

August 15 said William Barney be discharged from the Duty for which he was  
 Liber C. B. drafted.  
 No. 24

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August 15 [Council to The commanding Officer of the British Navy or land  
 Liber No. 78 Forces at or near Portsmouth.]  
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A Boat the Dolphin belonging to this State commanded by M<sup>r</sup> William Middleton was in the Month of March last, taken by one of the British Squadron then in Chesepeak, soon afterwards the Cap<sup>t</sup> of a French armed Vessel brought in here Capt Penny and part of the Company of a British Vessel the Endeavour which he had taken on his Passage Cap<sup>t</sup> Penny represented himself to be related to Gentlemen of Rank in the British Navy, and requested that his Parole might be taken to return Middleton in his Stead. A Copy of his Parole we have the Honor to enclose; but we have not heard since from Cap<sup>t</sup> Penny neither has Middleton returned. We request Sir, that Enquiry may be made and Middleton may be released, or Penny returned according to the Terms of his Parole. We have also to inform you that about the 1<sup>st</sup> July past one of the British Barges captured in the Mouth of Patuxent a small Bay Schooner laden with Tobacco, on Board of which was a young Gentlemen M<sup>r</sup> James Thomas Owner of the Vessel and Tobacco. His Parents, who are People of Credit have heard that he is very ill in Jail at Portsmouth, and since he was a Prisner, badly wounded, and that he suffers for the Conveniences of Life, under these Circumstance common Humanity induces us to comply with the request of the Parents and Relations of M<sup>r</sup> Thomas in giving the Bearer hereof Lieutenant Col. John Thomas of the S<sup>t</sup> Mary's Militia, permission to go with a Flag to endeavour to obtain the Release of his Brother, either on Parole or on Exchange, at the same Time to carry him some Money and Necessaries for his Support and Recovery. He will be attended by Doctr Mud and four Hands to navigate the Boat. There are in Maryland several Persons who have been taken by the Inhabitants plundering on the Shores. If you think proper to release M<sup>r</sup> Thomas, we will immediately release in his Stead any British Citizen who is a Prisoner here in like Circumstances. As we have truly stated the only Motives for this Address, we have to request that the Bearer, who will comply with the Formalities required, may be received with Indulgence and respect shewn to Flags of Truce

Ibid.  
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[Council to John Smith Brookes Esqr.]

We have yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> Instant by M<sup>r</sup> Scott who has delivered twenty nine Head of Cattle to M<sup>r</sup> Chrysal, we cannot conceive how you could have misunderstood our Letters as they were certainly positive to forward the Cattle to his Place, by their not being complied with the Troops have suffered for flesh Provisions, we request