

Dear Sir

Head Quarters New Windsor ¹⁰⁸
May 10th 1781 ¹⁰⁶

Major General Heath, second in Command, and an Officer whose high rank & consideration entitle him to very particular notice & attention, is prevailed upon to proceed to the several Eastern States to represent the present distresses of the Army for want of provision, and the consequences which must inevitably ensue, unless a more regular system & more vigorous measures for affording supplies, are immediately adopted.

From the Post of Saratoga to that of Cobbs' Ferry inclusive, I believe there is not (by the Returns & Reports I have received) at this moment one day's supply of Meat for the Army, on hand - Our whole dependence for this Article is on the Eastern States: their resources of it, I am persuaded, are ample - to request & urge that they may be drawn forth regularly, and to be informed with precision & certainty, what may absolutely be depended upon thro' the Campaign, are the objects of this application. -

I have already made representations to the States of the want of Provisions, the distress of the Army, and the innumerable embarrassments we have suffered in consequence, not merely once or twice, but have reiterated them, over and over again. I have struggled to the utmost of my ability, to keep the Army together - but all will be in vain without the effectual assistance of the States. I have now only to repeat the alternative, which has been so often urged - that supplies, particularly of Beef Cattle, must be speedily & regularly provided, or our Posts cannot be maintained, or the Army kept in the field much longer.

I entreat that this representation may be received in the serious light it is meant, and deserves, or that I may stand acquitted from the dreadful consequences which must otherwise inevitably follow in a very short time. —

I enter not into the detail of mat-
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matters, as General Heath will be able
to give you every necessary information, and
lay the proper Estimates of supplies for
the Campaign before you. —

I have the honor to be

With great regard

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

G. Washington

The Hon^{ble}
Messrs. Ware & Co.

From Gen. Washington of
the 18th May 1781. receiv-
ing the Districts of the
Army for want of Quarters
on May 21th 1781

Published