

**George Washington to Louis le Beque du Portail,
Chevalier Derford, July 27, 1779, The Writings of George
Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources,
1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.**

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL LOUIS LE BÈQUE DU PORTAIL

Head Quarters, West Point, July 27, 1779.

Sir: You will be pleased to make an arrangement of the officers who have presented themselves for appointments in the companies of Sappers and Miners, which I will transmit to the Board of War¹ to obtain their commissions. The numerous drafts that have been made from the line for different purposes would make it inconvenient at this time to take out others for the purpose of forming these companies, which must therefore be supplied 'till men can be recruited, or 'till the situation of the army will better admit a draft. A part of the officers may be employed in the mean time in gaining the necessary previous instruction and in aiding you in the operations of your department; the rest may be sent on the recruiting service. For this purpose I inclose you a warrant for dollars which you will distribute to them in such proportions and with such instructions respecting the qualifications of the men to be engaged as you shall judge proper. A bounty of two hundred dollars is to be given to each man who shall enlist during the war and twenty dollars to the officer as a gratuity for every man so enlisted. The regulations of Congress for the recruiting service in general are to be observed in the present case. The Officers will be accountable for the money they receive. I am, etc.²

¹ee Washington's letter to the President of Congress, Aug. 27, 1779, post.

²he draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.