

280. watch the Movements of the British Ships late of this Harbour, and as your Desires  
require that Description better than any other in the Fleet. We request of you  
to remove the Provisions from on Board your Chequer to some place of Safety,  
such as advising the Commandant of our Directions, and if you want an  
additional Number of Men, we have no Doubt you will be furnished  
upon your application to the Store. You are to communicate to us with  
the utmost Dispatch whatever occurs of Importance during your Cruise.

Capt. John Pitt.

In Council, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1781.

281. Sir, The Departure of the British Ships from before this Harbour and as we  
apprehend they are gone down the Bay gives an Opportunity of reconnoitering  
the Bay and Rivers between this place and Elk, to see if there are any of their  
Cruisers remaining. You will therefore proceed the Boat Plate from hence to  
Baltimore Town and keep a careful look out on your Passage, when you  
arrive at Baltimore Town apply to Commodore Nicholson for further Instructions.  
If he desires you to proceed up the Bay to Elk or perform any other Service you  
are to follow his Directions. Should any Thing, and material occur in your  
passage you will give us as speedy Notice of it as you possibly can.

Capt. Gilbert Middleton

In Council, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1781.

282. Sir, We note you the 22<sup>d</sup> Instant to send down six Waggon with Flour or  
Bread, which was to be furnished by Mr. Poe, if you have not already sent  
off these Waggon, you will apply to Commodore Nicholson to be acquainted  
with the Situation of the Bay and if it can be done with Safety, to send the  
Bread and Flour down by Water and discharge the Waggon, this Post  
is entirely without Bread you will therefore send a Supply without Delay.

Mr. Thomas Donnellan.

In Council, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1781.

283. Sir, We have just received the enclosed from Governor Jefferson. We  
are informed by Mr. Green who has been at the Mouth of South River  
that the two Ships that lay off this Harbour are now lying at the  
Mouth of Choptank River and that the two Schooners are up that  
River.

Commodore Nicholson