

Annapolis 20th May 1778.

We have this Moment received a Letter from his Excellency Genl Washington requesting a Number of our Militia to be drawn together in the Neighbourhood of the Head of Elk, as effectual Guards to the Stores there, his Reasons are important and decisive and his Requisition urged with great Earnestness. We have, in consequence of it, ordered three Companies from Baltimore and two from each of the Counties of Kent, Queen Anne and Harford, and you are to have two Companies of your County Militia to join them, but, as not one Moment is to be lost and there may be some Delay in the Companies getting up from a Distance, you are immediately to call out one Battalion of your County and discharge them Company after Company, as the other Militia arrive. The Service will be short and important. We hope this is the last Time we shall have Occasion to call on the Militia, this War, and that they will at this Time, render their Aid with cheerfulness and alertness. If you cannot get the Militia in a more speedy Way, you must call on them by Classes in Turn. Jersey and Pennsylvania are called on for a greater Proportion of Militia. This Service is easy, indispensably necessary and will be short: we flatter ourselves it will be immediately rendered. As soon as you get 500 Men together, including those already on Duty, advise Genl Smallwood of it by Express and so, from Time to Time, as the Militia may get in, of their increased Numbers, mentioning the Captains and Numbers particularly, as his Conduct will probably, be governed by these Circumstances. We have ordered good Arms to the Head of Elk and two Pieces of Artillery, with Matropes to manage them.

We are &c.

P.S. As this Service is to be done in your County and its Neighbourhood, we expect you will take the immediate Command. Provisions must be furnished by Col<sup>o</sup> Hallingsworth.

Col<sup>o</sup> Jas<sup>o</sup> Rumpfey.

Annapolis 20th May 1778.

Dr Sir

I received your Letter of the 14th within these few Hours. We had before ordered about 300 Militia, as Guards to the Stores at & in the Neighbourhood of the Head of Elk. In consequence of your Letter, Orders are already gone to the Lieut<sup>o</sup> of Cecil to call out a Battalion of that County on the same Service, for three Companies from Baltimore and two from each of the Counties of Kent, Cecil, Queen Anne & Harford, the Cecil Battalion to be discharged as the Companies arrive. The Orders are larger than your Requisition, to prevent any Inconveniencies from the whole Number not being so prompt as desirable. Two Field Pieces such as we have with thirty two Matropes are also ordered. Col<sup>o</sup> Rumpfey of Cecil is directed, as soon as he has 500 Men, to