

Edward Braddock to George Washington, May 15, 1755, Instructions, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM GENERAL BRADDOCK. ¹

FORT CUMBERLAND May 15, 1755.

Instructions to George Washington Esq.

1. You will repair to Hampton in Virginia with as much expedition as may be; and immediately upon your Arrival. there you will apply to John Hunter Esqr.² for the Sum of Four thousand pounds Sterling, for which you will receive [mutilated] from Mr. Johnston, Deputy paymaster, payable to yourself.
2. You will acquaint Mr. Hunter from me that His Majesty's Service under my direction, requires the further Sum of ten thousand pounds Sterling, to be sent to Fort Cumberland at this place, within the space of two Months at farthest from this day, to be entrusted to the Care of such person as he shall choose for that purpose, who upon his arrival at the Fort with it, shall have a proper [mutilated] appointed him for the safe Custody of it.
3. You will also acquaint Mr. Hunter that [mutilated] he shall send with the said Money shall [mutilated] reasonable allowance for his trouble; and that the Expense of Insurance and all other Charges that may necessarily attend the Sending it shall be allow'd.

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4. You will continue at Hampton no longer than two Days at the farthest, and if you cannot in that time get the whole Sum of four thousand pounds from Mr. Hunter you will return to me as Speedily as may be with such part of it as you shall be able to receive.

5. You will take care to bring me a positive Answer from Mr. Hunter, whether I may depend upon ten thousand Pounds being sent to Fort Cumberland by the time mentioned in these Instructions.

E. BRADDOCK. CAMP AT

1 Edward Braddock, son of Major-General Edward Braddock, entered the army as ensign in the Coldstream Guards, October 14, 1710; fought a duel with Colonel Waller, with sword and pistols, May 26, 1718; Captain, February 10, 1736; served in Flanders; became Second Major to his regiment in 1743; present at Fontenoy, May 11, 1745; Lieutenant-Colonel, November 21, 1745; Brigadier-General, April 23, 1746; served again in Flanders in 1747–48; colonel Fourteenth Foot, 1753; Major-General, March, 1754, and September 24 Commander-in-chief of His Majesty's forces in America; sailed from England, December 21, and arrived in Virginia, February 19, 1755. He was fatally wounded at the hapless engagement on the Monongahela, July 9; was borne from the field in his officer's sash, improvised as a stretcher, and died on the 31th. inst. following. His arrogance made him obnoxious to both the native soldiery and the Indian allies, and the generally accepted tradition is that he was murdered by one of the former—Thomas Fausett, a subsequent resident of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, who in later years avowed the fact. Braddock's private character appears to have been that of a heartless, broken-down gambler and spendthrift. Yet those who most bitterly censured him allow him certain merits. "Desperate in his fortune, brutal in his behavior, obstinate in his sentiments," says Walpole, "he was still intrepid and capable."—BROCK.

2 Colonel John Hunter, of Hampton, Commissary.