Forges here and if there were I am informed they could not be set at Work for want of some Articles which are absolutely necessary such as Borax, salt &c. can any of the Armourers and necessary materials be spared from West Point to come here with some travelling Forges and repair the Arms whilst we keep this position? or what other method will it be best to adopt. I am &c.⁸⁸

[MS.H.S]

78. An error in copying from the draft, which has, correctly, "Enemy."

79. In the writing of and signed: "D Humphreys Aid de Camp." Both draft and the letter sent are in the *Washington Papers*.

88. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

To DAVID BROOKS

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 5, 1782.

Sir: I enclose you Extracts of Observations made by the Clerks of Accounts &c. on the Accounts of the Contractors respecting Issues. You will be pleased to state the matter properly so far as it relates to your Agency in the Departmt.⁸⁶ for the satisfaction of those concerned and in order to shew that no more provisions have been drawn than were necessary for the intended purposes. I am etc.⁸⁷

86. The Department of the Clothier General.

87. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On September 5 Washington wrote, also, practically this same letter to Pickering, stating that the Observation had been transmitted by the Secretary at War, and requesting Pickering "to consider them and give me your Sentiments." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (September 5) Washington also wrote to Dr. James Craik, sending these same Extracts from Observations. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To COLONEL GOOSE VAN SCHAICK

Head Quarters, September 6, 1782.

Sir: So much time hath elapsed since I saw you at Albany, that I should suppose you have, 'ere this, made yourself acquainted with the determination of Congress respecting your sollicitated promotion. Whether you have or not, I can no longer look upon myself at liberty to suffer you to remain from your Regiment, under your former plea, and am therefore obliged to call upon you to join without delay. I am etc.⁹⁶

96. The draft is in the writing Tench Tilghman.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, September 7, 1782.

Dear Sir: I, a few days ago, recd. your favor of the 28th. of Augt. from Pompton. You certainly cannot be deemed reprehensible for making use of this time of leisure to pay a visit to your family and friends after so long an absence.

When I mentioned you to the Commander of the comb'reed Forces in the West Indies, in the terms to which you allude, I confess I did not imagine you had any intention of returning to my Family again. I am persuaded you will attribute the expression to the real motive, that of wishing to recommend you in the strongest manner to a Gentleman intirely a stranger to me, by acquainting him that you had served in a character of the first importance and confidence.

You know too well the difficulties attending the appointment of an Officer to a command, who is not of the Line, to wish to interrupt the harmony of the Army by accepting such an appointment; indeed the Light Corps which could afford the only opening, is compleated. There is but one thing at present

in my nomination which would be worth your acceptance: it is that of Commy. of Prisoners; but perhaps you may not think it so, when you see, by the inclosed extract from the new arrangement of the department, that you are not to

be allowed a Deputy or even Clerk to assist you. The Official Business will be weighty and will require constant attention and the utmost accuracy. If, however, you will undertake it upon its present terms, I shall with pleasure confer it upon you. I shall be glad of your answer without loss of time.

If you accept, I think it will be well for you to attend a meeting of Commissioners which is to commence at Tappan the 18th. of this Month. You would there probably gain an insight into the Business of the Office which would be extremely useful to you in future. I am &c.⁹⁷

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, September 9, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have your favor of the 7th. Altho there may be an impropriety in employing a compa of the German prisoners in the Garrison of West point as Armourers yet I think it may safely be done at Newburgh, where a Buildg may be appropriated for a Work Shop. It seems our only expedient, and I have a little Doubt, but if those people were promised their Liberty upon workg faithfully twelve Months, or some stipulated time, they would perform their agreement.

97. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

We cannot constitute a Court for the tryal of Sergeant Spinoza,⁸ as one third must be composed of Levy Officers. You had best therefore order him to his Corps. If his Captain can prove treasonable practices against him let him turn him over to the civil Authority.

I inclose you a Copy of the new Arrangement of the Department of Commissy of Military Stores; will you be pleased to nominate the proper Officers, that I may confirm them, and set the System in motion.

Will it be possible to get the field pieces directed to be presented to the Count de Rochambeau, engraved with the proper inscriptions here, or must the Secretary at War endeavour to have it done in Philadela. Remember the pieces must be of those taken at York Town; I would wish, for particular reasons, that it might be done soon. With much Regard etc.⁹

[MS.H.S.]

8. Sergt. Peter Spinoza (Spinoza), of the New York levies.

9. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On September 9 Washington wrote to Brig. Gen. David Forman "to obtain any particular Account from N York since the Arrival of the last Packet from England, that may fall within your power." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL CANFIELD

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 11, 1782.

Sir: I have recd your favor of the 8th. respecting the Boats Crew which came from Long Island to bring certain of our Prisoners to Norwalk. As this is the first instance of the kind I have heard of and may perhaps have been fallen upon inadvertently for humane purposes, you will be pleased therefore to let the People return and at the same time inform the Commandg Officer at Loyd's Neck,¹⁷ that you have recd the most positive Orders to prevent all kind of intercourse by flag, or otherwise, except thro' the Channel of Dobbs' Ferry, and that you shall rigidly carry them into execution, by confining and holding as Prisoners every Person or discription of Persons, you shall find attempting to deviate in future from the spirit of those Orders.

I have left open the Letter to the Executive

17. In Long Island.

Authority of Norwalk for your inspection; and am, Sir etc.¹⁸

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, September 12, 1782.

Dear Sir: As soon as the french Army arrives, which will be on Saturday and Sunday next, I will contrive to know whether the field pieces or royal Howitzers, will be most acceptable to Count de Rochambeau, and will inform you. I think with you, that the Inscription had best be in Latin. If the

Person belonging to the Artillery can do the engraving, I will send down the proposed Inscription (a copy of which I inclose) to Phila. and have it translated into elegant Latin.

Capt Doughty, is by general Orders, appointed fort Major of West point and its Dependencies. With much Regard etc.²⁸

[MS.H.S]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

Head Quarters, September 16, 1782.

Dear Sir: In reply to your Letter of the 10th. instant,

18. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

28. In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On September 12, according to a newspaper clipping in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress, Washington wrote again to Knox on the death of his son: "I sincerely condole with Mrs. Knox on the loss you have sustained. In determining to submit patiently to the decrees of the Allwise disposer of Human events, you will find the only true, and substantial comfort under the greatest of calamities. In addition to this, the lenient hand of time will no doubt be necessary to soothe the keener feelings of a fond and tender Mother. My best respects are offered, and be assured that with much truth I am etc."

which I received yesterday by post, I send you inclosed, a Copy of my Letter to you of the 8th. of last Month, which went to Phila under Cover to the Secretary at War, who was desired to see it forwarded to you. By what misfortune it has failed, I cannot say; but rather suppose it must have been sent into the Country, while you have been absent from Town, and by that means has miscarried.

Your Command is waiting your Arrival, and I shall be glad to see you in the field as soon as possible. I am &c.⁵¹

To THE CONTRACTORS FOR THE MOVING ARMY

Head Quarters, Verplank's Point, September 16, 1782.

Gentn: By my Letter of the 25th. ulto informing you that the Army was about to take the Field and pointing out its disposition; I imagined you would have understood that a proportion of Hospital Stores was as necessary as that of other Species of supplies and that a Magazine of them would have been established in the Vicinity of the Main Army, not only for the accommodation of the sick in the Field, but for that of Officers who may chuse to commute their Rations. I am informed that this is not the case, and that the nearest issuing Stores of Hospital supplies

51. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

is at New Windsor. I am therefore, as I am authorized by the tenor of the Contract for the moving Army, to desire you to bring down a proper supply of those Articles to a place as near and convenient to the Main Army as possible. I am etc.⁵²

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN POPKIN

Head Quarters, September 16, 1782.

Sir: Complaint having lately been made to me, by the Marquis de Vaudreuil commanding the Fleet of His Most Christian Majesty in the Harbor of Boston, that numbers of his seamen and soldiers have deserted, and that he has reason to believe many of them are engaged in the Continental service. These are to direct you, to make immediate enquiry among the Recruits which may be assembled at your place of rendezvous, and if you discover any, either soldiers or sailors, belonging to the service of France, you are to send them immediately under proper guard to Monsr. de la Tombe Consul of France at Boston. And you are in future on no account whatever, to pass any Foreigner, except he can produce full and satisfactory proof that he does not belong to the Army or Navy of France. I am &c.

52. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

P.S. Enclosed are Letters for the Officers at Springfield and Wells, similar to yours, which I request you to forward, previously addressing the one for Wells.⁵³

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, September 17, 1782.

Sir: Captain Machin being under Arrest there would be an impropriety in his transacting any public business, or in granting him leave of absence from Camp. His Trial must soon come on in course, if that terminates in his favor I shall then have no objections to granting the leave requested, and if in the mean time any business of the Corps requires that an Officer should go to Philadelphia, leave shall be granted to any other you may think proper to send. I am &c.⁶⁴

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, September 17, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received your favors of the 16th. Inst.

53. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman; the P.S. is in that of Hodijah Baylies. The same letter, minus the P.S., was sent to Capt. Seth Bannister at Springfield and to Capt. — at Wells, Mass., now Maine.

64. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

Things being circumstanced as they are, I consent to the work upon the Magazine being stopped, and the Workmen employed upon the Barracks in the Garrison. I shall inform the Secretary at War, who seemed to have the completion of the Magazine much at heart, of the reasons which have hindered us from proceeding.

I shall approve your nomination of Commissaries &c of Military stores, in the orders of the day. I am etc.⁶²

[MS.H.S.]

To MAJOR MOSES ASHLEY

Head Quarters, Verplank's Point, September 17, 1782.

Sir: His Excellency the Commander in Chief has recd your favor of this date, and directs me to signify his approbation of the conduct of Captn. Lawrence⁶⁵ and yourself in communicating the information contained therein.

I have further to inform you, that the reference to the Civil Authority was very proper, as it was from the Executive of the State Mr. Lott obtained permission to go into N York, and consequently if he has been guilty of any illicit conduct, to them he is answerable. Should any thing further be developed by the search after the Portmantau, you will please

62. In the writing of Benjamin Walker.

65. Capt. Jonathan Lawrence, jr., of the Sappers and Miners.

to give information of it to the General, as well as to the Civil Authority. I am etc.⁶⁶

To CAPTAIN DAVID HOPKINS

Head Quarters, September 17, 1782.

Sir: I have recd. yours of the 1st. instant. The steps you have taken to prosecute your claim to the Majority which you say is your due, are totally irregular. If the Vacancy happened at any time previous to the 25th. of May 1781, at which time promotions in the Cavalary and Artillery were made Regimental, your Rank with respect to Captain Swan, or any other should have been settled either from the dates of your Commission, registered in the War Office, or by a Board appointed by the Commanding General of the Army in which you and the Officer with whom you had the dispute were serving. Neither the State of Virginia or any other could interfere.

If the Vacancy happened after the 25th. May 1781, you had no claim to it, as by the mode of promotion then instituted the eldest Captain of the 1st. Regmt. would be entitled to it.

66. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys, Aid de Camp."

I have been thus particular to put you in the proper way of prosecuting your claim, should there be any foundation for it.

I know not by what authority you have been so long absent from your Regiment; but I should suppose it cannot be without proper leave. I am etc.⁶³

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, September 18, 1782.

My Lord: I have received your favors of the 7th. and 14th. Instants. However desirable the plan you mention may be, there are insuperable obstacles to our undertaking it at present, or any other which would require the transportation of a Magazine of Provisions. Mr. Duer has no doubt informed you upon how precarious a footing our subsistence stands even in a Country full of supplies. We are as quiet here as you are in your Quarter. I am etc.⁶⁷

63. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

67. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COLONEL JOHN LAMB

Head Quarters, September 18, 1782.

Sir: I have recd. your favr. of the 16th. inclosing the proceedings of a Brigade Genl. Court Martial held at Burlington upon Salmon and Brown of the 2d. Regt. of Artillery. It does not appear in the face of the proceedings by whom the Court was constituted, at any rate it must have been illegal, as a General Court Martial can only be held by order of the Commander in Chief, The Commanding Genl. in any of the States, or the secretary at War in the place where Congress may reside. I am therefore under a necessity of disapproving the sentences on account of the illegal constitution of the Court, but I shall direct a new trial before a proper Court. I am etc.⁶⁸

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL CANFIELD

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 18, 1782.

Sir: His Excellency the Commander in Chief, having recd intimations that the Enemy have in contemplation to make some movement to the Eastward, has directed me to request you

68. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

will keep a vigilant look out and upon any appearance of their being in Motion either by land or Water that you will give immediate intelligence to Col. Sheldon who will communicate it to head Quarters.⁷²

The General requests your particular attention to the Sound, because he is confident in that case no Ships can pass without your knowledge, nor anything remarkable escape your early notice. I am etc.⁷³

To WILLIAM DUER

Head Quarters, September 18, 1782.

Sir: Your Favour of the 13th. covering Copy of yours of the 6th. to Mr. Morris, is really alarming; I cannot however but hope that he will find Means of extricating you from the Difficulties in which you are involved on the public Account. If he cannot, I know of no Means of subsisting the Army but reverting again to the ruinous and expensive System of calling upon the States for specific Supplies. I trust you will endeavour to keep the Troops supplied until you hear from Mr. Morris. If he does not comply with your Terms, and you throw up the Contract, I must beg of you to give me so much

72. On September 18 Trumbull wrote to Capt. John Pray, thanking him for the intelligence sent. "The General has some very particular Reasons to desire that you would be more than usually active in your Endeavours to obtain all the Information you possibly can of the Enemy's movements among their fleet, their Transports and their Troops; whether any Embarkation of Troops is makg. and where their probable Destination; Whether Eastward or elsewhere. Your Activity in this will be particularly agreeable to the Genl." Trumbull's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

73. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D. Humphrys, Aid de Camp."

Notice that I may either draw the Troops down here, or stipulate with the State for their Support where they are. I am etc.⁶⁹

To COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, September 20, 1782.

Dear Sir: Sergeant Morris of your Regiment has applied to His Excellency for a discharge upon procuring another Man in his room. This is a practice that His Excellency would not wish to tolerate, but as Morris seemed much discontented and is of ability to do mischief in the Corps, by stirring them up by a frequent recapitulation of their grievances, he thinks it best to get rid of him upon the terms he offers. You will therefore give orders to the Commanding Officer at the place of rendezvous to discharge him upon procuring an able bodied and otherwise good Man in his stead.

Be good enough to make my Compliments to Mrs. Moylan anti all the family at Phils hill. I am etc.⁷⁸

69. In the writing of Hodijah Baylies. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N.J.

78. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "T. T[ilghma]n."

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Verplank's Point, September 20, 1782.

Sir: I enclose you the Copy of a Complaint exhibited by Mr. Orser, respecting some outrages and abuses recd from a part of your Corps. I need not inform you, it always gives me pain to hear of any Misunderstanding between the Inhabitants of the Country and the Army; how well or ill founded the Complaint is in the present instance I do not pretend to determine; should there be any ground for it, I hope you will not fail to have compleat satisfaction made to the Complainant, that I may hear no more of it; if otherwise you will please to give me a state of the matter, and take such precautions as to prevent in future if possible, the least appearance of uneasiness or disturbance between Soldiers and Citizens.

Should you, or Majr Tallmadge obtain any intelligence of consequence from the Enemy, I wish at the same time you send it to me, that it may be communicated to the Commandg Officer of the Legion of Lauzun who will immediately hand it to Count de Rochambeau. I am etc.⁸²

82. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On September 20 Tilghman wrote to Colonel Nicola that "His Excellency thinks it will be better to defer the meeting of the Referrees on the part of the Army and Mr. Sands untill Mr. Benson can attend, than to appoint a new one in his place. You will in the mean time be making every necessary preparation on behalf of the claims of the Army agt. the Contractors." Tilghman's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on this same day (September 20), Trumbull wrote to the commanding officer at Dobbs Ferry, that as Governor Clinton had consented, he would please allow Gerrit H. Van Wagennen to have an interview with his father, Huybert Van Wagennen, in the neighborhood of Dobbs Ferry, "By His Excellency's Command." Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

Also, on this same day (September 20), Humphreys wrote to Capt. Jonas Orser, of tire Westchester militia, at Crompond, that his charges against Colonel Sheldon had been laid before the Commander in Chief.

To ABRAHAM SKINNER

Head Quarters, September 22, 1782.

Sir: By Virtue of the powers vested in me by the Honble. the Congress by their Resolve of the 24th. of July last I have appointed Lt. Colo. Smith Commissary of Prisoners to the Army in this Quarter. You will be pleased therefore to deliver over to him all the Official papers of that department which may be in your possession.

There is to be a meeting of Commissioners at Tapan on the 26th. of this month at which the British commissaries of Land and Marine Prisoners are to be present. As the business which has been transacted between you and those Gentlemen may be brought into question, and as it may be impossible for any other than yourself to clear up any points which may need explanation, I think there will be a propriety and indeed necessity for your attending for some part at least if not the whole of the time. I am etc.

P.S. I do not conceive myself at liberty to give you an assurance of being continued in public pay, beyond the time of delivering up the public papers to Colo. Smith; that will lay between you and the Secretary at War, but I think it reasonable that you should be continued in pay for the time you may attend the Commissioners and for that I shall recommend you, should it be disputed.⁸⁷

To MAJOR GENERALS WILLIAM HEATH AND HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters at Verplanks Point, September 23, 1782.

Whereas the Honorable the Delegates of the United States in Congress assembled have been pleased to authorize and empower me by Letters patent under the Great Seal bearing date the 16th. day of September Anno Domini 1782 and in the seventh Year of their Sovereignty and Independence, for them and in their name to negotiate, accede to and establish in the proper forms and in the usual solemnities a General Cartel between the United States in Congress assembled and the King of Great Britain for the exchange subsistence and better treatment of all prisoners of War as well land as naval prisoners, giving and granting to me full power and authority ultimately and on all points to adjust and conclude the principles terms and conditions of the said Cartel and in general to do and perform every matter and thing which shall in any wise be

87. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

necessary to the final and perfect accomplishment thereof. And have been pleased, the better to enable me to execute the trust reposed in me by these presents further to authorize and empower me from time to time by Commission under my Hand and Seal to nominate and constitute such and so many Commissioners as I may judge necessary to meet treat confer and agree with Commissioners to be appointed and competently authorized on the part of the King of Great Britain touching the terms conditions and stipulations for subsisting better treating and exchanging all prisoners of War as well as for liquidating and settling all accounts and claims whatsoever respecting the maintenance and subsistence of prisoners of War on either side: And to declare that the engagements concluded upon by me in the premises being mutually interchanged with the party contracting on behalf of the Crown and Nation of Great Britain shall be binding and conclusive on the United States of America.

Now therefore know ye, Major General William Heath and Major General Henry Knox, that reposing high confidence in your wisdom prudence and integrity I do by virtue of the before recited

powers nominate and constitute you my Commissioners to meet Commissioners appointed and competently authorized on the part of the King of Great Britain at Tapan in the County of Orange in the State of New York on Wednesday the 25th. of this Month September or at any other time and place afterwards to which it may be thought proper to adjourn and with them to treat confer and agree for the purposes and touching all matters

and things contained in the premises.

For all which this shall be your Warrant and your engagements being mutually interchanged shall be ratified and confirmed by me.⁹⁷

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERALS HEATH AND KNOX

Head Quarters, Verplancks Point, September 23, 1782.

Gentlemen: The powers of equal date herewith, authorize you to proceed to Tapan in Orange County in the State of New York and there meet Commissioners from the British for the purposes mentioned in your powers.

You are to pay the most pointed attention to the nature of your powers, which are founded upon Letters patent under the Great Seal of the United States bearing date of the 16th. instant, a Copy of which you have annexed. No. 1. By this you will perceive you are to enter into no stipulations of any kind whatever with the British Commissioners which may have a future operation, unless they come appointed and competently

97. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

authorized on the part of the Crown and Nation of Great Britain. Should the British Commissioners, come prepared with admissible powers, the Resolve of Congress of the 9th. instant Copy of which you have also annexed. No. 2. will in great measure serve for instructions on which you may proceed.

It is possible, that should it be found a General Cartel cannot be settled, that the British Commissioners may request partial exchanges, but this I do not think I am at liberty to allow under present circumstances.

The case of Mr. Laurens and Lord Cornwallis is sufficiently specified in the 7th. section of the Resolve of the 9th.

By the 8th. section of the same Resolve it is said "Chaplains, Surgeons or Hospital Officers who shall be captured in future may not be considered as prisoners of War." The construction to be put upon this is, in no case a General Cartel should be established Chaplains under a former stipulation have been mutually released.

Should a sum of Money be offered in Gross as a compensation for subsistence of Prisoners up to a certain period, You will not accept it, unless it should come up to or near the sum which the former Commissioners deemed adequate, neither will you absolutely refuse it; but will report to me the offer, that I may take direction in the matter from Congress, or the Superintendent of Finance.

Should the British Commissioners propose as perhaps they may, that the adjustment of all accounts may be

referred to a future day and to persons more conversant in business of that kind than military Men are supposed to be; you can only engage to report upon this; but you are at the same time to signify to them, That in case such a stipulation is entered into, it will be expected that national and not personal assurances shall be given for the payment of the Balance on whichever side it may fall, otherwise the settlement will be of no avail.

Should your Negotiations break off without accomplishing the business of your Mission, you will, in the most solemn manner declare to the British Commissioners the necessity we shall be under of putting in execution the 9th. section of the Resolve of the 9th.

Mr. Mullins a Clerk in the Office of Finance will attend with the accounts respecting the former subsistence of prisoners of War.

Lt. Colo. Smith, lately appointed Commy. of Land prisoners will attend the meeting and will endeavor to bring with him Mr. Skinner the late Commy. who, from his full acquaintance with the Business of that department, may be useful in case you enter into negotiation.¹

You will make your Report to me of your proceedings as soon as convenient after they are finished.²

1. At this point the draft has the following crossed off: "The paper No. 3 will be introduced by you, in way of conversation rather than formerly, should your negotiations break off. I am willing to allow

the indulgence of Fishing Boats for the use of the marine prisoners, if no abuses are made of such indulgence. You will, if possible, concert a mode of licensing them. There is no need to say anything respecting Wood, That we can send in as it is wanted.”

2. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 23, 1782.

My dear Sir: Since my last of the 6th. of August, I have recd. your favors of the 6th. of June 11th. of July and 12th. of Augt. I hope before this reaches you, you will be in possession of Charles town, and will have found a glorious end to your difficulties and distresses in the southern Quarter.

An application from the Government of south Carolina produced the Resolve of which the inclosed⁹⁸ is a Copy, and which I doubt not was immediately transmitted to you. From your being upon the spot, and from your thorough knowledge of southern Affairs, I shall leave the execution of the Resolve in a great measure to your own judgment. As you observe in your Letter of the 12th. of August, when my directions of the 18th. March last were given, they were upon a presumption that the enemy might evacuate Charles town in such season, that the Troops destined to return to the Northward might be here time enough to render service before the close of the Campaign: but that not being the case, their immediate removal does not become so essential, and therefore I leave it with you, either to retain the Corps which you may ultimately determine to send Northward, untill the Weather becomes favorable for marching in the Spring, or to send them forward immediately, [as far as Virginia at least], if you find their subsistence more difficult and expensive

98. Resolve of Congress of Sept. 9, 1782, respecting the southern army.

than it would be in the middle States. I will just give you a hint, that I fear subsistence will be upon a very precarious footing here during the Winter; And you know the inconvenience of having troops arrive at the Cantonments late in the Season.

The arrangement made by you for the distribution of the southern Army, agrees perfectly, in the main, with my own judgment, I think, for the following reason, that the 1st. and 3d. Regiments of Cavalry had best be left in Carolina. They both belong to Virginia and will more than probably be incorporated the next year; their separation therefore would render the incorporation difficult. And as Cavalry are of no great use in this Quarter [in offensive operations] and more easily subsisted

southward than here, I am not anxious to have Lees Legion; but with this you will do as you think best. Armands Legion will not advance; I shall recommend their wintering in Virginia, as Forage will be extremely scarce in all this Country, owing to the severest Drought ever known.

By the Resolve before alluded to, I am directed to make the necessary enquiry into the circumstances of the southern States, and to employ such force therein as I may think proper, and to direct you, whilst in the southern department, to employ the Troops under your command offensively or defensively in such manner as may be most conducive to the interest of the United States.

The execution of the foregoing, I must

for the reasons mentioned in the beginning of my letter, leave also to you. Should the enemy evacuate the southern States, I know of no offensive operations but against St. Augustine, or the Savages. The first I believe is out of our power, even were we authorized to undertake such an expedition, and the last must depend upon contingencies I do not apprehend much danger from the Savages when the British are expelled from the sea Coast.

You will perceive it is the intention of Congress that you should remain personally at the southward untill further orders. You will, I doubt not, use every Argument to induce those States to exert themselves in raising a permanent Force for their own defence. They cannot expect, that if the enemy [evacuate the Southern States and] keep a footing at New York and at other places to the Northward and Eastward, that the Force of almost half of the Union should be kept in the southern States for defence only.

The situation of politics, I mean European, is upon so precarious a footing, that I really know not what account to give you of them. Negotiations were still going on at Paris the middle of July; but the prospects of a peace were checked by the death of the Marquis of Rockingham. Doctor Franklin's Laconic discription of the temper of the British Nation seems most apt. They are, says he, unable to carry on the War and too proud to make peace.⁹⁹

99. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN GLOVER

Head Quarters, September 23, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Favours of the 24th. of August. In the present State of the Army, and the Difficulty attendg the Recruitg Service in all the States, it is impossible for me to comply with your Request for discharging your two Servants, Soldiers in the Massa Line.

Neither, for the same Reasons, can I consent to their remaing longer out of Service. You will therefore please to order them immediately to join their Regiments or send on two others of equal goodness and to the Acceptance of the Musterg Officers, as Substitutes to take their places. I am &c.³

To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG

Head Quarters, September 24, 1782.

Sir: I have reed. your favours of the 15th. of Augt. and 5th. instant, and am extremely sorry to hear that your prospects of recruiting are so unpromising, I imagine you will have received orders from Major General Greene, before

3. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

this reaches you, to remain in Virginia with the Recruits of that State. Should you not, you will look upon this as an order for that purpose. You will take all possible pains to have the Recruits instructed in their duty and fitted for service. Your wants you will from time to time make known to the Secretary at War, and report to me every now and then, once a Month at least, the progress you make in recruiting. I am &c.⁷

To MAJOR JOHN SINGER DEXTER¹⁰

Head Quarters, September 24, 1782.

Sir: You will please to permit the British Commissioners, (with their Suite) who are to meet Commissrs from me at Orange-Town tomorrow to pass to that Place; the Gentlemen will land at Tapan or the Store landing. Boats are also to be permitted to pass to and from the Enemy, on the written Passports of Major Genls Heath or Knox, during the sitting of the Commissioners, to whom

Guards are to be furnished when applied for by our Commissioners. The additional Company of Lt Infantry is sent to enable you to perform this; and you will pay due attention to any other requisitions of those Gentlemen which may tend to promote the public service, without waiting until reference can be made to me.

7. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

10. Of the Rhode Island battalion. He served to November, 1783.

The papers respecting an interview between Mr. Van Wagenen and his Father may be sent into New York by the first Flag. I am etc.

P.S. Gentlemen having permission from the Executive of any State to go to the Enemy's Lines, may be suffered to send an open Letter to N York previously to obtain liberty for the purpose.¹¹

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, September 25, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have the Honor to acknowledge your favor of 20th. instant, and to thank you for the Communication of the Intelligence you have received from Canada.

I have no particular Instructions to give your Messenger on his Return; I wish only to be as often and as fully informed from that Quarter, as possible of all that passes respecting our public Concerns.

The Information you have recd. appears very good, as in some particular Instances it tallies very well with my Intelligence received thro other Channels.

It is more than probable that the foreign

11. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Troops which arrived sometime ago at Halifax, were part (if not the whole) of the 4,000, mentioned to be destined for Canada from Europe; a Body of foreign troops have also left N York; reported to be going to Halifax or Canada.

I have also been informed from Sir Guy Carleton, that the Inroads of the Savages, have been checked, upon our frontiers.

I am rejoiced at the Recovery of your Health, and shall be very happy to see you on a Visit at my Quarters whenever you shall find it convenient. I am &c.¹⁵

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 25, 1782.

My Lord: I have had the pleasure to receive your favors of the 18th. and 21st. Inst. with the several Enclosures. Your Lordship may rest assured, I am highly satisfied with the measures which have been taken for reducing the number of Posts on the frontier, removing the superfluous public Buildings and Stores, establishing discipline, and holding the Troops in perfect readiness for marching. With sentiments of Regard etc.¹⁶

15. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

16. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To COLONEL SAMUEL BLATCHLEY WEBB

Head Quarters, September 25, 1782.

Sir: You will cause two days Provisions to be drawn and cooked for the Light Infantry by tomorrow night; and hold that Corps in perfect readiness to march at Day break on friday Mornng. You will select a sufficient Number of men, least capable of marching, or others, to take care of your Camp. I am etc.¹⁶

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, September 25, 1782.

Sir: On Friday next you will move from your Quarters (wherever they may be) with your whole Corps, at such time and manner, as to be at the White Plains positively between sunset and dark; your Men will require provisions for Saturday and may be perfectly light.

I send you the Paroles and Cr Signs until the 29th inclusive, you will keep them sacredly to yourself, except when they are to be delivered to the Officers entitled to them,

16. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

on the several days they are designed for. I am etc.¹³

To JOHN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, September 25, 1782.

Sir: I am extremely pleased with the information contained in your Letter of the 13th. respecting the arrival from Holland. Nothing could be more opportune nor any Article more necessary than such a supply of Linnen to make Shirts for the Army; but I fear in the present state of public Finances and Credit, much time must be lost before the Shirts can be completed and

13. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On September 25 Washington wrote also to Captain von Heer to be, with the whole of his corps, with 2 days' provisions, at the Light Infantry camp at 9 a.m., on Friday next. "You will remain there until you receive further Orders." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

forwarded to the Troops, unless the *Ladies* who have given such decided and repeated proofs of patriotism and zeal for the Cause of their Country, could be induced once more to resume the task of making up the Linnen gratuitously for their brave Countrymen, who are now suffering in the Field, and who can scarcely expect a speedy relief, but from the Hands of their fair Countrywomen.

I mention this as a Resource, in case all others should fail, which I am convinced may be tried with success, if some Ladies of Influence will undertake to promote the business, by shewing the necessity of it, by obtaining Subscriptions for making the Shirts, cutting them out, distributing the Linnen and indeed by taking a general superintendance of the affair. I think you cannot be so

advantageously employed yourself at present, as by exerting yourself to the utmost of your ability to accelerate this supply to the Army.

The Articles of Cloathing (exclusive of Shirts) which will be more immediately necessary for the Winter, are, Blankets, Woolen Hose, and Cloth for one pair of Overalls pr man. A proportion of Watch-Coats and Woolen Mittens will also be essential. No opportunity should be lost of sending forward these, or any other Articles that may be intended for the use of this Army before the Autumnal Rains set in, and the Roads become so broken up, as to prevent transportation.

I flatter myself, if we make the best use of the means now in our power, the Troops will be better prepared

to support the cold of the approaching Winter than ever they have been, especially if a sufficient contract for Shoes is kept up, which I hope will be the case. Altho I imagine the coats now in use, will last tolerably well thro' the Winter, with the assistance of some cloth and thread to mend and turn them; yet this ought by no means to prevent the necessary Measures from being still pursued to obtain the Next Years supply. I am etc.¹⁷

To COLONEL SAMUEL BLATCHLEY WEBB

Head Quarters, September 26, 1782.

Sir: The Commander in Chief has directed me to inform you he would have you to commence the March of the Light Infantry at day break tomorrow Mornng, and proceed on the route by the River to the Fork of the Road just above the Redoubt at Dobbs's ferry (where Sheldons Legion was quartered last Campaign) from whence you will please to detach one Battalion to the height immediately above the Redoubt on the left side of the Road; this Battalion is to post Sentinels and keep lookouts on the most advantageous Places; besides these a small scout is to be sent down that Road at least a Mile.

17. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

With the remainder of the Corps the General desires you will proceed to the Height near the small House where you begin to descend the Hill to the Bridge between Dobb's Ferry and our old Encampment, from thence Sentinels are to be kept out, and a party advanced a Mile or more on the Saw Mill River Road. A Party is also to be sent a long the Road leading to the Camp occupied by the French last year, as far at least as Lord Stirlings Quarters. The Movement and disposition should not

be made a matter of Notoriety beforehand; you may expect to receive his Excellencys farther Orders, at your positions. With great respect etc.²¹

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, September 26, 1782.

Sir: Instead of being with your Corps at the White Plains between sunset and dark tomorrow Evening, as mentioned to you in the Commander in Chief's Letter of Yesterday's date; it is his pleasure that you should be with your Legion by 2 oClock P.M. tomorrow at *the House* where Lord Stirling quartered the last Campaign, (the name of the Family I know not, but you will readily recollect it to have been between the 1st. and 2d. Lines

21. the draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys Aid de Camp."

of the American Army.)

The General having rode out, has left it in charge with me, to communicate this Order, and to desire you will be punctual in the Execution of it, as to time and place. I am, etc.²³

To COLONEL RICHARD BUTLER

Head Quarters, September 26, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 10th. with the several Inclosures.

I now inclose to you two Warrants for the Execution of the two persons capitally convicted by the Court Martial held under your Orders. It is left to your Judgment to execute one or both as you may think the necessity of Circumstances and Example require.

Your Conduct in Consequence of the Depredations of the Savages on the Frontier, is fully approved by me.

It is not in my power at present to give you the Information you wish, respectg the Number of Men in your Line and the probable Number of Regiments they will form upon

23. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphreys Aid de Camp."

the new Arrangement. I approve much the Spirit manifested in your Letter toward a Continuance in the Service, and most sincerely wish that Circumstances may permit your remaining.

I thank you most sincerely for the personal Attachment and Esteem you are pleased to mention toward me. I can only say, that I fear, in Consequence of the New Arrangement of the Army, I shall have occasion to regret the Loss of many brave Officers from our Service, for whom I have ever entertained a high Esteem and Regard.

You will be so good as to present my Compliments to your Brother and thank him in my Name for the kind Attention shewn by him to me. I am &c.²⁴

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JACOB BAYLEY

Head Quarters, September 29, 1782.

Sir: I am favored with your several Letters of 19th Augst and 19th Septemr. and one from Mr. Johnson; And am much obliged by your Attention to the public Interests of the United States.

As to the military Intentions of the Enemy, whatever they might have been some Time ago, I believe they

24. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

are now suspended on your Quarter as well as in other parts. By information I am rather induced to think, they are establishing a post at Isle a Noix than meditating any Incursion upon these States.

Respecting the civil Contentions and Disputes in Vermont, I think it rather a Matter of Representation to Congress than to be noticed in any other Way. If instead of vague and random Information of Insidious Designs of the Aliens, any positive Direct proofs could be adduced against them, there are means sufficient to Check their Attempts. I should recommend your Accusations, if they can be pointed, to be made to Congress, who I doubt not will take the Measures to prevent their effecting any mischievous Designs.

The Matter of Exchanges is in the same disagreeable Situation as when I wrote you last, if not worse; a late Meeting of Commissioners on the Subject of a general Cartel, has issued as unsuccessfully as that of last Spring.

It is impossible for me to gratify your Wish respectg your Accounts; all public Accounts at present are settled by Commissioners in Philadelphia. Your Members of Congress perhaps may be able to do what is necessary for you there. I am &c.²⁷

27. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To PHILIP SCHUYLER

Head Quarters, October 2, 1782.

Sir: I have received your favor of the 21st ulto. covering a Letter to the president of Congress, which was sealed and sent on by an early opportunity.

I am quite in Sentiment with you, respecting the Expediency of an Accommodation with the Indians; and that this is perhaps a most opportune time for the purpose, and sincerely wish it may be in the power of Congress to find the Means of doing it; the Inclination I have reason to think will not be wanting.⁴⁰ I am⁴¹

40. On October 12 Congress resolved that the commissioners, of Indian affairs for the Northern Department be instructed to avail themselves of the change reported to have taken place in the temper of the northern Indians.

41. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG

Head Quarters, October 7, 1782.

Sir: I duly recd your favor of the 12th ulto. covering a Return of Military Stores in Virginia.

The Secretary at War having informed me that the Recruits of Virginia may not only be subsisted by Contract at Winchester, but that they may be usefully employed in guarding the prisoners of War

at that place, you fill immediately on the rect of this remove all the Recruits from Cumberland Old Court House, except the necessary, Guard for the Military Stores, and make Winchester the place of General Rendezvous in future.

You will obey the orders of the secretary at War respecting the safe keeping of the Prisoners. I am
&c.⁵⁸

To COLONEL SAMUEL BLATCHLEY WEBB

(Private)

Head Quarters, October 7, 1782.

Sir: I was surprised to learn that a Compy of Light Infantry, being down the River yesterday without proper Orders, and without giving Notice to the Commanding Officers of

58. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

the Post or Water Guard, had Occasioned an Alarm in that Quarter; especially after the General Order of Wednesday last was issued in consequence of your representation of the evils which would arise from such practices.

Altho Captain Webb⁶¹ might have left Camp before the Order above alluded to was made public, yet as you were well apprized of the impropriety of such proceeding (as appeared by your representation) I cannot think the conduct by any means Soldierlike or conformable to good discipline. A repetition of it I am persuaded will not happen, as I have given positive Orders to Captain Pray⁶² to apprehend and send to Head Qrs under Guard, All Persons, who may hereafter be found down the River in the same Predicament.⁶³

61. Capt. George Webb, of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment. He retired in January, 1783.

62. On October 7 David Humphreys wrote to Capt. John Pray: "The Commander in Chief was surprized to hear that Boats were down the River in the manner you relate in your Letter of yesterday. In future he directs, that you should apprehend any People you find in the same predicament, and send them under guard to Head Quarters." Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

63. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On October 11 Washington wrote to Pray that "The Order from Head Quarters of the 7th. Inst. was not meant to prohibit you from giving passes to Citizens to fish, in the manner formerly practiced, it related entirely to the Army." This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, October 7, 1782.

Sir: I wrote you some days ago respecting the making up and forwarding the Soldiers Shirts. This, I must still urge you will use all your exertions in effecting; as the Necessities

of the Troops becomes every day more and more pressing. Should there be any Linnen or other Articles designed for the use of Officers, you will endeavour to have them forwarded without delay, together with whatever Blankets may have arrived at any Port, and the Articles I mentioned in my former Letter. I am, etc.⁶⁰

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, October 8, 1782.

Dear Sir: I have received your favor of Yesterday. From the ill success which I have lately experienced in Attemptg to obtain Alterations in some Arrangements made by Congress I have very little Encouragement to hazard another. The best Advice I can give you therefore, is to wait the Arrival of the Secretary at War, who is expected here in a short Time; and make your Application to him. As he is in fact, I believe, considered to be Head of your Department, he will be able to give you all the Satisfaction, perhaps, that you will be able to obtain from any other Quarter. I am &c.⁶⁸

60. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

68. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, October 9, 1782.

Dear Sir: I am favored with your Lordships Letter of the 6th. inclosing Copy of General Sullivans to you.

I have never tho't it well to despise Information of an Enemy's Designs; but I must freely confess to your Lordship that I have no great Apprehensions of Danger from the Quarter of Canada. The Advanced Season of the Year alone, were no other obstacles in their Way, I should judge sufficient to deter the Attempt mentioned. But in fact, I have very different Ideas of the Intentions of the Enemy, from their appearance in the upper Country, than what Genl. Sullivan suggests; their designs I fancy, are more for their own security and establishment in that part of the Country and their upper Posts than calculated for any offensive Operations against these States. But, Let whichever be the real Design, it is best for us to keep a watchful Eye upon their movements. With Regards etc.⁷⁴

74. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING AT DOBBS FERRY

Head Quarters, October 10, 1782.

Sir: You will be pleased to grant a Flag to Mr. Prentino Aide de Camp to Genl. Viominil to pass with his Servant to the Enemy's Lines, you will also be so good as to call on Capt Pray to furnish a convenient Boat for the purpose, and give any other assistance to the bearer that may be in your power. I have the honor etc.

P.S. If Mr. Prentino should have occasion to send a Letter before he goes himself, it is wished you would expedite it as much as possible.⁷⁹

79. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM BUTLER

Head Quarters, October 12, 1782.

Sir: Your letter of the 19th. of August never reached my hands untill yesterday. Col. Richard Butler's remaining at Carlisle was owing to the peculiarity of our circumstances, and not to any design of superseding you. It was imagined when he went from Philada, early in the Spring, that a detachment of the Recruits might soon have been got in readiness to march to the southward under his command, but that not having been the case, and accounts from the southward having, for a long time past, intimated a determination in the enemy to evacuate that

Quarter, the sending down reinforcements was in consequence suspended. Hence Colo. R. Butlers stay at Carlisle became a matter of expediency and while he was there, he could not be commanded by a junior Officer. Of this you may rest satisfied, that no part of your conduct has ever merited my disapprobation.

The Recruits of the Pennsylvania Line having been ordered upon duty, as a Guard to the Prisoners in the State, I shall consult the secretary at War, whom I expect to see in a few days, upon the necessity of making Carlisle, under present circumstances, any longer the place of general Rendezvous.⁸³

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, October 13, 1782.

Dear Sir: My being obliged to go down the River early yesterday morning, prevented my answering yours of the 11th. yesterday.

I can say nothing decisive respecting the Invalid Regiment, untill the arrangements for the Winter are made: But I cannot conceive any duty more proper for them than that of Constitution Island will be, or where it will be more light. They will have occasion for very few Centries, and those may

83. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

be under cover. They will have comfortable Barracks and Fuel at hand. And the greater part of the Men, who were turned over to the Corps by the last Inspection, are as fit for stationary duty as any Men in the Army. Were there any accommodation for the number you mention at Newburgh; Their duty would be dispersed, hard and exposed.

You may keep Van Schaick's Artificers, and the further number requisite shall be drawn from the line; perhaps there may be some Carpenters and Masons among the Levies allotted to the Wood service. If there are, you may draw them from thence and replace them with Men who are not artificers.

I should have thought the Quarter Master could have furnished the Teams necessary for the transportation of the materials from Fishkill, especially as he had been informed that there would be no call for them for the purpose of removing the Army.

I had always understood that the old Barracks on the Point had held 1300 Men. They might perhaps have been too much crowded with that number. You now say that the Barracks on the point, exclusive of that in Fort Clinton, will not hold 900 Men. I would wish you to explain this.

I should have no objection to sending the prisoners of War taken to the Northward, to Albany, were there any means of keeping them there. There are no troops there except, perhaps, a small Guard to Lord Stirling. I cannot consent to send them to New York, as with an old Balance and those who have gone in with paroled officers, the enemy already owe us 900 Men.

They ought however to be removed from West Point to Phila. by the first opportunity. The Germans, notwithstanding what they may say, are prisoners of War. I am &c.⁸⁴

[MS.H.S.]

To CHEVALIER DE CAMBRAY⁹³

Head Quarters, October 14, 1782.

Sir: You have my permission, so far as it depends upon me, to go to France. Your application for liberty to go beyond sea must be to Congress. I can only recommend that indulgence, but have no authority to grant it. You may make use of this letter to shew my approbation of your request.

I inclose you a Certificate of your services I should have been happy had I been able to have spoken of them from my own immediate knowledge. But the other Testimonials of which you are possessed are so ample and honorable that I think they cannot fail of procuring you as favorable a reception at your own Court, as you, in my opinion, deserve. I am etc.⁹⁴

84. In the writing of Tench Tilghman.

93. Lieut. Louis Antoine Jean Baptiste, Chevalier de Cambrai Digby, of the Continental Engineers. He was present at the battle of Monmouth and at the siege of Savannah; taken prisoner at the surrender of Charleston; exchanged in 1783.

94. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman. A draft of the certificate is entered on the verso of the draft of this letter.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, October 14, 1782.

Sir: The Dragoon handed your Letter of Yesterday respecting the four Refugees lately captured from the Enemy by your Corps.⁸⁷

Considering present Circumstances, I think it best to deliver them to the Civil Authority. You will therefore be pleased to have them disposed of agreeable to the Direction mentioned in the Close of Governor Clintons Letter to you, that they may be tried by a Court of Oyer and Terminer instituted by

87. The 4 refugees captured were said to belong to DeLancey's Corps. Tallmadge's letter to Washington, Oct. 13, 1782, states that "as an Exchange of those Men only gives them a Licence to pursue their praedatory practices, and serves rather to encourage than Deter them from similar pursuit, at the Request of the Authority and Many of the Inhabitants, I wrote to His Excellency Govr. Clinton...Your Excellency's Instructions will govern in the Case." Tallmadge's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

the Executive of the State, or otherways dealt with as the Civil power shall judge their Merits deserve.

I am &c.⁸⁸

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, October 15, 1782.

Sir: Mr. Smith⁹⁷ has been to West point and on Enquiry, finds that the two Men, Isaac Raymond and Thomas Silleck, who he was seeking are now at the Provost.

His Excellency therefore directs that you will be pleased to have them sent into N York as soon as convenient, that they be accounted in Exchange for Henry Chiciester and Joel Smith, who are already sent out by the Enemy in that Expectation.⁹⁸ I am &c.⁹⁹

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALMADGE

Head Quarters, October 15, 1782.

Sir: Your favor of yesterday has just been

88. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

97. Joel Smith.

98. On October 15 Trumbull wrote to Thaddeus Betts, Stephen St. John, 2d., Eliphalet Lockwood, John Lockwood, James Richards, and Ozias Merwin, that the 2 men (Raymond and Silleck) had been ordered sent into New York. "No further Mistake I hope will take place." Trumbull's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

99. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "J. Trumbull."

delivered to me, with the intelligence inclosed therein. Tho' I should consider it a very desirable thing, for the Corps of Cavalry which has gone to the East end of Long Island to be cut off¹ yet under the peculiar circumstances of the present Moment I should not wish the Enterprise to be undertaken, unless there should be almost a certainty of success. With such a prospect I will by no means discourage the attempt.

I must therefore advise you, Sir, before you think seriously of undertaking it, to digest the Plan thoroughly, to obtain the minutest intelligence of the strength of the Corps, the situation and position where you can make the stroke, and the same time to estimate and consider well the number of Men that will be necessary to insure success, and above all the number of Boats that will be wanted and the practicability of obtaining them in time and with secrecy. You will after making yourself as perfectly master of the subject as possible, and calculating the chances of succeeding or miscarrying in the execution of the Project, (if you should think it eligible to prosecute the affair) give me your farther sentiments thereon and expect to hear from Sir, Yours etc.²

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, October 16, 1782.

Sir: I inclose to you the Paroles and

1. Tallmadge had suggested an attempt on Col. Benjamin Thompson's (later Count Rumford) corps of King's American Dragoons.

2. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On October 15 Trumbull wrote, in the third person, a brief note of thanks for Washington to Nathaniel Sackett for a cheese. This note is in Washington Headquarters at Newburgh, N.Y.

Countersigns from this Day to You will keep them sacredly to yourself untill they are delivered to your Corps; and when they are expired you will send to Head Quarters, and they will be continued for a further Time. I am &c.³

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Head Quarters, October 18, 1782.

Dear Sir: Since writing to you I have received yours of the 26th. of August, covering a Duplicate of one of the 12th. At the same time came to hand yours of the 29th Augst. informg me of the Excursions of the Enemy, for Rice, and inclosing Copy of General Gists Letter to you of the 27th.

In my last, which was the 23d. of Sepr. and which was forwarded under the Care of the Secretary at War, I gave a Compleat Answer to that of the 12th. and wish it may come safe to your Hand, and find you in full possession of Charlestown.

The Death of Colo Laurens I consider as a very heavy misfortune, not only as it affects the public at large; but particularly so to his Family, and all his private Friends and Connections, to whom his amiable and useful Character had rendered him peculiarly dear.

3. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

The Campaign in this Quarter is coming to a Close, without any Events of great Importance. The Intentions of the Enemy at N York, still remain undecided; their Fleet continues in the Harbour, makg every preparation for sailing; which I fancy is delayed in Expectation of the Arrival of the Packet, which is hourly looked for. It is not yet known but strongly conjectured that a Detachment of Troops will go from N York to the West Indies with the fleet. Sir Guy Carleton has Called in most of his out posts, contracted his Lines near the City, and is makg his Garrison of York, as compact as possible. Many have flattered themselves that an Evacuation would take place before Winter, but I have no such Idea. With much Regard etc.¹²

To MAJOR JOHN SINGER DEXTER

Head Quarters, October 21, 1782.

Dear Sir: The Bearer, Mr. Ransalaer,²⁴ having obtained

12. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

24. John Van Rensselaer.

the permission of Govr. Clinton, will write to New York to endeavour to procure an interview with his Mother at Dobbs ferry. You will send down a Flag with Mr. Ransalaers letter and should he obtain his request you will permit the Lady to Land, upon her arrival. Her connections among us will intitle her to attention and respect from yourself or the Gentleman who may relieve you. Be good enough to forward the letters herewith by the Flag. I am &c.²⁵

25. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "T. Tilghman A. D. C."

To MAJOR THOMAS LANSDALE²⁶ OR OFFICER COMMANDING THE THIRD MARYLAND REGIMENT

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, October 21, 1782.

Sir: You will halt the detachment under your command at Pompton as near what is called the Yellow House (Curtis's) as possible. If you have not tents you must get your Men under cover in as compact a manner as the nature of the neighbouring farm Houses will admit. You will detach a Capt. and 50

Men to the Block House in the Clove a little beyond Sufferans, and give him orders to relieve the party now there belonging to the New York Line, who are to join their Regt. The relieving Officer will take the directions for his duty from the Officer relieved. Be pleased to make me a return by the Bearer of the Strength of your detachment. I am etc.²⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN STARK

Head Quarters, October 23, 1782.

Sir: A few Days ago I received your favor dated the 23d of Septemr last, giving the Reasons of your Detention

26. Major Lansdale was major of the Third Maryland Regiment. He served to November, 1783.

27. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

from Camp.

As the Season is now so far advanced, without a prospect of immediate Service, and your Health is not yet fully established, I do not wish or expect you should join the Army this Fall.

I am much obliged by your kind Wishes for my personal Happiness, and sincerely hope for a full Restoration of your Health and Usefulness. I am etc.²⁹

29. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

To COLONEL SAMUEL BLATCHLEY WEBB

Head Quarters, Verplank's Point, October 25, 1782.

Sir: After the right Wing of the Army has marched; on Sunday the 27th inst you will remove the Camp of the Light Corps to a convenient and Warm position just in the rear of the Continental Village, where you will remain untill further Orders continuing to do the duty of the Lines and advanced Posts in the following manner: One compleat Company to mount at the Post of Dobbs Ferry, One Company to be divided between the Block Houses of Vet Plank's and Stoney Point's, and two Companies to be kept constantly in your front on this side

the Croton, these latter should be continually removing from place to place, and keeping up Patrols incessantly in such manner as you shall think best calculated to cover the Country and prevent surprize.

The Garrisons of Vet Plank's and Stoney Point must be relieved before seven OClock on Sunday Mornng next, and all your detached Commands may hereafter be relieved Weekly.

You will keep up, as far as your situation will admit, a communication with Col Sheldon who commands at Bedford, and send out Scouts towards the Enemy's Lines whenever you may judge there is occasion; reporting to me every remarkable occurrence which shall come to your knowledge and sending all Deserters who may arrive at any of your Posts to Head Quarters. I am etc.

P.S. Although there will not be field officers Command at Dobbs Ferry, yet the importance of the Post renders it essential, that the Major whose Battalion is on duty, should be there to superintend the general business of that Post.³⁶

36. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

On October 25 Humphreys informed Captain Von Heer that his corps was to remain in its present location "until the right Wing of the Army has moved" after which he was to march to Newburgh. there to receive further orders. Humphrey's draft in the *Washington Papers*.

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, Verplanks Point, October 26, 1782.

Sir: You will remain with your Legion on the Lines untill further Orders. While you continue to do duty there, you need not keep a fixed position, but may remove your Corps from place to place, as you may think necessary for the purposes of obtaining forage, cover the Country, and securing yourself from surprize. It will be expedient to keep up a communication with Col Webb who commands the Light Corps; and transmit to me whatever Intelligence of importance you may obtain from the Enemy.

The Chain of Dragoons from your Regt is to be removed from its present position and posted on the route from Fishkill thro Litchfield to Hartford.

Whenever you shall receive Order to march your Corps you will proceed by the nearest and best route to Newburgh, where you will apply to Head Quarters for further Instructions. I am etc.⁴⁸

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, October 28, 1782

Sir: The Commander in Chief has desired me to acquaint you that immediately on the arrival of the Troops at their places of Cantonment, much uneasiness arose on hearing their Artificers were not instantly to join them; alledging that they cannot commence their hutting 'till they get their Carpenters to direct the Work. It is therefore the Generals wish that neither they nor the Masons may be detained one moment after the time agreed on, and that such of them as can possibly be spared may even be sent on before that time. I am &c.⁵²

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

Head Quarters, October 29, 1782.

Dear Sir: His Excellency wishes to see you as early to

48. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

52. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "B[enjamin] W[alke]r."

morrow Morning as Weather and other circumstances will permit. It is upon the business of the reform of two Regiments of your Line. You will meet General Heath here upon the same matter. The Commander in Chief is desirous of having some General principles adopted upon the occasion, and if you can collect the sentiments of the Officers as to the mode that would be most agreeable, you will be pleased to come prepared with them and your own. I have the honor etc.⁵³

53. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "T Tilghman A. D. C."

On October 29 Humphreys wrote to Maj. John Singer Dexter that as the Rhode Island Regiment was ordered north, Washington thought it necessary for Dexter to precede it to make provision for their

arrival. "It is on this account the Adj. Genl will send an Officer to relieve you; of which His Excellency directed me to give you Notice." Humphrey's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, October 30, 1782.

My Lord: I have been honored with your Lordships Letters of the 23rd and 26th instant with their Enclosures; and am much pleased to hear that every thing is quiet in your Quarter.

The Army having seperated for its Winter Quarters, the principal part of the Troops have removed to their hutting Ground in the Neighbourhood of N Windsor. In makg the general Disposition for the Winter, I have judged best, as the New Hampshire Regiments have been long absent from the Army, that they should be relieved from their present Duty; for which purpose the Rhode Island Regiment is ordered as soon as possible, to go to Albany. It being probable that the Frontiers will enjoy their present state of Quiet, during the Winter, this Regiment with the State Troops will be sufficient to keep up the Idea of Defence and calm the Apprehensions of the People.

The particular Disposition of the Troops, which will remain under your Comd, I shall leave to your Lordships Judgment, only wishing that Colo Olneys Regt. may be kept in as collected a State as circumstances will admit. I would suggest whether Colo Willets Command will not be sufficient for the Mohawk River, and Colo Olney be sent to Saratoga.

As the Troops which are to come down the

River, will have their Huts to build after their Arrival on the Ground, your Lordship will see the Necessity of their being here as early as possible. You will therefore be pleased, immediately on Receipt of this Letter, to give your Orders that Arrangements may be formed, for the two Regiments of N Hampshire to be removed to Newburg as early as Circumstances will possibly admit. No time will be lost in sendg Colo Olneys Regt. up the River, so that the others may immediately be put in Motion to come down.

The Army being principally collected in this Neighbourhood, and many General Officers being to be accommodated with Quarters, which your Lordship knows are not plenty in this Country, I have thought that you will be much more conveniently lodged in Albany during the Winter, than here. You will therefore be pleased to remain in your present Command, which is as respectable as could be assigned you, was Your Lordship to repair to the Army. With great Regard etc.⁵⁴

To MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HOWE

Head Quarters, October 30, 1782.

Sir: I find myself under the disagreeable

54. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

necessity of furnishing you with the Copy of a Report made to me yesterday by Major General Heath. In consequence of this I am obliged to call upon you for your Reasons of absenting yourself from your Division on the march from Verplanks Point to this Ground.⁵⁵ I am.⁵⁶

To COLONEL CHARLES ARMAND-TUFFIN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, October 30, 1782.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the recet of your Letter of the 10th September. I am extremely sorry that the situation of things has been such as to render it necessary for you to make such large advances to your Corps. The Zeal you have shewn for the good of the service, your exertion on this and every other occasion deserve my thanks and you may be assured that I shall be happy in doing every thing in my power to contribute to the reputation of your Corps, whenever an opportunity may Offer.

In inclose you a Letter from Capt Segond. I will be obliged to you to acquaint me with the circumstances relating to that affair that I may be able to judge of the propriety of his claim.⁵⁷

55. Howe answered the same day. Illness of himself and horse was the main reason of his absence. He thought that General Heath should "have demanded the reasons of my conduct of myself previous to his reporting me to my General?" Howe's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

56. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

57. The draft is in the writing of Benjamin Walker.

On October 30 Washington wrote to Captain Segond that as soon as he heard from Colonel Armand he would acquaint him. This draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To JOHN MOYLAN

Head Quarters, October 31, 1782.

Sir: I recd Mr. Howells⁶⁰ of the 15th. and

60. Jacob S. Howell, Deputy Clothier General.

am glad to hear that the Shirts are in so good train. They are so exceedingly wanted that I wish to have them forwarded as fast as they are made up. Many Soldiers have not a single one. And the same may be done with the Woolen Overalls and every other Article which is to come here. The advanced Season requires the utmost dispatch. The Secretary at War agreed to furnish immediately thirty Watch Coats to a Regiment. If he has not given orders for them I would wish you to remind him. And pray do not lose sight of the Contract for shoes.

The Coats of most part of the Army are yet exceedingly good, and if thread can be furnished to mend them this Winter, they will still be serviceable in the Spring. You will be pleased to use your utmost endeavours to procure and send up Thread. I am etc.⁶¹

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 1, 1782.

Sir: You will be pleased to halt the Regiment under your Command at Pompton, as near the House called the Yellow House (Curtis's) as may be convenient.

61. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

You will detach a Captain with 50 Men to the Block House in the Clove, a little beyond Sufferans, and give him Orders to relieve the Party now there, who are to join their Regt. as soon as possible. The relieving Officer will take Directions for his Duty from the Officer relieved.

By Return of the Bearer, you will be pleased to make a Report of the Strength of your Regt. and your proceedings. I am &c.⁶⁴

To MAJOR THOMAS LANSDALE

Head Quarters, November 1, 1782.

Sir: Instead of halting your Detachment at Pompton as directed in my Orders of the 21st of October, you will continue their march towards the North River, until you come within three or four Miles of N Windsor, where you will receive orders to move to your hutting ground.

Should you have relieved the Block House at the Clove, with a detachment of your Men, and Genl Hazens Regt. should not be arrived, you will proceed on your Route, leaving that Detachment with Orders to follow you, as soon as they shall be relieved by a Party from Hazen's. I am etc.⁶⁴

64. The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On November 1 Humphreys wrote to Capt. John Pray, that "I have his Excellency's direction to give Orders on the Clothier at this place to deliver Caps and Mittens for the Men under your Command, agreeable to your Return, if any are in store. I wish you still to persist in using every Means in your power to obtain the most Authentic Intelligence of the State of the Enemy, particulary what their exact strength and situation are, on the North End of York Island." Humphreys's draft is in the *Washington Papers*.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November, 6, 1782.

Dear Sir: Being about to make a general disposition for the command of the Army during the Winter, and having it now in my power to place a Division of Troops in this Cantonment under your Orders; I must request to be informed by you, as soon as possible, whether your state of Health *will* enable you to accept that Command, or not.

At the same time, I shall be happy to give you a command suitable to your rank, I think it proper also to inform

you, that the situation of the service will, in case your health requires your being absent to reestablish it, admit of that indulgence without essential injury; so that my only wish is, that in making your option, you may act perfectly agreeable to your own inclinations. I am etc.⁷¹

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, November 8, 1782.

Sir: As the 4th. Connect. Regt., under the expectation of being soon drafted into the other Regts, is not now employed in hutting, or any other public duties; it is my wish, that this Corps may be occupied in cutting and laying in Wood for the Hospital on the east side of the River. The importance of this business is so great and so obvious, that I scarcely need express the earnestness of my desire, that the Troops abovementioned may be effectually employed in it, untill the Arrangement finally takes place, or untill they shall become essentially necessary for other purposes. I am etc.⁷²

[MS.H.S.]

71. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

72. In the writing of David Humphreys.

To COLONEL SAMUEL BLATCHLEY WEBB

Head Quarters, November 10, 1782.

Sir: As there has been no official Report made to me of the Arrangement of the Connecticut Line, I cannot interfere in the matter; nor [would I choose] to make alterations in it [before the first day of Jany (when it is to become final)] if there does not appear to have been some deviation from the principles contained in the Act of Congress of the 7th of August [or injurious to the public Interest.] The good of Service, I hoped, would have been the governing principle in arranging the Officers; and I cannot but flatter myself, the agreements among the several grades of Officers may yet be rendered subservient to that end.

As soon as Colo. Jackson shall be able to join the Light Corps (which it is expected will be the case in a few days) I shall have no objections to your attending to the particular interests of your Regt. in the line. I am etc.⁷⁹

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL EBENEZER GRAY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 10, 1782.

Sir: In giving permission of absence to Officers for

79. The draft is in the writing of David Cobb. The words in brackets are in the writing of Washington. Printed under date of Nov. 11 1782, in the *Correspondence of Samuel B. Webb*, edited by Worthington C, Ford.

the recovery of their health, I have supposed the experiment of change of air and diet might be made in a few Weeks as well as in any length of time; I must therefore consider the indulgence given to you for the purpose, as limited to eight Weeks from the date hereof, at the expiration of which time, I shall expect you will return to the Army.⁷⁷ I am etc.⁷⁸

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 11, 1782.

Sir: The reason for my directing the 4th. Connect. Regt. to procure Wood for the Hospital on the east side of the River, was, because I found that Corps idle, while all the rest of the Army was employed. As the incorporation will now supersede this reason; you may either have the fuel cut by Detachments from the Troops under your Orders, or by the Levies now employed in the transportation service, if you think that business can be effected without them.

As it is determined to send no more Sick to the Hospital of Dr. Eustace, a smaller provision of fuel will be required than was expected. And I shall be satisfied with the certainty that the supply will be kept up, until that Hospital is cleared of its present Patients; even with demolishing

77. At this point the following is crossed off in the draft: "where. I hope proper Hospitals will by that time be prepared for the reception of those who are unfit for duty."

78. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

the Huts as they become evacuated; since it is not probable those Buildings will be of any farther utility. I am etc.⁸²

[MS.H.S.]

To LORD STIRLING

Head Quarters, November 13, 1782.

My Lord: I have been favd. with yours of the 2d. and 8th. instants. Colo. Dearborn's Regiment have all arrived and Colo Reids may be hourly expected.

I have lately given orders for a delivery of Arms Accoutrements and Quarter Masters stores for the New York state troops. I must request your Lordship to direct that they be only applied to the three years Men and not to the levies for the Campaign. I am etc.⁹⁵

To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY KNOX

Newburgh, November 13, 1782.

Dear Sir: In answer to the several points contained in your private letter of yesterday I have to observe; that I shall

82. In the writing of David Humphreys.

On November 11 Washington wrote briefly to Chevalier La Luzerne that from a letter received from Marquis de Vaudreuil, "the first division of the British Fleet, which lately left New York, had been seen off St. Georges Bank and Cape Sable." This letter is in the *Paris Archives, Aff. Etran., Mems. et Docs., E. U.*, vol. 6.

95. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

not be able finally to adjust a system of Signals, until I have seen Governor Clinton, which I expect will be in a few days; in the mean time I would have the Guards continued at the Beacons as at present. The Rockets you propose to have made will be necessary.

As to the Guard of General McDougal, I apprehend it will not be 1st to withdraw it intirely: But considering the circumstance of his not being with the Army, or able to perform his Military functions, I could wish it to be lessened as far as might be done with conveniency. I imagine your intimacy with Genl McDougal will warrant your proposing the matter in a friendly manner and arranging with him whether to furnish a small Detachment of Connect Troops, or Invalids, in such manner as may be judged best. The reason which formerly operated against furnishing the Guard from the latter, will now cease from the local situation. And the Army is too far distant to have this duty done conveniently, by general detail from it.

Yesterday I wrote you my sentiments fully respecting Wood for the Hospital. Col Pickering, has I am pretty well assured no Levies who are not necessarily employed.

Upon mature consideration, I think it will be much more difficult to preserve and regularly account for the Watch Coats, when appropriated to particular Posts, than it would be, if they were delivered to the several Corps, who will then become responsible for them. Should the Secretary at War cause the quantity to be sent forward to the Army, which was

concluded upon by him, there will be a larger number for your Troops. than you have required. Whether there are any now in Store, I know not; but if there are the Clothier shall have Orders to issue a full proportion to your Garrison: [in the mean while, enquire after those which have been issued.]

It is only to be lamented at this time that there has been such a misconception of ideas, in hutting the Troops on the East side of the River. [In the distribution of the Troops for Winter Cantonments I resolved to break up the Hospital at the Boston Hutts and that the 2d. and 4th. Cont. Regiments should go into them; after this upon representation that those Regts had rather build than occupy those Hutts, and that less time was needed to do this than to remove the Sick and cleanse the Houses.] I recollect very particularly in conversing with some of he Gentlemen concerned. (I cannot now call to mind with certainty who it was) to have expressed my intention that those Troops should be cantoned as near the Redoubts as possible; and I am equally certain I never gave Orders to the contrary; but as it is now too late to remove them, we must take the best precautions in our power to prevent any ill consequences from the Arrangement. I am &c.⁹⁶

96. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.

An N. B. by Humphreys states that a "Copy of Major Smith's Letter of 14th Octr. 1781 on Signals established &c enclosed." Smith's letter is in the *Washington Papers*, and gives the alarm signals agreed upon in case the enemy's vessels passed up the Hudson. It is indorsed by Trumbull "...at Posts below Verplanck's?"

To BRIGADIER GENERAL PETER MUHLENBERG

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 13, 1782.

Sir: Governor Harrison informs me in a letter of the 25th. Ulto. that an Officer of the Virginia Line, whose name he says he has pointed out to you, has received a sum of Money for the recruiting service, which he declares he will apply in the first instance to the payment of his own arrearage of Pay, and the Balance, if any, to the purposes for which he drew the sum. The Governor further informs me, that he has furnished you with proofs of the fact, and has desired you to call the Officer to a proper account. I can have no doubt of your not only immediately doing this, but taking steps to put a stop to a practice of the like kind by others. Tho' I hope no other will be found so lost to all sense of honor and honesty as to attempt it.

It will be necessary for you, not only for information, but to prevent misapplication of public Money, to call upon the Recruiting Officers very often for returns, and if Men are not sent in agreeable to Returns, you may well suspect improper Conduct. You will as before directed, make me monthly returns at least. I am &c.⁹⁸

98. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 13, 1782.

Sir: You will be pleased to furnish me, by the 18th inst. or sooner if practicable, with an accurate Return of the Invalid Regt. specifying the Names of all who are now borne on the Rolls of it; shewing

what were the pretensions of the Officers and Men for admittance into the Corps, and what their particular situations now are. I am etc.⁹⁷

***To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES**

Newburgh, November 14, 1782.

Sir: I am upon the point of setting out for Kingston, by way of Poughkeepsy; possibly I may not return before Sunday. I therefore inclose you the Paroles and C Signs to that day Inclusive that there may be a correspondence (as usual) with those which have already been delivered to Genl. Knox. The orders of this day are Issued and I will thank you for a pointed attention to them. I am etc.

97. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Headquarters, November 18, 1782.

Sir: When Captain Prye⁶ arrived at this place with your letter of the 15th. I was absent. Your quartering this Winter in the neighborhood of Morris Town, would interfere with my general arrangements, you will therefore canton the bulk of your Regiment, as compactly as possible for the present in the neighbourhood of Pompton. You may increase the command near Sufferans to one hundred. The Men that cannot be accommodated at the Block House may be quartered in the nearest Houses.

Your Return for Ammunition must be sent to Major Genl. Knox at West Point. The most convenient manner will be by way of Kings ferry.

I have recd. information that considerable numbers of Cattle cross the North River and are driven down towards Elizabeth Town and Newark, from whence they are sent to New York. I would wish you to take every method of stopping this pernicious intercourse. Governor Clinton, who is now here, tells me there is a line pointed out by a law of this state below which no Cattle can be driven without incurring a suspicion that they are going to the enemy. You may perhaps gain more particular information on this matter by applying to some of the neighbouring Magistrates. I am &c.

6. Capt. Thomas Pry (Prye), of the Second Canadian Regiment. He served to the close of the war.

P.S. You will keep Patroles towards the Enemy not only for your own security but to prevent the intercourse before mentioned.⁷

To COLONEL SAMUEL BLATCHLEY WEBB

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 19, 1782.

Sir: As Lieut Col Smith is to reside near the Post of Dobbs' Ferry, for the purpose of transacting the business of his Department with more accuracy facility and dispatch; he will of consequence have the charge of sending and receiving Flags; and therefore the presence of the Major of the Battalion of Light Infantry on duty, will not be necessary in future at that Post. You will be pleased to direct the Major on duty to take the immediate superintendency of the 3 Companies posted at Kings Ferry and on the Lines, in such manner as you shall judge expedient, and also give directions to the Captain of the Company stationed at the Block House at Dobbs' Ferry to consider himself under the Orders of Lieut Col Smith. I am &c.

P.S. In future the relieving Officer, will receipt to the Captn. Commandg at the Post for all the Provisions public Stores &c. and deliver a duplicate to Col Smith. The present Commandg Officer will likewise in the first instance deliver to him the

7. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

Papers relative to the Command of the Post. After the next relief Col Smith will regularly report to Head Quarters.¹⁸

INSTRUCTIONS TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 19, 1782.

Sir: In conducting the common business, at the Post of Dobbs' Ferry (of which you will have the superintendance), you will cause the Orders and Regulations contained in the several written Instructions, which will be delivered to you by the present commanding Officer, to be duly attended to and observed; but I have thought it necessary to give you this private Instruction, hereby

authorizing you to take such further Measures for reconnoitring the Enemy's Posts and obtaining *Intelligence* as you, in your discretion shall think adviseable, taking care to mask your real designs, and to use all the prudence and ability you are possessed of, to accomplish the business I have particularly committed to your Managment.¹⁷

To CAPTAIN JOHN PRAY

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 20, 1782.

Sir: Colonel Smith, who is to remain at Dobbs

18. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

17. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

Ferry, for the sake of transacting the business of his Department, will also have the superintendance of that Post; he will have the charge of receiving and granting Flags, he will send only such as are proper and necessary; The General desires therefore you will furnish such Boats for the purpose as he shall have occasion for; and co-operate with him in any other Measures which will be conducive to the Public Good. I am etc.²⁹

To NEHEMIAH HUBBARD²⁵

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 20, 1782.

Sir: I expect as soon as the Huts are compleated, which will be the case in a few days, to relieve the Light Infantry now on the Lines, with a considerable Detachment from this Army; it will therefore be expedient and even essentially necessary that there should be a quantity of hard Bread on hand for these Troops and for the advanced Posts, because the supply of bread will otherwise be precarious, and the Troops in their moving state frequently destitute. I have therefore to request that you will not fail to have a ten day's supply immediately provided for an equal Number of Men to those now on the lines, that is to say, from 12 to 1500 Rations Pr day, or more if it should be convenient; you will not I presume, hesitate in complying, as the good of the

29. The draft is in the writing of and is signed "D Humphrys ADC."

25. At this time agent for the contractors.

service is extremely interested, and as the difference between this and other Bread, will certainly be paid to the Contractors, by the Public.²⁶ I am etc.²⁷

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON

November 21, 1782.

Sir: The Commander in Chief directs me to inclose to you the Papers respecting Sergt. Gilbert that any investigation may be made into the circumstances of the case which you shall think proper. At the same time I am directed by him to remark, that he considers it an extraordinary thing when an officers Certificate and Muster Rolls disagree essentially; that where the Enlistments can be found, they must be considered as the best Evidence, and that where they cannot the Original Muster Rolls ought to be considered as next in validity; which must in common cases be the Criterion for ascertaining the fact; and from which the General is determined not to deviate, but upon the clearest and best Evidence. I have the honor etc.³¹

26. Hubbard answered (November 21) that they had no hard bread on hand but would have 15,000 weight at West Point on the 28th of November, and 1,500 weight at New Windsor. "The Bakers will continue the making of hard Bread if your Excellency shall think best." Hubbard's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

27. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

31. The draft is in the writing of and the letter sent was signed by David Humphreys, A. D. C.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL MOSES HAZEN

Head Quarters, November 27, 1782.

Sir: I have recd. your favor of the 24th. with Copy of Capt. Duncans letter to you and your answer. I approve much of your directing him to remain with his Men. I hope a very little time may render the Quarters of the Officer who commands at the Block House more comfortable than they are at present. I directed the fifty additional Men to be sent to the neighbourhood of Sufferans, upon

a supposition that you were pressed for room at Pompton, but if you can accommodate the remainder of your Regt. there, you need not increase the

detachment at the Clove beyond 50.

Be pleased to order Capt. Duncan to enquire whether any Saw Mill convenient to the Block House could furnish the quantity of Boards necessary to repair it. If it can I will direct the Qr. Master to endeavour to procure them. In the meantime, let him be doing what he can to make himself and Men comfortable, and if you will send up a light Waggon with a Return of shoes and Qr. Masters stores wanting, they shall be sent to you. You must make your arrangements with the secretary at War for other Cloathing, as we have it not here. I presume you have sent up to West Point for Ammunition in consequence of mine by Capt. Pray.

Be pleased to send an intelligent Officer to Ringwood with directions to see whether a number of Men might not be accommodated in the Buildings there, with some Repairs to them. I am &c.⁴⁹

To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON

Head Quarters, November 27, 1782.

Dear Sir: I am extremely obliged by the information contained in your two favors of the 14th and 25th Inst. Your channel of Intelligence seems to be so direct and accurate, that I

49. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

cannot but press you to avail yourself of it. I shall thank you still to make your enquiries respecting the Cantonment and state of the Enemy's force; the embarkation of Troops; Sailing of the Fleet &c. as minute, and at the same time as extensive and pointed as possible. I am etc.⁵⁰

To COLONEL BENJAMIN TUPPER

Head Quarters, November 27, 1782.

Sir: You are to proceed according to the General Order of the day, with your Regiment to Verplank's Point, in order to assist in repairing the Work at that place. You will take your Tents with you, and in the first place attend to the comfort and conveniency of your Men, by building Chimneys to the

Tents. You will take your directions, as to the repair of the Works, from Major Rochefontaine the Acting Engineer. When you are relieved, which will be in one Week, you will leave your Tents standing for the relieving Regt. The Huts will be ready for the Men when they return. The Qt. Mr. General will furnish the necessary Tools. I am etc.⁵¹

50. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

51. The draft is in the writing of Tench Tilghman.

To MAJOR BENJAMIN TALLMADGE

Head Quarters, November 27, 1782.

Sir: Yours of the 25th. with its enclosures came safe by the Dragoons yesterday; I had occasion to delay writing until this Morg. which will account for their not returning so soon as you expected.

I very much approve the plan⁵² you suggest, but cannot agree with you respecting the time; I should think it ought to be, at the instant when the Troops on the Lines are relieved; you may make your calculations accordingly, and two Companies of Lt Infantry will in that case be sent to Bedford. But as I am not certain when the relief will be ordered you will do nothing final until you hear farther from me. Do not fail to accomplish what I desired. I am etc.

P.S. The Relief will not be postponed beyond the 8th or 9th of Deer.⁵³

52. For an attempt upon Col. Benjamin Thompson's corps, which was then stationed at Huntington, Long Island.

53. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.

To COLONEL WILLIAM SHEPARD

Head Quarters, Newburgh, November 29, 1782.

Sir: I have received your Letter of the 28th, and in reply to the request contained in it, I have to observe; that, as you have been so fully and repeatedly made acquainted with my sentiments

respecting your leaving the Service, I shall not attempt to interpose any farther in the Matter; and as you seem to have formed your resolution upon long and mature consideration, I do acquiesce in your retiring from the Army upon the principles of the Resolution of Congress of the 19th instant.

It only remains for me then, to desire, in case any thing new should turn up to occasion an alteration of prospects or sentiments, that you will not impute the dissolution of your connection with the Army, to any agency of mine; but on the contrary recollecting what I have said and written on the subject, you will do me the justice to believe, that having ever considered you as a valuable Officer, I now part with you, with much regret, being with sentiments of regard etc.⁵⁵

55. The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.