

March 24
Red Book
No. 7
Letter 205

You are therefore hereby directed to cause the non commissioned Officers and soldiers of the British Convention Troops to be forthwith closely confined and effectually guarded, so as to prevent them from escaping to the Enemy. It is hoped that none of their Officers will attempt to hold any correspondence with the Enemy, or take or conceive of any steps to promote the escape of the non Commissioned Officers and privates. But should such conduct be discovered the Officer or Officers so demeaning him or themselves are to be deemed and treated as having broken their paroles. Untill you are informed of payment being made for Provisions and transports heretofore furnished these prisoners, as stipulated in Article 5th of the Convention, you will issue no more or other provisions to those, than are usually issued to prisoners of war.

The Officers of the British are to be put on their parole and sent to Simsbury in Connecticut, where they can be more conveniently quartered than at present. The non commissioned Officers and privates, are to remain at Frederick Town in Maryland and be closely confined But if there are any other places of security in that State wherein any part of them may be safely kept, you have liberty of seperating them into such Detachments for this purpose, as you shall think proper of the Governor and Council of the State of Maryland (with whom you will consult) should deem any other place or places proper for the Confinement of the Prisoners within that State, you will accommodate your orders to their Views and directions. The German non-commissioned Officers and Privates, are to remain near the town of Winchester in Virginia and to be confined to the Barracks built there, by order of the State of Virginia, and their Officers are to be on Parole, within the County of Frederick in that State, and to be limited to a District, not exceeding ten miles in Circumference.

No transportation at the Expence of the United States, is to be hereafter allowed these Troops, and you will take care to limit the number of waggons and Horses to be hired by them, for the purpose of transporting themselves or their baggage, and also the number of Horses to be kept by the Officers, and the prices to be by them given, for forage for their Horses, or Provisions for themselves. It has been alledged that the best Horses in the Country have been purchased by the Officers, and on their being exchanged, have been carried in to the Enemy, in considerable numbers. This practice has a dangerous tendency, and you will take every measure in your power, to discountenance and prevent it.

We rely on your discretion, for anything not particularly directed, and make no doubt, that you will in concurrence with the Executives of the States of Virginia and Maryland (to whom we shall write on the Subject) take the most effectual measures for the Superintendance and safe keeping of the Prisoners committed to your care. You will also assemble all the Cowpen and other unconditional pris-