

In Council Annapolis 20th May 1778

N<sup>o</sup> 219 Sir. You are immediately to draft thirty two of your best Matroses and send them to the Head of Elk, under Capt. Furnival and one of the ~~Drummers~~ with two Field Pieces furnished 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 fast 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.

Maj<sup>r</sup> Nathl. Smith

We are &c

In Council Annapolis 20th May 1778.

N<sup>o</sup> 220 Sir. In consequence of a Letter just now received from His Excellency Genl. 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 &c

We are Sir &c

Capt. Geo. Sheports

(Circular)

In Council Annapolis 20th May 1778.

N<sup>o</sup> 221 Sir. We have this Moment received a Letter from His Excellency Genl. 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 expeditious Manner, the Clashes must be called on to turn; but on this Occasion, we flatter ourselves that the Number wanted will be made up as soon as the Occasion for them is known. If you can furnish them with good Arms, do so; if you cannot, send them forward without Arms, they be ready for them at the Head of Elk. Jersey and Pennsylvania are called on for a much greater Proportion of Militia. We hope and flatter ourselves that our Enemies will be soon rooted out. Every Thing depends on Expedition.

We are &c

To the Lieutenants of Queen Anns, Harford, }  
Kent & Balt<sup>o</sup> Counties }  
Queen Anns, Harford & Kent 2 Comp<sup>ys</sup> each.  
Balt<sup>o</sup> 3 Comp<sup>ys</sup>