

THE KING'S INSTRUCTION TO GEN E. BRADDOCK, 1754 – BRADDOCK'S
CORRESPONDENCE WITH GOV. MORRIS, 1755

George Regis' instructions for our trusty and well beloved Edward Braddock, Esq., Major General of all the Forces, and whom we have appointed General Commander of all and singular, our troops and forces, that are now in North America, or that shall be sent, or raised there, to vindicate our just rights and possessions in those parts: given at our court as St James', the 25th day of November, 1754, in the 28th year of our reign.

Whereas, We have by our commission, bearing date the 24th day of September last past, appointed you to be General and Commander of all, and singular, our forces that are, or shall be in North America. For your better direction in discharge of your trust thereby repose in you, we have judged it proper to give you the following instructions:

1st. We, having taken under our royal and serious consideration, the representatives of our subjects in North America, and the present state of our colonies, in order to vindicate our just rights and possessions from all encroachments, and to secure the commerce of our subjects, we have given directions, that two of our regiments of foot, now in Ireland, commanded by Sir Peter Halket and Col. Dunbar; and likewise, a suitable train of artillery, transports and store ships, together with a certain number of ships of war, to convey the same, shall forthwith repair to North America.

2d. You shall, immediately upon receipt of these our instructions, embark on board one of our ships of war, and you shall proceed to North America, where you will take our forces under your command: and we having appointed Augustus Kepple, Esq., to command the squadron of our ships of war, on the American station, we do hereby require and enjoin you to cultivate a good understanding and correspondence with the said commander of our squadron, during your continuance upon the service with which you are now entrusted. We having given directions of the like nature to the said commander of our squadron, with regard to his conduct and correspondence with you.

3d. *And whereas*, There will be a wanting number of men to make up the designed compliments of our said regiments, from five hundred to seven hundred each: *And whereas*, It is our intention that two other regiments of foot, to consist of one thousand men each, shall be forthwith raised, and commanded by General Shirley and Sir William Pepperell, whom we have appointed Colonels of the same, in our provinces and colonies in North America, and given directions, that the regiment under the command of the former, should rendezvous at Boston; and that under the command of the latter, at New York and Philadelphia; and we have given orders of our several Governors to be taking the previous steps towards contributing, as far as they can, to have about three thousand men in readiness, to be enlisted for these purposes, and to be put in proportion, as they shall be raised, under your command, and be subject to your distribution into the corps above mentioned. And we having thought proper to dispatch Sir John St. Clair, our Deputy Quarter Master General, and James Pilcher, Esq., our commissary of the musters in North America, to prepare every thing necessary for the arrival of the two regiments from Europe; and for the raising of the forces above mentioned in America. You will inform yourself of such of our Governors, as you can most conveniently upon your arrival, and of all of them in due time; and likewise of our said Deputy Quarter Master General, and Commissary of the Musters, concerning the progress they shall respectively have made in execution of our commands, above mentioned, in order that you may be enabled, without delay, to act accordingly.

4th. *Whereas*, It has been represented to us, that the said forces, which are to go from Cork, under your command, may be in want of provisions upon their arrival in America, we caused, in consideration thereof, one thousand barrels of beef and ten tons of butter to be put on board the transport vessels, and to be delivered to you upon your arrival in America, in case you shall find the same to be necessary, in order to be distributed among the officers and troops, and several persons belonging to the train of artillery. But it is our royal will and pleasure, that in case the Governors of our colonies shall have provided a proper quantity of provisions for our troops upon their arrival, you will then signify the same to the Commander-in-Chief of our fleet, in those ports, that the said thousand barrels of beef, and ten tons of butter, or such part thereof as shall not be expended, may be applied to the use of our royal navy.

5th. *Whereas*, We have given orders to our said Governors, to provide, carefully, a sufficient quantity of fresh victuals, for the use of our troops at their arrival; and they should also furnish all our officers, who may have occasion to go from place to place, with all necessaries for traveling by land, in case there are no means of going by sea; and likewise, to observe and obey all such orders as shall be given by you, or persons appointed by you from time to time, for quartering the troops, impressing carriages, and providing

the necessaries for such, as shall arrive, or be performed at the charge of the respective governments, wherein the same shall happen. It is our will and pleasure that you should, pursuant thereto, apply to our said Governors, or any of them, upon all such exigencies.

6th. *And, whereas*, we have further directed our said governors, to prevail upon the Assemblies of their respective provinces, forthwith, as large a sum as can be afforded as their contribution to a common fund, to be employed provisionally for the general service, in North America, particularly for paying the charge of levying the troops, to make up the complements of the regiments above mentioned. It is our will and pleasure that you should give them all the advice and assistance you can towards effecting these good purposes, by establishing such a common fund as may fully supply the intended service. But you will take particular care to prevent payments of any money whatever, to the troops under your commands. Except such as shall be pursuant to the returns made to you, on effective men.

7th. We have likewise directed our said governors to correspond, advise and confer with you about all such matters as may tend to the preventing the said levies in their respective provinces. You are hereby required to be aiding and assisting them in the execution of our said instructions; for which purpose you will not only keep a constant and frequent correspondence in writing with them, but will likewise visit the said provinces, or any of them, that you will remind our said governors to use all possible dispatch, that the execution of our design may not be retarded by the slowness of levies to be made in their respective provinces; or, for the want of transports, victuals, or any other necessaries, at such times and places as you shall think fit to appoint for their general rendezvous. And if any preparations should be necessary for carrying on our services which is not contained in these, our instructions, you shall with the concurrence of the governors, who are to assist in any such service, make any such preparations, provided that the same shall appear to you absolutely necessary for the defence of our just rights and dominions; and you will, in all such emergencies and occurrences that may happen, whether herein mentioned or not provided for by these instructions, not only use you best circumspection, but shall likewise call to your assistance a counsel of war when necessary, which we have thought fit to appoint upon this occasion, consisting of yourself, the commander-in-chief of our ships in these ports, such governors of our colonies or provinces, and such Colonels and other of our field officers, as shall happen to be at a convenient distance from our said general and commander of our forces; and you shall with the advice of them, or the majority of them, determine all operations to be performed by our said forces under your command, and all other important points relating thereto, in a manner that shall be most conducive to the ends for which the said forces are intended, and for the faithful discharge of the great trust hereby committed to you.

8th. You shall not only cultivate the best harmony and friendship possible with the several governors of our colonies and provinces; but likewise with the chiefs of the Indian tribes, and for the better improvement of our good correspondence with the said Indian tribes, you will find some fit and proper person agreeable to the southern Indians, to be sent to them for this purpose, in like manner, as we have ordered Col. Johnson to repair to the northern Indians, as the person thought to be most acceptable to them, to endeavor to engage them to take part, and act with our forces in such operations as you shall think most expedient.

9th. You will inform yourself, from time to time, of the nature and value of the presents that shall be voted, or ordered by the Assemblies of our different colonies and provinces, in the accustomed manner of the inviting and engaging the Indian tribes to our alliance and interest, and you will be very watchful that a just and faithful distribution be made of the same be all such persons who shall be entrusted therewith, and you shall assist the said person with your best advice in the said distribution. You will likewise give a particular attention to the prudent disposal of such presents as shall be made upon any occasion, or such as shall have been prepared by Lieut. Governor Dinwiddie for the said Indians out of the money already vested in his hands, or otherwise.

10th. *Whereas*, it has been represented to us that an illegal correspondence and trade is frequently carried on between the French and our subjects, in the several colonies, you will diligently take all possible measures to prevent the continuance of all such dangerous practices; particularly, that the French should not, upon any account whatever, be supplied with the provisions, &c.

11th. *Whereas*, we have thought it necessary upon this occasion, to establish and ascertain the rank that shall be observed between the officers bearing our immediate commission, and those who act under the commissions as our governors, Lieutenant or Deputy Governors, or the Presidents of our colonies for the time being. We have ordered several printed copies thereof to be put into your hands to be affixed or dispersed as you shall judge proper in America.

12th. You will herewith receive a copy of the early directions that were sent by our order, on the 28th August, 1753, to our several governors enjoining and exhorting our colonies in North America to unite together for their common, mutual defence, and you will see by our directions of the 5th July, copies whereof are now also delivered to you, our repeated commands for enforcing the observances of our said orders of the 28th August, 1753, and that we were graciously pleased to order the sum of £10,000, to be remitted in specie to Lieutenant Governor Dinwiddie, to draw bills for a further sum of £10,000 upon the conditions mentioned in our warrant of the 3rd July last, and transmitted to the said Lieutenant Governor Dinwiddie, on the 27th of September following, by our order for the general service and protection of North America; and, the several other letters of October the 25th and 26th, and of November 4th, to our governors, to Sir Wm. Pepperell and Colonel Shirley; copies of which will be delivered to you herewith, will fully acquaint you with our orders and instructions, which have been signified to our officers and governors upon this subject, at those respective times, will enable you to inform yourself what progress has been made in the execution thereof. And, as extracts of Lieut. Governor Dinwiddie's letters of May 10th, June 18th, and July 24th, relating to the summons of the fort which was erecting on the forks of the Monongahela, and the skirmish that followed soon after, and likewise of the action in the Great Meadows, near the river Ohio, are herewith delivered to you. You will be fully acquainted with what has hitherto happened of a hostile nature upon the banks of that river.

13th. You will not fail to send us the first, and on every occasion that may offer, a full and clear account of your proceedings, and of all material points, relating to our service by letter to one of our principal Secretaries of State, from whom you shall receive from time to time such further orders as may be necessary for your guidance and direction.

GEORGIUS REX