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Navy Yard Gosport 18th March 1813⁴

I have taken the liberty to acquaint you
the Frigate Constellation & gun boats, have returned
above the forts, the Citizens have sunk four vessels in
the Channel directly opposite Pennock's house, which
is marked on the map I sent the Department -

In consequence of this movement, the enemy has complete
command of the River, as high up as the western bar.
The weak state of the gun boats has absolutely made
necessary for this movement -

I have taken the men from
eleven boats, to man the other ten, & they are very little better
than half man'd for any active operation; the Pilot
Boat Franklin Captain Stewart recommends strongly,
to be engaged to cruise with the tender, I have in consequence
put on her one long Nine pound shot, & two six
pound carronades; & on the tender one thirty two pound
carronade & one six pound shot from the Frigate, & one six
pound carronade; the Frigate will man both these vessels
to cruise & prevent the enemy's boats from committing
such depredations on the western shore of the River -

This morning at 2 Am an express
arrived saying, the enemy had landed in Hanscombs
I suppose a foraging party; the Troop. were ordered immediately
from Portsmouth to intercept them, I have not heard from them
since - I have only twenty Militia men in the yard as a guard, the
Militia being on board the gun boat, stationed on the river. I have therefore