

c. c. ation and Views of each Army. I have understood the Enemy have moved since yesterday five miles from Kennets Square (their late Post) up the Brandewine, and are cutting a Road thro' the Woods to penetrate to Philadelphia, & I make no doubt but Gen^l Washington is moving up from Shads Foard, and exerting every Effort to counteract them, from their Views, the Situation of their Army, and our Prospects; you must see how necessary it will be to enable me to Attack, and harrass their Rear, and the better to effect this, and cut of their Retreat to their Fleet, shou'd our Army check them in Front, I have wrote to Gist, Richardson, & Rumsey, to form a junction with me tomorrow at the cross Roads eight miles above Nottingham. I have now once more to entreat most earnestly that you woud send forward the field Pieces wth their proper Officers & Men with fixed Ammunition, Musket Cartridge sized from N^o 16 to 21, carefully made up, & not with wet or damaged Powder) all such Arms and Troops as can possibly be got ready, together with Col^o Ware or some Person of Weight to attend at Johnsons Ferry to regulate and forward their Passage, $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt of Riffle Powder wth Lead sufficient will be wanted for what Rifles are here, and about 87 stand of Arms for Col^o B. Johnsons Reg^t, who are good men, & ought to be Armed, rather than many who come from below with much Reluctance, Regulations for governing the Militia (w^{ch} I before wrote for) and Paper for Camp & Military Orders, are much wanting, we have not Cartridges for this Body of Militia for half an hours Action, I remain with much
 Regard
 Yrs. &c.

W Smallwood

Inclosed is a Return of Deserters specifying their names county & place of Abode. I will not presume to dictate to your Excell^y what Steps ought to be pursued to bring such Transgressors of the Law to exemplary Punishment but if they are suffered to remain at Home the example will have a most pernicious Effect on the rest of the Militia—perhaps it wou'd be adviseable to issue your Proclamation offering a Reward to those who may apprehend them but I doubt whither such a measure will have the desired Effect if the Co^y Lieu^{ts} were directed to select a Guard from their Militia of such Persons on whom they cou'd depend to search in & about the Places of their Residencce, pcrhaps it wou'd be the most effectual way of getting those base Deserters when apprehended I beg they may be sent forward under a strong & trusty Guard to my Post for Tryal, their Punishment even the bringing them back will prevent others from following their Example.