

and followed the Company to Camp and Acted to the utmost of my Power in my Station for the benefit of my Country.

I have now a Commission under your Excellency and am ordered to Attend in a Class of Militia now entitled to march and [I] attended in Town twice for that Purpose but finding only 4 or 5 regular Militia and as many Substitutes, some of vile Charactors, I am not inclinable to go out under such Circumstances.

If the inhabitants who Elected me wou'd continue to Persevere as Volunteers, I would think it the Highest Honor to Act under your Excellency's Commission. But with the greatest Humility beg Leave to inform your Excellency that I am not inclinable to go out with such a few, or men going with reluctance, and some Substitutes not to be depended on. Therefore Humbly request Your Excellency to receive my Commission here inclosed (which I hereby Surrender) which Condescention will greatly Oblige.

Perhaps the best evaluation of the stengths and weaknesses of the Maryland militia was provided by Gen. William Smallwood, who reported from camp to Gov. Johnson on October 14:

Capt. [Walter] Cox's & [Mountjoy] Bailey's companys [from Frederick County?] have obtained liberty to return. They are entitled to this Indulgence from their situation (being mostly Tradesmen) having served their Time out faithfully. These men and [Benjamin] Murdock's Regiment have behaved better than any corps of Militia from Maryland and have had far less Desertions among them. Col. [Richard] Dorsey's Regiment [from Anne Arundel County is] evidently the worst corps in the Militia having only 28 men left from the Desertions which have prevailed in it has also obtained leave to return & I coud (sic) have wished they had never stept forth. The men from Elk Ridge and some other parts of Ann (sic) Arundel will shine more at an Election than in the Field. Their disorder & licentiousness under our