

Papers of Alexander Cochrane MS 2329
Gordon - Cochrane
9 September 1814

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To Sir Alex^r Cochrane KB
Commander in Chief

Seahorse Chesapeake Bay
9 Sept 1814

Sir.

Seahorse
Surgallas
Devastation
Actua

Meteor

Erebus

Anna Maria

Dispatch ~~Boat~~

In obedience to your orders I proceeded into the River Potomac with the Ships Named in the Margin on the 17th of last Month, but from being without Pilots to assist us through that difficult part of the River called the Kettle Bottoms, and from contrary winds we were unable to reach Fort Mifflin until the evening of the 27th.

Nor was this effected but by the severest labour, - I believe each of the Ships was not less than twenty different times aground and each time were obliged to heave off by means of Strength, - and we were employed warping for five whole successive days with the exception of a few hours a distance of more than fifty miles.

The Bomb Ships were placed on the evening of the 27th and immediately began the bombardment of the Fort, it being my intention to attack it with the Frigates at daylight the following morning. - On the bursting of the first shell the Garrison were observed to retreat, - but supposing some concealed design I directed the fire to be continued. - At 8 o'clock however my doubts were — by the explosion of the powder Magazine which destroyed the inner buildings, and at daylight on the 28th we took possession. - Besides the principal Fort which contained

Two fifty two pounders

Two thirty two pounders &
eight twenty four pounders

there was a battery on the Bank of

Five eighteen pounders

a martello tower with

Two twelve pounders, and

loop holes for musquetry and a Battery in the Rear of
Two twelves and ~~Six six pound field pieces~~ (sic)

← ~~Separate one~~ (sic) Six six pound F. Pieces