

War Office Oct: 26th 1776

Gentlemen

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I am directed by the Board of War in Answer
to your letter of the 18th instant to inform you that
it is their Opinion & they request you will direct
that the Rifle Company mentioned in your
letter be immediately marched to Philadelphia
if Cloaths can be provided for them where
they are which would be much the best, as Cloathing
of all sorts is extremely difficult to be had at
Philadelphia & Blankets are not to be
procured out any State. They might be some
located, but might be here a very considerable
Time before Cloaths & Blankets could be provided
You will therefore be pleased to endeavor at
supplying them with Blankets & whatever
other necessaries can be had upon any as this
State is much deficient of all Articles required
by the Army. If Muskets were given them
instead of Rifles the Service would be more
benefited, as there is a Superabundance of
Riflemen in the Army. Were it in the Power
of the Congress to supply Muskets they would readily
reduce the Number of Rifles & replace them
with the former, as they are more easily kept in Order

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