

To General Gage. 23 Sept. 1765

I have this Afternoon received the Letter Your Excellency was pleased to favour me with the 16 Inst. inclosing an Order for a Detachment of a hundred Men of the Royal Highlanders to march hither from Pittsburg as soon as I may think it expedient to forward Your Excellency's Order & March Rout to the commanding Officer at that Post. I am much obliged to Your Excellency for both Your Letter & the Order & if I find it necessary to dispatch the latter to Pittsburg I shall instantly advise You thereof so that the Contractors Agents may have timely Notice & be prepared to victual them on their March which I suppose they will easily do as the Country every where between this place & Fort Ligonier abounds with all kinds of Provisions, but as it might be doubted whether the Number of Men mentioned in Your Excellency's Order would be sufficient to protect the Stamp Paper was it to be landed here or to quell any Insurrection which might arise on the Occasion I am not yet certain whether I shall forward it or not in case I can have the Paper secured on board one of His Majesty's Ships & no farther Violence should be committed here. I am very sorry to find that the Indignity offered Mr Hood & Account of the Proceedings of the Mob that pulled down his House should have been related with the two extraordinary Circumstances Your mention of the Attorney General's & Sheriffs being present & exciting the Populace to Acts of Violence for as to the Attorney General he was not present & so far is he from being a Person that would encourage a Mob on such or indeed on any Occasion that I can assure Your Excellency he is quite the Reverse & at that very time some Threats were thrown out by the Mob as I have been well informed against himself. With respect to the Sheriff the Case as I had it a few Days afterwards from himself & others was this; several People passing along the Street where he lived & was then sitting came in & insisted upon his giving them a Bottle of Wine which he could not refuse & afterwards insisted on his going with them to some other House whence after drinking one Glass with them he broke away returned directly home & went to Bed at least two Hours before they pulled down the House or committed any Act of Violence nor did he then know or hear of their having an Intention to do any such Act so that the Report Your Excellency had heard with respect to him also was contrary to Truth I flatter myself therefore Your