

**George Washington to Elisha Sheldon, June 9, 1777,  
The Writings of George Washington from the Original  
Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick,  
Editor.**

**To COLONEL ELISHA SHELDON**

Head Quarters, Middle Brook, June 9, 1777.

Sir: The Campaign is upon the point of opening in this Province and the Virginia Regiment of Light Horse have been so worn down by hard Service, that except they are relieved of part of this duty, they will be totally unfit for Service of any kind. I therefore desire that you will send on every Man of your Regiment that is Clothed and Mounted, and that have had the Small Pox. If they are not all completely armed, an Officer may be left behind to bring them on, as quick as possible, many duties may be performed as well without Arms as with them. One Troop is to be left at Peeks Kill, but that may be one of the last,<sup>1</sup> If any are there already, they must come on immediately. I expect your immediate compliance with this order, and am etc.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>That is, the troop last to arrive at Wethersfield. Sheldon's Dragoons had not been allowed to remain undisturbed in winter quarters but had been called on for duty throughout the winter.

<sup>2</sup>This letter was inclosed in one to Maj. Gen. Israel Putnam of this date, directing that it be forwarded to Sheldon by express.