

OFFICE OF ACTING COMMANDANT  
FEDERAL DEFENSE OF YORKTOWN  
AND NEW YORK HARBOR  
YONKERS, NEW YORK

6 July 1779

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER  
LIGHT INFANTRY  
BRADDOCK BARRACKS  
MILLERS JUNCTION, RHODE ISLAND

1. Issue necessary orders sending one man, on horseback, via safest and most convenient route, at Government expense, to Fort Von Steuban on the Ohio river, below the junction of the two great rivers at Old Fort Pitt, for the purpose of carrying secret dispatches to Major Alonzo De La Fayette, who at last Official roll call, is the Commandant of Fort Van Steuban, If upon arrival, Major La Fayette is either dead or resigned, the soldier will deliver the dispatches to the immediate commanding officer.

2. The expense section of the Finance Department will supply this courier with the necessary cash to buy himself sufficient food supplies to subsist him the entire journey. If the Finance Department at the destination is not functioning, the enlisted man is authorized to barter with the Indians for necessary salt and other miscellaneous necessities for the return trip. Uniform buttons and musketry may be utilized in connection with bartering. If the situation warrant fraternizing with the Indian Tribes, due care will be taken insofar as the relief teepees are concerning, soldier making use of his medical kit immediately after exposure. The expedition considered necessary in the Military Service. Government mounts and subsistence will be furnished, and if used for bartering, uniform buttons and marksman medals will be replaced by the Government upon application for same by the enlisted man concerned.

3. Upon return to his home station, soldier will submit a written report showing the full names and ranks of Commanding Officers of all Military Forts visited, so that the Department of War, can be informed and bring their roster up to date.

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This is a copy of the oldest special order on file with the Adjutant General's Office in Washington, D.C. The original copy is in the Archives in Washington, D.C.