

England sometime early in 1782 to settle affairs connected with the death of one of his wife's relatives and while there the news came of the invasion of France. Like a true soldier of fortune, he could not resist the call to battle, especially when it was in support of liberty:

"In London I purchased a horse for which I gave forty guineas and arrived with him in Paris the beginning of September last.⁵⁹ The Minister Servan gave me an order to join the army then commanded by Dumourier at St. Minchand. A few days afterwards I was announced in general orders as colonel of artillery. I was in the memorable battle at Geminaps and afterwards in another the day before the army of France took possession of Liege. At the close of the campaign I had a congé to come to Paris."

He arrived in Paris when there seemed a possibility that the Irish would revolt against England and perhaps join with the French. "The executive council were then employing themselves to know what was the real situation of things in that country, and as I was an American and could go to Ireland with less suspicion than another person I was sent by the Minister LeBrun upon that business." He left his horse and asked for nothing more than his expenses for the trip. On February 20, 1782 he left Paris. Unfortunately for his mission, the war with England was just beginning and the passage across the Channel was cut off. He decided that the only way to get to Ireland was to go by neutral vessel to Norway and from there to go through Scotland to Ireland. By the time he arrived in Ireland it was too late to do anything for "... the volunteers had tamely suffered themselves to be disarmed by the British soldiery and all prospect of a revolution in that country was at an end at least for a time." He returned from Ireland to Bordeaux in an American ship about the last of May and hurried to Paris where he made a report to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the state of affairs in Ireland. He then asked for his horse which he had left with the Foreign Office and also for his travelling expenses. He was given the latter but was told that the horse had died and he could receive no compensation for it.

"I was then referred to the war department for my pay as colonel of artillery and after having attended upon these departments ever since the 8th of June, I am now informed that I cannot be paid either the arrears of pay due to me or for my horse. Thus circumstanced I have appealed to the National Convention for justice not doubting but some mode will be pointed out by this committee to satisfy my claims."

⁵⁹ Petition to the National Assembly. Paris, September 1, 1793. Reprinted in *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. IV (1880), pp. 252-253; Vol. XXXVIII (1914), pp. 506-507.