

**George Washington to Samuel McKay, April 11, 1776,
Draft, The Writings of George Washington from the
Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C.
Fitzpatrick, Editor.**

To CAPTAIN SAMUEL MACKAY¹

New Haven, April 11, 1776.

Sir: I received yours of the 9th. instant, and could wish that it was in my Power, consistent with the Duty I owe my Country to grant you the Relief you desire. I have made repeated applications to General Howe for an Exchange of Prisoners, but he has not thought proper to return me any Answer. It has been in his Power to set you at Liberty, and if you are still continued a Prisoner the blame must lay entirely upon him.

The Situation of your Family is indeed distressing; but such is the Event of War, it is far from being singular. The brave Col. Allen an Officer of Rank, has been torn from his dearest Connections, sent to England in Irons, and is now confined to the most servile drudgery on board one of the King's Ships. Your treatment Sir, and that of the other Officers, taken in Arms against the Liberties of America, has been very different, for the Truth of this I appeal to your own feelings.

Whenever it is in my Power to release you, by a Mutual Exchange, I shall do it with the greatest Pleasure and am Sir, etc.²

¹ackay was captain of a company of Canadians, British Provincial troops.

²he draft is in the writing of John 2rumbull.