

Andrew Jackson to John Armstrong, March 22, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN ARMSTRONG.¹

¹ A rough draft and a copy exist in the Jackson MSS., the former in Jackson's handwriting, the latter in that of Major Reid. The original from which this text is taken is in War Dept. files, 1813. The letter was published in the *National Intelligencer*, June 13, 1828.

Head Qrs. Near Washington, M. T. March 22, 1813.

Sir, My letter of the 15th. instant informed you that I had received yours of the 5th. Jany, 1813. I have now the honor to inform you, that I received under cover from Majr Genl. Wilkinson of date March 8th your notification to him, without date, but postmarked Feby 8th, 1813, which runs as follows.

Sir, The Militia force organized by Govr. Blount under command of Genl. Jackson expedited to new orleans early in the last month is discharged from further service. The General is required to have delivered over to your directions such articles of public property as have been committed to them. Signed, John Armstrong. Your notification to me received as above, and having no "Militia force organized" under my command places me in a delicate situation. I have the honor to command only an organized volunteer corps enrolled and tendered to the President of the United States under the act of Feby 6th, 1812, and whose services with my own were accepted and made known to me through Governor Blount, by the President under date, War Department, July 11th., 1812, and all the officers under my command down to a Captain have been commissioned by the President of the United States on the 21st. of november, 1812, in pursuance of

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his authority under the act of congress 22 of July 6th, 1812. Hence the words in your notification to Genl. Wilkinson "organized Militia" cannot be applied to the detachment under my command. But from your communications to Governor Blount, Major Genl. Wilkinson, and your unofficial note to me of Jan'y 5th, 1813, I infer that the wishes of the government are that the detachment under my command is to be discharged. I have therefore ordered their return to nashville, Tennessee. Their being no direction for the payment of the troops, or their supplies on their return home, by you directed from a perusal of the law on the subject I find I have been correct and anticipated the intention of the Government in ordering supplies of provisions, and conveyance for the sick and their necessary baggage to nashville, where they will be discharged. The law runs thus "that whenever any officer or soldier shall be discharged from the service he shall be allowed his pay and rations, or an equivalent in money for such term of time as shall be sufficient for him to travel from the place of his discharge to the place of his residence, computing at the rate of twenty miles to a day. There being no direction to pay the troops here, no compensation directed to be given to them in lieu of rations, I have ordered the contractor and Quarter Master, as you have been advised in mine of date the 15th. instant, to furnish the necessary supplies for my detachment on their return to Nashville. I have been detained here since the 18th instant by the Agents of Government, but in justice to Mr. Brandt I would observe that every exertion has been used on his part to expedite our departure. I have however been notified that the necessary supplies will be ready against the 25th. instant, when I shall take up the line of march for Nashville, at which point, or some other within the state of Tennessee, I hope they will be directed to be paid off, and the paymaster be furnished with funds for this purpose. I have a hope (altho' not ordered to a theatre of war) that my detachment merit as much from our Government as the detached Militia from this Territory who are ordered to be paid and discharged at Baton Rouge. Your note of the 5th. Jan'y 1813, directs that two thousand well organized volunteers, under the acts of Congress of Feby 6th and July 6th, 1812, are to be dismissed at new Orleans with out pay or a compensation for rations. Is this your impartial rule? and this remand to whom? Men of the first character, patriotism and wealth of the union; who left their

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comfortable homes and their families for the tented fields, to support the Eagles of their country at any point ordered by the constituted authorities.