

**Excerpts from  
The Papers of Colonel William Malcom  
found in the  
The New-York Historical Society**

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*D<sup>r</sup> Sir*

*Camp — Albany Sep<sup>r</sup> 8 1780*

*I got to Albany yesterday morning — landed the Troops and they are now encamped above the Fort — I have sent one officer to Fort Edward and another to Schoharie for Returns &c, & with orders for those Troops to prepare to march — Rendezvouse at Schenectady, where I shall endeavour to have A Quantity of provisions ready against they assemble which they shall carry with them to Fort Scuyler — But Sir — no provisions here, nor no one to get it — M<sup>r</sup> Lush can give me no encouragement nor thinks it proper to make any written report — which I called for to Transmitt to your Excellency — The press warrent will not be of much use — Mills Dry — the wheel to Collect — no body to do it unless I appoint officers — the people here do not seem to care a farthing what comes of any thing but their scalps — Brant is their best Doctor*

*I pray you Sir urge the State Agents to send us up supply, they ought to be now here & forward<sup>d</sup> one in Several convoys for the Winter subsistence of Fort Scuyler — I want hard bread for my own Troops that go into the Woods — no flour bake in — 500 & odd Rations drawn here — in the City only by the Lord knows what they do for it — I shall by & by know more of that — I wish to have the Commissioners & M<sup>r</sup> Gislens Signd —*

*Benscoten goes with my Regt to Schenectady at a Venture — he must feed himself as he can — I send him on because the people above grow doubtful of aid*

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*Rec<sup>d</sup> Lawrence Lieu<sup>t</sup> — app<sup>d</sup> 11 May —*

*Vermont [placed sideways to the below named officers]*

*Jonas Rice*                     \_\_\_\_\_

*Joseph Joy*                   \_\_\_\_\_

*Lieu<sup>t</sup> ab<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 1 or 15 July*

*Zachariah Gilson*

*Ja<sup>s</sup> Blakesly*                 \_\_\_\_\_

*Cap<sup>t</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ d<sup>o</sup>*

*Mr W Bade I know not*

*what Commission — he appears*

*as yet to be oldest Lieu<sup>t</sup> in Co<sup>l</sup>*

*Dubois Reg<sup>t</sup> —*

*your Excellencys*

*most obed Hb<sup>l</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>*

*I am so impatient about  
getting in motion that I*

*W Malcom*

send an officer on to press C<sup>o</sup> Hay & to give your  
Excellency information

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D<sup>r</sup> Gover<sup>r</sup>

Camp at Albany Sep<sup>r</sup> 9 1780

I had the Honor to write you by M<sup>r</sup> Hermanse, who went down this morning — My plan is to have /if possible/ provisions & Troops collect as near as possible to one time at Schenectady & Canejoh<sup>ie</sup> for prov<sup>ns</sup> my dependence I find is entirely on the lower Countys i e for Beef particularly —

I now feel myself at some loss ab<sup>t</sup> the officer to command at Fort Scuyler — I need not trouble your Excellency with a tedious explanation of this Matter — You know or can at once Suggest every circumstance — On the whole I think it must be Pawling who can be spared from his present duty — but I do not think it proper to call him without consulting you — If on consideration of all Circumstances you shall approve of the measure, be pleased to forward the inclosed; or an order from your self as you may think fitt — You know Dubois case & so do you as I am told Benscotens — I wish to have them both with the Troops — & it i cruel to place them there — Livingston & Woolsey go off to the flanks —

a Scout has appeared on the road between Fort George & Fort Edw<sup>d</sup> — Killed a Lieut<sup>t</sup> Coon & Hopkins, & Wounded Co<sup>l</sup> Warner — Ten days more /provisions/ & we make all feaceable — a Commission for M<sup>r</sup> Vromen — forgot pray sign the inclosed —

most Respectfully

your Excellencys

very Ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

W Malcom

— The Commanding officer at Fort George has this day given notice that he has not a Ration — & must evacuate the post — he called for Waggons to bring him off — this among other things evinces the necessity of sending us provisions — the Frontiers there are of consequence — I can get it when some get finly a going —

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D<sup>r</sup> Governor

Albany Sept<sup>r</sup> 14 1780

I am honored with your letter by C<sup>o</sup> Hays — My application for Pawling differs in Complexion from the Views of our Esopus friends — but that matter is Pawlings seeing it proposed will deliver~~d~~ me from Embarresm<sup>t</sup> But at a considerable hazard I would buy at the Expense of one Company — You know the Circumstances of Dubois & Benscoten — Gen<sup>l</sup> Ranslaer will tell you that Harper is a blockhead — pray confirm my order for Pawling & I will instantly detach a

*good Comp<sup>y</sup> — Things begin to brighten up — I get Acquainted & the people begin to find out that they must either give up their passes or Rations — I hope now to hold all necessary posts — but must have Two Compys to fort Scuyler — The Nine months men will not amount to 200 — that is not sufficient to make a Garrison — at least it ought to be Stronger Two Months — what is to be done — Augment from the Three months men — ?*

*The fellows who are officers have furloughed the men — what Scoundrells to be trusted with the lives & property of a Country — Gen<sup>l</sup> Ransaleer will report concerning this matter — If they attempt to serve as I find they have him I certainly will punish them Severly —*

*The following is our present State— L<sup>t</sup> Co<sup>l</sup> Livingston with Three Companys of*

<i>Grahams</i>	<i>————— 100 —</i>
<i>Hansons</i>	<i>———— 60 —</i>
<i>Charlotte — Quo<sup>a</sup> — /no Return/</i>	
<i>gone to the No frontier —</i>	
<i>Major Woolsey with 2 Coys of Grahams</i>	<i>———— 100 —</i>
<i>part of the Yankey Troops</i>	<i>———— 90 —</i>
<i>Vromans Quota of 3 m<sup>o</sup> men</i>	<i>———— 25 —</i>
<i>a few Rifle men</i>	<i>———— <u>5</u> —</i>
<i>at Schoharie —</i>	<i>220</i>

*1<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> — gone towards the Mohawk Communication — I sent Dubois on before, to Determine the Propriety of the whole, or what Number to Proceed to the upper posts — & he is also collecting or endeavoring to Collect flour on the Route to Fort Scuyler to be ready against the 9 months men which Woolsey & Livingston are to relieve, shall assemble — on the same road — —*

*I remain to settle a thousand things here, the principal to Collect provisions for the Convoy & to get it forwarded — Dubois or me must be constantly here & at Schenectady — I have Williams / as a man that will be neither be flatterd nor bullyed / to see my arrangements effected at this place/ if I do not they will eat here as fast all the Com<sup>ys</sup> in the United States can purchase to morrow I go to Schenectady to confer w<sup>h</sup> Dubois who is come down loaded with materials for effecting our plans —*

*Dear Gover<sup>r</sup>*

*Albany Sept<sup>r</sup> 16 1780*

*I had the Honor of to write your Excellency a long letter by General Ranslaer a few days ago, in which I gave a particular report of the of the disposition of the Troops at that time — Dubois with his Reg<sup>t</sup> is gone on to Fort House & will collect Harpur's Corps as he passes on the Communication I returned to this place but ought to meet Co<sup>l</sup> Hay & to forward on provisions — If not disappointed*

*I expect to go on next Tuesday with about 100 or 150 barrels of flour & fifty Cattle — the last Article depends on the faith of a N England Com<sup>y</sup> — My Reg<sup>t</sup> is halted at Schenectady to escort this little supply —*

*I am persuaded that Pawlings is not to much wanted on the Frontiers of Esopus as for the proposed service — Major Dewitt will do as well there, but supposing him a better officer he will not answer my purpose on account of Rank — Harpur must go, if Pawling does not — and by all accounts he is not a proper person — Co<sup>l</sup> Brown who is just come to Town informs me that some Companys of Harpurs have mutinyd on receiving the orders of march and that the officers are the Abbetors — not being willing to leave particular places — and he gives it as his Opinion that they are not a Corps to be trusted in the Garrison — However all the use I would make of the information is to be more particular in the Commanding Officer —*

*We shall not have 9 months men enough to form the Garrison — not more than 200 as far as I can yet find out — Bogert furlough'd the half of his men before he left Schoharie — & we have them to gather up as we can — I wish the General would send up a small Con<sup>l</sup> Regiment — but I rather think he Trusts to the State for the Frontiers & also the Garrison of fort Scuyler — This is a matter that you know more of than me — but depend upon it that when the Three months men are dismissed this Country will be in a Wretched Situation unless measures are taken to replace them with good men & good officers — I am now pretty well Convinced that the Country may be kept Quiet with good management, & a few good Troops —*

*I find some Militia about Schoharie pretending to be in Service — they will not obey Woolseys orders, & I have directed him to Discharge them especially as provisions are Scarce —*

*C<sup>o</sup> Hay goes up to Tryon County with me — and I hope to get every thing on a good footing — except the Garrison of Fort Scuyler — but I wish you to write for C<sup>o</sup> Pawling — Dewitt will be of no use — The Q<sup>r</sup> Master here has no money and what I had of you Sir is almost expended — I mean what I reserved for Contingencies which are very considerable — as I am obliged to Two or Three Officers constantly on Horseback — Hermanse expense & another on this side the River from Newburg near 1000 Dollars — the Continant ought to pay these Expenses, and I have called on the Q<sup>r</sup> Master to furnish Cash to the officers / who oblige me by riding about after your State Commissarys — / but he has neither money nor Credit —*

*— I wish Dutchess County would send on a part of their Quota — if not Warners Regiment will Leave Fort George for Want —*

*I have Sent on a small supply to Fort Scuyler — that Garrison is Victualled to the*

20 of October —

*I take liberty to inclose a letter to M<sup>s</sup> Malcom, — I beg the favor that Co<sup>l</sup> Benson will forward it to Cap<sup>t</sup> Mitchell —*

*There is a large body of Indians & French refugees at Schenectady w<sup>ch</sup> consume a World of Provisions — the latter have a good Claim to our bounty, but the former ar a pack of Scoundralls —*

*Most Respectfully & Sincerely  
Dear Governor*

*M<sup>r</sup> Foght was a first  
Lieu<sup>t</sup> with me in the  
year 1776 — May 8th — he has  
lost that Commission — he requests,  
a new Commission, giving him Rank from that time — if he had not lost his own  
Commission this Trouble would be needless —*

*Your M<sup>t</sup> ob Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
W Malcom*

*His Excellency  
Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton*

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*Dear Governor*

*Fort Ranselaer Sep<sup>r</sup> 25 1780*

*I am only this far on my Way to Fort Scuyler — there is something to be done at every post — and the Scarcity of provisions is a Constant difficulty — Flour in Abundance — but the Unpardonable Neglect of some one /I can not positively say who / has been such as to have not a barrell provided for it —*

*I might as well ask Co<sup>l</sup> Harpur about the day of Judgement as about his Regiment*

*— I really have not patience to mention instances of his Unofficer like cond<sup>t</sup> — To Accomodate Dadys, Mamys Wifes &c I have Transferd Major Hughs — Drake & Lawrence w<sup>h</sup> good Sub<sup>s</sup> to Harpurs Corps — This will make them Respectable, and Major Hughs will Conduct the Garrison, perhaps as well as those who have been longer Accustomed to separate Command — He has more Understanding & I am Convinced more Industry than any that I can assign for that Command — He will for the future be returned as of Harpurs Reg<sup>t</sup> & Commanding at Fort Scuyler — have given Harpur a furlough — any time & place —*

*While there are so many women & children — the familys of men which have join<sup>d</sup> the Enemy & actually in their Service, Scatter<sup>d</sup> about in the County, it never will be at peace — The fellows lurk in the Woods, are fed by their wifes and Watch*

*Opportunely to seize travellers & destroy property — It is absolutely right to send them by a flag to Canada — but although there is a Law of the State for the purpose Yet it is clear to me that the Magistrates have not Spirit to put it in force — Supposing them good, Yet as they may be left a prey in one month from this date — it is not strange that they should be afraid of multiplying their enemys or making them more inveterate — It is very dear to me that Military Law only ought to ~~only~~ be in force here — indeed on one sense it is so already but as it is not declared neither the Civil nor Military know their line & the Inhabitants know not their Government — Establish Military Law — appoint some judicious & prudent but Spirited officers and I have no kind of doubt but a few troops with the aid of the Country woud keep the peace & defend the Country against any thing that the Enemy can spare from Canada — but I could wish that you would direct these Women to be Collected & sent off — There are a number of French people fed at Schenectady — I would recommend that they be sent some where in Ulster or Dutchess County — it is too great a tax on this part of the Country to furnish them with beef — The Indians devour a great deal of the best & Mr Fonda has in my opinion from the information I have occasionally received acted Generously to say no more in his arrangements with Co<sup>l</sup> Hay — The first became his agent & then Contractor for the savages & applies what is procured in the first Capacity to the last use —*

*— There is a Number of Rascally fellows here who under the denomination of Whigs — Rangers &c plunder without any distention — one among many reasons for my Wishing Military Law on the Frontiers*

*I have a letter from the General but not an answer — the sentiment is that I must do as well as I can as he does — but a magazine to be formed at Albany — I have had no letter from Co<sup>l</sup> Pawling — I really think he has missed an opportunity of exhibiting himself —*

*Co<sup>l</sup> Dubois is stationed at this place and I acknowledge with much pleasure that I derive the greatest benefit from his attention judgement & prudence — I hope the Wisdom of the Legislature has prepared some better Laws for enabling C<sup>o</sup> Hay to execute his office — I dayly experience all the faults of the first Law that he points out in his letter to you Sir on the subject —*

*How is our men to be paid — at what rate & in what money — & how is it to be procurd — the Vermont company will be discharged this w<sup>k</sup> ensuing — & Capt Blaksley inquires at me on this subject — the difference is so great that he says it will cost him more than the amount if he must follow the Paym<sup>r</sup> General — Can money be advan<sup>d</sup> for him? I want a Commission for Alex<sup>r</sup> Stewart Q<sup>u</sup>Master to the first Regiment — I ask questions concerning the pay on the presumption that you are acquainted with the Resolves of Congress better than any body else in the State —*

*I am adding something to the expense of this little fort — it the only thing that Keeps the inhabitants dry & there must be something to cover a few troops in Winter and to hold their provisions — a few boards /which we impress / & nails is all the charge — the people are already in the know about the approaching 25 of Oc<sup>r</sup> If there is any Law past or in intention to raise men I think some of our ~~men~~ would enlist — should this be the case the sooner the officers were notified the better —*

*We have Gentlemen that will make indeed already are excellent officers —*

*To morrow I set forward to the Forts & expect to return to this place with Van Schaacks Reg<sup>t</sup> in seven days my next excursion will be towards the Northern Frontiers — but I beg that Cattle may be sent on — if not the posts must be abandoned — every thing is now Quiet except these Sulking fellows — & the Country will be infested with them untill their familys are sent away — which ought to be done while the season will admitt — Is the french fleet reinforced and are the United forces going to attempt New York tis season? — I have the Honor to be with much Respect*

*Dear Governor  
Your most & obed & very  
Hub<sup>e</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
W Malcom*

*On your return from Fort Schuyler you will hear from me more particulary with Respect to the future Measures to be taken for the Defence of the Frontiers — ~~On~~ The Accts of the Arrival of the 2<sup>d</sup> Division of the French Fleet ~~which if To~~ were premature if it arrives this Season it will I presume arrive too late for defensive Operations Ag<sup>t</sup> Nyork — . . .*

*Gov<sup>r</sup> Clinton*

*Sir*

*Fort Ranslaer Oct<sup>r</sup> 3 1780*

*I marched from this post the 27<sup>th</sup> alto with Harpurs Regiment under the Command of Major Hughs having thirteen boats loaded with flour for the Garrison of Fort Scuyler under our Convoy — About four miles above Fort Herkimer we discovered a party of the Enemy consisting chiefly of Indians — They were advantageously posted, but we charged & ~~put them~~ Routed them in a few minutes two Indians were left on the field at least we have not good evidence of any more — about thirty blankets a number of Kettles Hatchets & other Indian Equipage were collected on the field which in their flight they threw away — The troops behaved with the greatest Spirit on the Occasion —*

*Nothing further happened to us on the on the March — I returned with Van Schaaks Regiment which will be at Fort Hunter this evening — I wrote to your Excellency about the 25<sup>th</sup> from this place that I had put Major Hughs with Harpurs Regiment Reg<sup>t</sup> in the place of Major Chapman who declined going to the Westward & showed me a letter from you promising that he should not be called from the Northern Frontiers — I have also put Lawrences company of 9 Monthsers into this Reg<sup>t</sup> and Cap<sup>t</sup> Drake to Chapmans Company — So that the Corps is now much better than it was — I hope your Excellency will approve of those changes —*

*On my Return I found Co<sup>l</sup> Pawling at Fort Herkimer — but four days too late — I could not think of superceeding Hughs after he had put himself to much inconvenience & trouble by going off with only half an hours Notice — for I waited untill the very last Expecting Pawling — However Albert is very willing to Return to his Reg<sup>t</sup> — that he may see the Country I have sent him on with about forty head of Cattle which on an average may weigh 200<sup>d</sup>*

*It is most unaccountable that no Cattle or indeed any thing else comes from Dutchess & Ulster — at some of the posts the Troops have been obliged to take Milch Cows from the poor Inhabitants —*

*Inclosed is a state of Harpurs Reg<sup>t</sup> it is as strong as Van Schaaks — but be that as it may — it is not worth while to send up three months men for three weeks — but even were it not so, we want them to Escort provisions — which must be set in small Quantity — & we must also employ partys to assist the poor people in gathering their corn — the only subsistence which many of them will have this winter — and there are a great many from G. Town that have nothing — Churches and little forts full of women Children, numbers of them almost naked — the men are almost all killed or prisoner — what will be done with these poor creatures Surely they have a greater claim upon the Country than the bundille of savages that are fed very highly at Schenectady — I really think the women & Children with what little Corn they have should be Carried down to Schenectady & provided for in the barracks this winter — in that time the Children would get good people that would take them on some term — and I would recommend Domine Gross who appears the only man of sense or Integrity that I have as yet met with as their Guardian up here — many of the men whose names I have heard sounded as great patriots &c below I find are both public & private plunderers — I wish you were here only one Week to hear a few stories concerning some of them —*

*I shall go down to Schenectady in Two or Three days and endeavor to get more stores for Fort Scuyler — I expect in eight days to send another Convoy there —*

*By An Indian deserter from the party which we routed reports that there are a Number of the Enemy at Bucks Island; that there is a body collecting at S<sup>t</sup> Johns — that the garrison of Nigara are sickly — By another Channell I am told that stroke is to be made — at German Flatts — Schenectady — & the Grants — I shall send a man down who reports their scheme —*

*There is a large Quantity of leathr at Johnstown forfeited to the state M<sup>r</sup>*



*Harper the Commissioner Deliv<sup>d</sup> large Quantitys to His brother on pretence of its being for the use of his Reg<sup>t</sup> — and the people seem to think that there will be but a Flemish account of it as well as many other things — It is opinion that it should be Valued & sent to Cadmens or Black & made into shoes for your Troops — I know nothing about the Law — but if you shall think it right I will cause it to be sent down for this purpose —*

*It will necessary for me to know whether it is expected that I am to remain in this department after the Three Months men go — there will then be no Troops but Warners Reg<sup>t</sup> & the Garrison of Fort Scuylar — unless Provision has been made to Raise them by the Legislature — if not it is past a doubt that the Country will be totally destroyed — I am Sure that the enemy mean to depopulate this fine County — which will be a public as well private Loss — I am persuaded that the Mohawk River settle<sup>ts</sup> could furnish bread for the Army — if protected —*

*Fort Scuylar in my opinion ought be destroyed, and the fort reestablished about one mile above Fort Herkemer — we support that garrison at a great Risque & expense — both increesing — and it affords no kind of Safety to the Country — If you was here I am sure you would see the propriety of this measure — I report this opinion to the General — I wish you to take into Consideration —*

*Most Respectfully*

*your Excellencys*

*most Ob & very Hb<sup>le</sup>*

*W Malcom*

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*Dear Sir*

*Albany Oct<sup>r</sup> 8 1780*

*I got to this place last evening and had the Honor to receive your letter of the 2d Ins<sup>t</sup>*

*I shall instantly write to the Officer of the several Corps on the subject of raising the men for Frontier service, and answer your Excellencys Letter as soon as possible — There will be no kind of difficulty in procuring the number of officers — I shall make a Return in a few days —*

*But Sir — Hath the Legislature provided any means of subsisting these troops — We are at this time in a hored situation — I have made every shift, & done every thing that I believe can be done to work through — and I can do no more unless it is to take the poor peoples Mitila down which I can not bring which I can not think of — Co<sup>l</sup> Hays assis<sup>t</sup> can procure nothing — and nothing comes from the Countys below — This comes by L<sup>h</sup> Lawrence with M<sup>r</sup> Laird — one of your militia officers — he says that S<sup>r</sup> John took him prisoner — others say that he as well his Captain (Wemp) went off of their own accord — which from every circumstance I believe is true — No body of sense or spirit in the County to handle him — For that reason as well as on account of his Information I think it best to send him to your Excellency — The ground on which Fort Scuylar stands will be thought to important to abandon — 150*

*men in my Opinion will defend it against any thing but a Regular body of Troops and heavy Cannon — that number might remain in it — and at the same time establish a strong post at or near the flats — 800 men in Fort Scuyler would do some good — but the late establishment do none — & Tryon County Militia will no more be a Guard to Stores going that way — conducting 70 barrells of flour lost the fine Settlement of Conajohare — and I am well persuaded that if Fort Scuyler shall be invested there must be other Troops than the militia of this Quarter to relieve it — Bridges broke — Roads very bad — so much the case that in a few weeks they will be impassible — For this reason I wish to get up another Convoy for the Winter subsistence — but I see no prospect of procuring it — not a Ration issued for four days past in this place — good evidence of the scarcity — or something — Can it be that Allen is negociating in Canada for the State of Vermont — Laird gives hints to this purpose — and that a part of the troops collecting at St Johns were to enable an expedition that way —*

*Brant is hovering on the W<sup>t</sup> Frontiers — if we had provisions there would be no danger — more than burning a dog house in the distant Settlements — How shall [I] depose of Co<sup>l</sup> Harpur — he is now at Schenectady — suppose your Excellency should reccomend that he kept near his Militia Regiment while Brant is on the borders — Fort Scuyler is yet to be Victualed for four months A lowest computation — it ought to be done this month — not an alon here for the purpose, nor do I hear of any coming from the lower Countys — Cattle can not be got here even for the troops on the River duty — I am told that C<sup>o</sup> Warner is dead — it is fortunate that Arnold is the growth of America — Is Jo Smith Hanged — Mr Lawrence perhaps can get some men below — if we could pay off our men I am sure we could get enough of them to engage —*

*Your Excellencys most obd<sup>t</sup>  
& very hum<sup>l</sup> Servant  
W Malcom  
I thank your  
Excellency for  
the news paper*

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*Albany Oc<sup>r</sup> 11 1780*

*D<sup>r</sup>Gov<sup>r</sup>*

*I had the Honor to write you by L<sup>t</sup> Lawrence who brought down a Son of a B — h of a Tory L<sup>t</sup> — nothing has happened since that time, only that a few of the Enemy appeared at the Fall Hill & Caught some milling people which we cannot help — they are so Stupid or indifferent that all the Notice that can & has been given will not induce them to take care — I hear an Express is gone down — which perhaps may alarm you — but it need not — for Dubois & the Officers at the posts are under no uneasiness —*

*I have got Gen<sup>l</sup> Tenbock to order Vroman to support Woolsey at Schoharie if needfull — I am only uneasy about that place — But Sir, unless we have provisions, the Troops must come off, much less can we afford to order out Militia even if the Enemy come in force — The Law is not yet come to hand*

*Your Excellency*

*Most ob<sup>d</sup> & very*

*Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>*

*W Malcom*

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*D<sup>r</sup> Sir*

*Albany Oc<sup>r</sup> 12 1780 —*

*More bad news — M<sup>r</sup> LeRoy just now informs of the loss of Fort George — I am very much at a loss what to do — It is the opinions of some that the Enemy will now return — I am not of that Sentiment — The Militia come out but very slow, — what embarrasses us more is the want of Provisions — I only wrote to Gen<sup>l</sup> Ranslaer this morning for 800 men — at that time I had no idea of so formidable a force being out — As Mr LeRoy can give full inofrmation, Your Excellency will be Hereby enabled to send him such orders as shall appear necessary— All his Brigade will not be too many — In my letter this morning I mentioned the propriety of Calling for some Continental Troops — it seems that the Regiment now here cannot be Carried back — they are on board the sloops & will Sail in the morning — It is of all things most necessary that you come up — To the Westward nothing new since my last letter — or rather Mr Lush's —*

*Your Excellencys*

*most obd Servant*

*W Malcom*

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*Albany Oc<sup>r</sup> 13 1780 —*

*Sir*

*A Body of the Enemy — numbers very uncertain — from 400 to 850 — as is said come from Canada — landed at So Bay & took Fort Ann on Tuesday where was a Cap<sup>t</sup> Sherwood with 60 men — landed on Summon's — they were to Hudsons River & burnt several Houses about Fort Edward — Yesterday they went on towards the Lake — the militia are ordered out & I wished that C<sup>o</sup> Vanschaacks Regiment would have marched also, but the Colonel thinks the men would Desert — I expect more particulars every hour which I waite for to Determine the propriety of Calling for Troops from Gen<sup>l</sup> Ranslaer — Gen<sup>l</sup> Ten Brock thinks it right to reserve the City Reg<sup>t</sup> & Schenectady — for Mohawk River Service — in case the Enemy shall attempt any thing there which is expected Your Excellency shall have more particular accounts of these matters as soon possible*

—  
Your Excellencys  
most Obedient  
W Malcom

If we had men  
wee have nor can  
get provisions —  
Gen<sup>l</sup> Ten Brock thinks  
it will be difficult  
to get the Militia out  
on this And — we have Notice of a Considerable body being on their march at  
Saratoga — Nothing from the Grants — I suspect all is not sound — Since  
writing the above I have an Express from Major Hughs — the Enemy are at  
Oneida — an Indian deserter says they have Cannon & Mortars — a 5 Inch shell  
in every & any pack — that they are very Strong — S<sup>r</sup> John Butler & Brant are  
with them —

It will therefor be proper to augment our force  
The Militia is a poor Dependence — VanSchaacks Corps it seems cannot go on  
this service — it surely then will be right to have other Troops sent on — I shall  
collect the Militia — Provisions must be sent on — our we are ruined —  
D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Yours ~~ofth~~ Dated this Nesshoke the 13<sup>th</sup> I have this Moment received — M<sup>r</sup>  
Lakey arrived here about one this morning — I have ordered to your assistance  
the whole of Renselaers Brigade & Graham's Regt what we shall do for  
Provisions God only knows, I will set out for Albany this Evening

Yours sincerely

Kingston 14<sup>th</sup> Octob<sup>r</sup> 1780

GC

Col<sup>p</sup> Malcom

I am persuaded all is not  
sound & I believe their Plott deep laid

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Albany, Nov<sup>r</sup> 3—1780

I am this moment returned from another excursion — the enemy / it is said  
200 of them / appeared at the flatts — scalped 2 or 3 stragglng people & on  
pushing a few of the little garrisons &c they disappeared — The Garrison of Fort  
Scuyler was in distress by many circumstances — it was absolutely necessary to  
Support it — With much trouble I have got Wisenfels forwarded to the 1<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>ry</sup>  
— Not withstanding the alarm to the Northward. I thought it of importance to  
sure this post — What of the Leveys are come in are gone up Hudson — only 60  
— the accounts are all from Gen<sup>l</sup> Scuyler & he hath collected them from Webster  
&c all in armarement / — but if it is true that they have passed Lake George as I  
believe it is — no doubt but they have more in contemplation than precede — I am

*yet undetermined what to do — if I could take command I would in a moment go up — let me know any situation — If I can anything particularly movving — you shall know*

*most respectfully*  
*Wm Malcom*

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1. Jonathan Lawrence, Junior.