

George Washington to Horatio Gates, September 10, 1778, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

To MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES

Head Quarters, White Plains, September 10, 1778.

Sir: The superiority of naval force, which the enemy at present possess over our allies, rendering it not improbable, that they may be tempted to undertake a co-operation, by sea and land, for the capture or destruction of the French fleet, in the Port of Boston, it appears expedient, that our dispositions, as far as is consistent with the other important objects of our attention, should be calculated as much as possible, to afford succour in that Quarter. In persuance of this principle and other motives of weight which will occur to you; You are to proceed with the division under your command towards Danbury, taking the route by *Kings Street* and *Bedford* , and making slow and easy marches. You will begin your march tomorrow morning, and halt at some convenient place within six or eight miles of this Camp. Intelligence may be received in the course of the day, which may decide the measure of your future progress; but, if you have no further advice from me, You are to continue your route by proportionable stages to the place of your destination.

For your supplies of provision, forage and other necessaries on the march, you will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements with the Quarter Master and Commissary Generals.¹

[N.Y.H.S.]

Library of Congress

1n the writing of Alexander Hamilton.