

Constellation 20th Sep 1847

Sir

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In compliance with your orders of the 16th ult. I have the honor to forward herewith a report of the state and conditions of the whole of the force on this station and a muster roll of the Officers, Petty Officers, Seamen, Marines and Boys under my command designating those of the Constellation from those of the Hotitta. By which you will perceive the Constellation has a crew of 380 all told; and the Hotitta 283. A large proportion of the latter are officers and Boys and the third of the rest, blacks. — I have determined notwithstanding to keep seventeen Gun Boats in Commission, six of which I have moored permanently to protect the rear of Fort Nelson, and the Town of Portsmouth, allowing them as many men as will work their Long Guns, to serve as a fixed Battery, and under cover of the Guns of the Constellation, which also commands the plain in the rear of Fort Nelson and Portsmouth. The rest of the Gun Boats (eleven in number) I have detailed men from this ship, to make a crew of twenty five each. And shall keep them in the advanced at Crany Islands, where I have a range of heavy Booms, well chained & anchored in the narrow, and where I also contemplate experimenting with eight Torpedoes —

I have also three Launches and the Centipede barge