



George Washington On The Mutiny At Morristown

Headquarters, Morristown, May 27, 1780

Sir: It is with infinite pain I inform Congress that we are reduced again to a situation of extremity for want of meat. On several days of late, the troops have been entirely destitute of any. Two regiments of the Connecticut line mutinied on Thursday night with a determination to return home.

I have been informed by two colonels of the Pennsylvania line in whom I have the utmost confidence that the troops very pointedly mentioned their not being paid for five months.

Every possible means in my power will be directed on this and on all occasions to preserve order and promote public service; but this will be found, at least, extremely difficult. If the troops could only be comfortably supplied with provisions, it would make them forget, or at least forgo, many matters which make a part of their anxiety and present complaints.

Adapted from a letter
from George Washington to
the President of Congress