

introduced a new system for conducting this war, which subverts every principle in the art of war, adopted by other States - for instead of instructing their troops in the principles of military discipline, preparing and encouraging to meet their enemies in the fields and woods, they train them to run away and to make them believe they never can be safe unless under cover of an intrenchment, while they would rather fly from the North to the South pole than risk an engagement. Discipline here is totally neglected and yet after all it is the only bulwark in war; had our troops been trained better, and worried less with the pickaxe and shovels, by this time our army would have been in a condition to have fought for their enemies in turn. I am pretty sure this cannot be the case soon under our present system.

The Enemy's army has been said to amount to 25,000 effective men, but I don't believe it exceeds 17,000. On our this side the North river amount to about 17,000 effective, but great numbers of the sick are recovering fast.

Agreeable to your orders directed Capt Bindman to get me a stamp made in Philad^a and the arms shall be stamped. Being often interrupted and hurried you'll excuse this scrawl and believe that I remain

To the Honble

With sincerity and real regard Gentlemen

Council of Safety

Your very Obedt & Obedient

Wm Smallwood.

Wm Smallwood.

P.S. Mr J Genifer mate to the Independents has applied to resign and have permitted him. We have now four mates and no head Surgeon which are very sufficient as we have little medicine.

October the 17th 1776.

Gentlemen

This will be handed to you by Mr John David who I think is a very fitting man for first Lieutenant of one of the Gallies. He is a brisk active man. He likewise sail'd a long time in one of the French Gallies. If you should think well of giving him a Commission he may be recruiting till the Galley is ready to ship which will be in a few days.

To the Honble

I am Gentlemen Your very Obedt.

Council of Safety.

Stephen Steward.

In Convention 17th October 1776.

Ordered That the petition of Basil Clarkson be referred to the Council of Safety.

18th October 1776

Resolved That the Council of Safety be empowered to hear and determine in the case of William Bartlet Townsend of Worcester County, and to pass such judgement therein as in their discretion they may think fit.

Extract from the Minutes. S. D. Small Wood.

Depositions against Townsend and Scarborough.

Sept 12th 1776.

Sir. Upon report of your wife I was this day going to a Magistrate, to give my deposition, respecting your case, but am informed the Magistrate will not take it.