

Navy yard Gosport 20th March 1813

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your letter of the 13th instant was handed me
yesterday, nothing has transpired since my last
but the enemy boats committing depredations on the
waters of James River. Captain Stewart has directed
seven of the gun boats to be manned with forty men &
double quantity of ammunition that is 200 fiddling
also the Franklin of the tender despatch for some ex-
pedition to make up that number of men they must
be taken from the remaining three boats which by near
the ship. There is laying off Nansemond a Port
ship in which the enemy use as a decoy they have sea
on eight barges laying along side of which any boats attempt-
ing from James River there off & take away things
on the 18th they took one ship & two barges up James River &
a great licensed vessels & several craft. Two Negroes belong-
ing to R. Lady in this neighborhood was returning from Smith-
field was chased they jumped over board & swam to shore the
bounty pursued them & landed told the family to have
house they want to, they did not come to hunt them only
to look about them - When the attack was expected
every moment General Taylor sent his aid for me at 10 o'clock
to ascertain if I had any authority to give bounty to men
who would enter for the gun boats being answered in the
negative. The next morning Captain Faxon Navy Agent
had hand bills up at every corner offering twenty dollars bounty
to Seamen & fifteen