

Sec Nav
Letters
Feb 1813 -
March 1822

SEC NAV to Barney - Confidential Letters
RG 45 Entry 7

Joshua Barney Esq.
Captain Commanding
the U S Flotilla
St Leonard's Creek

Naval Department
June 10th 1814

①

Sir, ~~B~~

I have this moment received your letter of the 9th and notice the detail of the attempt made by the enemy upon your forces in St. Leonard's Creek. Relying with great confidence upon your judgement, I have no doubt that the motions which induced you to enter that Creek in preference to ascending the Patuxent will be found to have been justified by the occasion, though the former in my ^{present} view would have ~~had~~ had the effect of leading them further into the Country, and of multiplying the chances of annoying & obstructing them in their descent.

I shall instantly apply to the Secretary of War, for the order to Major Stewart, and I have no doubt he will order such other reinforcements, as well as secure you against any reinforcements the enemy may receive. If properly and vigorously pursued, the opportunity appears to me to be such as ought to be desired, and may enable us to punish the temerity of the enemy.

In anticipation of some such service, I had four light twelve pounders mounted on field carriages, and attached to the Marine Corps, a detachment of which amounting ~~to~~ perhaps to 100, as good troops as can be found, will be immediately ordered to your assistance, with two or three twelve pounders and a howitzer. Light

Be pleased to describe the nature of the Banks of the Creek & River, and point out such positions as may afford the best points of annoyance, either with heavy artillery or musketry. Is there any prominent point upon which a Breastwork could be thrown up below the enemy, and the guns from the gun boat mounted thereon. We could soon send you two or three truck carriages, if travelling carriages are not to be had. What means