

**George Washington to Henry Knox, April 3, 1776,
Orders, The Writings of George Washington from
the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C.
Fitzpatrick, Editor.**

ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO COLONEL HENRY KNOX

Cambridge, April 3, 1776.

It being of the utmost Importance to the public Service that the main Body of the Regiment of Artillery, together with the Field Cannon, Ammunition, Stores &c. should as speedily as possible be assembled at New York; I have thought proper to give you the following Orders and Instructions.

The Legislature of this Colony, having determined to assemble three Hundred Teams upon the Common in Cambridge between this Day and Saturday next, you will order the Commissary of Ordinance Stores, with the Conductors of Artillery, to be properly assisted in loading all the Amunition and Ordnance Stores into the Teams allotted for the Service of the Artillery.

You will send a Conductor with every Brigade of thirty Teams, to Norwich in Connecticut, whom you will order to receive and obey such Directions as the Commanding Officer at Norwich shall think proper to give.

In loading the Teams at Cambridge, you will take particular Care, to direct the Stores and Ammunition that will be first in Demand at the general Rendezvous, to be first sent forward; such as, the fixed Ammunition the Powder, Musquet Ball, Buck Shot, laboratory Stores, empty Paper Cannon Cartridges, Flints, Fuzes &c. &c. The heavy Stores, Shot,

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and Shells, not so immediately in Request may be sent the last, according as upon the best Information you shall see proper to give Directions.

The covered Waggons taken from the Enemy should carry all the Powder that is to go from hence, and the Tumbrells, the fixed Ammunition. With these, It is my Orders you send Mr. Commissary Cheever, in whose Care, and Guidance it is proper to place your Confidence, for their Security, and Preservation.

All the remaining Field Artillery, and Brass Mortars should march with the two remaining Companies to Norwich, where they will find my Orders for their further Proceedings.

As soon as the whole of the Artillery, Ammunition, Stores, &c. directed by the Instructions, to be sent forward, are upon the March, you will yourself proceed to Norwich in Connecticut, and having seen every Thing before you from thence, you are then with all Dispatch to proceed to New York. Lieut. Colonel Burbeck¹ should, without any Delay, go the directest Road thither and as soon as Lieut. Colo. Mason is able to travel, he must follow. Your Qr. Master should march with the two Companies to-Morrow and your Adjutant you do well to keep with yourself, to carry such Orders as you shall at any Time think necessary to give.

From the great Variety of the Stores and Duties in your Department, there is no such Thing as giving all and every minute Direction necessary to be given upon this Occasion. Trusting in your Zeal, Diligence, and Ability, I remain confident of every Exertion, in your Power, for the public Service.

¹ieut. Col. William Burbeck (or Burbank).