

1780
Sept. 9

Gates, Horatio, Hillsborough, [Virginia]. To Gov. [Thomas] Jefferson, [Williamsburg, Virginia].

"Intelligence of a very particular sort has just arrived from Camden"; it was brought by trustworthy person; two deserters from enemy's 23rd regiment came in later and confirmed information; Lord [Charles] Cornwallis is going to embark his main force for Cape Fear, [North Carolina] immediately; has written Sir Henry Clinton for reinforcements to take possession of Portsmouth, [Virginia]; only two regiments of Hessians will remain in Charles Town, [Virginia] and Seventh Regiment at Savannah, [Georgia]; guard will be left at Camden, [South Carolina] to protect General Hospital and send sick and wounded to Charles Town as they recover; Third Regiment has marched down with prisoners and Bryant's Corps; [Banastre] Tarleton with Legion has gone to warehouses to collect horses for wagons to take baggage down country; council of officers assembled yesterday at headquarters said news should be sent governor; since last letter Col. [Francis] Marion of South Carolina surprised party of enemy near Santee River escorting 150 prisoners of Maryland Division; now on way to Cross Creek where Lieut. Col. [Benjamin] Ford was sent to conduct them here; loss in Continentals will be few to what might have been expected; certain persons very anxious to have whole force removed and sent to Mecklenburgh and Roan Counties, [North Carolina] on western border of Virginia; do not believe this is time to do it; will wait until objective of enemy becomes known; "should Wilmington in this state and Portsmouth in yours" be objectives of enemy, Southern army would be entirely misplaced at Charlotte, [North Carolina], Salisbury, [North Carolina] and the Ford upon the Yadkin; will halt all Continental troops here until plans of enemy are known; Gen. [Edward] Stevens stationed near Guilford Courthouse, [Virginia] in letter of 6th says his command is reduced by desertion to 130 men; he is ordered to officer men properly and come with "supernumerary officers" to Hillsborough on his way to Richmond where he can receive orders of executive as to future conduct; astonished at arrival of Col. [Abraham] Buford's command without tents; "Sickness, Death and Desertion, must certainly be the dire result of sending troops into the field at the Autumnal Equinox, unfurnished with so essential an article . . . Cost what they will and get them how we may, . . . they must be supplied or ruin will ensue"; requests that exact copy of this letter be sent to Gen. [George] Washington.

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1780
Sept. 11

Callis, [Garland] [—, —]. To Col. [—] Addison, [—, —].

Wants to borrow \$400 or \$550; doesn't have even £3,000.

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1780
Sept. 12

Giles, Edward, Philadelphia, [Pennsylvania]. To Gov. [Thomas Sim] Lee, Annapolis, [Maryland].

On September 13 the regiment starts south; men will wait at Head of Elk for 450 coats, jackets, woolen overalls, shoes, shirts, and hats; tents and "every necessary Camp Equipage" will be obtained shortly; 14 men have deserted in Philadelphia and 20 are hospitalized; privateers-ment, permitted to land by "an absolute order from the War Office," have induced desertions by "painting such golden Prospects"; Gov. [Joseph] Reed has issued a proclamation and every vessel in port has been searched; 3 deserters were found on the *Confederacy*.

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