

Dear Coll.

Morristown 20th Feb. 1777

The uncertain State in which I have been for some Time past has prevented me from writing either to you or Mr. Griffith. I have been in the expectation of returning home, but from the Situation of things have not asked leave - Yesterday I obtained it, & wait only for Drapers return to set out. He is gone to Philadelphia & will be back in a few Days.

Our Army is, now, at least equal to the Enemy in Number. We hem them in on every side & they can get nothing but out of the fire. They are much distressed in their Situation, but as we cannot attack but under disadvantage, & as a failure would throw our Affairs into a much worse Situation than they are at Present it is thought best to let them alone. Thus much is certain, that without far greater reinforcements than we conceive they can get soon they will not be able to penetrate into the Country. We hear favourable Accounts of the recruiting Service, ^{from all quarters} & we hope that we shall soon be so strong as to ensure success when ever we attack them.

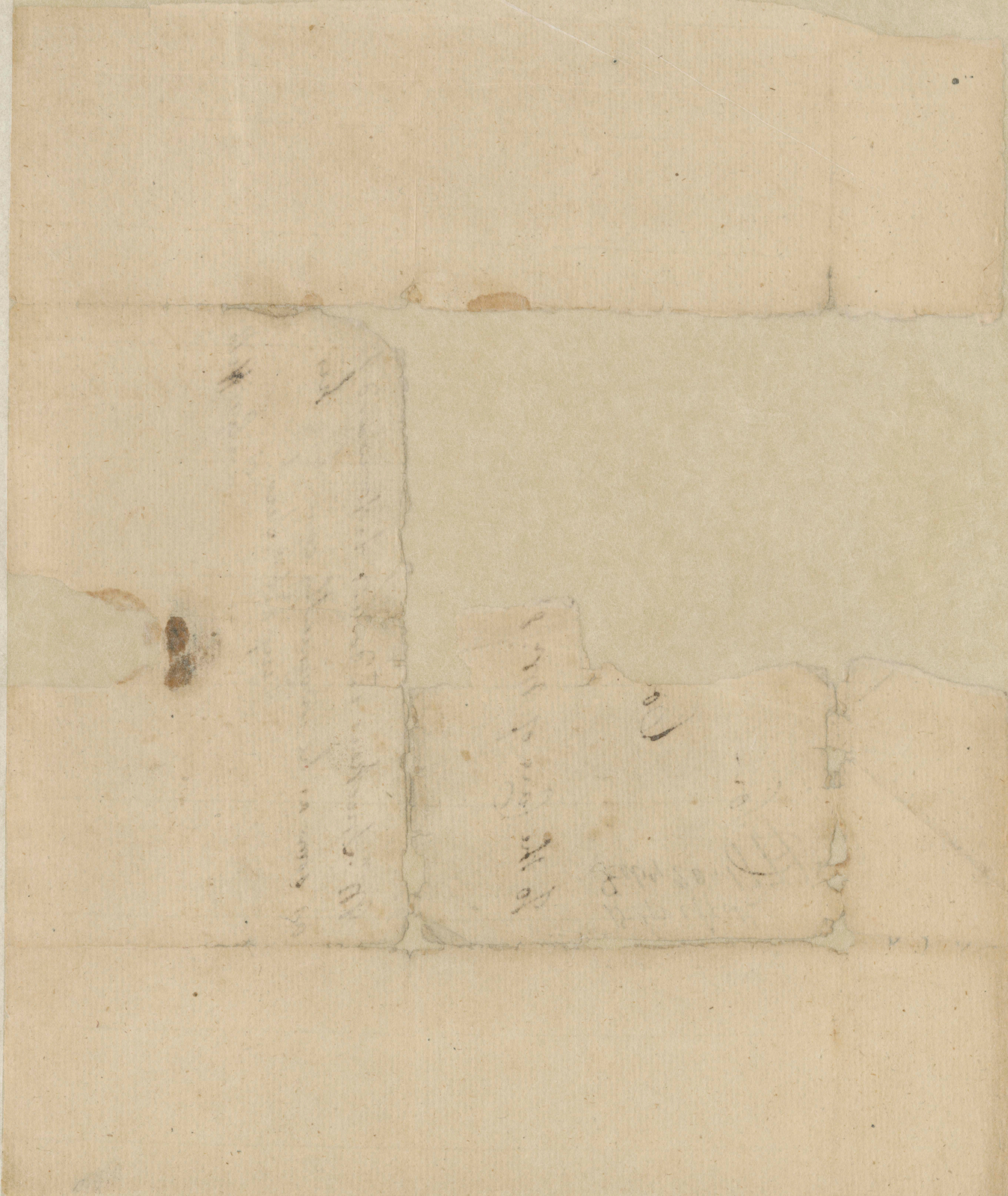
A Party from Gen. Putnam's Division surrounded

one of them out Posts yesterday morning, ~~the~~ killed seven
wounded several & took sixty nine Prisoners. They were
stationed at a Place called the Roundabouts on Pariton
River. Two British & 4 Mysian Deserters came in last
night, but I have not heard what acc^t. they bring.

Y^r Kings Speech you will shortly see in the
papers. we have some debates in Parliament; from
which & other Channels we have the most certain
acc^t. that there is a strong Prep in England.

The Messenger who takes this is waiting
for me to finish. I have only to add my desire you
would send this over to Mr. ~~Griffith~~ as soon as you con-
veniently can, as I have not time to write a second
Letter. In the Expectation of seeing her & you
shortly, I remain Y^r Coll.

Yours very affectionately
D. Griffiths



B. Franklin
Feb 20. 1777
D. D. For

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In the Care of Mr. S.

Mr. Snickers is desired to forward this
as soon as he conveniently can by his
Very humble Servant

D. Griffith

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