

Letter to George Washington from General Israel Putnam Dec 23, 1778

General Israel Putnam wrote to General George Washington a letter containing the following description of the soldiers' condition:

“Notwithstanding the large supplies of Cloathing which have been procured by the Continent; I am sorry to find verry many of the Connecticut Troops are now destitute of some of the most necessary Articles, at this Rigorous season of the year—The Quantity of Blankets, Shirts, stockings and Shoes which have been Receiv'd by them; your Excellency will see by adverting, to the Returns of Cloathing made, while they were station'd at Fredericksburgh; sinse which their wants have been verry little diminished. Their Cloaths are all made without Lining, and of a much inferior quality to those drawn by the Troops of other States. This would have been somewhat alleviated if a proportion of the Blankets and Shirts (the things most wanted,) could have been obtain'd from Major Bigelows Store, which was originally design'd for them—But this Store I understand, is now all orderd to Fish Kill; and I am unhappy to observe so much concern and uneasiness prevail, that the Troops which were not permitted to draw their dividend of complete Uniforms, with the rest of the Army; on account of this supply; are now not likely to be benefitted in the least by it—

And that the Exertions of their own State, and of their Officers in their favor, instead of being advantageous, are in danger of being prejudicial to them. Every little Jealousy of that kind, I heartily wish might be removed, and if it is consistant with the good of the whole; that part or all of this Cloathing, might be orderd for their use, or that some other method for relieving their wants, might be pointed out. “For intelligence, I refer you to Brigadier General Parsons’s from whom you will receive a Letter by this conveyance.”

Washington responded

to Deputy Clothier General George Measam, Jan 8, 1779

“It has been represented to me that the troops of Connecticut are in great want of Shirts, Stockings and Shoes. This leads me to inquire of you whether they have not received their proportion of these Articles in common with the rest of the Army. The troops in general have obtained orders for a Shirt and pair of Stockings per man and a pair of Shoes to each that wanted. If the Connecticut Troops have not been furnished ... you will on receiving proper Returns for that purpose supply them in conformity to this Rule.”