

Aug 17 (cont) ~~The~~ The rest generally manned. The harbors are not to land an expedition & we (or were) compelled to haul & lay at anchor under guard, while the troops were engaged on shore - The fleet appear to (be) in want of nothing, but the troops upon the Schooners are generally sickly - The City Committee appear at a loss to know how to dispose of Deserters - it is thought dangerous to let them run at large - Two of those ~~also~~ ^{who} deserted some days since at Lundy Point obtained the Governors & Genl Smiths pass for Philad^a and were found by one of my officers at the Lazarette, where the Gally establishment is kept; In consequence of which I have detained them in the Navy Yard until I can receive instructions how to dispose of them - The Martial (sic) has only to give them a pass to go into the Country which they decline doing, and the Genl wishes them to be sent to Philadelphia; But as I conceive the Philadelphians would not view it friendly in our Citizens and as more may be expected every day, I have detained them all until further orders from you - I am of opinion a Guard Ship in this harbor would be of infinite service on the present occasion, and by putting our Marine Guard on board with the extra officers I have here, it would be cheap accommodations for the young Midshipmen and the present Navy Yard (for which we pay \$50 pr month and which is entirely out of the way of the ships building at this place) might be dispensed with, particular as it is now of no other use but for the Guard & the Purser's office, all of whom could be well accommodated in any of those large ships laying idle at this place, and can be obtained from any of the Merchants by our ~~being~~ becoming responsible to them as we here.