

All letters are from The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

George Washington to Caesar Rodney, September 5, 1777

Head Qurs., Wilmington, September 5, 1777.

Sir: Yours of Yesterday reached me last night. I hope, as the Enemy have moved further towards the Head of Elk, that the New Castle Militia will find an Opportunity of joining you with safety. I last night sent an Express to Colo. Richardson of the 5th. Maryland Battalion to march up from Lewis Town and join you, but as there is a possibility that the Letter may have miscarried, I inclose you a duplicate, which I beg you will be kind enough to forward to him. For the present you can do no more than keep scouts and patrols towards the Enemy to watch their motions, but as soon as you are joined by more force from this State, by the Militia of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and by Richardson's Battalion, I would have you move as near the Enemy as you can with safety, that you may, if they move on towards Philadelphia, get between them and their Shipping and cut off their Communication with them or at least render it difficult. You will endeavour to check any parties that the Enemy may send out to collect Horses, Cattle or Forage; and give me intelligence of any occurrences that may come to your knowledge. I am &ca.

P.S. The light Horseman who brought your letter, informs me that the Enemy's Shipping all fell down from Cecil Court House last Tuesday and were out of sight; be pleased to inform me whether this be true, and if it is, endeavour to find out how low they have fallen down. If you advance towards the Enemy always keep your Baggage well in your Rear that you may not be incumbered by it.⁶⁸

[Note 68: The draft is in the writing of Caleb Gibbs; the P.S. is in that of Tench Tilghman.]

George Washington to Continental Congress, September 5, 1781

Chester, September 5, 1781, 3 o'clock.³²

[Note 32: The draft adds "P.M."]

Sir: With the highest Pleasure, I do myself the Honor to transmitt to your Excellency the inclosed Copy of a Letter from Genl Gist.³³ It announces the safe Arrival in the Chesapeake of

[Note 33: The original of Gist's letter (Sept. 4, 1781) from Baltimore is in the *Washington Papers*. A copy is filed with this letter from Washington in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*.] Admiral D Grasse with 28 Ships of the Line. On this happy Event, I beg your Excellency to accept my warmest Congratulations.

I shall proceed myself with all possible Dispatch, forwardg. as I go on, the Troops, Stores &c. with all the Expedition in my Power. On my Arrival at the Head of Elk, if I do not find Water Craft sufficient to embark all the Stores, Baggage &c and the Troops, I shall forward on the

former by Water, with as many Troops as can go by that Conveyance, and march the others by Land. With the highest Esteem &c.³⁴

[Note 34: In the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.

On September 5, at 1 o'clock p.m., Humphreys, who had gone on in advance of the Commander in Chief, wrote to General Gist from the Head of Elk: "I have it in command from His Excellency to write to you immediately by Express requesting that you will be pleased to inform him by the most rapid conveyance, what number of Transports (and to what amount of Tonnage) may absolutely be depended upon to be sent from Baltimore and other parts of the Bay, and when they may be expected at this place. As it is of the utmost importance to the General to know with certainty whether sufficient Shipping can be procured to transport the Troops, as well as, Ordnance, Stores, and Baggage, he entreats you to be as explicit and expeditious in your Answer as may be, and that every nerve may be strained to put all the Vessels in Motion, and make them arrive here at the earliest possible period.

"Many of the Stores are ready this Moment for embarkation. The Van of the Army will be in, by 6 o'clock this Morning. His Excellency will be here in the course of the day, and will wait with the most earnest impatience for your information, that he may take measures accordingly, either for the embarkation of the Troops, or marching them round by land." Humphrey's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.]

George Washington to Robert Morris, September 6, 1781, two same date

Head of Elk, September 6, 1781.

Dear Sir: Every Day discovers to me the encreasg Necessity of some Money for the Troops. I hope by this Time you are provided to give a Month's Pay. I find it of the last Importance to hasten forward myself to join the Marquis as soon as possible. I may leave this in a few Hours. I cannot do It however, without intreating you in the warmest Terms to send on a Month's Pay at least, with all the Expedition possible. I wish it to come on the Wings of speed. I am etc.³⁶

[Note 36: The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.]

George Washington to Robert Morris, September 6, 1781

Christiana, September 6, 1781.

Dear Sir: Capt. Machin of the Artillery is detached to pursue some deserters from that Corps; he will have occasion for some money for expences. If you can advance him about £10. it will be sufficient, and will oblige the Public as well as Dr SirYours etc.³⁷

[Note 37: The draft is in the writing of David Cobb.]

George Washington to Timothy Pickering, September 6, 1781

Head Quarters, Elk, September 6, 1781.

Sir: It is of the utmost Importance to the Service that Gent. who are acting at the head of departments should at this present period be with the troops.

You will please therefore upon the receipt of this to join them with all possible dispatch. I am etc.⁴³

[Note 43: The draft is in the writing of William Stephens Smith. The same letter was sent to Col. Charles Stewart, Commissary General of Issues of the Continental Army.]

George Washington to John Gibson, September 6, 1781

Head of Elk, September 6, 1781.

Sir: Colo Broadhead having been Directed, in my Letter to him of this Date, to resign his Command at Fort Pitt, during the Dependance of his Trial on sundry Accusations brot against him whilst in Command; You will immediatly on the Receipt of this Assume the like Command at the Post of Fort Pitt and its Dependencies as has been committed to Colo Broadhead.

Mr. Fowler, who appears to have been a Principal in the Accusation brot against Colo Broadhead, insistg that he has a Right in this Instance to act as Judge Advocate, from his havg been in that Capacity for some Time past, you will, from the Manifest Impropriety in this Case, direct, that Mr Fowler do not appear nor act as D Advocate in taking the Depositions necessary in this Trial, nor in any other Way in the present Case as Judge Advocate; And you will appoint some person whom you shall think proper, to act in such Manner as directed in any Former Letters on this Occasion. In this Way I hope to have this disagreeable Dispute speedily issued. I am &c.⁴¹

[Note 41: The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.]

George Washington to Daniel Brodhead, September 6, 1781

Head of Elk, September 6, 1781.

Sir: I have received your Letter of 23d Augst. with its Inclosures. Had you adverted to the plain Construction of mine of the 5th of May, you would not have been in Doubt as to the propriety of your holdg the Command at Fort Pitt, while your Trial was preparing and hearg. As you seem to have misconstrued my Meang in that Letter, I have now to request in positive Terms that you do immediatly on Receipt of this resign your Command to Colo Gibson, who will immediatly There-upon Assume the Same Command as has been committed to you. In the Mean Time I request that this unhappy Dispute may be brot to as speedy an Issue as possible. I am &c.⁴⁰

[Note 40: The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.]

George Washington to Alexander Fowler, September 6, 1781

Head of Elk, September 6, 1781.

Sir: Being informed that upon a Construction of my former Letter you have insisted on acting as D Judge Advocate in takg the Depositions and preparing the Necessary Evidence previous to the Trial of Colo Broadhead, on the Accusations brot against him during his Command at the Post of Fort Pitt, in which you have appeared as a Principal; I do hereby direct you, from the Manifest Impropriety of the Case, In the most positive Manner, to desist from acting in the Capacity of D Judge Advocate on this Occasion, and that so far as you are concerned, you will endeavour that this Disagreeable Dispute may be terminated at the earliest Period possible.

I have written to Colo Gibson, who is to assume the Command in the Room of Colo Brodhead, to appoint a suitable person to act in Capacity of Judge Advocate, and I hope soon to see an issue of this unhappy affair. I am &c.⁴²

[Note 42: The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.]

George Washington to David Forman, September 7, 1781

Head Quarters, Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have rec'd yours of the 6th Instant. I feel My self not only personally, but with respect to my Country so much indebted to you for your exertions on all occasions, that I cannot refrain from expressing my obligations on the subject. Be assured Sir it shall always be retained in grateful remembrance; and every oppertunity embraced to convince you of my esteem and friendship.

It is with particular pleasure, I inform you that the Count De Grasse with 28 Sail of the line arrived in the Chesapeak on the 26th. Ult. and occupied the intermediate space between Cape Henry and the Middle Grounds which effectually secures the passage of the Bay; and places them in the most perfect situation of defence. The Count immediately landed 3000 men with orders to join the Marquis De La Fayette so as effectually to prevent the retreat of Lord Cornwallis to the Carolina's, which I flatter myself by the position the Marquis has taken will convince His Lordship of the impropriety of moving. I am Marching with all possible dispatch with the light infantry of the american Troops and the French Army commended by the Count De Rochambeau with an intention of making steady and obstinate advance towards the reduction of his Lordships force which at present occupies the Town's of York and Gloster in Virginia, situated on the South and North Margin of York River fortifying with increased industry. The fleet previous to their arrival, fell in with and captur'd a packett from Charles Town bound to Europe, in consequence of which Lord Rawdon became a prisoner who was on board returning to England.

I have not yet heard what is become of the British fleet commanded by Admiral Hood; the last account was that they were seen on Monday last at 4 oClock P.M. a little to the Southward of Cape Henlopen standing North.

Should any thing of an interesting Nature come to your Knowledge, I wish to receive the earliest account of it by your returning expresses, I will forward the News of the Day and the success of our Movements. I am &c.⁶⁰

[Note 60: In the writing of William Stephens Smith. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N.J.]

George Washington to Henry E. Lutterloh, September 7, 1781

Head Quarters, Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

Sir: To avoid the Delay of Ferriage, the Teams and Horses of the Army will proceed from hence to the Bald Friars Ford on Susquehannah, from thence to Bush, to Baltimore, to Elk Ridge Landg, to Bladensburg, to George town. from thence to Falls of Rappahanoc, avoiding Accoquan Ferry, to Caroline Court House, to New Castle, to Williamsburg. On this Rout you will proceed and make the Necessary Preparation of For. age at the several Stages, not preceeding the Army at too great Distance. I have already wrote to the States of Maryland and Virginia on the Subject of Forrage, and have a promising Prospect from their Assurance, that you will be fully supplied in Time at the several Places where it will be wanted; but if unhappily this Resource should fail, you are required, however disagreeable the Measure, to use the Power which the Army will afford, to procure the necessary Supplies, in such Manner however as may be least distressing to the Inhabitants. The Occasion is great; our Circumstances are pressing; at any rate the March must not be retarded for Want of any Supplies within your Department.⁶¹

[Note 61: The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.]

George Washington to Benjamin Lincoln, September 7, 1781

[September 7, 1781.]

Memorandums:

1 A skilful Navigator, and a man of respectable character, should be appointed Commodore, He is to give to each Skipper his orders; fix Signals for the whole to be governed by; To keep them in compact order; Run them to Burwells ferry, or James town on James River, where they are to Debark unless they meet other orders on the passage. And to return with all possible Expedition to Baltimore for the remaining Troops.

2 If all the Siege Artillery and a sufficiency of Ordnance Stores cannot go down in the first Trip, such as will be first, and most wanted, must be preferred.

3 The Intrenching Tools must go without fail, as there is no dependance upon finding any with the Marquis.

4 The Boats would be very convenient to debarke the Troops and Stores, and for crossing the River of York if we should establish ourselves on both sides; but whether they can be got over in time for the first fleet (which ought not to be delayed a moment, unnecessarily) is a doubt.

5 Such necessary articles of Cloathing as are indispensably wanted for the Troops at this moment, or which will be wanted in a short time had better (if it can be done without delay) be deliver'd before they embark as it will answer the calls of the needy, and lessen the transportation.

6 No Moment is to be lost in Baking bread and providing Salt provisions of some kind or other for the Voyage.

7 You will embark by the Right, and will endeavour as much as possible, to keep the Corps compact, the Companies as little divided as possible, and that the Officers are not seperated from their Men. Hazens may be in the first Embarkation.

8 Some field Artillery (in the proportion allotted to the Corps on the March hither) ought, I think, to accompany them by Water (if it be practicable) depending on Horses at the place of debarkation in Virginia.

9 In all cases, let every Corps, and parts of Corps, have their Tents, Baggage &ca with them in the same Vessel that no inconveniency may arise from a seperation.

10 When it is ascertained what Vessels will be here, and the number of Men (exclusive of the Stores) they will carry and do⁵² moreover assign⁵³ as many to the French Army as will be sufficient to carry the Grenadiers and Chassiers that are to embark with the Infantry of Duke Lauzens legion (amounting to abt. 1000 Men) you will be able to estimate the number of American Troops that can embark with the first division.

[Note 52: Humphreys here corrected Washington's draft by erasing the word "do" and substituting "these are."]

[Note 53: Humphreys here changed the word "assign" to "assignd."] All the rest are to move on to Baltimore to wait the return of the Vessels, or procurement of others to transport them to the point of operation in Virginia.

11 My Guard except a few Men and the Women of it, with my Baggage is to go with the first Troops, and I shall be obliged to you to take care that the whole are put into one Vessel, and a safe one; other things, and Troops may (if the Vessel is sufficient) serve to fill her.

12 The Horses and Carriages which go Round by Land ought (for ease and convenience) to march in Brigades. Some clever fellow as a Waggon Master shd, after having properly Organized them for the March, preceed them, Mark the days Marches, and the places where it may be necessary to give them a days rest, and take the necessary steps to have a sufficiency of forage provided at all of them.

13 Whenever you shall have embarked the Troops and Stores and the whole have actually weighed Anchor give me an Acct. of it by the chain of Express, and forward an exact return of the strength of each Corps together with a list of Stores. the latter (with a duplicate for me) being made out as they are embarked will be ready at any moment without the delay of taking Copies at the Moment⁵⁴ they are wanted.

[Note 54: Humphreys has erased the word "moment" and substituted "instant."]

14 If there should not be a sufficiency of Vessels at Baltimore to Transport all the Troops at once, fix with the Baron Viominel (or Officer commanding the French Army at that place) the Corps that shall embark and let them proceed by Corps as fast as Vessels can be obtained as succours of this kind may be of infinite importance to our operations against Lord Cornwallis.

15 You are so well informed, and so fully impressed with the necessity of using every possible means that can promote dispatch, that I shall only add, in one word, that the success, or disgrace of our expedition depends absolutely upon the celerity of our movements.

16 In all things not particularly directed Your own judgment in which I have an entire dependence must govern.

P.S.⁵⁵ The Tow ropes or Painters of the Boats ought to be strong and of sufficient length otherwise we shall be much plagued with them in the Bay and more than probably lose many of them.⁵⁶

[Note 55: The letters "P.S." have been inserted by Humphreys.]

[Note 56: The memorandums sent to General Lincoln, which are in the writing of David Humphreys, but dated and signed by Washington, are in the collection of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N.J.]

George Washington to Nicholas Thomas, et al, September 7, 1781, Circular Letter on Maryland Eastern Shore Citizens

[Note 49: This circular was sent to Nicholas Thomas, Richard Barnaby., Col. James Hind man, James Lloyd Chamberlain, Robert Goldsborough, John Braceo, and Christopher Birthead.]

Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

[Sir:] I have the pleasure to announce to you the arrival of the Fleet of his most Christian Majesty in Chesapeak consisting of twenty Eight ships of the line and a number of smaller vessels of war that they brought a large and have already thrown on shore a very considerable body of troops. The fleet from Rhode Island is hourly expected to join them. These are events interesting indeed to America and ought to be improved, for we may not again expect such a concurrence of circumstances as are now combined and give the most rational hopes, if the country are not wanting to themselves that the British force now in Virginia will fall into our hands.

I have therefore to solicit in the most pressing manner your aid and influence with the people of your County that they immediately send to Baltimore all their craft and vessels of different kinds in order to transport the troops down the Bay. The time it will take to march them by land is more than can be spared. So that on the single circumstance of having Vessels or not may depend the success or failure of the present expedition, which though calculated for the general good, must operate, if successful more particularly to the interest of this State and the State of Virginia. I am &c.⁵⁰

[Note 50: The draft is in the writing of Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.]

George Washington to William Heath, September 7, 1781

Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: I have been favor'd with yours of the 1st inst., and one by Capt. Webb, and am happy to hear that you meet with such little disturbance from the Enemy in your Department. I have it now in my power to congratulate you on the arrival of Count de Grasse with 28 Ships of the Line and some Frigates, in the Chesapeak, with a body of Land forces on board, which he debarked immediately on his arrival. on his passage he took Lord Rawdon, who was bound from Charlestown to England. This arrival, with Colo. Laurens's from France, must fill the United States with the most happy prospects and expectations.

I am thus far on my Way to Virginia with the Troops under my Command, we are now embarking the heavy Baggage, Stores and some of the Troops, the remainder will march by land to Baltimore, as we have not Vessels to convey them from this.

Any small Cloathing that has or may arrive for the Troops of the Connecticut Line, you will forward a proportion to the Detachments of that Line, that are either with Colo. Scammell or the Marquis, under the Guard of a few Men and a trusty Serjeant taken from the same Line.

I must beg of you not to forgit sending the quantity of Beef I requested; as I must, at present, altogether depend on that supply. I am etc.

P.S. I wish your perticular attention for apprehending a number of Deserters that have left this Army and punish them with the greatest severity.⁴⁸

[Note 48: In the writing of David Cobb.]

[MS.H.S.]

George Washington, September 7, 1781, Forage Impressment

Head Quarters at the Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

Sir: You being appointed to attend and supply the Horses and Teams of the Army which are to go from the Head of Elk to the Army in Virginia, [by the route given by the Qt. Mr. Genl.] are directed and required to see that they are properly provided with Forage on the March; you will therefore attempt to procure the necessary quantities by purchase, contract, or application to the Authority of the State; but in case every other effort should fail of success, you are hereby authorized and empowered to take by Military impress such quantities of Forage as shall be necessary to support the Horses, Teams and Cattle aforesd untill they join the Army, giving proper Certificates and Vouchers for the receipt of the same, for which this shall be yr Warrant.⁶²

[Note 62: The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys. The phrase in brackets was added in pencil by Washington and the words afterwards inked over by Humphreys.]

George Washington to Marquis de Lafayette, September 7, 1781

Head Quarters, Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

I have received with infinite satisfaction, My Dear Marquis, the information of the arrival of the Count de Grasse. And have an additional pleasure, in finding that your ideas on every occasion have been so consonant to my own, and that by your Military dispositions and prudent Measures you have anticipated all my wishes.

Every thing has hitherto succeeded agreeably to my desires and expectations; the want of a sufficient number of Vessels to transport the whole of the Troops, Ordnance and Stores at once, is only a misfortune that could not be avoided.

We shall have Transports enough, I believe, to embark the heavy Cannon, necessary Stores, and the Van of the American and French Armies, consisting of 1000 Men each by to Morrow. No Measure will be left unessayed, no effort unattempted, to get forward the remainder of the Troops, and Stores, and commence the operation as soon as it is possible, in the nature of things, to be done.

I forbear to enter into more particulars, as I will set out for the Theatre of Action to morrow, and hope to have the pleasure of communicating with you personally in a very few days, and of making every Arrangement in conjunction with the Admiral, which may be deemed necessary. I am etc.⁵¹

[Note 51: The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.]

George Washington to William Colfax, September 7, 1781

At the head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

Sir: Three or four Trusty men, the Woman of the Guard, the Box of papers, and such parts of my Baggage as will be particularly named to you, with all the cover'd Waggon and such others as the Q. M. Genl. shall direct are to go round by Land to the Army in Virginia.

The Guard, Stores and other Baggage, are to be embarked on board of some good Vessel (for which you are to apply to Genl. Lincoln in time) and to proceed with the rest of the Transports to the place of debarkation in Virginia.

The best security for your liquors and other stores which are liable to be pilfered or otherwise wasted, will be to place them in a scituation in the hold where they cannot be got at easily.⁶³

[Note 63: The draft is in the writing of David Cobb. The date line is in the writing of Washington.]

George Washington to John Cadwalader, September 7, 1781

Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: The Arrival of the Fleet under Command of the Count D Grasse in the Chesapeak, gives us the happiest Prospects, if properly improved, of effecting the most interestg Purposes for the Benefit of the United States. Nothing, my Dear Sir! is of more Importance at the present Moment towards forwardg the Troops under my Command at this Place, than the Means of transportation on the Bay. And I may say to you Sir! that our Views are so much dependant on the rapidity of our movements, that I wish to be helped forward with all the celerity that is possible. I have therefore to Request your friendly Interposition and beg you to make use of all your Influence within your Circle, to have forwarded to Baltimore without the least Delay, all the Water Craft suitable for the Occasion. With the highest consideration etc.⁵⁹

[Note 59: The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.]

George Washington to Robert Morris, September 7, 1781

Head of Elk, September 7, 1781

Dear Sir: I have received your two favrs of Yesterday No. 1 and 2.

I find myself so pressed by Circumstances, that It will be impossible for me to stay at this Place 'till the Payment of the Money committed to Mr Audibert can be effected. I must leave the Head of Elk this Afternoon or early Tomorrow Mornng. I shall however leave Instructions with Gl Lincoln to do all that is necessary on the Occasion.

The Sum of 20,000 Dollars will fall much short of the Sum necessary.

The 500 Guineas on my own Acct. I have received. I have the Honor etc.⁴⁷

[Note 47: The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.]

On September 7 Washington wrote another letter to Morris which is not now found in the *Washington Papers*. It was in response to a letter of September 6 from Robert Morris, from Chester, which began: "Several Worthy People and particularly the Romish Priest and Mrs.

Fitzsimmons have interested themselves in favour of a Criminal under Sentence of Death for Desertion, I dont know his Name but he is in Philada. Goal. Your Excy is the best judge of propriety in such cases and I am Sensible of the impropriety of such applications but as I promised to Speak to your Excy and lost the Opportunity I desired Colo. Smith to mention it and now repeat the matter that I may not have to accuse myself of Neglect. this is a Young Man and may become a good Soldier hereafter. tomorrow is fixed for his Execution, therefore if Mercy is extended the order shou'd be instantly sent." On September 10 Morris wrote to Washington from Philadelphia: "The sole intent of the present is to acknowledge the receipt of your two Letters of the 7th. Instant.... The letter respecting the Criminal was too late, the poor Fellow was gone, I am sorry for it." Morris's letters are in the *Washington Papers*.]

George Washington to Louis le Beque du Portail, Chevalier Derford, September 7, 1781

Head Quarters, Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

Dear Sir: I am made happy by the receipt of your Letter of the 2d. Instant and the other Dispatches announcing the arrival of the Count de Grasse.

Nothing now gives me uneasiness but the two things you mention, not hearing from the Count De Barras who sailed the 24th of Augst, and the resolution for the departure of the fleet at a certain time. Our measures must be forced, and every intermediate moment employed to the greatest advantage.

The want of a sufficient number of transports to carry our whole Force and Apparatus from this place at once, is a great Misfortune. We will however hurry on the Troops and Preparations for the intended Operation as much as possible. The heavy Ordnance and necessary Stores will be forwarded immediately, and the Van of the American and French Armies consisting of 1000 Men each will I hope be embarked tomorrow; the remainder of the Army will move by land to Baltimore without delay as you advise; and I shall come forward myself with all possible expedition. I am etc.⁵⁷

[Note 57: The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.]

George Washington to Mordecai Gist, September 7, 1781

Head Quarters, Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

Sir: This will be delivered to you by the Officer of the French Navy, who brought the Dispatches from the Count de Grasse; if before his return to Baltimore, you shall have found a conveyance for the Letter addressed to the Count which was forwarded from hence this morning, the Cutter will remain and act as a Convoy to the Fleet in its passage down the Bay; if on the contrary, those dispatches have not been sent on for the Count de Grasse, the commanding Officer of the Cutter is to take charge of them and proceed directly to the Count. I am etc.⁵⁸

[Note 58: In the writing of David Cobb.]

[MD.H.S.]

George Washington to Jacob Mytinger, September 7, 1781

[Note 64: Of the Maréchaussée corps. He served to the close of the war. The name is also given as Mettinger.]

Head Quarters the Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

Sir: After leaving at this Place with me Two Dragoons, you will immediately proceed on with the others of your Command, over the lower Ferry of Susquehannah, upon the Road to Baltimore; to which latter Place you will go on, and wait my Arrival there, unless you receive further Orders from me.⁶⁵

[Note 65: The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.]

George Washington to Continental Congress War Board, September 7, 1781

Head of Elk, September 7, 1781.

Gentlemen: Agreeable to my Promise to you in Phila. I have consulted Doct Craig⁴⁵ on the Subject of the Hospital Appointments. Inclosed is the Answer I have received, which I do myself the honor to transmit to you, And am Gentn. etc.⁴⁶

[Note 45: Dr. James Craik.]

[Note 46: The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.]

George Washington to Timothy Pickering, September 8, 1781

Head Quarters, Head of Elk, September 8, 1781.

Dear Sir: As soon as you have arrang'd Matters, and sent on a Gentleman of your Department to mark out the different stages and Halting Places for the Horses and Teams on the following Route, viz. from hence to Bald Friars, thence to Bush, Baltimore, Elk Ridge Landg, Bladensburg, George Town, from thence to Falls of Rappahannock avoiding Acoquan Ferry, Caroline Court House, New Castle, Williamsburg.

You will come forward yourself as expeditiously as may be to the Army with the Marquis de la Fayette.

Col Lutterloh will see to providing Forage, and is invested with Powers for impressing the same in case of necessity. I am etc.⁶⁶

[Note 66: The draft is in the writing of David Humphreys.]

George Washington to John Pierce, September 8, 1781

Head of Elk, September 8, 1781.

Sir: You will please to pay out the Money which you will receive pr Mr Morris Order to the Troops now on their March, agreeable to the Directions given by Mr Morris to Mr Audibert.⁶⁷ You will pay the Money upon the Warrants given by General Lincoln, which Warrants, if necessary, shall be countersigned by me hereafter. After makg the Payment to the Troops, if any Money remains in your Hands, you will deliver it to the care of Majr Genl Lincoln, for my particular Use.⁶⁸

[Note 67: Philip Audibert. He was Deputy Paymaster General.]

[Note 68: The draft is in the writing of Jonathan Trumbull, jr.]

George Washington to Peter Waggener, September 9, 1781

Mount Vernon, September [9], 1781.

Dr. Sir: Instead of having the Militia of this County, (who I am informed are now assembled) march immediately to join the Marquis de la Fayette; I could wish they might be employed in repairing the Roads from George Town⁷² [to the Ford of Occoquan. To do this without a moments loss of time is of such essential importance that I cannot but repeat in the most earnest manner my desire to have it done.

[Note 72: At this point the following is crossed off: "towards Colchester and Rappahannack Falls avoiding Acoquan Ferry. As the service is very essential and must be performed either."]

The Waggons of the French and American Armies, the Cavalry, and the Cattle will proceed by that rout and may be expected in a few days; and will not only be retarded but more than probably essentially injured, if this necessary business is neglected or delayed. I depend therefore absolutely upon your zeal and activity for the execution of this business.⁷³ For dispatch let the Militia be divided into several parties, and impress the Officers commanding each with the magnitude of the object and the necessity of compleat res. there will be no Troops with the Baggage Waggons &ca. of the Armies before mentioned, and the Maryland Corps now on their March I wish to join the Troops commanded by the Marquis de la Fayette as soon as possible. With much esteem etc.]

[Note 73: Humphreys has crossed off "this business" and substituted the word "it."]

P.S. It is probable, that the farther service of the Militia on the prest occasion may be dispensed with, if they perform with alacrity and perfectly well, the before mention'd business. I wish you to consult the County Lieut. of Prince William, whether some improvements cannot be made in the Ford of Occoquan and that it may be done if practicable; and also that you will be so good as forward the Letter which accompanies this.⁷⁴

[Note 74: The draft, which is undated, is in the writing of David Humphreys. The portion in brackets is in the writing of Washington.]