

Thursday 8. April 1779 C. B.

Present as on yesterday. Tho^s Sim Lee Esquire Attended.

Ordered that the western shore Treasurer pay to William Leavely Ninty Pounds for the use of Andrew Grebble due him per Acc^t passed by the Dep^y Aud^r

[Washington to Gov. Johnson.]

Original

Head Quarters Middle Brook, 8th April 1779

Sir

I have been honored with yours of the 26th March inclosing a Resolve of the House of Delegates for the incorporation of parts of the German Battalion and Rifle Corps into a Regiment, and another for forwarding the recruiting service. I also at the same time received from the president of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates two Resolves—one empowering me fully to settle the Rank of the Officers of the Maryland line, the other allowing half pay for life to such Officers as shall remain in service during the War.

By an allotment of the quota of troops to be raised by each State, made by Congress the 26th Feb^y 1778, the German Battalion was wholly attached to the State of Maryland and considered as her Reg^t since which it hath done duty in that line. Had not this been the case, the incorporation of such parts of that Regiment and Rifle Corps as are deemed properly to belong to Maryland would still be attended with the greatest inconveniences, particularly in regard to reconciling the Ranks of the Officers, Col^o Rawlins and most of his being elder than Col^o Weltner and those of the German would supersede them upon incorporation.

Indeed Col^o Weltner would not only be superseded, but he must be supernumerary. In short, the difficulties attending the measure recommended are more than can be conceived, and I am convinced by experience that it cannot be carried into execution without totally deranging the German Regiment.

In January last, Congress, to make some provision for Col^o Rawlins and his Officers, resolved that he should increase his remaining men (who are not more than 70 or 80) to three Companies to be commanded by him as a separate Corps. The times of most of the old men are near expiring and whether they will reinlist I cannot say.

I entertain a very high opinion of the merits of Col^o Rawlins and his Officers, and have interested myself much in their behalf. It is to be regretted that they were not provided for in the States to which they belong, when the Army was new modelled in 1776, but as they were not, after a variety of