

Port Stephens, 1. Nov. 1819.

Sir,

I must beg to apologise to your Excellency for the brevity of the accompanying Letter, and for its insufficiency in conveying to your Excellency any adequate Idea of the Route I have pursued, and the Country I have over, but I trust the circumstances under which it is written will be admitted in excuse. We arrived here late this afternoon, the Men exhausted and fatigued beyond measure by unremitting exertion, to which may be added the almost constant Alarm we are under from the attacks of the Natives, particularly within the few days, and they are at this moment collected in great numbers at a short distance, doubtless waiting a favourable opportunity to surprise us.

Mr Coombs will proceed in the course of the night with a Party, to Newcastle, to procure a supply of Provisions as our own Stock is nearly exhausted, and also to obtain from the Commandant a Large Boat which to cross the Torres over, our own being quite inadequate for such a service, and the Men who would be sent this way on the North would prevent me from attempting

be put up when the Port is narrower, as neither Men or Horses  
are capable of the exertions they would be necessary to put  
them, our wounded Men also require ease and rest, without  
which it is impossible he can survive. These reasons will, I  
have little doubt, appear to Your Excellency, to be sufficient  
to authorize me sending to request assistance from New-  
castle.—

By the time I can arrive at Newcastle, I  
hope to receive your Excellency's directions to proceed with the  
Men in one of the Col: Vessels for Lydney, and also in what  
manner our remaining Horses, (having lost 4 in the course  
of the Journey) are to be disposed of—

I beg your Excellency to make  
my most respectful Compliments acceptable to M<sup>r</sup>. Macquarie  
whom together with your Excellency I hope to have the pleasure  
to find in good health.—

I remain with the greatest respect,  
Your Excellency,

Most Obed<sup>t</sup> and Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

*T. Alley*

To His

Excellency Governor Macquarie  
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