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Navy Yard Wash. 28 Aug 1813

I am honored with your letter of 25th inst. and enclose herewith a statement of the number of rounds of shot of the different qualities taken on board of sundry of the public ships which have been fitted out here. The number of shot has been chiefly at the will of the Captains or commanding officers of each vessel respectively. But in submitting my opinion, I beg leave to recommend that, for every long gun mounted on board our ships of War, the complement of shot should be 100 to 120 rounds of round shot - 50 to 60 rounds of grape shot and 20 to 25 rounds of canister. For every carronade, 80 to 90 rounds of round shot - 30 to 40 rounds of grape, and 10 to 15 rounds of canister, which quantities respectively I conceive to be amply sufficient for a long cruise, presuming however that on any very extraordinary expenditure, the ship would make for a port near one of our Naval arsenals, where ample provision should be stored for supply. Each barrel of grape, has been heretofore generally, one iron shot and twelve round shot - and this practice I would recommend to be continued, for proper proportioned long guns.