

Yesterday morning we were alarmed here by an express which arrived at Head Quarters from Gen^l Heath who commands over King's Bridge, informing his Excellency that the enemy had landed about 4000 troops with an intent of cutting off our communication with the Country, upon which we were all ordered to our allarm Posts, and Gen^l M^cDougal's Brigade, in which is Colonel Smalwood and the Independent Companies, were ordered to march imediately to King's Bridge. There was a report in the evening that the enemy were in possession of East & West Chester, if so are doubtful the sick and wounded with a great deal of stores, are fallen into their hands.

There is orders come out for our soldiers to cook three days provision and to hold themselves in readiness for an immediat march, by which it is thought we will evacuate this Island. About four days ago there was three men of war (frigates) went up North River, past all our forts. One Gent^o waked the 2nd deck seemingly in command, as if nothing was the matter and seven forts keeping a constant fire at the Ship. What damadge was done is uncertain, but believed to be very triffling. Our soldiers, what of them are in health, appear to be in good spirrits, tho' ragged and several without shoes to their feet. The three first companies have gained great honour under the command of the Major, who I believe to be a brave man and I am hopes the other comp^y when try'd will not disgrace them. All the field officers here would be much oblidg'd to you for the settlement of the rank of the Battalions and the officers of the Flying Camp. It is a very material affair, therefore hope on receipt of this you will settle it and inform us how. I have ordered the Capt^s to draw out the pay roll of their several companys, agreeable to the moade here, by which those of the officers who have not settled with you, will lose Miladge. I have assured them that I have no doubt but you will make it good to them.

I am with due respect, Hon^{ble} Sirs

Your most obed^t Serv^t

Tho^s Ewing

M^r Parsons my Quarter Master is arrived who informs me, you are angry at my not writing, which is the cause of my sending you so long an epistol, the incorrectness of which you will please excuse.

T. E.

Original.

[Hughes to Council.]

Charles Town Cecil county Oct. 13th 1776.

Gentlemen. I was in hopes I should, by this days post, have received some instructions from your board about Cap^t