

In Council Annapolis 15th June 1779

501. Sir. It was concluded it would be most ~~essential~~ essential to the Public Service to send the Arms by Water & therefore we directed one of our Gallies to take Fregoes Vessel under conveyance and to see her safe into Potawmack. In proceeding down the Bay, two large Ships appearing in Sight and being taken for Enemies, altho' they proved to be French Ships, Frege ran his Vessel into Choptank. On receiving Notice of this we immediately wrote to the Lieutenant of Dorchester County to order that Vessel on to Potawmack or to hire or prep another for that Purpose, as there was Reason to believe Fregoes Vessel was unfit to convey the Arms, by the Intelligence we received we apprehend some of them are already damaged. We hope you may have received them by this altho' there have been some of this Enemy's Privateers as high as Potawmack which gives us some Uneasiness about their Safety: if they are not gone, any thing in our Power shall be done to forward them.

Col^o Wallace. We are &c.

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502. Sir. We have this Moment received a Letter from Col^o Wallace, who was entrusted with the Arms which were carried to Cambridge, dated at Fredericksburg the 13th Inst. informing us that he had heard nothing of them since he left this Place and expressing great Apprehensions for their Safety. We wish to know when you sent them off & by what Opportunity, as there are 1500 Men at Petersburg destined for South Carolina and waiting for Arms only. We hear there are some of the Enemy's Privateers high up the Bay and if the Arms are not already sent, have them put on Board a Vessel to go under an Escort of two of our Gallies, which will be ready to proceed down the Bay in a Day or two.

Henry Hooper Esq^r }
Lt. of Dorchester County } We are &c.

In Council Annapolis 10th June 1779

503. Sir. You are to proceed with the Conqueror and Chester down the Bay and continue in the Neighbourhood of the Capes so as to make your Cruise from your going from hence till your Return hither five Weeks as near as may be. If the Conqueror should prove so leaky that she cannot stay so long, she may return and we shall endeavour to have the Independence ready to receive the Men & join you. You are to consider yourself at Liberty to run out to Sea or along the Coast Southward or Northward, as you may judge prudent and most to the Advantage of the Service, and, in general, regulate your Conduct by your own Discretion in which we have great Confidence, & may best answer the Intention of your Cruise which is, to afford all the Protection in your Power to the Trade and annoy the Enemy all you can.

Commodore Gronson. We are &c.

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504. Sir. You have inclosed an Order on Capt. Shepards for ten Barrels of Gun Powder, or any Part of it you may think proper to call for, you are to have it at the Price we sold for, that is 10/4^{cts}. You may also be furnished with any Number of six Pound shot, here that you will want at as low a Price at least as they may be had in Baltimore. We do not know whether the Shot may be to spare in Baltimore or whether they will so well suit your Guns: most of them, if not all we have here, were made on purpose for your Guns.

Wm Smith Esq^r We are &c.