

See Nav to Barney - Confidential
June 20, 1814 (cont)

(2)

But if his force should be very considerable, his apparent design upon the flotilla may serve to mask a rapid movement on this City or Baltimore. He may ascend the Patuxent to Nottingham, and landing within twenty four miles of this City, reach it by a forced march in a few hours, and in the absence of a principal part of its defense, accomplish its destruction and return to his fleet before a sufficient force could be collected either to repel his approach or cut off his retreat. A few hours would also carry him to the vicinity of Baltimore, where in the absence of the flotilla, he would command without molestation the whole of the Patapsco below the range of the guns of Fort M^c Henry and land on either side his forces, where his Rockets could be thrown into the Fort and Town secure from the range of the guns of the Fort.

He certainly appears to attach much more importance to the blockade of a few Barges, than the distinction? and intrinsic object can justify - Hence I believe he has other and greater designs

These are serious views of the subject and demonstrate that our object in maintaining the defense of the flotilla in order to justify our perseverance in that course should be commensurate with the importance of the objects which are thus exposed to hazard.

That some public sensation might be excited by the voluntary destruction of the flotilla is very probably (sic) but that could not sustain for a moment the force of just explanation. Let us assume the extent and nature of the object to be defended and the consequence of its abandonment.

If all the armament & every moveable equipment of the flotilla was removed to a place of safety, the value would stand thus:

actually
7 large
and 6 small
see
to Sec Navy
June 22, 1814

Hull of the Cutter Scorpion	\$3000
Two Gun Boat Hulls absolutely nothing, being old and so sluggish as to endanger any force they may act with, and are better burnt than preserved	[0] 500
The bare Hulls of 3 Barges of the large size may be contracted for to be built in a fortnight at \$2000 each	12000
Ditto of 7 small Barges DO at \$1500	10500
Extent of loss by voluntary destruction	<u>\$25 500</u>