



George Washington Quotes on Distilled Spirits

“And, as an encouragement to them to behave well, and to attend diligently to their Duty, the Colonel [Washington] promises to give them, so long as they deserve it, four gallons of rum, made into punch, every day.”

General Orders

August 7, 1756

“In like Manner, since our Imports of Spirit have become so precarious, nay impracticable, on Account of the Enemy’s Fleet which infests our Whole Coast, I would beg leave to suggest the propriety of erecting Public Distilleries in different States. The benefits arising from moderate use of Liquor, have been experienced in All Armies, and are not to be disputed !!”

George Washington to the President of Congress

August 16, 1777

“It is necessary, there should always be a Sufficient Quantity of Spirits with the Army, to furnish moderate supplies to the Troops. In many instances, such as when they are marching in hot or Cold weather, in Camp in Wet, on fatigue or in Working Parties, it is so essential, that it is not to be dispensed with. I should be happy if the exorbitant price, to which it has risen, could be reduced.”

George Washington to William Buchanan

August 20, 1777

“As the President will be going, if he proceeds, into the Country of Whiskey he proposes to make use of that liquor for his drink...”

Bartholemew Dandridge to Henry Knox

October 9, 1794

“... the Serjeants [should] see it [liquor] duly distributed daily and mixed with Water at stated times; in which case ... it will become refreshing and salutary.”

General Orders

May 16, 1782