

Letter Bk. IV being almost exhausted & it being out of the Power of the Agent Victualler to replenish them for Want of Waggons. If Your Ldp should ask whether the General was not apprized of this before he desired me to march from Fort Frederick I can give Your Ldp no satisfactory answer but if the Road between Fort Loudoun & Raes Town & a great Part of that which has been opened this Summer from Raes Town to Loyalhanning is so bad as it has been represented to me it is no Wonder that almost all the Horses & Waggons which were first taken into the Service should have been destroyed or rendered useless in three Months. On my Arrival at Fort Cumberland the Virginians evacuated it & encamped but they did not march towards Raes Town till late in Sept<sup>r</sup> the 27<sup>th</sup> of that month I had the misfortune to lose one of our Militia Captains & a Young Gentleman that I had appointed Adjutant by the following Accident; Some of the People who were sick being in great want of Bedding the abovementioned Gentlemen went into a Store Room for some old Tents &c. which had been heretofore left there by the Virginia Troops, it happened that among a great many other Stores which had

p. 6 been deposited in this Place there were three or four Barrells or Parts of Barrells of Powder & some useless Arms some of which were probably loaded, while the Gentl<sup>n</sup> were pulling out the Tents I imagine that one of the Firelocks must have fallen down & gone off otherwise I cannot account for the unhappy Accident. All that we know for certain is that the Store was blown up the Captain & Adjutant killed & the Fort in an Instant set on fire in several Places particularly in one a very few Yards only from the grand Magazine of Powder, the Door of which was burst open. When the Virginians marched they left more than a hundred Men sick in the Hospital, these dying very fast sometimes three or four in a Day & many of the Militia being taken ill they begun to be uneasy & I foresaw that it would not be in my Power to keep them there a Day longer than they had engaged to remain with me when they first went up, I perceived likewise that I could not do the General much Service by continuing there untill that time as I was well informed that Sr I St Clair could not before the Middle of Oct<sup>r</sup> return to Raes Town with the Waggons which he had gone down the Country to collect & in which the General expected to receive his last Supply of Provisions, however as the General appeared more sanguine in his Expectations than I thought he had reason to be I stayed at Fort Cumberland untill the 10<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> when about 50 of the Virginians who had been left in the Hospital being pretty well recovered & able to do Duty I resigned up the Fort to their Commanding Officer