

Washington County January 11th 1777.

Gent^l.

The militia of my Battalion have marched almost generally. Col^l. Smith's Battalion are now ready, there are some of the former Commissaries Officers who have gone in the German Battalion whose places are vacated in the Militia, others have been desired to serve in their room, viz - Capt. Peter Hall in the room of Capt. Wm Heyser, Jacob Ott, 1st Lieut. Michael Ott 2^d Lieut. and William Conrad, Ensign; likewise the following Gentlemen were advanced in Capt. Frackler's company, viz - Leonard Strogock to 2^d Lieut. in the room of Adam Smith and Michael Tomas, Ensign.

It is earnestly requested that Commissaries may be made out for the foregoing Gentlemen, each respectively and sent by the Bearer, Melcher Belshover, who will meet the Battalion at Philadelphia. The men are spirited in the defence of Liberty, and hope no delay will be made in forwarding their Commissions, otherwise I doubt confusion may arise in their Companies as they are agreeably elected, and have pledged my Honour to be assiduous in procuring their respective Commissions, and send an express for that purpose. I hope my request will be comply'd with, and am, Gentlemen,

The Humble Council of Safety,

of N^o 1st Annapolis

Your most Obedt^l & Humbl^l Serv^t.

John Smith

The Humble Council of Safety,

January 12th 1777.

Gent^l. Yesterday in the Council Room I had a slight view of the Poster, Genl. Smallwood and Col^l. Price made out of the rank and promotion of the officers to serve in the Continental Service.

I observed in their Poster they have pointed out two modes, and left you at your choice to adopt either. The first is ranking the Officers as they stood under the former resolve of Convention, when the regular Troops of this State were first raised.

The second of their Rank, when they left the State. If the former Rank is adopted, that is to say, Regular majors to command Brigadier Genl^l. Captains to command Lt. Col^l - Lt^l to command Captains and Ensigns to command Ensigns of the Militia, which was the first establishment of the Troops by Convention it would be unjust. I am warranted by this assertion by the Convention's reconsidering the matter and making an amendment to the former resolve, giving the Flying Camp Militia equal rank with the regulars, with this difference, that the Regular Officers shall command the officers of the Flying Camp, of equal degree. Therefore it would not only be a piece of injustice to the Flying Camp Officers, who have suffered every fatigue and hardship of the Campaign, to promote the regulars according to the first resolve of Convention, but it will also tend greatly to the hurt of the service. This I speak with confidence, well knowing that the officers of the Flying Camp would quit the service sooner than submit

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