

Original requested General Gist to repair to Maryland as soon as he can, tho his service with the army is now material, and from the train of Intelligence I have received from New York for some days past, it may become still more essential. I am sorry that I cannot spare any officers besides him. And as to a detachment of troops, I have to lament with you, that the circumstances of the Army will not admit of any; and what is yet more painful, they would not, even if events of a more pressing nature than any that have arisen, were to take place, if the enemy should continue their present force at New York and its dependencies. We have not a very large detachment, compared with our whole strength, employed in the expedition under General Sullivan and besides this the operations of the enemy in Georgia and South Carolina have prevented us from receiving any aid here from the Virginia Levies and Recruits. It is my first wish and it shall be my first care to render the States collectively and individually every service in my power; but unfortunately, the present means in our hands are far, very far from being proportioned to the exigency of the times. We are now almost arrived at the end of May and as yet the army, although it has suffered a severe diminution in the course of the last fall & spring, by the expiration of the enlistments and time of service of many of the Troops and drafts, has received no accession of force, except the Virginia levies and some from New York. The state of it before was not over respectable and would justify but little more in general cases than defensive measures; but at present the most we can hope for after the detachments already made is to preserve the remainder, by keeping it tolerably well united at one or two important points. To divide it more would be to expose it to eminent risk.

I have the honor to be
with sentiments of great respect
& regard
Gentlemen

Y^r most obedt Servant
G^o Washington

P. S. It will conduce much to dispatch, in assembling the militia if proper signals could be placed throughout the State to convey an alarm with rapidity on any emergency.

C. B. Wednesday 26th May 1779

Present as on Yesterday

M^r John Lynn of Montgomery County was recommended to the Board of War for an Appointment as Ensign in the 6th Maryland Regim^t