PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference:- ADM 1/509
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this advanced season of the Year is most harrassing Service.

On the 29th Ultimo I entered the River with the Schooners and Boats, the Devastation, Terror, and Briam having previously grounded; light Winds and our ignorance of the Navigation (some of the Schooners being constantly aground) prevented our getting sight of Tappahanock before eight O'Clock on the 2nd Instant, when we observed a considerable body of Troops drawn out with their Field Pieces; as the Schooners could not make any progress against the Tide, I anchored them and proceeded with the Boats abreast of the Town, and when within Grape Shot commenced our Fire, which the Enemy did not return and observing them abandoning the Town, I directed Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm to land with the Dragon's Menelaus, and Havannah's Marines; before this was effected, the Inhabitants with the exception of two had entirely deserted the Town, and removed all their effects, except about forty Hogsheads of Tobacco and some Flour.

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