

Service, to desert and to serve on Board your Vessel. We mean to take up
N^o 1052. the matter tomorrow forenoon, and request you will attend between 11 and
12 o'clock, that you may be present at the Examination of the Person who
has given the Information. We are also informed that several Soldiers
have deserted lately, we shall be much obliged to you to make strict Enquiry
on Board your Vessel and, if any are on Board, to have them delivered up
to General Smallwood.

Capt. James Belt.

Council 26th Feb^y 1782

Sir.

Information having been given to this Board, by General Smallwood,
that several of the Soldiers of this State, in the Continental Service, have
deserted within these few Days, and that he has great Reason to believe they
are secreted on Board the Ship Matilda, lying off the Harbour, commanded
1053 by Capt. James Belt. This is therefore to authorize you to examine and
search the said Vessel, and if you find any Soldiers on Board, to bring them
on Shore and give this Board Information thereof, and this shall be
your sufficient Authority.

Major John Davidson.

Council 26th Feb^y 1782

Sir.

From Information received from General Smallwood, we have Reason to
believe some of the Soldiers who have lately deserted, are on Board your
Vessel, secreted by your Crew; we have therefore empowered Maj. Davidson
1054 to go on Board and examine her, and if he finds any Soldiers to bring them
on Shore. From your conduct heretofore, we have an Assurance that you
are not privy to the secreting the Men and rest assured that Maj. Davidson
will meet with no Obstacle in the Execution of the Orders given him
Capt. James Belt

Council 27th Feb^y 1782

Sir.

Your Address of the 25th Inst. last, was not delivered before this
Morning. The Maryland Line has been so much reduced by numberless
casualties, that it will require every Effort of the State to fill it up, or
1055 give it that Respect it has ever maintained during the War, and we
cannot but be of Opinion that giving the Permission you solicit
will greatly retard the completion of our Quota, and discourage
many from enlisting in it who, otherwise, might have no Objection.
We lament that we cannot comply with the Request of a Gentleman
who has such Claims upon every American, but we trust, what we
have suggested will evince the Propriety of our Refusal.

Col. Howard.

Council 1st March 1782

Sir.

We have 4000 Dollars arrived in Baltimore, in the Antelope Capt. [unclear]
which is for the Recruiting Service. To expedite that Business and to get
1056 the Money into your Hands without Delay, your Honor is hereby ordered
on the Captain for three thousand nine hundred and thirty Dollars, and
his Receipt for the Delivery, after paying the Freight.
General Smallwood