

Camp at White Plains Nov 7th 1776.

Dear Sir.

I arrived here on Monday, the 20th of last month about 4 in the afternoon while our people were engaged in a very hot battle, the particulars of which I suppose you'll hear before this comes to hand. Col. Smallwood's Battalion suffered a good deal, the Col. himself wounded in two places, the number of killed and wounded, as the report is in the Camp amounts only to about 90, but from the wounded I saw myself in the hospital, and adjacent houses, there must at least be an hundred and twenty or thirty wounded. The number of killed I don't know. The day after I came here I waited on Doct. Magan Director General of the Hospitals here, for medicines &c. he told me he had nothing to say to the Maryland troops, and that it was not his business to supply the Regimental surgeons with medicines, and that it must have been a mistake of the Convention or Council of Safety of Maryland, to send their Surgeons here without them and think they were to be supplied here. Upon this I went to Col. Smallwood who is about 15 miles from this, near the hospital and told him the case, and what condition I found the sick in both the Regular and Flying Camp Maryland troops without the least morsel of Physick of any sort, although a great many of them in a very pitiable condition, upon which the Col. gave me a letter to Doct. Magan, the Doct. then told me I might have some few things, if I could go to Newark for them, which is about 80 miles from this. I told him by the time I went there and got back, that the time of most of the Maryland troops would be expired. he told me he could not help it, and that medicines were very hard to be got. I should be glad this matter was communicated to the Council of Safety. Since I came here I have been of what service I could to the Maryland troops, all their Surgeons are over in the Jerseys with their sick, and a great number are still sick here. The Companies to which I was appointed are not yet come here nor can I hear any thing of them. I am just now with Col. Smallwood's Battalion and Independent Companies, I go up to day to the Flying Camp, who are about 16 miles from this to enquire into the state of their sick and see if I can, by any possible means, get some medicines for their relief. I should be glad you let me know first opportunity whether I am to continue here, or how I am to proceed if these Companies do not come up. The Enemy went off from this night before last - it is conjectured they are to attack Fort Mifflin, which is about 20 miles from this & then go into winter quarters. We expect to move from this every hour - I have been exceedingly heavy since I came here, the Camp seems to agree very well with me. We have got plenty of every thing. I shall write you fuller & more particular in a day or two. I am Dr Sir, in haste Respectfully
To James Filghman Esq
Annapolis. Md.

Your very humble Servant
John Pire