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31 October 1780
Genl Smallwood
to Genl Gates.

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Wilmington May 18: 1778

Dr Sir,

I have inclosd you a Letter from his Excellency General Washington, which he charg'd me to forward Immediately by an Officer who will wait your leisure should you incline or judge it Necessary to return by him any Dispatches relative to the Subject of the requisition

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From every Account and a variety of Circumstances concurring it is Supposed the Enemy are about to Evacuate Philadelphia and the General would wish in that Instance to draw the Continental forces to a Point to avail himself of any Advantage which might offer; whilst the Public Stores remain at Elk and in the Peninsula below, the troops Stationed here, could not with propriety March to join the Army, and leave the Stores open exposed I therefore make no doubt but you'l see the Expediency of ordering a Body of Militia Immediately to take post to Secure and Cover those Stores.

I am with Sincere regard

Your Obd. Hble Servt

W. Smallwood

ARCHIVES
OF THE STATE OF
MARYLAND

Governor Johnson