

and one of the Lieutenants with two Field Pieces furnished c. c. with Ammunition and Grape, to join the Militia ordered as a Guard to the Public Stores there. The Service will be but short. Not a Moment is to be lost. Every Thing must be sent by Water and, if a Vessel cannot be got without, one must be pressed. We shall send two Field Pieces from hence, but if you have any in Baltimore that will answer better, use them and return those.

We are &<sup>ca</sup>

Maj. Nath<sup>l</sup> Smith

[Council to G. Keepports.]

In Council Annapolis 20<sup>th</sup> May 1778.

Sir.

In Consequence of a Letter just now received from his Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington, we have ordered a Number of Militia to the Head of Elk as a Guard to the Stores there; many of them will be without Arms: you are therefore to put up immediately in Cases, five hundred Stand of the best you have, a like Number of Cartouch Boxes and, if you have them, Canteens, ten thousand Cartridges, if you have so many, suitable for the Musquets, or, if you have not so many, then what you have, and three thousand good Flints. Not one Moment is to be lost, and you must call on Maj<sup>r</sup> Smith for Assistance and hire, if necessary. We send the Plater and Dolphin to receive these Arms &<sup>ca</sup>

We are Sir &<sup>ca</sup>

Cap<sup>t</sup> Geo. Keepports

[Circular to County Lieutenants.]

(Circular)

In Council Annapolis 20<sup>th</sup> May 1778.

Sir.

We have this Moment received a Letter from his Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington requesting a Number of our Militia to be immediately drawn together in the Neighbourhood of the Head of Elk, as an effectual Guard to the Stores there: his Reasons are important and decisive and his Requisition urged with great Earnestness. This Service will be of very short continuance and more effectual perhaps, in the common cause, than twice or even thrice their Number at Camp. We therefore entreat your Exertions to send forward as quick as possible two full Companies of your Militia to join the other Militia which we have ordered. The Officers and Men may be assured they can render their Country no greater Service than by cheerfully and speedily marching; if you cannot get them out in a more