



USS Constitution  
Museum

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TRANSCRIPTION OF

**Letter from  
William Bainbridge to John Brooks,  
June 13, 1814**

USS Constitution Museum Collection [202.3]

Navy Yard, Charlestown  
June 13, 1814

Dear Sir,

The force of the enemy in Boston Bay justifies, in my opinion, apprehensions of an attack being made on this place, and calls for united exertions to repel it.

The important public property entrusted to my charge, within this Establishment might in such an event suffer severely, and would in a considerable degree expose the towns of Boston & Charlestown: - I therefore hope, that such measures will be directed by His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as shall guard against the threatening danger.

I beg leave particularly to recommend, that orders be given to the militia in this neighbourhood to hold themselves in readiness to act immediately on the alarm; that a guard, with two pieces of artillery, be stationed every night on this side of Chelsea- bridge, to give the alarm & repel the enemy if advancing by that passage; and that a Look-out be kept on the height beyond Chelsea-meeting-house, to watch the movements of the enemy, and to make them known, if of moment, by a  
more

man on horseback, to carry the intelligence to the Navy Yard &c. –

Should his Excellency the Governor be pleased to direct the foregoing arrangements to be made, it will contribute to the safety of the United States' property within this Navy Yard.

At bottom are the signals which will be made from this Yard, in cases of alarm, when the assistance of 5 or 6,00 [sic] of the militia might prove of the utmost importance to the preservation of the public stores and the seventy four at this place.

I am, dear sir,  
with sentiments of high esteem & respect,  
Your obt sert  
W<sup>m</sup> Bainbridge

P.S. I will feel obliged to your ordering the New England Guards & their artillery to do duty within this Navy Yard every night untill Monday or Tuesday next. My only reason for preferring the New England Guards is, that I am acquainted with the officers, & know many of the corps. –

General Jno Brooks

## Signals

By Day – Two guns fired in quick succession, and a red Flag hoisted in the Navy Yard.

By Night – Three guns fired in quick succession, two Lanthorns hoisted perpendicularly, and the Navy Yard Bell rung as loud as possible.

Letter from Commodore  
Bainbridge, dated  
June 19,<sup>th</sup> 1814.

General John Brooks