

Mr. Duplessis Brevet should bear the same date, vizt. the 26th. November.

I have the honor, etc.¹⁴

GENERAL ORDERS

Head-Quarters, V. Forge, Wednesday, January 14, 1778.

Parole Perseverance. Countersigns Peace, Plenty.

The Majors of Brigade will deliver a list of the Field Officers in the Several brigades to which they belong tomorrow at orderly-time.

The Court-Martial which was to sit this day, to sit tomorrow ten o'Clock at the Bake-House near Head-Quarters.

To COUNT RULASKI

Head Quarters, January 14, 1778.

Sir: Your Letter of the 9th. Instant was delivered to me Yesterday, and I immediately acquainted the Forage Master General with such parts of it as related to his Department. If proper Magazines for the Subsistence of the cavalry cannot be formed at Trenton this is an insurmountable obstacle to their quartering there, and they must of necessity be removed to Flemington or some other convenient place in that neighbourhood, where the proper supplies can be obtained. But if the only objection to Trenton be a little difficulty that may at first occur in procuring the most desirable Quarters for the Officers and Men I would not have any time lost in seeking farther, the Barracks and the Town together will certainly furnish ample Quarters for the Galley Men and the Cavalry. The latter may with more propriety be billeted on the Inhabitants, in order to have their Horses immediately under their eye.

¹⁴In the writing of John Laurens. It is indorsed as read in Congress on January 19 and "request granted." The draft, also in Laurens's writing, varies in many, but not important, particulars.

*Original in Washington Papers,
vol. 65, Lib. Cong.*

As so much has been said of the Character and abilities of Mr. Crovatch,¹⁸ I have no objection to his being engaged in the capacity of Exercise Master for a few months; at the same time I must caution you against a fondness for introducing foreigners into the Service; their ignorance of the Language of the Country and of the genius and manners of the people, frequently occasion difficulties and disgusts which we should not run the risque of, Unless it be in favour of extraordinary Talents and good Qualities. I shall give orders to the Quarter Master to employ the Armourer at Boston for the Service of the Cavalry, provided he has not been previously engaged in any other way, by the Commissary of Military Stores.

I must postpone any decision with respect to the Horses, until the arrival of the Committee of Congress, as I am in daily expectation of those Gentlemen. I hope you will not be long kept in suspense, if you can in the mean time, engage the Owners to keep their Horses on the spot, you will take every proper step for that purpose. I have no objection to your making Trial of the abilities of Mr. Bedkin¹⁹ as Brigade Major for the present, it will soon be discovered whether he is equal to the Office. I am, &c.¹⁷

GENERAL ORDERS

Head-Quarters, V. Forge, Thursday, January 15, 1778.

Parole _____ Countersigns _____.

Colos. Humpton¹⁸ and Gibson,¹⁹ Lt. Colo. Vose²⁰ and Majors Fernald²¹ and Ball²² are appointed to repair to the several

¹⁷ Michael de Kowatz. He became commandant of the lancers of Pulaski's Legion, and was killed before Charleston, S. C., in May, 1779.

¹⁸ Henry Bedkin. He was a Pennsylvanian; had been adjutant of the Fourth Continental Dragoons and was appointed a captain in Pulaski's Legion in April, 1778; served to the close of the war.

¹⁹ The draft is in the writing of John Laurens.

²⁰ Col. Richard Humpton, of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Regiment.

²¹ Col. George Gibson, of the First Virginia Regiment.

²² Lieut. Col. Elijah Vose, of the First Massachusetts Regiment.

²³ Maj. Tobias Fernald, of the Twelfth Massachusetts Regiment.

²⁴ Maj. Burgess Ball, of the Fifth Virginia Regiment.