

PRIMARY SOURCE

WASHINGTON TO GENERAL HORATIO GATES, OCTOBER 30, 1777

Camp near White Marsh 15 Miles from Philadelphia

Sir:

By this Opportunity, I do myself the pleasure to congratulate you on the signal success of the Army under your command, in compelling Genl. Burgoyne and his whole force [at Saratoga], to surrender themselves prisoners of War. [This victory at Saratoga] does the highest honor to the American Arms, and which, I hope, will be attended with the most extensive and happy consequences. At the same time, I cannot but regret, that a matter of such [importance] and so interesting to our General Operations, should have reached me by report only...

...Our affairs having happily [ended] at the Northward, I have... sent Colo. Hamilton, one of my aids, to lay before you a full state of our Situation and that of the Enemy in this [area]. He is well informed upon the subject and will deliver my [thoughts] upon the plan of operations that is now necessary to be pursued... You will do all in your power, to facilitate the objects I have in [mind]. I am Sir, your most Obedient Servant.

George Washington

SOURCE: Washington papers (n.d.) Founders online. From George Washington to major general Horatio Gates, 30, October 1777. National Archives.gov. Retrieved from: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-12-02-0049>