

*Stille's Wayne (p.118-119):* This is a letter by Anthony Wayne dated February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1778. It illustrates the poor clothing and supply condition of the Pennsylvania soldiers even three years before the general mutiny.

send a receipt for the 301 pairs you got of Mr Henry along with your first order & oblige Sir your

Most Obedient Ser't

JA'S LANG

[THE HON'BL ANTHONY WAYNE, ESQ'R,  
Brigad'r Gen'll at Camp,  
Near Valley Forge.]

*General Wayne to Mr. Peters, Secretary of War.*

MOUNT JOY 8th Feby 1778

DEAR SIR,—On my Arrival in Camp I found the Division in a much worse Condition for the Want of Clothing and every Other matter than I expected— I am endeavouring to Remedy the Defects & hope soon to Restore Order, Introduce Discipline and Content—all which was much Wanting and desertion prevailing fast— I flatter myself that I have so much the Esteem and Confidence of my Troops—that Desertion will no longer take place— I am happy to Inform you that there is not a single Instance since my Return—

I find the Enclosed Deficiency in Bayonets which I wish an Order for from the Board of War on *Mr. William Henry* at Lancaster— with directions to make them Eighteen Inches long in the blade together with an Equal Number of Scabbards and belts—I would also wish to exchange a Number of Rifles for Muskets and Bayonets— I don't like rifles—I would almost as soon face an Enemy with a good Musket and Bayonet without amunition—as with amunition without a Bayonet for altho' there are not many Instances of bloody bayonets yet I am Confident that one bayonet keeps off an Other—and for the Want of which the Chief of the Defeats we have met with ought in a great measure to be Attributed— the Enemy knowing the Defenseless State of our Riflemen rush on— they fly mix with or pass thro' the Other Troops and Communicate fears that is ever Incident to a retiring Corps— this Would not be the Case if the Riflemen had bayonets—but it would be still better if good muskets and bayonets were put into the hands of good Marksmen and Rifles entirely laid aside— for my own part I never Wish to see one—at least Without a Bayonet— I don't give this as Mere matter of Opinion or Speculation—but as matter of fact to the truth of Which I have more than Once been an Unhappy Witness— I

am so fully Convinced of the bad policy of such arms that no reasoning will ever Eradicate that Conviction.

I must therefore Request you to lay the Matter before your Hon'ble board and procure me the Order on Mr. Henry

Interim I am Dr Sir

Your Most Ob't Hum'l Ser't

ANTH'Y WAYNE

*Mr. Peters, Secretary of War, to General Wayne.*

WAR OFFICE Feby 18th 1778

D'R SIR,—I received your Letter on the Subject of exchanging the Rifles for Muskets & procuring a Number of Bayonets for your Division— I communicated the Contents of it to the Board who are well convinced of the Propriety of the Measure & of the Justice of your Observations. But as in a former Instance they have been accused of Partiality by supplying your Division with Shoes out of the Common Line, they would wish to avoid such Imputations in future— If you will procure an Order from the General or Adjutant General so as to make the thing a general & not a partial Regulation the Board will with Cheerfulness comply with your Request— A Board of Ordnance for the Regulation of the Department in the Field, consisting of the Commanding Officer of the Artillery, the Chief Engineer & eldest Colonel or Commissary of Artillery, is appointed & they will be furnished with Money to answer all immediate Exigencies in Camp & it is hoped as they are more immediately cognisant of the Wants of the Army there will be less Complaints of their being neglected because at a Distance from the Seat of public Business—

I am your obed Ser't

RICHARD PETERS.

*Colonel Wayne to Colonel Bayard.*

MOUNT JOY 28th March 1778

SIR,—You are to proceed Immediately to Lancaster and call on Wm Henry Esq'r there for the Arms &cs mentioned in the two Brigade Returns.

You will also forward to Camp all such Clothing as may be provided for the Use of the Officers and Soldiers of the Penns'a Line.