

State of Military Chest

State of the Military Chest. August 13<sup>th</sup> 1783.Sterling Doll<sup>rs</sup> 4/6

In the Chest applicable to the  
Payment of Subsistence and Ex-  
traordinaries..... £ 9,206 . 9

Alex<sup>r</sup> Thomson  
S<sup>r</sup> Paymaster of the Forces.  
Norfolk

N.B.

As nearly as I can calculate the Subsistence  
of the Troops for the Month to commence the 25<sup>th</sup> of  
this Month will amount to..... £ 8,600 . .

And there are Warrants presented for Payment,  
and yet due to the amount of about..... £ 8,000 . .  
£ 16,600 . .

To Deputy Paym<sup>t</sup> General.

Sir,

N<sup>o</sup> 19.Halifax 14<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1783

I received your Letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> inclosing  
Copies of your Correspondence with Major General Paterson, rela-  
tive to the Business in your Department, as also an Account of  
the Money now in the Military Chest, and the Demands upon  
it, and as I shall have occasion to lay some part of the Contents  
of your Letter before the Commander in Chief for his Informa-  
tion, I am to desire that you will acquaint me what is the  
present Discount on Government Bills, and how far in your opi-  
-nion Money for answering our probable Demands for Subsistence  
and Contingencies can be procured by Bills, and you will likewise  
state, the past and present modes adopted here for procuring  
Money for the use of the Forces in this District.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

H<sup>c</sup> Fox D<sup>y</sup>

Alex<sup>r</sup> Thomson Esq:  
S<sup>r</sup> Paymaster Gen<sup>l</sup> &c.

Halifax 14<sup>th</sup> August 1783.S<sup>r</sup> Paym<sup>t</sup> General's  
answer.

Sir,

I have received your Letter of this days date, acquaint-  
ing me, that you shall have occasion to lay before the Commander in  
Chief, the Information relative to the Business in my Department  
communicated to you in my Letter of yesterday's date, and in the  
papers which accompanied it; and for that purpose directing me  
to acquaint you with the present discount on Government Bills, and  
how far a sufficiency of Money can be procured for carrying on the  
Service, as also to state the past and present Modes of procuring  
Money for the use of the Forces in this District.

In answer to which I have the Honor to acquaint  
you that the Discount on Government Bills is at present, and has  
for upwards of Eight Months past been at Ten per Cent. since which  
time the quantity of Money procured by Bills, has been so inadequate  
to the Exigency of the Service, that I have been able to pay only the  
Subsistence of the Troops, and Staff, in Specie, and the Warrants  
for Extraordinaries in Bills of Exchange, excepting very small sums  
occasionally for petty Disbursements.

The difficulty attending this mode of Payment, and  
the loss the Publick suffer by the Exchange, have from time to time  
been represented by me in my Letters to England. as also to Major  
General Paterson for the Information of the Commander in Chief.

General Paterson informed me that a supply of Specie  
would be sent from New York as soon as the State of the Military Chest  
there would permit, and my Letters from England advise me that our  
Situation as above described had been laid before the Lords Commis-  
sioners of the Treasury.

It is impossible for me to say with precision  
whether a sufficiency of Cash can be obtained at the present, or  
any other Rate of Exchange, but I should suppose that unless a Supply  
of Specie is sent here soon, it will scarcely be possible to raise  
enough for the Subsistence of the Troops now here, and the Pay of  
the Staff, to say nothing of Contingencies.

In regard to the past and present mode of pro-  
curing Money for the Supply of the Military Chest here, I am to ac-  
quaint you that, previous to the 17<sup>th</sup> June last, all the Money was

The Honorable Brigadier General  
Henry Edward Fox  
Commanding His Majesty's Troop in Nova Scotia  
Vc Vc &c.

furnished