

You'll observe by Col^o Johnson's Return what necessaries C. C. are wanting he has just received intelligencce of another Detachment of his Reg^t being on their March near this Place who will want Arms Blankets &c. A number of Blankets are also wanting among the Troops already here.

[Washington to Smallwood.]

Copy.

6 Miles Stone near Wilmington 9th Sept^r 1777.

Sir

I received your favor of the 4th Ins^t and hope by this Time, that you have arrived at Nottingham. The Enemy advanced towards us yesterday with a seeming intention of attacking our post near New Port. We waited for them all day, but upon reconnoitring their situation in the Evening, we judged they only meant to amuse us in Front, while they marched by our right flank and gained the Heights of Brandiwine, viewing things in this light, and the consequences that wou^d necessarily follow if such an event took place, It was thought advisable that we should change our ground and gain the Heights before 'em. This we are attempting, and I doubt not shall effect. I must now request, as Gener^l Howe will strain every nerve to possess Philadelphia, and as it may be expected that this Fleet, or part of it, will arrive in Delaware River in a few days to cooperate with him, that you will move on with all possible expedition with all the Force you have or can get. I will not mark out any particular line of conduct for you to pursue but leave it with you, either to join me or to fall upon the Rear of the Enemy as shall seem most eligible from circumstances. Your exertion upon this occasion can not be too great. Much is at Stake.

I am Sir

Y^r most Obed^t Serv^t
Geo. Washington

Gen^l Smallwood

Friday 12th September 1777.

C. B.

Present as on yesterday

It being represented that the Issuing Commissary cannot procure Peas, Beans, Milk, Beer or Rice for the Militia in Service and that one pound of Beef or three Quarters of a pound of Pork and one pound of Bread is not sufficient without the other part of the Continental Ration, for the comfortable Subsistence of the men and that they would be well satisfied to draw one pound and a Quarter of Beef or one pound of Pork with one pound & a Quarter of Bread in lieu of the whole Ration which is of less value than the whole Ration allowed.