

Sec Nav to Barney - Confidential
June 18, 1814 (cont)

(2)

from Baltimore two sets of wheels, eight in each set viz^t four wheels geared as close together as they will work, with a bolster and chock to receive the Barge at about one third from each end thus the boat will be sustained by eight wheels, say, of the size and full strength of dray wheels, and would be drawn by fourteen yoke of oxen moving the weight of the heaviest Barge and 500 lbs for each ox but in the short portage of 2 1/2 miles the force of your men would supersede the necessity of so many oxen.

When you have the wheels, purchases etc prepared, you will be the better able to determine upon the expediency of using them upon the plan suggested, but whether or, not, they may be converted to another very useful purpose, viz^t, to transport a few of your heavy guns to any eligible point for a temporary battery, there to be mounted on truck carriages which can be sent from this place or Baltimore, or by screwing two rough Chocks on the bolsters of these wheels, the guns might be mounted on them for service.

I wish to know how many Barges you have left in Baltimore of each kind, and in what state of preparations they are. We have one of the large and two of the smaller right Barges at this place ready for service.

The enemy appear to attach great importance to the Blockade of the flotilla, and Mr. Barclay their agent has been heard to say, that if you had double your force the blockade would not be raised. Should the enemy increase his force on the Bay, it may be necessary alternately to secure your flotilla if practicable and transfer your men to the Barges at Baltimore and this place and endeavour to raise the Blockade outside.

Captain Gordon is now making a diversion in your favor and has sent I believe an officer to St Mary's to cross over and communicate with you upon the best plan of cooperation, as in collecting their force to blockade you, they raise the blockade of Norfolk, & Captain Gordon has now 23 Gunboats and two or three Schooners etc with between 6 & 700 men.

I am respectfully etc

W. Jones.