

**George Washington to William Maxwell, March 29, 1779,
The Writings of George Washington from the Original
Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick,
Editor.**

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM MAXWELL

Head Quarters, Middlebrook, March 29[–April 1], 1779.

Sir: I received your favor of the 28th. Instant, with the New York paper which it inclosed.

Upon application of commissary Beatty you will give permission to him to send into New York, about 40 bls. flour, eight quarters beef and four or five cords of wood, for the use of our prisoners within the enemies lines.

I have ordered a party of ten with a subaltern, from the Marechose¹ light dragoons, for your particular command.

As it is our interest to bring our cavalry into the field in as good condition as possible, this will point out to you, the precaution of employing them only on such occasions, as are absolutely necessary for the security of the post.

To prevent them from being used on common affairs, the quarter master has orders to provide you with an express rider, which with the one you have, I suppose will be sufficient.²

Library of Congress

I have been favored with your letter of the 31st. Ulto. and the two News-papers. You will continue your exertions in obtaining intelligence from the enemy. I am, etc.³

¹arechaussée corps.

²t this point the draft has the following additional paragraphs, dated 2pril 1, crossed off: "The necessity of establishing signals, or beacons, for the purpose of assembling the militia (in case the enemy should attempt this state in force) has induced me to erect a number of signals, in Summerset, Middlesex &c. and to fix on proper alarm posts to which the militia are to repair for orders. ²s it may be requisite to carry the signals thro' other counties, I have written his Excellency Governor Livingston on the subject. You will be pleased to call upon the officers of Militia in your vicinity, and agree with them on proper alarm posts for their companies, or regiments to assemble to, where they are to receive their orders, and to assist if necessary in erecting the beacons."

³he draft is in the writing of James McHenry.