

In Council, 19th May, 1781.

Sir, We request you to take under your Command and Direction such a Detachment of regular Troops as will fully man and arm the State Boat Platoon, the armed Boat Decoy and the State Barge we have to freighten you, added another Boat and ordered forty Men of the Select Militia on Board her who are also are under your Command. You will without Delay proceed with those Vessels and the Troops in Pursuit of the Enemy's Barges which we are informed were discovered yesterday afternoon nearly opposite to the Mouth of West River. If you do not find them in that Neighbourhood, you are to proceed to Holland Island the place of their rendezvous. We recommend to you to keep up that or any other post which the Army may have on the Tangier Islands and seize and secure all the Inhabitants who have in any Manner voluntarily aided the Enemy; we are persuaded you will receive every Aid and Intelligence from the Inhabitants of the Eastern Shore which you may require. (Firmly relying upon your Judgment Zeal and Activity we have no Doubt of your accomplishing the Purpose of this Expedition. By the Law for the Defence of the Bay an Extract of which is enclosed, we was directed to remove the Inhabitants from the Islands below Hoopers Straights and between the Sound and the Bay with all their Stock &c to the Main, in consequence of which we gave Orders to the Lieutenants of the Counties, in which these Islands are to carry the Law into Execution, should they not have done it, and you can conveniently give them Assistance in the removal, we wish you to do it.

Capt. Alexander Pueman.

In Council, 25th May, 1781.

Sir, We have enclosed you the Terms on which we intend to send Articles into New York to be sold for the Relief of the captive Officers from this State, should you approve of them you will inform us immediately that we may taking the first opportunity of writing to our Agent