

c. s. c. to Britain & beg you to take the opinion of Congress upon the same, whether they be Prisoners of war. You will be pleased to get the opinion as soon as convenient, and transmit it to us.

Dec^r 27th 1776

No. 73.

[Council to G. Welles.]

M^r George Welles

Sir. Your's by M^r Barry we have received and are glad to hear you have launched one of the Row Gallies and that you are pushing the other on as fast as possible. As to the masting, we must refer you to M^r Stephen Steward who is now in your Town. Inclosed is an order on the Commissary for sheet Lead for the purposes you mention. M^r Barry brings the amount of the Accounts for the repairs of the old vessels, but we cannot be justified in advancing the seven Hundred pounds on account of Row Gallies without an Account of the Expenditure of the money before advanced for that business, which you will please to forward to us, and the further advance shall be immediately made.

Dec^r 27th 1776

No. 74.

[Council to Johnson.]

Brigadier General Johnson

Sir. We send you by the messenger Commissions in Colonel James Johnson's and Colonel Bruce's Battalions according to your request. We have also sent Commissions for Colonel Sheredeine & others in his Battalion made out in the best manner we could, there are no commissions for some of the Captains, Lieutenants, & Ensigns, because we did not know them, but you may assure any of the Gentlemen who may march, that we will send them forward so soon as you will be pleased to favor us with a list of names.

We are exceedingly desirous of forwarding the Service all we can, and should cheerfully have sent forward Blankets and stockings, but we have them not, nor can we get enough of Blankets for the Hospitals; we will send up five hundred or a thousand pair of shoes by the first waggon we can get to be left at Frederick Town and delivered to you, or in your absence to your order; unless you should write us that they had better be sent to Christiana Bridge, or the Head of Elk where we are of opinion the Troops might more readily get them. We expect to hear from you on that head as soon as possible: in the mean time we will order them to be packed up ready.