

Papers of Alexander Cochrane - MS2348

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Cochrane to Croker

17 September 1814

No. 116

To: John Wilson Croker ^{Baltimore}

Tonnant in the Chesapeake
17th September 1814

Sir,

I request that you will be pleased to inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the approaching equinoctial new moon rendering it unsafe to proceed immediately out of the Chesapeake with the combined expedition to act upon the plans which had been conceived previous to the departure of the (Tiger); Major General Ross and myself resolved to occupy the intermediate time to advantage, by making a demonstration upon the City of Baltimore; which might be converted into a real attack should circumstances appear to justify it; and as our arrangements were soon made I proceeded up the River and anchored off the mouth of the Patuxent on the 11th Sept Instant, when the Frigate and smaller vessels entered to a convenient distance for landing the Troops. —

At an early hour next morning the disembarkation of the army was effected without opposition, leaving attached to it a brigade of Six hundred Seamen, under Captain Edward Crofton, (late of the Leopard) the Second Battalion of Marines, the Marines of the Squadron, and the Colonial Black Marines: Rear Admiral Cockburn accompanied the Major General to advise and arrange as might be deemed necessary for our combined efforts. So soon as the army moved forward, I hoisted my flag in the Surprise (sic), and with the remaining side of the Frigates, Bombs, Sloops and the Rocket Ship passed further up the River to render what cooperation could be found practicable while the Bomb Vessels were working up in order that we might open our fire upon the Enemy's Fort. at daybreak the next morning an account was brought to me that Major Genl Ross when reconnoitering the Enemy had received a mortal wound by a musket ~~shot~~ Ball, which closed his glorious career