

Excerpt from *Kilts & Courage, Vol. III, The Documentary History of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment in the American War for Independence, 1776 – 1783*, by Paul L. Pace

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British Army Baggage Wagon and escort, c. 1800, by Thomas Rowlandson

Picture Source: Prints, Drawings and Watercolors from the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection

Appendix K: 42nd Regt. Arms and Uniform Accounts

Enclosure 6: Prisoner of War Clothing “*Embezzled & Lost*,” 1782 – 1783

Introduction

In Nov. 1782, British Commander-on-Chief Gen. Sir Guy Carleton issued orders for regiments to prepare clothing for British and German prisoners of war held by the rebel forces. The items to be sent had been determined by a board of general and field grade officers and consisted of “...2 *Shirts* 2 *p^{rs}* *Worsted Stockings* 2 *p^{rs}* *Shoes* 2 *p^{rs}* *Souls & heals* 1 *p^r* *Cloth Legings* 1 *p^r* *Woolen Mitts* 1 *Woolen Night Cap* 1 *Black Stock*...” In addition any annual clothing items owed to the prisoners were to be included in the packages to be prepared and forwarded to the Flag-of-Truce Ship *Amazon* for shipment by sea to Wilmington, Delaware. The clothing was under the care of British Deputy Assistant Quartermaster Gen. Capt. William Armstrong, 64th Regt., who had the goods transferred to wagons and carried to the prisoner of war camps. On Nov. 27, 1782 rebel commander Gen. George Washington issued passports allowing the unmolested transport of the prisoner-of-war clothing to the camps.

Earlier, in July of that year, complaints were made to the rebel Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council that contraband goods formerly shipped to the British and German prisoners of war were being openly sold to the public in a store near Lancaster. Accordingly On June 27, 1782 the Council ordered authorities to “... *inspect the store in the said borough which has been opened on the pretence aforesaid, and if it shall appear that any goods, wares, and merchandizes, shall be found therein other than made up*

uniforms for the said prisoners, to take possession of the said stores with all merchandize therein contained...



Detail showing Chester from “*A new and accurate map of the Province of Pennsylvania, in North America: from the best authorities,*” 1780

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

When the Capt. Armstrong’s wagons carrying the clothing crossed the Pennsylvania line into Chester county in late December, rebel officials confiscated most of the goods, declaring they violated Pennsylvania law “*...for the more effectual suppression of all intercourse and commerce with the enemies of the United States of America...*” Thirty eight wagon loads were taken and the Chester County Sheriff published a legal notice in the newspaper on Feb. 19th indicating “*...BY virtue of an order, to me directed, under the hands and seals of Thomas Cheney, Isaac Taylor and Joseph Lucky, esquires, The sale of a large quantity of British goods, illegally transported into this state, and regularly condemned by a due course of law, will begin on the third day of March next, at the house of Caleb Taylor, in Birmingham township, and continued from day to day ‘till the whole are sold. The said goods consist chiefly of coats, vests, breeches, shirts, stockings, shoes, ben-soals, hats, plaids, broad cloths, stocks, stock buckles, a variety of buttons, &c. &c. &c. Taken into execution and to be sold by JOHN GARDNER, Sheriff...*”

When Capt. Armstrong learned his wagons had been stopped he complained to the rebel War Department who began a lengthy process involving the Pennsylvania Supreme Council, Pennsylvania Assembly and the Continental Congress to return the clothing items. Most of the wagons were returned to Capt. Armstrong on March 11th, but the issue of the remaining wagons was not resolved, despite a notification from Pennsylvania Pres. John Dickinson to Capt. Armstrong, on Mar. 27, 1783, that the Sherriff of Chester County had been ordered to return embezzled clothing.

As the Congressional and Pennsylvania government efforts dragged on without resolution, Gen. Sir Guy Carlton remarked in a letter to London on April 13th that “*...It is impossible upon this occasion not to remark the impotence, both of Congress and the provincial assembly, who, tho’ willing, as it appears, were not able to protect this Clothing from the ravage of private persons, of effectually to compel a restitution or an adequate satisfaction of any kind.*”

A large amount of the embezzled clothing was never recovered and in May of the year, the prisoners of war began to be released, effectively ending the attempt to recover the items.

Documents



Meeting Place of Supreme Executive Council at *Independence Hall*, Philadelphia, 2010

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

Excerpt of Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council Minutes Records Orders Issued to prevent Selling of British Goods Said to be Smuggled into the State with Prisoner Clothing, Philadelphia, June 27, 1782

SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

In Council.

PHILADELPHIA, Thursday, June 27, 1782.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the President.

The Honorable the Vice President.

Mr. Gardner,

Mr. Van Campen, and

Mr. Levan,

Mr. Byers...

Mr. Ewing,

WHEREAS, It hath been represented to this Board that, under pretence of supplying British prisoners with cloathing, a store of British merchandize is opened in or near the borough of Lancaster, within this State, whereby a clandestine traffic is carried on between the inhabitants of this county and those who reside within the garrisons and places therein, now in the possession of the enemy, a market is provided for British merchandise, the circulating specie is exported from the United States, the payment of taxes rendered more difficult and barthensome to the people at large, and great discouragement occasioned to honest and lawful commerce,

Ordered, That William Henry, Esquire, of the said borough, taking to his assistance a Justice of the Peace of Lancaster, do enquire concerning, and inspect the store in the said borough which has been opened on the pretence aforesaid, and if it shall appear that any goods, wares, and merchandizes, shall be found therein other than made up uniforms for the said prisoners, to take possession of the said stores with all merchandize therein contained, and report to this Board; placing a sufficient guard to secure the same until further order from this Board. And if any goods, wares, and merchandize, other than made up uniforms, shall hereafter be brought into the said borough or county, under the pretence aforesaid, to seize and secure the same in like manner and report to this Board.

Ordered, That all Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, and other peace officers of the State, be required to arrest all persons found hawking or peddling contrary to law, and more especially all British prisoners, whether natives of that country or foreigners; and the wives or agents of such British prisoners who shall be found selling or offering to sell or barter any goods, wares, or merchandises, of any kind, under any pretence whatsoever, in order that they may be dealt with according to law.

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania from its Organization to the Termination of the Revolution*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, p. 317



Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sir Guy Carleton

Portrait Source: *The Memorial History of the City of New-York*, Vol. II, James Grant Wilson, New-York History Co., 1892, Google Books, p. 562

Commander in Chief Gen. Sir Guy Carleton's Orders to Supply Clothing and Necessaries to British and German Prisoners of War, New York, Nov. 22 – Dec. 2, 1782

Head Quarters New York 22^d November 1782

A Board of General & Field Officers having been directed to consider what supplies were necessary to be sent to the Prisoners in Pennsylvania, Maryland & Virginia [including the 42nd Lt. Infantry Company], they have pointed out the following Articles to be furnished by the Reg^{ts} to each British & Provincial Soldier. 2 Shirts 2 p^{rs} Worsted Stockings 2 p^{rs} Shoes 2 p^{rs} Souls & heals 1 p^r Cloth Leggings 1 p^r Woolen Mitts 1 Woolen Night Cap 1 Black Stock – which the Corps to provide immediately.

Such Reg^{ts} as have Clothing due to their Men, are to have it prepared to send them & as the necessaries received from England by the Commissary General are much Cheaper than any that can be purchased here it is recommended to the Corps to procure from him whatever they want as far as he can be able to supply them.

The Foreign Troops will make the necessary preparations to furnish their Prisoners with whatever Clothing & necessities they may think proper.

The Inspector General of Provincials will for the Provincial Troops & the Superintendent of the General Hospital will provide a proper assortment of medicines

Returns of the prisoners may be had upon application to the Adjutant General & invoices of all the Articles that are to be sent both by the German as well as the British Troops to be given to The Quartermaster General as soon as possible ...

Head Quarters New York 26th November 1782

The Commander in Chief is pleased to direct that the non Commissioned Officers Drummers & Private Men who are prisoners shall be furnished with a pair of Donation Woolen Leggings each...

Head Quarters New York 28th November 1782...

Returns to be given in on Wednesday the 4th of Dec^r by the respective Corps of the Number of Prisoners for whom Legging Cloth is wanted...

Head Quarters New York 2^d Decem^r 1782...

All Clothing & Necessaries for the Prisoners of War in the Country are to be Packed up immediately & the Invoices sent to the Quarter Master General.

The Transport Ship Amazon at Franklin's Wharf will be ready to receive them on Thursday morning the 5th Ins^t

[Asst. Dep. Quarter Master Gen.] Captain [Lt. William] Armstrong & some other Persons belonging to the Quarter master Generals Department will attend to see them Ship'd & that nothing is received on board but what is specified in the orders with Blankets & Camp Kettles also necessities for the Officers as every thing else will be liable to Seizure.

A proportion of thread Nedles & buttons to be issued with the legging Cloth for the prisoners.

Source and Note: TNA, *Entry Book of General Orders, Orders Issued by His Excellency General Sir Guy Carleton at New York*, at WO 28/9/215-216, ff. 286 – 482. "Franklin's Wharf" was between James Slip and Roosevelt Street.



Detail of Bust of Gen. George Washington, 1785, by Jean-Antoine Houdon

Picture Source: Transferred to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association through the generosity of John Augustine Washington III, 1860

**Letter from Gen. Sir Guy Carleton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to Rebel
Gen. George Washington, Regarding Winter Uniforms for British and German Prisoners,
New York, Nov. 23, 1782**

New York, 23^d November 1782

Sir,

It being requisite that the British and German Troops, prisoners in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, should be furnished with necessaries to guard them against the Severity of the approaching Season, I request, Sir, You will be pleased to send me proper passports for the purpose, and as the situation of the Soldiers demands immediate relief, I am confident You will not hesitate to furnish every facility and dispatch.

The articles I mean to send consist chiefly of Cloathing and necessaries, at the rate of one Coat, one Waist-coat, one pair of Breeches, one hat, two Shirts, two pairs of Stockings, two pairs of Shoes, two pairs of Stockings, two pairs of Soals and heels, one pair of Cloth Leggings, one pair of woolen mitts, one woolen Nightcap, one black Stock and one Blanket for each man, Camp kettle to every six men, a general Assortment of medicines, and some necessaries for the Officers; all which I wish should go in the Transport Ship Amazon. John Floyd Master, under the care of Captain [Lt. William] Armstrong [64th Regt.], Ass^t Dep^y Quarter Master General, and two Quarter Masters, to Wilmington in the Delaware, or, should You prefer it, I shall have no objection to their being consigned to Major [James] Gordon [80th Regt.], the senior Officer, or such person as he shall; appoint to receive them at that place; and as it will be necessary that Assistance and protection should be given to the Stores and persons who are to convey them to the several places of their destination after they are landed. I am further to request that Your Excellency will be pleased to give the necessary directions for that purpose.

I am Sir

Your most obedient and most humble Servant
Guy Carleton

His Excellency General Washington

Source and Note: *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress 1697-1799*, Series 4. General Correspondence, Images 1077. This letter is also filed at TNA, PRO 30/55/55/38, Item 6246. After the surrender at Yorktown, the officers were put on parole, but a field officer and a number of officers per unit traveled with the enlisted prisoners of war to advocate for the men's' needs. Maj. Gordon was the senior officer.

**Letter No. 212 from Rebel Commander-in-Chief Gen. George Washington to Gen. Sir
Guy Carleton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, Regarding the Issuance of a Pass
for Clothing Being Sent to British and German Prisoners of War, Nov. 27, 1782**

N^o. 212 To Sir Guy Carleton.

Head Quarters 27th November 1782.

Sir

I have been honoured with your Excellency's Letter of the 23^d. Supposing it would be more agreeable to you, as it will be to me, that Captⁿ. [Lt. William] Armstrong [64th Regt. and Dept. QM Gen.] and two other Gentlemen should accompany the Supplies to be sent to the Prisoners of War I have included them in the Passport for the Amazon. Upon Captain Armstrong's arrival at Wilmington, he will be pleased to report himself to Major Gen^l. [Arthur] Sinclair, Secretary at War at Phil^a: and furnish him with an exact return of the number of packages under his care and their contents. The Secretary at War, to whom I have written, will then furnish him with Passports for the safe conduct of the Goods to the interior country.

I must request the favour of your Excellency to give strict order, that no goods besides those really proper & necessary for the officers and men be covered under the Flag; Such practices have

prevailed in some instance before your Excellency came into Command and very disagreeable consequences have followed.

I have the honour to be &c

GWashington.

By His Excellency George Washington Esquire
Gen^l & Commander in Chief if the Armies of the
United States of America

Source: Library of Congress, *George Washington Papers*, Series 3, Varick Transcripts, Subseries 3E, Enemy Officers and British Subjects, 1775-1783, Letterbook 1, Aug. 11, 1775-Dec. 1, 1783.



Detail of Portrait of Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, by Charles Wilson Peale, 1784

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Excerpt of Letter from Rebel Commander-in-Chief Gen. George Washington to Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, Secretary at War, Regarding Passports for the British *Transport Amazon*, Carrying Clothing and Necessaries for British and German Prisoners, Newburgh, New York, Nov. 27, 1782

Head Quarters 27th Novemb^r 1782.

Dear Sir...

I have granted a permit for the Ship *Amazon* to proceed from New York to Wilmington with Cloathing &^c. for the Prisoners of War in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. I inclose you a Copy of it. I have informed [Gen.] Sir Guy Carleton of the consequences of putting other Goods than those really intended for the prisoners, on board the Flag, and have desired him to direct [Asst. Dep. Quarter Master Gen.] Cap^t. [Lt. William] Armstrong [64th Regt.] to make you a Return upon his arrival at Wilmington of the number of Packages under his Care and their Contents. You will then be pleased to furnish him with the necessary passports to the interior Country...

Source: *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, 1741-1799*: Series 4. General Correspondence. 1697-1799, Image 48.



Detail of Life Portrait of "George Washington at the Battle of Princeton," 1784, by Charles Willson Peale

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Princeton University Art Museum*

Pass Issued by Rebel Gen. George Washington Allowing British Flag-of-Truce Ship *Amazon* and Dep. Quartermaster Gen. Capt. Lt. and Capt. William Armstrong, 64th Regt., to Deliver Clothing to British and German Prisoners of War, Newburgh, New York, Nov. 27, 1782

By His Excellency George Washington Esq^r. General and Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States of America –

Permission hereby granted to the Ship *Amazon*, John Floyd, Master, to proceed from New York to Wilmington in the State of Delaware with Medicines, Coats, Waistcoats, Breeches, Hats, Shirts, Stockings, Shoes, Soles & Heels, Cloth Leggings, Woollen Mits, Woollen Caps, Black Stocks, Blankets and Camp Kettles for the British and German Prisoners of War in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia; Also with necessaries for the Officers who are Prisoners of War in the same States –

Captⁿ: Armstrong Ass^t. D^y. Qu^r. Master Gen^l, and two Quarter Masters have permission to go in the named Vessel to take charge of the goods before mentioned –

The said Ship *Amazon* having delivered her Cargo to Wilmington, is to return to New York and to be considered as under the protection of a Flag of Truce until her arrival there –

Given under my Hand and Seal at Head Quarters at Newburg this 27th of Novem^r. 1782.

By His Excellencys }
Command }

[GWashington]

Source: Library of Congress, *George Washington Papers*, Series 4, General Correspondence, George Washington to Guy Carleton, Nov. 27, 1782 and Series 3, Varick Transcripts, 1775-1785, Subseries 3E, Enemy Officers and British Subjects, 1775-1783, Letterbook 1, Aug. 11, 1775 - Dec. 1, 1783, p. 265 and TNA, PRO 30/55/55/63, Item 6270.



Reproduction 71st Highland Regt. Uniform Button

Picture Source: Curtesy of Roy and Debra Najecki's American Revolutionary War Reproductions at www.najecki.com.

**Listing of Clothing and Supplies Packed for the Prisoners of the 71st Highland Regt. (Stirling's),
New York, Dec. 5, 1782**

Invoice of Clothing & necessities Packed for the 71st Regiment of Foot Prisoners of war at Philadelphia and Lancaster Ship'd on board the Amazone transport, New York Dec^r 5th 1782

385 privates jackets, 50 grenadiers jackets, 25 serjeants jackets, 12 drummers jackets, 447 private's shirts, 25 serjeants shirts, 435 privates waistcoats, 25 serjeants waistcoats, 12 drummers waistcoats, 472 stocks, 240 doz buttons, 18 corporals epauletts, 1344 yds private's hose, 75 y^{ds} serjeants hose, 472 pairs Shoes, 472 pairs Garters, 37 lb^s thread, 472 Bonnets, 590 y^{ds} of legging cloth, 460 doz Trows^r Buttons, 260 bundles hooks & eyes

Necessaries furnish'd by Lieutenant John Stuart

386 Shirts, 193 shoes, 193 Night caps, 193 mitts, 386 soles & heels for Lancaster

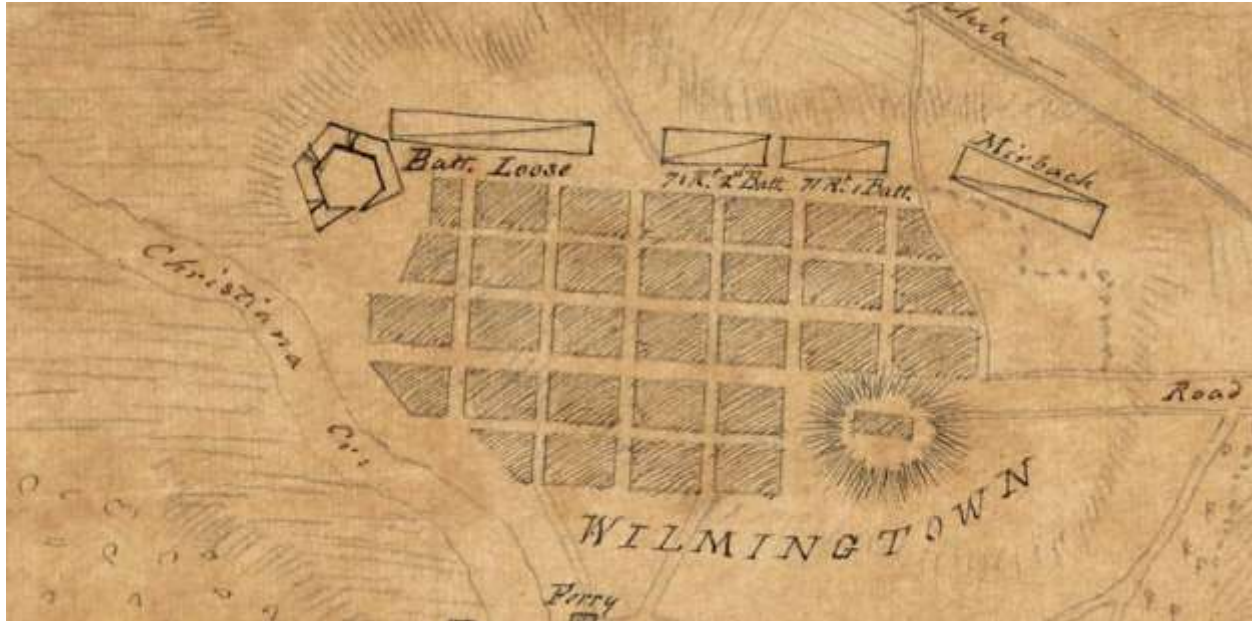
558 Shirts, 279 shoes, 279 night caps, 279 mitts, 550 soles & heels for Philadelphia

Source: NRS, Scottish Archive Network (SCAN), Papers of the Gilchrist Family of Ospisdale, Sutherland at GB234/GD153. (Former listing GD153/1/7/13). The Mar. 19, 1783 listing of clothing embezzled for the 71st Regt. (see below) included: "*100 Yards Hose Cloth, 12 Shirts, 4 pair Shoes, 69 pair Garters, 4 pound Thread, 193 Bonnets, 1 Night Cap, 193 pair Mitts, 10 pair Soles & Heels.*"

**Summary of Letter from Gen. Sir Guy Carleton, Commander-in-Chief, North America, to
Rebel Gen. George Washington, Forwarding a Passport for the Flag-of-Truce Ship *Amazon*,
New York, Dec. 11, 1782**

Requests that [Dep. Quartermaster Gen.] Captain [William] Armstrong and his crew be permitted to return to New York by land once their duties are completed with the necessary American passports. Also, the vessel which is carrying goods for allied prisoners of war to Philadelphia is ordered to report to [Maj.] General [Benjamin] Lincoln and to receive refugees wishing to leave and return to South Carolina. As for American naval prisoners in British hands, they need many necessities particularly during the present winter. He wishes that their confinement is as comfortable as possible and regrets that Congress refuses to enter into a prisoner exchange. Regarding British prisoners held by the Americans, unfortunately, stories are circulating of their ill-treatment but he is skeptical as to their accuracy but is duty-bound to inform General Washington.

Source: TNA, *Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester Papers* at PRO 30/55/56/72, Item 6381.



Detail from “Plan du camp retranché à Wilmington pour y couvrir notre hospital apres la Bataille de Brandywine,” 1777, by Friedrich Adam Julius von Wangenheim.

Map Source: Library of Congress Geography and Map Div.

**Summary of Letter from Dep. Quartermaster Gen., William Armstrong to
Quarter Master Gen. Robert Abercromby Reporting the Landing of the POW Clothing,
Wilmington, Delaware, Dec. 31, 1782**

Dec. 31, 1782

Arrived at the mouth of this creek [likely Christina Creek] on the 21st instant [Dec.], but owing to some etiquette was not allowed by the French troops to come up until the 26th. Has sent off 95 waggon loads, there are about five more remaining. If navigation will permit, has got leave to take the ship with the articles in it to Philadelphia. Has sent the stores for the German troops to Lancaster as he is informed they are now moving from their quarters in Maryland to Little York and Lancaster [Pennsylvania]. Has been treated with every greatest attention and politeness and met with every assistance.

Source: TNA, *Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester Papers* at PRO 30/55/56/72, Item 6575.



John Dickinson, 5th President of Pennsylvania, 1780, by Charles Willson Peale

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Letter from Pennsylvania Pres. John Dickinson to the Supreme Executive Council Regarding Respect for the Commander-in-Chief's Pass for Prisoner Clothing, Philadelphia, Jan. 4, 1783.

Gentlemen,

I beg Leave to transmit to you a Letter from [Assist. Secy. at War] Major [William] Jackson with the Inclosures; and I hope the Determination of Council upon the affair will correspond with my own Sentiments, which are, that a just Respect should be paid to the Pass ports of the Commander in Chief [Gen. George Washington] .

I am with great & sincere Esteem,

Gentlemen your most obedient & h^{ble}. serv^t.

John Dickinson

January 4th, 1783.

Directed,

The Honorable The Vice President and The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Source: *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. IX, Ed. Samuel Hazard, Harrisburg, 1854, Google Books, p. 731.



Detail of Portrait of William Bradford, 1872, by William E. Winner

Picture Source: *U. S. Dept. of Justice*, Office of the Attorney General

Letter from Pennsylvania Attorney General William Bradford Jr., to Maj. Gen. James Irvine, Pennsylvania Militia, Jan. 4, 1783.

Sir,

As at present advised, I am clearly of opinion that the Supreme Executive Council cannot interfere in the seizure of the British Goods, made by Col. [John] Hannem & others so as to prevent a trial being had in Chester County. But I have no doubt those Gentlemen would pay a proper respect to any recommendation of Council on this subject.

I am also of opinion that if the goods seized, are necessary for the Prisoners of war & covered by a passport of the Commander in Chief, that they are not contraband nor liable to condemnation and if there has been any wanton & improper infringement of the passport it is an offence against the Law of nations, & punishable in our Courts of Judicature.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, Your most obedient,

& very humble servt.

W^m. Bradford Jun.

Gen. Irwin.

Source: *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. IX, Ed. Samuel Hazard, Harrisburg, 1854, Google Books. p. 731.



Detail from "Philadelphia from the great Tree at Kensington," 1801, by Thomas Cartwright

Picture Source: *King George III's Personal Coloured Views Collection*, British Lib., London

**Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council Discusses the Seizure of
British and German Prisoner of War Clothing, Philadelphia, Jan. 17, 1783**

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Friday, January 17th, 1783.

Present:

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President

The Honorable James Ewing, Esquire, Vice President.

James Irvine,	John Piper	}
Sebastian Levan,	John Van Campen,	} Esquires
James Cunningham		}

A committee of Congress, to wit: Hon'ble Mr. Rutledge, Mr. Wolcott, and Mr. Madison, attended in Council, and requested a conference with Council respecting certain goods seized in the county of Chester on their way to Lancaster, for the British and German prisoners of war at that place, under the protection of a flag granted by his Excellency general Washington; which the Council agreed to, and a conference was held.

After some time therein the committee withdrew...

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, p. 482.

**Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council Refers the Seizure of British and
German Prisoner of War Clothing to the General Assembly, Philadelphia, Jan. 19, 1783**

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Saturday, January 19th, 1783.

Present:

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President

The Honorable James Ewing, Esquire, Vice President.

James Irvine,
Sebastian Levan,

John Piper

}Esquires
} ...

Mr. Atlee and Mr. S. Morris, a Committee of the House of General Assembly, attended, and informed the Council that the House is now met and ready to receive any business the Council may have to lay before them. Upon which the Council informed the Committee that a message was preparing, and should be laid before the House with all convenient dispatch.

The Council took into consideration the seizure of British goods and merchandize lately made in the county of Chester; and thereupon, the President laid before the Board a draft of a message relative thereto, which was read and approved, in the words following, to wit, vizt:

A message from the President and Supreme Executive Council to the General Assembly.

Gentlemen: – We think it our duty to lay before you immediately the papers that will be delivered with this message. They relate to business of high importance in several respects. The rights of Congress, the authority of this State, and of the Commander-in-Chief, appear to be involved in the questions that arise from it; and the welfare of American prisoners of war seems to be particularly interested in them.

We have had a conference with a Committee of Congress on this affair, and learn from them that the members of that Honorable body are unanimously of opinion that the seizure is a violation of the laws of nations, and of the rights of the United States.

We have seriously deliberated on this subject, and are convinced that we are not competent to the solicited redress.

If the determination was to be made only upon the rights of Congress, the general executive powers of sovereign States, and the laws of nations, our difficulty would not be so great. But the “Act for the more effectual suppression of all intercourse and commerce with the enemies of the United States of America,” being pointed to the ease that now exists, we are bound to an observance of that act, and cannot presume to determine how far the directions therein prescribed, concerning the introduction of necessary cloathing for prisoners of war, is a violation of the laws of nations or of the rights of the United States. The decision of that point we esteem ourselves obliged respectfully to defer to your Honourable House.

John Dickinson, President.

Council Chamber, Phila’a., January 18th, 1783.

Ordered, That the Secretary present the foregoing message to the General Assembly.

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, pp. 482-483.

News Report of Excerpts of Minutes of General Assembly of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Regarding British and German Prisoner Clothing, Philadelphia, Jan. 20, 1783

Extracts from the MINUTES

of the honorable the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MONDAY, January 20, 1783. A. M.

The following message from his excellency the president and the supreme executive council, having been delivered to Mr. Speaker, was by him laid before the house, and being read, is as follows, viz.

Message from the president and the Supreme Executive Council, to the General Assembly.

GENTLEMEN,

WE think it our duty to lay before you immediately, the papers that will be delivered with this message. They relate to business of high importance in several respects; the rights of congress – the

authority of this state – and of the commander in chief, appear to be involved in the questions that arise from it; and the welfare of American prisoners of war, seems to be particularly interested in them.

We have had a conference with a committee of congress on this affair, and learn from them, that the members of that honourable body are unanimously of opinion, that the seizure [of the prisoner clothing] is a violation of the laws of nations, and of the rights of the united states. We have seriously deliberated on this subject, and are convinced, that we are not competent to the solicited redress.

If the determination was to be made only upon the rights of congress, the general executive power of a sovereign state, and the laws of nations, our difficulty would not be so great: but the “act for the more effectual suppression of all intercourse and commerce with the enemies of the united states of America” being pointed to in the case that now exists, we are bound to an observance of the act, and can not presume to determine, how far the directions therein prescribed, concerning the “introduction of necessary clothing for prisoners of war,” is a violation of the laws of nations, or of the rights of the united states. The decision of that point, we esteem ourselves obliged, respectfully to defer to your honourable house.

JOHN DICKINSON.

Council Chamber,
Philadelphia, Jan. 18, 1783.

The papers alluded to in the foregoing message and transmitted therewith, were also read, as following, as follows, viz.

1st. Copy of a passport granted by his excellency George Washington, esquire, general and commander in chief of the armies of the united states of America. for the ship Amazon, John Floyd, master, to proceed from New York to Wilmington, in the state of Delaware, with divers articles for the British and German prisoners of war, in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

2^d. A letter from major W. [William] Jackson, assistant secretary at war, to messrs. [Thomas] Kean and [John] Lee, burgesses of Wilmington, requesting either of them to furnish capt. Armstrong [64th Regt.], superintendent for conducting the business of the above mentioned Amazon flag of truce, with passports for the transportation of the supplies, enumerated in invoices transmitted with this letter, to the interior country.

3^d. General abstract of stores shipped on board the Amazon, signed by W. Armstrong, captain 64th.

4th. Letters, viz. No. 1, from Captain Armstrong to the assistant secretary at war; No. 2, from the assistant secretary at war to the president of Pennsylvania; No. 3, from the president of Pennsylvania to messrs. [John] Hannum, [Percifor] Fraser and [Isaac] Taylor, in Chester county; No. 5, from the assistant secretary at war to the honourable Thomas M^cKean, esquire, No. 6, from captain Armstrong to the assistant secretary at war.

5th. A letter from the assistant secretary at war to the president of congress.

6th. A letter from the assistant secretary at war to the president and supreme executive council of Pennsylvania.

And on motion and by special order, the said message and papers therewith transmitted were read the second time.

Ordered, That the said message and papers accompanying it be referred to Mr. Delany, Mr. G. Gray, Mr. J. Montgomery, Mr. Clymer and Mr. W. Montgomery, to report thereon.

Source: *Pennsylvania Packet* (Philadelphia), Jan. 30, 1783, p. 3.



Detail of Portrait of Charles Thompson, Secretary to the Continental Congress, 1783 by Joseph Wright

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *U. S. Diplomacy Center*

Resolution by Congress to Investigate if Contraband Included in Bundles of Clothing for British and German Prisoners of War as Alleged by Chester County Citizens, Philadelphia, Jan. 24, 1783

Resolutions of Congress, 1783.
By the United States in Congress assembled.

January 24th, 1783.

Whereas Complaint hath been made to Congress by Percifor Frazier, John Hannum and Joseph Gardner, in behalf of themselves and others, that there are good grounds not only from former transactions, but for other reasons, to believe that great abuses, have been attempted of a pass granted by the Commander in Chief for the protection of cloathing and other necessaries sent from New York in the Ship Amazon for the use of British and German prisoners of War, and that private and unwarrantable advantages are intended by introducing for sale under cover of the said Passports a considerable quantity of British goods and merchandize.

Resolved,

That the assistant Secretary at War be directed to cause the goods imported in the Ship Amazon, and not delivered to the British or German prisoners of War to be forthwith examined and compared with the passport under which they have been imported by proper persons; and that His Excellency the President and the Supreme executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania be requested to nominate one of the said persons.

Resolved, That the Assistant Secretary at War be directed to report to Congress the result of the said inquiry together with the number of the said prisoners, and of the cloathing and other necessaries imported in the said vessel which have been delivered for their use.

(Copy.)

Charles Thompson, Sec^y.

Source: *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. IX, Ed. Samuel Hazard, Harrisburg, 1854, Google Books, pp. 741-742.

Representatives of Congress, Pennsylvania Assembly and Supreme Council Meet to Discuss the Seizure of British and German Prisoner of War Clothing, Philadelphia, Jan. 21, 1783

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Tuesday, January 21st, 1783.

Present:

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President
The Honorable James Ewing, Esquire, Vice President.

James Irvine,	John Piper	} Esquires
John Van Campen,	James Cunningham	}...

A Committee of the General Assembly and a Committee of Congress, together with the Council, being met in the Council Chamber, entered into conference upon the seizure of a quantity of good, said to be cloathing for the British prisoners under the protection of a flagg granted by His Excellency [Rebel] General [George] Washington. After a free conference on the subject, and the sentiments of each understood, the Committees withdrew...

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, p. 484.



Detail of Portrait of Robert Abercromby, 1788 by George Romney

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Art Gallery of South Australia*

Letter from Capt. Lt. and Capt. William Armstrong, Asst. Dep. Quarter Master Gen. to Brig. Gen. Robert Abercromby, Quarter Master Gen., Describing the Seizing of Clothing for British and German Prisoners, by Chester County Militia Officers and His Actions to Restore the Goods, Philadelphia, Jan. 23, 1783

Philed^a 23^d Jan^y 1783

Sir

I wrote you from Wilmington [Delaware] in the 31st Ult^e [Dec.] by the Sloop Chance – Shemp Mast^r /Gorry w^t a Flag f^m thence w^t. Flowr for the Prisoners/, then acquainted you that I was just send^g off the last Waggons w^t ^{the} Necessarys for Lancaster, & that every thing seemed to be going on as I could wish.

The Vessel was hardly out of Wilmington Creek when an Express arrived to inform me that a Number of the Waggons had been stopped at Kennets Square by some Col^s of the Chester County Militia & notwithstanding that proper passports attended them, they were unloaded & the loads stored in diff^t houses

I immediately sent off a Lett^r to [Rebel] Maj^r [William] Jackson Ass^t Sec^y at War,/ [Secretary at War Maj.] Gen^l [Benjamin] Lincoln being absent/ to inform him of this, desiring that proper orders for the release of the Goods might immediately be sent and, Five days afterwards I rec^d. Maj^r. Jacksons Lett^r disapproving entirely of the conduct of the people, & inclosing me a Lett^r from M^r [John] Dickinson

Presid^t of the Executive Council of Pensilvania to the People who had seized the Goods ordering them immediately to deliver them up, this Lett^r I deliverd into the hands of one of the [illegible] concerned in the Seizure, Yet they refused to obey it, as they pretend to say that what they had done was agreeable to Law, altho that very Law excepts Cloathing for Prisoners coming into the State, under certain Terms All which I had attended to previous to landing one Article.

The day after I delivered Presid^t Dickinsons Lett^r to those People, I came to Town, & very fully stated the whole Transaction to the [Rebel] Board of War, ^ on which Maj^r Jackson immediately waited on & Consulted the President of Congress & the Presid^t of the Conncil, & next day a Committee from Congress was app^d to meet a Committee from the Council to take Cognizance of the Affair.____ Many are the Letters which I have wrote to Maj^r Jackson about it, all which he has laid before them and exerted himself very much, yet still it remains undetermined.

I had this day a long Conference with Presid^t Dickinson on the Subject, in Short I have done every thing to obtain a release of the Goods ^ they have stopped but whether or not I shall succeed, still is uncertain, Altho they all acknowledge it to be a dishonorable transaction & a Contempt of [Rebel Commander] Gen^l [George] Washingtons passport.____ They have Stopped Thirty Eight Waggon Loads, Fifty one have Arrived at Lancaster & the Articles been given out. The Articles directed for this place Arrived here on the 11th Ins^t [Jan.] & altho stopped in the same Manner the others were, yet I obtained leave to have them inspected & if nothing improper was found to be delivered out which was immediately done & all ^ the prisoners here excepting a few completely supplied w^t Necessarys

They except to the quality unmade up Cloth but that objection I believe I have pretty well done away, by assigning the reason for it being brought in that situation, viz^t. the want of time to get it made up, And also that they should not have granted Passports for the conveyance of it into the interior Country of they thought it seizable, as the Invoice was shown to & approved of by them previous to My unloading a Single Article, Whereaby they rendered themselves answerable for the Safe Conduct of the whole as I would not have landed one Article that they objected to.____ These many other Arguments I have mentioned in my Lett^r & Conversations & I flatter Myself that in a few days I shall have every thing settled agreeably.____ I have acquainted [Senior Officer with the Prisoners] Maj^r. [James] Gordon [80th Regt.] with every thing & he has approved of my Conduct, I hope likeways it will meet with your Approbation & that of His Excellency the Commander in Chief [Gen. Sir Guy Carleton].____

Sir Your Most Obed^t

Perhaps it would not be improper or	}	Hble Serv ^t
unnecessary were Gen ^l Washington wrote	}	W ^m Armstrong
to on the Subject.____	}	ADQM Gen ^l

Brig^r Gen^l [Robert] Abercromby
Q^r M^r Gen^l

Source: TNA, *Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester: Papers*. A. Main series of Papers. No. 6802, Capt. Armstrong to Brig. Gen. Abercromby, Jan. 23, 1783 at PRO 30/55/61/14. Copy provided by Alex Burns.

Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council Assigns Merchant to Examine Seized British and German Prisoner of War Clothing, Philadelphia, Jan. 25, 1783

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Saturday, January 25, 1783.

Present:

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President

The Honorable James Ewing, Esquire, Vice President.

James Irvine,	John Piper	}	Esquires
John Van Campen,	James Cunningham	}	

The resolves of Congress of this day, respecting the goods imported on the ship Amazon, being read; on consideration,

Ordered, That agreeably thereto, Mr. John Purviance, of this city, merchant, be appointed to examine, in conjunction with such person or persons as shall be appointed by the Assistant Secretary at War, such of the said goods as have not been delivered to the British or German prisoners of war, and that he be requested to undertake it accordingly.

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, pp. 490-491.

Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council Assigns Replacement Merchant to Examine Seized British and German Prisoner of War Clothing, Philadelphia, Jan. 25, 1783

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Saturday, January 27th, 1783.

Present:

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President

The Honorable James Ewing, Esquire, Vice President.

James Irvine,	John Piper	} Esquires
John Van Campen,	James Cunningham	

The resignation of Mr. John Purviance of his appointment to examine British goods and merchandize of the twenty-fifth instant, was received and read, and the same was accepted.

The resolves of Congress of the twenty-fourth instant, being read; on consideration,

Ordered, That agreeably thereto, Alexander Boyd, Esquire, be appointed to examine, in conjunction with such persons as shall be appointed by the Assistant Secretary at War, such of the said goods as have not been delivered to the British or German prisoners of war, and that he be requested to undertake it accordingly...

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, pp. 512-513.



Masthead of *Freeman's Journal*

Picture Source: *Freeman's Journal*, Dec. 12, 1781, p. 1.

Advertisement for Sale of Confiscated Clothing Sent to British and German Prisoners on the Flag-of-Truce Ship Amazon, by Sheriff John Gardner, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Feb. 10, 1783

BY virtue of an order, to me directed, under the hands and seals of Thomas Cheney, Isaac Taylor and Joseph Lucky, esquires, The sale of a large quantity of British goods, illegally transported into this state, and regularly condemned by a due course of law, will begin on the third day of March next, at the house of Caleb Taylor, in Birmingham township, and continued from day to day 'till the whole are sold. The said goods consist chiefly of coats, vests, breeches, shirts, stockings, shoes, ben-soals, hats, plaids,

broad cloths, stocks, stock buckles, a variety of buttons, &c. &c. &c. Taken into execution and to be sold by

JOHN GARDNER, Sheriff,

The sale to begin at 12 o'clock.

Chester, February 10, 1783.

Source: *Freeman's Journal; or, the North American Intelligencer* (Philadelphia), Feb. 19, 1783, p. 4.

**Summary of Letter from Dep. Quartermaster Gen., Capt. Lt. and Capt. William Armstrong
Quarter Master Gen. Robert Abercromby Reporting Delays by Rebel Congress,
Philadelphia, Feb. 15, 1783**

Delay of Congress in settling affair of the seizure of the goods for the British prisoners at Lancaster. Detailed account of the attack on Major Gordon at Lancaster. Says the King's speech and the accounts of peace having arrived, he cannot say that either seem to have given as much satisfaction as was expected.

Source: TNA, *Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester Papers* at PRO 30/55/62/31, Item 6911.

**Pennsylvania General Assembly Committee and Supreme Executive Council Meet to
Discuss Seized British and German Prisoner of War Clothing, Philadelphia, Feb. 18, 1783**

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Tuesday, February 18th, 1783.

Present:

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President

The Honourable James Ewing, Esquire, Vice President.

Honourable James Irvine,	John Piper	}
John M ^c Dowell,	James Potter,	} Esquires
John Van Campen,	Dorsey Pentecost,	}

Mr. J. Montgomery, Mr. Steinmetz, Mr. W. Montgomery, Mr. G. Gray, Mr. Delany, a committee of the General Assembly, attended in Council and requested a conference with Council respecting the seizure of certain British goods and merchandize, and aa condemnation of the same, in the county of Chester, and a conference was had accordingly...

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, p. 509.

**Congressional Committee, Pennsylvania General Assembly Committee and Supreme Executive
Council Meet to Discuss Seized British and German Prisoner of War Clothing, Philadelphia,
Feb. 20, 1783**

The Council met.

Thursday, February the 20th, 1783.

Present:

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President

The Honorable James Ewing, Esquire, Vice President.

Honourable James Irvine,	Dorsey Pentecost	}
John M ^c Dowell,	John Piper	} Esquires
John Van Campen,	James Cunningham	}...

[Maj.] General [Thomas] Mifflin, Richard Peters, Thomas Fitzimmons, and John Montgomery, delegates in Congress for this State, and Mr. Delany, Mr. Steinmentz, and Joseph Montgomery, a committee of the General Assembly, attended in Council, and a conference was had respecting certain goods imported in the ship Amazon for the use of the British prisoners in this State, and lately seized in Chester county...

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, pp. 511-512.

Resolution by Congress Concluding No Contraband Included in Bundles of Clothing for British and German Prisoners of War as Alleged by Chester County Citizens, Philadelphia, Feb. 20, 1783

Resolutions of Congress, 1783.

By the United States in Congress Assembled Feb^y. 20, 1783.

The assistant Secretary at War having reported to Congress the result of his enquiry respecting the goods imported in the Ship Amazon for the use of British and German prisoners of war, accompanied with a report of the Commissioners appointed pursuant to the resolutions of the 24 of Jan^y. last.

Resolved, That it does not appear to Congress that any abuse has been made of the passport granted by the Commander in Chief for the protection of Cloathing and other necessities sent from New York in the Ship Amazon for the use of the British and German prisoners of war.

Resolved, That the goods imported in the said Ship Amazon and contained in the return laid before Congress by the Assistant Secretary at war are fully covered and protected by the said passport and ought to be sent with all expedition and without any let or hindrance to the prisoners for whose use they were designed.

Cha. Thomson, Secy.

Source: *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. IX, Ed. Samuel Hazard, Harrisburg, 1854, Google Books, p. 756.



Maj. William Jackson, 1795

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from *Soldier-Statesmen of the Constitution*, Robert K. Wright, and Morris J. MacGregor, Jr., U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1987.

**Letter from Maj. William Jackson, Assistant Secretary of War,
to Pennsylvania Pres. John Dickinson, Philadelphia, Feb. 21, 1783.**

War-Office, February 21st, 1783.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to enclose to you the resolve of Congress which has been consequent on the report of the Gentlemen, who were appointed by your Honorable Council and the Assistant Secretary at War, to inspect the British supplies which have been seized in Chester-County.

I beg leave to request—if the Supreme Executive Council are of opinion that any instruction from them will facilitate the restitution of the supplies conformably to the resolve of Congress—that your Excellency will be pleased to favor me with the decision of Council, as soon as may be convenient.

I have the honor to be,

with profound respect,

Your Excellency's

most obedient Servant,

W. Jackson.

His Excellency President Dickinson.

Source: *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. IX, Ed. Samuel Hazard, Harrisburg, 1854, Google Books, p. 757

**Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council Orders Congressional Resolution Regarding the
Confiscated British and German Prisoner of War Clothing Forwarded to the General Assembly,
Philadelphia, Feb. 21, 1783**

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Friday, February 21st, 1783.

Present:

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President

The Honorable James Ewing, Esquire, Vice President.

Honourable James Irvine,	Dorsey Pentecost	}
John M ^c Dowell,	John Piper	} Esquires
John Van Campen,	James Cunningham	}...

A letter from his Excellency the President of Congress, inclosing a resolution of Congress of the twentieth of February, 1783, respecting goods seized on the county of Chester, and imported in the ship Amazon, was read; and thereupon

Ordered, That the same be laid before the General Assembly...

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, pp. 512-513.

**Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council Orders Sherriff John Gardner, Chester County, to
Return Confiscated British and German Prisoner of War Clothing to the Secretary at War,
Philadelphia, Mar. 6, 1783**

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Thursday, March 6th, 1783, 5 o'clock, P. M.

Present:

As in the morning.

The following extracts from the minutes of the General Assembly were laid before the Board, and read, vizt:

The report of the Committee of Accounts, to whom was referred the accounts and vouchers of persons concerned in the seizure of the goods in Chester county, was read the second time and adopted,

vizt:

That they have carefully examined the said accounts, and are of opinion that most of the charges in the same are very unreasonable, and, therefore, inadmissible; but taking the nature of the business into consideration, with the necessary of an immediate settlement, have taken the liberty to essay an account of the various expences and charges herewith presented, amounting to five hundred and sixty-seven pounds thirteen shillings and eleven pence specie, which sum, in the opinion of your committee, will be a full compensation to the persons concerned in said seizures; therefore, recommend the following resolve:

Resolved, That the Supreme Executive Council draw an order on the State Treasurer in favour of John Gardner, Esq'r, Sheriff of Chester county, for the sum of five hundred and sixty-seven pounds thirteen shillings and eleven pence, for the use of the several persons concerned, agreeable to the account herewith presented, which shall be in full of all charges and expences whatsoever attending the seizure of all or any of the goods in his custody, or in the custody of any other person or persons, (for the use of the prisoners of war,) until the delivery of the same to the proper officers.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be transmitted to the Supreme Executive Council, to take effectual "order for the immediate delivery of the goods aforesaid."

The Council taking in to consideration the said extracts; thereupon,

Ordered, That an order be drawn on the State Treasurer in favor of John Gardner, Esquire, Sheriff of the county of Chester, for the sum of five hundred and sixty-seven pounds thirteen shillings and eleven pence, for the use of the several persons concerned, agreeable to the account aforesaid, which shall be in full of all charges and expences whatsoever, attending the seizure of all or any of the goods in his custody or in the custody of any other person or persons, (for the use of the prisoners of war,) until the delivery of the same to the proper officers.

Ordered, That John Gardner, Esquire, Sheriff of the county of Chester, do immediately deliver to the order of the Secretary at War, all and every the goods aforesaid, in the custody of the said Sheriff, or in the custody of any other person or persons in the said county.

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, pp. 525-526.

Letter from Asst. Dep. Quarter Master Gen. and Capt. William Armstrong, 64th Regt., to Quarter Master Gen. Robert Abercromby Reporting Seized Clothing for British and German Prisoners Would Not be Released Until Chester County Expenses Paid, Philadelphia, Mar. 7, 1783

Copy

Philadelphia 7th.. March 1783

Sir,

In mine of the 28th. Ultimo [Feb.], I mentioned that I was just going to set off for Dillworth's Tavern to receive the clothing stopped in Chester County & stored there, I accordingly went that Evening to Chester, next morning I arrived there with waggons sufficient to take everything away, with which I expected to be in Lancaster in two days, but to my great Mortification & disappointment the Gentlemen Seizors would not allow me to move anything until the Assembly paid down their Expences or charges which they had promised to reimburse. Knowing Arguments in vain with them, I did not make use of any, only requested their reasons in waiting for still detaining the Goods, which I next morning laid before the Committee of Assembly with my letters on the subject. Since last Monday they have been deliberating on it and Yesterday determined to allow the Seizors £500 as their expences /they Charged £1200/ and passed a resolve empowering the Board of War to have the Goods effectually & immediately delivered up, for which purpose [Rebel] Major [William] Jackson, Ass^t. Secretary at War setts off with me to Morrow Morning – Barring any further Accidents or unforeseen obsticles, I expect to have everything in Lancaster, by next Tuesday afternoon, but until I have delivered them to Major [James] Gordon [80th Regt], I will not think my self certain of any thing.

I received yours & assure you it gives me much pleasure that my conduct meets with your Approbation. I assure you, Sir, it ever will be my study to deserve it, and that I am with real esteem

B^r. Gen^l. [Robert] Abercromby
Q^r. Master General –

Your most obed^t. Humble Servant
/Signed/ W^m. Armstrong
[Asst. Dep. Quarter Master Gen.]

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Apr. – June 1783* at CO 5/109, ff. 78-98 and also filed at PRO 30/55/64/40, Item 7080.



Detail of picture of Pennsylvania prisoner-of-war camp possibly drawn by Sgt. Roger Lamb, 23rd Regt.

Source: Friends of Camp Security

Summary of Letter from Maj. James Gordon, 80th Regt., Senior Officer Attending British Prisoners of War to Gen. Sir Guy Carleton, Commander-on-Chief, North America, Regarding Embezzled Clothing, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Mar. 7, 1783

Received letters of 1st, 8th and 10th December, 1782, by [Dep. Assistant Quarter Master Gen.] Captain [William] Armstrong, and has issued money and clothing to the British, Provincial, and German prisoners of war at Philadelphia and Lancaster. The clothing seized in Chester was opened and compared with the general invoice in the presence of an American officer. A list of deficiencies is sent to his Excellency's Adjutant General. Has advanced money to the prisoners of war belonging to the Royal Artillery at the rate pointed out by Brigadier General Martin. Commends Captain Armstrong in his applications to Congress, &c., for the recovery of the clothing seized in Chester. Sends an account of money distributed for transporting the stores. Complains of the illiberal treatment which the British Officers have met with at this post. Refers him to Captain Armstrong, who was an eye-witness.

Enclosures:-

1783 January 20 / March 17. Account of money paid for transporting the stores. 807*l*. 16*s*. 9*d*.

Two of the items are: Paid thirteen wagons from Wilmington to Philadelphia as per receipt, 42*l*. 9*s*. 4*d*.

paid a French escort for guarding the baggage from Wilmington to Lancaster 13*l*. 2*s*. 5*d*.

Source: *Report on American Manuscripts in the Royal Institution of Great Britain*, Vol. III, Historical Manuscripts Commission, His Majesty's Stationary Office, London, 1907, Google Books, pp. 402-403.

Letter from Dep. Asst. Quarter Master Gen. William Armstrong to Rebel Maj. William Jackson, Deputy Secretary at War, Forwarding List of Embezzled Items from Clothing for British and German Prisoners of War, Philadelphia, Mar. 19, 1783

To Major [William] Jackson } Copy
 Ass^t. Secretary at War }

Philadelphia 19th. March 1783

Sir,

With this I send you a list of the deficiencies of Necessaries Embezzled and lost, by being detained in Chester County.

To each article mentioned in the return, I have affixed the price paid for in England or New York, If the value is to be returned it will still be necessary to ascertain how much more it will require to purchase articles of equal goodness in this place, or Lancaster, but if possible I would much rather have such articles laid down at Lancaster than their value in money.

I also send with the abovementioned return a Recapitulation of the deficiencies and extraordinary expences incurred by the detention of the Clothing &^c. which to the best of my knowledge I believe to be just and exact.

I am perfectly convinced that if proper methods are immediately taken a large part of the deficient articles may still be found in Chester County particularly Four entire waggon loads secreted by the Waggoners /for what purpose I can't say/ whose names I have never been able to find out as the Sherriff of Chester County wou'd not give me a list of those that were stopped nor of the articles seized. –

As I am informed the assembly of this state is to rise on Friday next, I am to request you will take the earliest opportunity of laying those accounts before it.

As you have had the principal management of this disagreeable business I still address you upon it altho' [Sec. at War] General [Benjamin] Lincoln is now present.

I am &c
 /Signed/ W^m. Armstrong
 Cap^t. 64th Regiment
 A.D. Q. M. Gen^l.

Copy **Return** of Clothing & Necessaries belonging to different British Regiments & Corps & Cost owing to their being detained whilst on their way from Wilmington to Lancaster.. Pennsy^a. Curry 7/6 Dollars

			[£]	[Sh.]	[d]	[£]	[Sh.]	[d]
Royal Artillery	23 White Shirts	15/. each	£	16	10	~		
	21 Check d ^o .	9/		9	9	~		
	16 pair Linen Trowsers	8/4		6	13	4		
	16 pair Cloth	22/6		18	~	~		
	36 pair Stockings	7/6		13	10	~		
	15 pair Worsted d ^o .	1/8		1	5	~		
	18 pair Shoes	12/.		10	16	~		
	15 night Caps	2/.		1	10	~		
	4 pair Shoe Soles	3/9		~	15	~		
	15 velvet Stocks	2/6		1	17	6	80	5 10
Brigade of Guards	8 Serjeants Coats	a 175/. each		70	~	~		
	8 d ^o . Waistcoats	35/.		14	~	~		
	8 d ^o . Breeches	35/		14	~	~		
	14 Shirts and Rollers	20/.		14	~	~		
	8 Hatts	35/		14	~	~		
	14 pairs Shoes	12/.		8	8	~		
	12 pairs Stockings	7/6		1	10	~		
	3 Drummers Coats	70/		10	10	~		

	3 d°. Waistcoats	17/6	2	12	6			
	3 d°. Breeches	17/6	2	12	6			
	3 Hatts	30/.	4	10	~			
	8 Shirts and Rollers	15/.	6	~	~			
	8 pairs Shoes	12/.	4	16	~			
	8 pairs Stockings	7/6	3	~	~			
	36 Rank & File Coats	70/.	126	~	~			
	36 Waistcoats & Breeches	17/6	63	~	~			
	48 Hatts	30/.	72	~	~			
	322 Shirts and Rollers	15/.	241	10	~			
	93 pairs Shoes	12/.	55	16	~			
	300 pairs Stockings	7/6	112	10	~			
	32 pairs Soles & Heels	3/9	6	~	~			
	6 yards superfine Scarlet Cloth	60/.	18	~	~	868	15	
	Carried forward		~	~	£	949	~	10

Return of Deficiencies Continued								
		Brought Forward £	~	~	£	949	~	10
17 th . Dragoons	2 pairs Shoes Soles	a 3/9		7	6			
	2 Handkerchiefs	a 3/9		7	6	~	15	~
7 th . Foot	38 pair Breeches	a 17/6	34	15	~			
	38 Waistcoats	17/6	34	15	~	69	10	~
17 th Foot	12 pair Shoes	12/.	7	4	~			
	5 Shirts	15/.	3	13	~			
	5 Coats	70/.	17	10	~			
	18 Yards legging Cloth	15/.	13	10	~			
	10 pair Breeches	17/6	18	15	~	50	14	~
23 ^d . Reg ^t .	1 Shirt	15/.	~	15	~			
	3 pair Soles & Heels	3/9	~	11	3			
	189 pair Stockings	7/6	70	17	6			
	32 Night Caps	2/.	3	4	~			
	35 pair Mitts	1/8	2	1	8			
	4 Coats	70/.	14	~	~	91	9	5
22 nd . Reg ^t .	15¾ yards Cloth	15/.	11	16	3			
	4 pair Leggings	22/6	4	10	~	16	6	3
Captain [James] Ingram 33 rd . Reg ^t	2 yards Scarlet	60/.	6	~	~			
	3 yards Rattinet [thin wool]	6/.	~	18	~			
	3 dozen plated Buttons	8/.	1	4	~			
	1 dozen small	4/.	~	4	~			
	4 pieces Nankeen [cotton]	28/.	5	12	~			
	8 yards Linnen	3/.	1	4	~			
	1 yard Cambrick [linen]	32/.	1	12	~			
	8 pair Stockings	12/.	4	16	~			
	1 Bridle	100/.	5	~	~			
	1 Silver Epaulet & lace		5	19	2	32	9	2
L ^t [James Leigh] Harvey	2 yards Superfine Scarlet Cloth	60/.	6	~	~			
	3 yards Rattinet	6/.	~	18	~			

33 ^d . Reg ^t .	3 doz ⁿ . large plated Buttons	8/.	1	4	~			
	1 dozen Small d ^o .	4/.	~	4	~			
	2 pieces Nankeen	28/.	2	16	~	11	2	
	Carried forward		~	~	£	1216	6	8

Return of Deficiencies Continued								
L ^t Harvey 33 ^d . Reg ^t	Brought Forward		~	~	£	1216	6	8
	2½ yards	Marseilles quilting	16/.	2	~	~		
	1	Silver Epaulet & lace		5	19	2		
	8½ yards	Linnen	3/.	1	5	6		
		Silk Twist thread & ^c		~	13	~		
	26 yards	Linnen	7/9	10	1	6		
	1¼ yards	Cambrick	30/.	1	17	6		
	6	Linnen Handkerchiefs	4/6	1	7	~		
33 rd . Reg ^t .	6	pair Stockings	12/.	3	12	~	26	15
	424	Needles		1	1	3		
	10	Thimbles		~	7	6		
	1	Roller		~	~	3		
	14	pair Stockings	8/.	5	12	~		
	3	Shirts	16/.	2	8	~		
	4	pair Scissors	2	~	8	~		
	15	pair Shoes	12	9	~	~		
	63	Night Caps	2	6	6	~		
	32	pairs Soles & Heels	3/9	6	~	~		
	15	Stocks	2/6	1	17	6		
	1	peice Black tape		~	5	~		
	137	yards Legging Cloth	15/.	102	15	~		
	18	yards Waistcoat d ^o .	15/.	13	10	~	149	10
37 th . Reg ^t .	4	pair Trowsers	22/6	~	~	~	4	10
38 th . Reg ^t .	7	Waistcoats	3/.	6	2	6		
	1	pair Shoes			12			
	1	pair Soles & Heels			3	9	6	18
42 nd Reg ^t .	6	Bonnets	3/9	1	2	6		
	12	pair Soles & Heels	3/9	2	5	~		
	8	pair Stockings	6/.	2	8	~		
	1	Night Cap		~	2	~		
	11	Velvet Stocks	2/6	2	12	6		
	24	Black Feathers	7/6	9	~	~		
	6	Stock Buckles	3/.	~	18	~	18	8
Carried Forward				~	~	£	1422	9

Return of Deficiencies Continued								
42 nd Reg ^t .	Brought Forward		~	~	£	1422	9	1
	2	pair half Gaters	5/.	~	10	~		
	3	peices lace	3/9	~	11	3	1	3
	16	Shirts	15/.	12	~	~		
	13	pair Shoes	12/.	7	16	~		
	46	pair Stockings	8/.	18	8	~		

43 ^d . Reg ^t .	61 pairs Soles & Heels	3/9	11	8	9	60	8	3
	14 velvet Stocks	2/6	1	15	~			
	11 Stock Buckles	3/.	1	13	~			
	14 Night Caps	2/.	1	8	~			
	46 Rollers	9 ^d	1	14	6			
	4 ^{lb} Thread	17/6	3	10	~			
	9 pair Mitts	1/8		15	~			
63 ^d . Reg ^t .	2 pair Stockings	7/6	~	15	~	6	15	~
	2 pair Leggings	22/6	3	7	6			
	3 pair Breeches	17/6	2	12	6			
64 th . Reg ^t .	20 pair Soles & Heels	39	3	15	~	7	7	~
	4 pound Thread	176	3	10	~			
	1 Corporals Epaulet		~	2	~			
71 st . Reg ^t .	100 yards Hose Cloth	3/9	18	5	~	91	6	9
	12 Shirts	15/.	9	~	~			
	4 pair Shoes	12/.	2	8	~			
	69 pair Garters	1/.	3	9	~			
	4 pounds Thread	17/6	3	10	~			
	193 Bonnets	3/9	36	3	9			
	1 Night Cap		~	2	~			
	193 pairs Mitts	1/8	16	1	6			
	10 pairs Soles & Heels	3/9	1	17	6			
L ^t Campbell 74 th . Reg ^t .	1 Case Surgeons Instruments		8	15	~	22	15	
	1 Sett d ^o teeth d ^o		5	~	~			
	A number of Books on Physick & ^c .		9	~	~			
	Carried forward		~	~	£			
						1612	2	4

Return of Deficiencies continued								
74 th . Reg ^t .		Brought Forward	~	~	£	1612	2	4
	18 Shirts	at 15/.	13	10	~			
	87 pairs Shoes	12/.	52	4	~			
	30 pair Soles & Heels	3/.	9	7	6			
	2 Stocks	2/6	~	5	~			
	7 Plaids	45/.	15	15	~			
	4½ yards Sup ^e Brown Cloth	50/.	28	15	~			
	6 yards Black do ^r	50/.	15	~	~			
Cap ^t . Graham{ L ^t . Martin	Imbroidered Waistcoat		5	5	~	134	16	6
	1 pair Silk Breeches		3	10	~			
	1 Bedstead		5	~	~			
	4 Serjeants Coats	105/.	21	~	~			
	2 ¹³ / ₁₆ yards Scarlet Cloth	48/.	6	6	~			
	1 ¾ d ^o . d ^o .	48/.	4	4	~			
	7 Bonnets	3/9	1	6	3			
	56 Shirts	15/.	42	~	~			
	34 pair Shoes	12/.	20	18	~			
	6 pair Soles & Heels	3/9	1	2	6			
76 th . Reg ^t .	40 pair Garters	1/.	2	~	~	168	3	5
	16 pair Mitts	1/8	1	6	8			
	140 Black Feathers	7/6	54	15	~			

80 th . Reg ^t .	1 Serjeants Coat	105/.	5	5	~			
	2 p ^r . d ^o . Breeches	25/.	2	10	~			
	2 Silver laced Hatts	35/.	3	10	~			
	6 Serjeants Shirts	20/.	6	~	~			
	19 pair Stockings	7/6	7	2	6			
	1 yard Scarlet Cloth	48/.	2	8	~			
	5 private Coats	70/.	17	10	~			
	45 Shirts	15/.	33	15	~			
	60 pairs Mitts	1/8	5	~	~			
	60 pairs Shoes	12/.	12	~	~			
	35 pair Stockings	/6	13	2	6			
	24 Caps	2/	2	8	~			
	41 Black Stocks	2/6	5	2	6	115	13	6
Carried Forward			~	~	£	2030.	15	9

Return of Deficiencies continued								
80 th . Reg ^t .	Brought Forward		~	~	£	2030.	15	9
	2 private Hatts	10/.	1	~	~			
	4 lb. Thread	17/6	3	10	~			
	3 Gross Hooks & Eyes	12/.	1	16	~			
Convention Troops furnished by Colonel Innes Inspector General	8 Thimbles	9 ^d .	~	6	~	6	12	~
	20 Coats	70/.	70	~	~			
	20 Waistcoats	17/6	17	10	~			
	20 pair Breeches	17/6	17	10	~			
	173 pairs Shoes	12/.	103	16	~			
	14 Shirts	15/.	10	10	~			
	648 pair Soles & Heels	3/9	121	10	~			
	14 pair Stockings	6/.	4	4				
	7 pair Mitts	1/8	~	11	8			
	7 night Caps	2/.	~	14				
	47 Velvet Stocks	2/6	5	17	6			
	7 pair Leggings	22/6	7	17	6			
	70 Stock Buckles	3/.	10	10	~			
	100 Hatts	10/.	50	~	~			
	70 Camp Kettles	20/.	70	~	~	490	10	8
Total					£	2527	18	5

/Signed/ W^m. Armstrong
Cap^t. 64th. A. D. Q M. Gen^l

[Excerpt of Enclosure No. 4 to Sir Guy Carleton Letter to Hon. Thomas Townshend dated Apr. 13, 1783]

Return of Deficiencies of Cloathing & Necessaries of the Anspach's Troops, by being detained in Chester County. Lancaster, March 15, 1783...

Total £	2906	5	11
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/Signed/ George Daig
Pay & Quarter Master

Major to the Anspach Troops

[Excerpt of Enclosure No. 5 to Sir Guy Carleton Letter to Hon. Thomas Townshend dated Apr. 13, 1783]

Return of Deficiencies of Cloathing & Necessaries missing by being detained in Chester County,
belonging to the Hessian Troops Lancaster, March 15, 1783...

Total £	81.	17.	9
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Signed Lewis Flackshaar
Pay & Qu^r. Master Major
of Reg^t. de Bose –

[Excerpt of Enclosure No. 6 to Sir Guy Carleton Letter to Hon. Thomas Townshend dated Apr. 13, 1783]

Copy

Total Amount of Deficiencies in the British and German Cloathing with all Extraordinary
Expences incurred by the Stopping of it in Chester County whilst on its way from Wilmington to
Lancaster – Philadelphia 19: March 1783...

Total	£	6287	18	2
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Errors Excepted
/Signed/ W^m.. Armstrong
Cap^t. 64th: A. D. Q. M. Gen^l.

Source and Note: TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Apr. – June 1783* at CO 5/109, ff. 78-98 and also filed at PRO 30/55/65/2 and 3, Items 7165 and 7166. The return of lost Ansbach clothing dated Mar. 15, 1783 is also filed at PRO 30/55/64/93, Item 7133. The return of lost Hessian clothing dated Mar. 15, 1783 is also filed at PRO 30/55/64/94, Item 7134.

**Sherriff John Gardner, Chester County, Ordered to Appear Before the Pennsylvania
Supreme Executive Council to Account for over £5500 of Embezzled
Clothing for British and German Prisoners of War, Philadelphia, Mar. 22, 1783**

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Saturday, March 22nd, 1783.

Present:

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President

The Honorable James Ewing, Esquire, Vice President.

Honourable James Irvine,	John Piper
John M ^c Dowell,	James Cunningham
John Van Campen,	Sebastian Levan
Dorsey Pentecost,	Christopher Hayes.
James Potter,	

The Council taking into consideration the papers remitted to them by the General Assembly, from which it appears that cloathing for British prisoners of war, to the value of five thousand five hundred and twenty-seven pounds five shillings and one penny, being part of the good lately seized in Chester county, has been embezzled and not delivered to the order of the Secretary at War in pursuance of the directions of Council on the sixth instant, whereby the honour and interest of the State are greatly affected; thereupon,

[Enclosure from *Pennsylvania Archives*]

Philadelphia, 25th March 1783.

List of Waggoners' Names who did not arrive at Lancaster with the British Cloathing with which they were loaded at Wilmington, from Flag of truce Ship Amazon, John Floyd, Master.

Thomas Tally,	Elisha Baldwin,
Phillip Jackson,	W ^m . Sharpely,
Jasper Basson,	W ^m . Tally,
W ^m . McClintock,	W ^m . Reid,
W ^m . Long,	David Cochran,
Isaac Johnson,	Ja ^s . Adams,
Tho ^s . Bird,	And ^w . Gibson,
W ^m . Elliot,	Tho ^s . Gibson,
Jn ^o . Frame,	James Robertson,
Geo. Waddle,	Joseph Boggs,
Isaac Miller,	John Price,
Thomas Cloud,	Charles Springer,
Wm. Cloud,	Solomon Price,
John Forward,	John Miller,
Tho ^s . Bird,	Maj ^r Dan ^l Adams, drove by a Negro.
Elisha Tally,	John Crosby,
George Davis,	And ^w . Reed,
Joseph Loyd,	Jeremiah Wilson,
John Booth,	Adam Glendinning.

Total, 38 – W^m. Armstrong, Cap^t. 64th.

Sources: TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Apr. – June 1783* at CO 5/109, ff. 78-98 and PRO 30/55/65/49, Item 7212 also *Pennsylvania Archives*, Vol. X, Ed. Samuel Hazard, Philadelphia, 1854, Google Books, p. 13.

Letter from Pennsylvania Pres. John Dickinson to Dep. Asst. Quarter Master Gen. William Armstrong, Reporting that Sherriff of Chester County Ordered to Return Embezzled Clothing, Philadelphia, Mar. 27, 1783

Copy

Philadelphia March 27th. 1783

Sir,

Upon your representations, [Pennsylvania Executive] Council have given the strictest orders to [John Gardner] the Sherriff of the Chester County, to exert the utmost diligence in securing the goods that have been not yet delivered to you, and to make report to Council this Day Week.

I am, Sir, Your most obed^t. Servant

/Signed/ John Dickinson

[Asst. Dep. Quarter Master Gen.] Captain [Lt. and Capt William] Armstrong

Source: TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Apr. – June 1783* at CO 5/109, ff. 78-98.



Detail of Portrait of Hon. Thomas Townshend (later baron Sydney), 1785, attributed to Gilbert Stuart

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons, from State Library of New South Wales

**Letter No. 69 from Gen. Sir Guy Carleton, Commander in Chief, to the Rt. Hon. Thomas Townshend, Home Secretary, Regarding the Clothing for Prisoners “*Embezzled & Lost*,”
New York, Apr. 13, 1783**

[Cover Sheet – Letter No. 69]

Nº. 69 New York 13th April 1783
Sir Guy Carleton KB.
Rx 14th May By the Halifax Pq^t.
Nine Inclosures

[Letter]

Nº: 69.

New York April 13th..1783

Sir,

I inclose such letters and papers as have been given me by Captain [Lt. and Capt. William] Armstrong [64th Regt.] Assistant Deputy Quarter Master General, containing his further proceedings in the matter of the Clothing for the prisoners sent under his care to Lancaster [penneslvania], by which You will observe that a considerable loss has been incurred in consequence of the seizure of that Clothing.

It is impossible upon this occasion not to remark the impotence, both of Congress and the provincial assembly, who, tho’ willing, as it appears, were not able to protect this Clothing from the ravage of private persons, of effectually to compel a restitution or an adequate satisfaction of any kind.

I am, Sir, Your most obedient and most humble Servant

Right Honorable
Thomas Townshend

Guy Carleton

[Enclosure No. 1 – Cover Sheet]

Copy

Captain [Lt. and Captain William] Armstrong [Asst. Dep. Quarter Master Gen.]
to Brig^r. Gen^l. [Robert] Abercromby [Qr. Master Gen.]
March 7th. 1783

In [Gen.] Sir Guy Carleton’s

Nº. 69 – of 13th April 1783
(Nº. 1)

[Letter]

Copy

Philadelphia 7th.. March 1783

Sir,

In mine of the 28th. Ultimo [Feb.], I mentioned that I was just going to set off for Dillworth's Tavern to receive the clothing stopped in Chester County & stored there, I accordingly went that Evening to Chester, next morning I arrived there with waggons sufficient to take everything away, with which I expected to be in Lancaster in two days, but to my great Mortification & disappointment the Gentlemen Seizors would not allow me to move anything until the Assembly paid down their Expences or charges which they had promised to reimburse. Knowing Arguments in vain with them, I did not make use of any, only requested their reasons in waiting for still detaining the Goods, which I next morning laid before the Committee of Assembly with my letters on the subject. Since last Monday they have been deliberating on it and Yesterday determined to allow the Seizors £500 as their expences /they Charged £1200/ and passed a resolve empowering the Board of War to have the Goods effectually & immediately delivered up, for which purpose [Rebel] Major [William] Jackson, Ass^t. Secretary at War setts off with me to Morrow Morning – Barring any further Accidents or unforeseen obsticles, I expect to have everything in Lancaster, by next Tuesday afternoon, but until I have delivered them to Major [James] Gordon [80th Regt], I will not think my self certain of any thing.

I received yours & assure you it gives me much pleasure that my conduct meets with your Approbation. I assure you, Sir, it ever will be my study to deserve it, and that I am with real esteem

Your most obed^t. Humble Servant

B^r. Gen^l. [Robert] Abercromby

/Signed/ W^m. Armstrong

Q^r. Master General –

[Enclosure No. 2 – Cover Sheet]

Copy

Captain [Lt. and Captain William] Armstrong

A.D.Q. M. General

to

L^t. Colo [Oliver] Delancy A. [Adj.] Gen^l.

New York 4th April 1783

In [Gen.] Sir Guy Carleton's

Nº. 69 – of 13th April 1783

(Nº. 2)

[Letter]

Copy

New York 4th: April 1783

Sir,

For the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, I have the honor, to enclose you copies of the Returns of the deficiencies in the British, Hessian and Anspach clothing, Embezzled and lost whilst they were detained in Chester County Pennsylvania; as also a General Recapitulation of the amount of the losses & expences attending the detention.

I also enclose copies of my two last letters on the subject to Major Jackson Assistant Secretary at War, at Philadelphia, and to M^r [John] Dickinson, president of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania /to whom the further settlement of this business was left by the Assembly/ with his Answer.

These Returns & Letters will show the steps I have taken to obtain proper redress.

I have the honor to be S^r. &^c.

L^t. Colonel [Oliver] DeLancy

/Signed/ W^m. Armstrong

Adj^t. General &^c. –

A. D. Q. M^r. [Asst. Dep. Quarter Master] Gen^l.

[Enclosure No. 3 – Cover Sheet]

Return of Clothing & Necessaries belonging to different British
Regiment Embezzled & lost by being stopped whilst on their way from
Wilmington [Delaware] to Lancaster [Pennsylvania] –

A Copy of this given on to the War Office at Philadelphia by [Capt. Lt.
and] Capⁿ. Armstrong 64th Reg^t. on the 19th March 1783 –

In Sir Guy Carleton's
N^o. 69 – of 13th April 1783
N^o. 3.

[Return]

Copy **Return** of Clothing & Necessaries belonging to different British Regiments & Corps &
Cost owing to their being detained whilst on their way from Wilmington to Lancaster..
Pennsy^a. Curry 7/6 Dollars

			[£]	[Sh.]	[d]	[£]	[Sh.]	[d]
Royal Artillery	23 White Shirts	15/. each	£ 16	10	~	80	5	10
	21 Check d ^o .	9/	9	9	~			
	16 pair Linen Trowsers	8/4	6	13	4			
	16 pair Cloth	22/6	18	~	~			
	36 pair Stockings	7/6	13	10	~			
	15 pair Worsted d ^o .	1/8	1	5	~			
	18 pair Shoes	12/.	10	16	~			
	15 night Caps	2/.	1	10	~			
	4 pair Shoe Soles	3/9	~	15	~			
	15 velvet Stocks	2/6	1	17	6			
Brigade of Guards	8 Serjeants Coats	a 175/. each	70	~	~			
	8 d ^o . Waistcoats	35/.	14	~	~			
	8 d ^o . Breeches	35/	14	~	~			
	14 Shirts and Rollers	20/.	14	~	~			
	8 Hatts	35/	14	~	~			
	14 pairs Shoes	12/.	8	8	~			
	12 pairs Stockings	7/6	1	10	~			
	3 Drummers Coats	70/	10	10	~			
	3 d ^o . Waistcoats	17/6	2	12	6			
	3 d ^o . Breeches	17/6	2	12	6			
	3 Hatts	30/.	4	10	~			
	8 Shirts and Rollers	15/.	6	~	~			
	8 pairs Shoes	12/.	4	16	~			
	8 pairs Stockings	7/6	3	~	~			
	36 Rank & File Coats	70/.	126	~	~			
	36 Waistcoats & Breeches	17/6	63	~	~			
	48 Hatts	30/.	72	~	~			
	322 Shirts and Rollers	15/.	241	10	~			

	93 pairs Shoes	12/.	55	16	~			
	300 pairs Stockings	7/6	112	10	~			
	32 pairs Soles & Heels	3/9	6	~	~			
	6 yards superfine Scarlet Cloth	60/.	18	~	~	868	15	
	Carried forward		~	~	£	949	~	10

Return of Deficiencies Continued								
		Brought Forward £	~	~	£	949	~	10
17 th . Dragoons	2 pairs Shoes Soles	a 3/9		7	6			
	2 Handkerchiefs	a 3/9		7	6	~	15	~
7 th . Foot	38 pair Breeches	a 17/6	34	15	~			
	38 Waistcoats	17/6	34	15	~	69	10	~
17 th Foot	12 pair Shoes	12/.	7	4	~			
	5 Shirts	15/.	3	13	~			
	5 Coats	70/.	17	10	~			
	18 Yards legging Cloth	15/.	13	10	~			
	10 pair Breeches	17/6	18	15	~	50	14	~
23 ^d . Reg ^t .	1 Shirt	15/.	~	15	~			
	3 pair Soles & Heels	3/9	~	11	3			
	189 pair Stockings	7/6	70	17	6			
	32 Night Caps	2/.	3	4	~			
	35 pair Mitts	1/8	2	1	8			
	4 Coats	70/.	14	~	~	91	9	5
22 nd . Reg ^t .	15¾ yards Cloth	15/.	11	16	3			
	4 pair Leggings	22/6	4	10	~	16	6	3
Captain [James] Ingram 33 rd . Reg ^t .	2 yards Scarlet	60/.	6	~	~			
	3 yards Rattinet [thin wool]	6/.	~	18	~			
	3 dozen plated Buttons	8/.	1	4	~			
	1 dozen small	4/.	~	4	~			
	4 pieces Nankeen [cotton]	28/.	5	12	~			
	8 yards Linnen	3/.	1	4	~			
	1 yard Cambrick [linen]	32/.	1	12	~			
	8 pair Stockings	12/.	4	16	~			
	1 Bridle	100/.	5	~	~			
	1 Silver Epaulet & lace		5	19	2	32	9	2
L ^t [James Leigh] Harvey 33 ^d . Reg ^t .	2 yards Superfine Scarlet Cloth	60/.	6	~	~			
	3 yards Rattinet	6/.	~	18	~			
	3 doz ⁿ . large plated Buttons	8/.	1	4	~			
	1 dozen Small d ^o .	4/.	~	4	~			
	2 pieces Nankeen	28/.	2	16	~	11	2	
	Carried forward		~	~	£	1216	6	8

Return of Deficiencies Continued								
		Brought Forward	~	~	£	1216	6	8
	2½ yards Marseilles quilting	16/.	2	~	~			
L ^t Harvey	1 Silver Epaulet & lace		5	19	2			
	8½ yards Linnen	3/.	1	5	6			

33 ^d . Reg ^t	Silk Twist thread & ^c		~	13	~			
	26 yards Linnen	7/9	10	1	6			
	1¼ yards Cambrick	30/.	1	17	6			
	6 Linnen Handkerchiefs	4/6	1	7	~			
	6 pair Stockings	12/.	3	12	~		26	15
33 rd . Reg ^t .	424 Needles		1	1	3			
	10 Thimbles		~	7	6			
	1 Roller		~	~	3			
	14 pair Stockings	8/.	5	12	~			
	3 Shirts	16/.	2	8	~			
	4 pair Scissors	2	~	8	~			
	15 pair Shoes	12	9	~	~			
	63 Night Caps	2	6	6	~			
	32 pairs Soles & Heels	3/9	6	~	~			
	15 Stocks	2/6	1	17	6			
	1 peice Black tape		~	5	~			
	137 yards Legging Cloth	15/.	102	15	~			
	18 yards Waistcoat d ^o .	15/.	13	10	~		149	10
37 th . Reg ^t .	4 pair Trowsers	22/6	~	~	~		4	10
38 th . Reg ^t .	7 Waistcoats	3/.	6	2	6			
	1 pair Shoes			12				
	1 pair Soles & Heels			3	9		6	18
42 nd Reg ^t .	6 Bonnets	3/9	1	2	6			
	12 pair Soles & Heels	3/9	2	5	~			
	8 pair Stockings	6/.	2	8	~			
	1 Night Cap		~	2	~			
	11 Velvet Stocks	2/6	2	12	6			
	24 Black Feathers	7/6	9	~	~			
	6 Stock Buckles	3/.	~	18	~		18	8
Carried Forward			~	~	£		1422	9
								1

Return of Deficiencies Continued								
42 nd Reg ^t .	Brought Forward		~	~	£	1422	9	1
	2 pair half Gaters	5/.	~	10	~			
	3 peices lace	3/9	~	11	3	1	1	3
43 ^d . Reg ^t .	16 Shirts	15/.	12	~	~			
	13 pair Shoes	12/.	7	16	~			
	46 pair Stockings	8/.	18	8	~			
	61 pairs Soles & Heels	3/9	11	8	9			
	14 velvet Stocks	2/6	1	15	~			
	11 Stock Buckles	3/.	1	13	~			
	14 Night Caps	2/.	1	8	~			
	46 Rollers	9 ^d	1	14	6			
	4 ^{lb} Thread	17/6	3	10	~			
	9 pair Mitts	1/8		15	~	60	8	3
63 ^d . Reg ^t .	2 pair Stockings	7/6	~	15	~			
	2 pair Leggings	22/6	3	7	6			
	3 pair Breeches	17/6	2	12	6	6	15	~

64 th . Reg ^t .	20 pair Soles & Heels	39	3	15	~	7	7	~
	4 pound Thread	176	3	10	~			
	1 Corporals Epaulet		~	2	~			
71 st . Reg ^t .	100 yards Hose Cloth	3/9	18	5	~	91	6	9
	12 Shirts	15/.	9	~	~			
	4 pair Shoes	12/.	2	8	~			
	69 pair Garters	1/.	3	9	~			
	4 pounds Thread	17/6	3	10	~			
	193 Bonnets	3/9	36	3	9			
	1 Night Cap		~	2	~			
	193 pairs Mitts	1/8	16	1	6			
L ^t Campbell 74 th . Reg ^t .	10 pairs Soles & Heels	3/9	1	17	6	22	15	4
	1 Case Surgeons Instruments		8	15	~			
	1 Sett d ^o teeth d ^o		5	~	~			
	A number of Books on Physick & ^c .		9	~	~			
Carried forward			~	~	£	1612	2	4

Return of Deficiencies continued								
74 th . Reg ^t .	Brought Forward		~	~	£	1612	2	4
	18 Shirts	at 15/.	13	10	~			
	87 pairs Shoes	12/.	52	4	~			
	30 pair Soles & Heels	3/.	9	7	6			
	2 Stocks	2/6	~	5	~			
	7 Plaids	45/.	15	15	~			
	4½ yards Sup ^c Brown Cloth	50/.	28	15	~			
Cap ^t . Graham{ L ^t . Martin 76 th . Reg ^t .	6 yards Black do ^r	50/.	15	~	~	134	16	6
	Imbroidered Waistcoat		5	5	~			
	1 pair Silk Breeches		3	10	~			
	1 Bedstead		5	~	~			
	4 Serjeants Coats	105/.	21	~	~			
	2 ¹³ / ₁₆ yards Scarlet Cloth	48/.	6	6	~			
	1 ¾ d ^o . d ^o .	48/.	4	4	~			
	7 Bonnets	3/9	1	6	3			
	56 Shirts	15/.	42	~	~			
	34 pair Shoes	12/.	20	18	~			
80 th . Reg ^t .	6 pair Soles & Heels	3/9	1	2	6	168	3	5
	40 pair Garters	1/.	2	~	~			
	16 pair Mitts	1/8	1	6	8			
	140 Black Feathers	7/6	54	15	~			
	1 Serjeants Coat	105/.	5	5	~			
	2 p ^r . d ^o . Breeches	25/.	2	10	~			
	2 Silver laced Hatts	35/.	3	10	~			
	6 Serjeants Shirts	20/.	6	~	~			
80 th . Reg ^t .	19 pair Stockings	7/6	7	2	6	168	3	5
	1 yard Scarlet Cloth	48/.	2	8	~			
	5 private Coats	70/.	17	10	~			
	45 Shirts	15/.	33	15	~			
	60 pairs Mitts	1/8	5	~	~			
	60 pairs Shoes	12/.	12	~	~			

	35 pair Stockings	/6	13	2	6			
	24 Caps	2/	2	8	~			
	41 Black Stocks	2/6	5	2	6	115	13	6
	Carried Forward		~	~	£	2030.	15	9

Return of Deficiencies continued								
		Brought Forward	~	~	£	2030.	15	9
80 th . Reg ^t .	2 private Hatts	10/.	1	~	~			
	4 lb. Thread	17/6	3	10	~			
	3 Gross Hooks & Eyes	12/.	1	16	~			
	8 Thimbles	9 ^d .	~	6	~	6	12	~
Convention Troops furnished by Colonel Innes Inspector General	20 Coats	70/.	70	~	~			
	20 Waistcoats	17/6	17	10	~			
	20 pair Breeches	17/6	17	10	~			
	173 pairs Shoes	12/.	103	16	~			
	14 Shirts	15/.	10	10	~			
	648 pair Soles & Heels	3/9	121	10	~			
	14 pair Stockings	6/.	4	4				
	7 pair Mitts	1/8	~	11	8			
	7 night Caps	2/.	~	14				
	47 Velvet Stocks	2/6	5	17	6			
	7 pair Leggings	22/6	7	17	6			
	70 Stock Buckles	3/.	10	10	~			
	100 Hatts	10/.	50	~	~			
	70 Camp Kettles	20/.	70	~	~	490	10	8
Total					£	2527	18	5

/Signed/ W^m. Armstrong
Cap^t. 64th. A. D. Q M. Gen^l

[Enclosure No. 4 – Cover Sheet]

Return of Deficiencies of Clothings and Necessaries of the Anspach
Troops –

Lancaster March 15th 1783
£2906..5..11

In Sir Guy Carleton's
N^o. 69 – of 13 April 1783
(N^o. 4)

[Excerpt of Return]

Return of Deficiencies of Cloathing & Necessaries of the Anspach's Troops, by being detained in Chester
County. Lancaster, March 15, 1783...

Total £	2906	5	11
---------	------	---	----

/Signed/ George Daig
Pay & Quarter Master
Major to the Anspachs Troops

[Enclosure No. 5 – Cover Sheet]

Copy

Return of Deficiencies of Clothings and Necessaries missing by being
detained in Chester County, belonging to the Hessian Troops –
Lancaster March 15th 1783

In Sir Guy Carleton's
N^o. 69 – of 13th April 1783
(N^o. 5)

[Excerpt of Return]

Return of Deficiencies of Cloathing & Necessaries missing by being detained in Chester County,
belonging to the Hessian Troops Lancaster, March 15, 1783...

Total £	81.	17.	9
---------	-----	-----	---

Signed Lewis Flackshaar
Pay & Qu^r. Master Major
of Reg^t. de Bose –

[Enclosure No. 6 – Cover Sheet]

Copy

General account of Deficiencies & Expences incurred by the loss and
Detention of the British & German Cloathing in Chester County. The
Original given in to the [Rebel] War Office at Philadelphia by Cap^t [Lt.
and Capt. William] Armstrong on the 19th. of March 1783.

In Sir Guy Carleton's
N^o. 69 – of 13th April 1783
(N^o. 6)

[Account]

Copy

Total Amount of Deficiencies in the British and German Cloathing with all Extraordinary
Expences incurred by the Stopping of it in Chester County whilst on its way from Wilmington to
Lancaster – Philadelphia 19: March 1783...

	[£]	[Sh.]	[d]
Amount of Deficiencies in the British Cloathing as p Ret ⁿ .	2527	18	5
Ditto Ditto Hessian Ditto	81	17	9
Ditto Ditto Anspach Ditto	2906	5	11
Extra charges paid for Waggons when prevented receiving the Cloth ^g .	96
Expences of French Guards f ^m . Wilmington to Philadelphia & Lancaster	31	17	6
Ditto for Four Expresses from d ^o . to d ^o . & d ^o .	21
Captain Armstrongs Expences from the 1 st . Jan ^y . the day the Cloth ^g } was stopped to the 11 th . of March the day he received it again }	245
Quarter Master Tilt his assistant Ditto Ditto	122	10	-
Qu ^r . Master Flackshaar Hessian d ^o . Ditto ditto	61	5	..
Qu ^r . Master Daig Anspach ditto ditto ditto	61	5	..

Exchange at £ 6 <i>pCent</i> on £515..10,, which Cap ^t . Armstrong was obliged to draw in New York to pay the above expences	}			
	}	30	18	7
Total amount of Cap ^t . Armstrongs Charges	£	6185	18	2
Charges given in to Cap ^t . Armstrong by [Wm.] Davis & [Wm. Sharpley]	}	102		
Sharpely for the time with Twenty three Waggons were detained by the	}			
people who stopped and Seized the Clothing &c	}			
Total	£	6287	18	2

Errors Excepted

Signed W^m.. Armstrong

Cap^t 64th A. D. QM Gen^l.

[Enclosure No. 7 – Cover Sheet]

Copy

Cap^t [Lt. and Capt. William] Armstrong

A.D. Q. M^r. General

to

Major [William] Jackson

Ass^t. Sec^y. of State [War]

Philadelphia 19th. of March 1783.

In Sir Guy Carleton's

N^o. 69 – of 13th April 1783

(N^o. 7)

[Letter]

To Major [William] Jackson } Copy

Ass^t. Secretary at War }

Philadelphia 19th. March 1783

Sir,

With this I send you a list of the dificiencies of Necessaries Embezzled and lost, by being detained in Chester County.

To each article mentioned in the return, I have affixed the price paid for in England or New York, If the value is to be returned it will still be necessary to ascertain how much more it will require to purchase articles of equal goodness in this place, or Lancaster, but if possible I would much rather have such articles laid down at Lancaster than their value in money.

I also send with the abovementioned return a Recapitulation of the deficiencies and extraordinary expences incurred by the detention of the Clothing &c. which to the best of my knowledge I believe to be just and exact.

I am perfectly convinced that if proper methods are immediately taken a large part of the deficient articles may still be found in Chester County particularly Four entire waggon loads secreted by the Waggoners /for what purpose I can't say/ whose names I have never been able to find out as the Sherriff of Chester County wou'd not give me a list of those that were stopped nor of the articles seized. –

As I am informed the assembly of this state is to rise on Friday next, I am to request you will take the earliest opportunity of laying those accounts before it.

As you have had the principal management of this disagreeable business I still address you upon it altho' [Sec. at War] General [Benjamin] Lincoln is now present.

I am &c

/Signed/ W^m. Armstrong

Cap^t. 64th Regiment

A.D. Q. M. Gen^l.

[Enclosure No. 8 – Cover Sheet]
Copy
Cap^t [Lt. and Capt. William] Armstrong
to
[Pennsylvania] Presid^t [John] Dickinson
Phil^a. 25th. March 1783.

In Sir Guy Carleton's
N^o. 69 – of 13th April 1783
(N^o. 8)

[Letter]

copy/ Philadelphia 25th: March 1783
His Excellency }
Presid^t: [John] Dickenson }

Sir –

Inclosed I send you a list of the Waggoners names who were stopped in Chester County when on their way with British and German Cloathing from Wilmington [Delaware] to Lancaster [Pennsylvania].

As Sherriff [John] Gardner says Four of the Waggon were not stopped along with the other Thirty four, he will now be able to ascertain their names.

But as it was certainly owing to the others being stopped that they did not proceed to Lancaster, I must expect that he will find them out and see that they do proceed accordingly where a receipt will be given for every Article and the amount deducted from the return of Deficiencies that I gave in on the 19th. Instant. But as there is now a prospect that our prisoners may soon be sent to New York it will be necessary to limit the time of delivery to a short period.

As I have business which obliges me to return to New York and prevents my being able to wait for the Completion of this Business, I am to request your Excellencys answer to my requisitions of the 19th. Instant in order that I may lay it before His Excellency [Gen.] Sir Guy Carleton. –

If thought necessary I don't suppose there will be any objection made to my returning here some time hence to finish it –

I am &^c.
S^d. W^m. Armstrong
Cap^t. 64th. ADQM Gen^l.

[Enclosure No. 9 – Cover Sheet]
Copy
[Pennsylvania] President [John] Dickinson
to
Cap^t [Lt. and Capt. William] Armstrong
Philadelphia 27th. March 1783

In [Gen.] Sir Guy Carleton's
N^o. 69 – of 13th April 1783
(N^o. 9)

[Letter]

Copy Philadelphia March 27th. 1783

Sir,

Upon your representations, [Pennsylvania Executive] Council have given the strictest orders to [John Gardner] the Sherriff of the Chester County, to exert the utmost diligence in securing the goods that have been not yet diliver'd to you, and to make report to Council this Day Week.

I am, Sir, Your most obed^t. Servant

/Signed/ John Dickinson

[Asst. Dep. Quarter Master Gen.] Captain [Lt. and Capt. William] Armstrong

Source and Notes: TNA, *Colonial Office: Secretary of State, Military Dispatches, Apr. – June 1783* at CO 5/109, ff. 78-98. Gen. Carleton's letter to Thomas Townshend dated Apr. 13, 1783 is also filed at TNA, PRO 30/55/66/123, Item 7409. Capt. Armstrong's letter to Brig. Gen. Abercromby dated Mar. 7, 1783 is also filed at TNA, PRO 30/55/64/40, Item 7080. Armstrong's letter to Lt. Col. DeLancy dated Apr. 4, 1783 is also filed at TNA, PRO 30/55/66/21, Item 7307. The return of lost Ansbach clothing, signed by George Daig, dated Mar. 15, 1783 is also filed at TNA, PRO 30/55/64/93, Item 7133. The return of lost Hessian clothing signed by Lewis Flackshaar, dated Mar. 15, 1783 is also filed at TNA, PRO 30/55/64/94, Item 7134. Armstrong's letter to Maj. Jackson, dated Mar. 19, 1783 is also filed at TNA, PRO 30/55/65/3, Item 7166. Armstrong's letter to President Dickinson dated Mar. 25, 1783 is also filed at TNA, PRO 30/55/65/49, Item 7212. Paroled Maj. James Gordon, 80th Regt. was the senior British Officer staying with the British Prisoners in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Townshend left the Office of Home Secretary, Apr. 2, 1783. British prisoners were released May-June, 1783.

Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania Allows Released British Prisoners of War to Pass Through City on March to New York; Philadelphia, May 7, 1783

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Wednesday, May 7th, 1783.

Present:

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President

The Honorable James Ewing, Esquire, Vice President.

Honourable James Irvine,

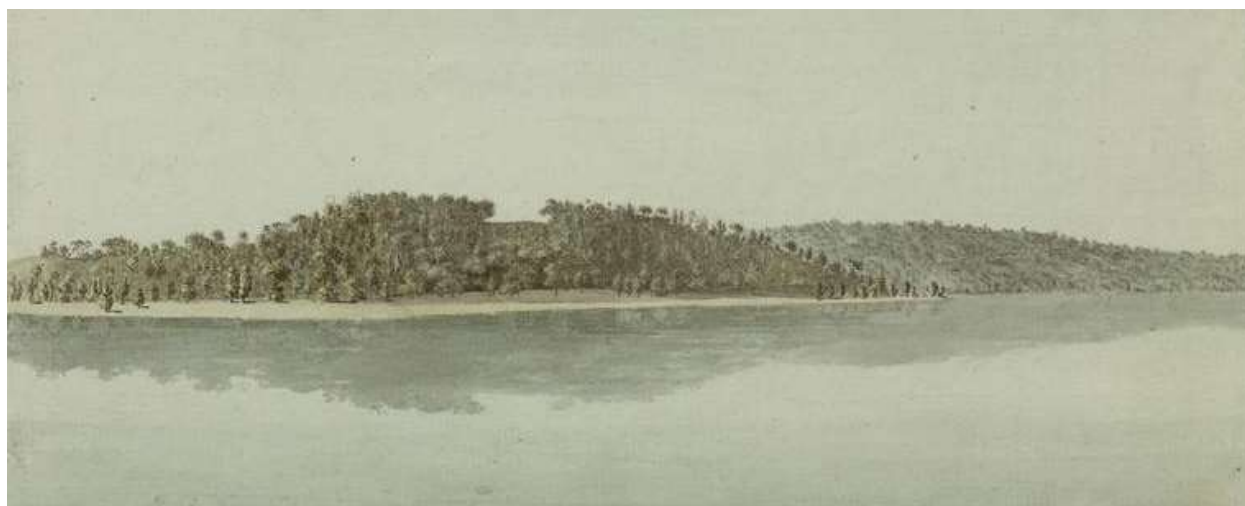
Christopher Hayes.

John Van Campen,

George Wall.

Ordered, That the British prisoners now in march for New York from the different places of their confinement, have permission to pass through this city...

Source: *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, of Pennsylvania*, Vol. XIII, Published by the State, Harrisburg, 1853, Google Books, pp. 572.



Detail from "Staten Island/ Cap" Bellew Del^t. 1777," by Patrick Bellew

Picture Source: *King George III's Personal Coloured Views Collection*, British Lib., London

**Newspaper Account of Released British Prisoners Arriving,
Staten Island, New York, May 9, 1783**

NEW-YORK, May 10.

The first division of the British prisoners enlarged from Philadelphia, in consequence of the provisional articles of peace with America, arrived yesterday at Staten Island.

Source: *Pennsylvania Packet*, May 15, 1783, p. 3.



Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sir Guy Carleton

Wikimedia Commons, from *National Archives of Canada*

**Commander in Chief Gen. Sir Guy Carleton's Orders to Report Cost of
"Embezzled" Clothing and Necessaries for British and German Prisoners of War,
New York, Nov. 17, 1783**

Head Quarters New York 17th November 1783...

Memorandum...

Returns to be given in by tomorrow Evening to Cap^t [Lt. and Capt. William] Armstrong Dep^y Q^r M^r Gen^l at the Q^r M^r Gen^{ls} Office by the Regiments who had necessaries embezzled last winter whilst going from Wilmington to their Prisoners at Lancaster: These Returns are to Specify the Articles lost and the prices they really Cost or are charged against the Regiments –

Source and Note: TNA, *Entry Book of General Orders, Orders Issued by His Excellency General Sir Guy Carleton at New York*, at WO 28/9/215-216, ff. 286 – 482. On Oct. 4, 1783 the 42nd Regt. had embarked for its next duty station of Halifax, Nova Scotia.