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My Dear General

June 20th 1812

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you ^{that} on the 20th the Enemy got under way, in all thirteen sail, and dropt ^{up} to the mouth of James River, one ship bearing a flag at the Muzzins at 5 P.M. were discovered making great preparation with troops for landing, having a number of boats for the purpose. Finding Craney Island rather weak, Capt. Tarbell directed Lieutenants Neal, Shubrick, & Saunders with one hundred seamen on shore at 11 P.M. to a small battery on the N.W. Point of the Island. Tuesday 21st at the dawn the Enemy were discovered landing round the pond of Mansumond river, said to be four thousand troops, and at 8 A.M. the bays attempted to land in front of the Island with much of the shot from the Gunboats. When Lieutenants Neal, Shubrick & Saunders ^{with L^t. Brasfield's marines} and the sailors of the Constellation one hundred & fifty in number, opened their fire, which was so well directed that the Enemy were glad to get off, after sinking three of their largest boats, one of which carried the Captain, Admiral Warren's boat. Fifty feet in length, carrying seventy five men.