

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 4

AMERICAN THEATRE: Feb. 19, 1776–Apr. 17, 1776

EUROPEAN THEATRE: Feb. 1, 1776–May 25, 1776

AMERICAN THEATRE: Apr. 18, 1776–May 8, 1776

Part 5 of 7

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EUROPEAN THEATRE

From February 1, 1776, to May 25, 1776

*In Gotham, once the story goes
 A lot of wise-men once
 Stood in the great Public House
 Could round a Goose down on the
 With every promise of bounty-bless.
 At present none too long to go,
 Their doubt was both far and wide
 What not a little would their pride
 Put above all that they posses'd
 Was a fine Goose by all right,
 A Barn-door to behold
 Who laid such eggs as eggs of gold
 This made them grow immensely rich
 Gave them an appetite that
 The fair world to have more*

*They got entangled with their Goose
 Would rather, vulgar and strange, prove
 To make the Harrold Bird for them
 This glorious purpose to obtain
 About her Neck they put a Chain
 And swore that Liberty to complete
 They meant upon her Wings to set
 But that had no Effect at all
 Yet made her stronger, flatter, approach
 And to what every Goose would do
 That had her Liberty, or more
 When one of more dangerous'd deep
 Cry'd De—ar how let us let her Throat
 They did, but not as they was told
 Her blood came pouring from the wound*



THE WISE MEN of GOTHAM and their GOOSE.

Pub. by W. Phillips, 1791. By W. Phillips, corrected and enlarged.

EUROPEAN THEATRE

From February 1, 1776, to May 25, 1776

SUMMARY

By the end of January, 1776, two of the petty princes of Germany had accepted liberal annual subsidies and pledged their hireling subjects to the British. First to enter into such a treaty had been Charles I Duke of Brunswick who had agreed, on January 9, to supply four thousand officers and men. He had been followed, on January 15, by the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel. From his domain were to come twelve thousand Hessians. Colonel William Fawcitt, the British negotiator, had by then reached the court of Duke William of Hesse-Hanau pressing for two thousand Hanoverians. In the treaty with the Duke of Brunswick was a shameful "blood clause" providing payment to him of a certain sum for each man killed, incapacitated, or taken prisoner, and an equivalent sum for every three men wounded.

All these negotiations were known in France, either from agents in the principalities or from Caron de Beaumarchais who had returned to England in December. Meanwhile, probably in late January, Foreign Minister Vergennes is presumed to have dictated to his secretary some "Reflexions" on the conduct France should hold in regard to the English colonies in America. In these he recommended that arms and ammunition be supplied by the French government, ostensibly through private enterprise.

Elsewhere on the continent all was quiescent, although Sir Joseph Yorke, British Ambassador at The Hague, was watching with suspicious eyes the large shipments of gunpowder to the Dutch West Indies, particularly that island of the open port – St. Eustatius.

But in India, where Warren Hastings, Governor General of all the British owned settlements, ruled with an iron hand, rumbles of discontent had begun. They were the opening skirmishes of the First Marhatta War, and already had been the occasion for British reinforcements for its Bengal army, and the enlargement of the Royal naval force in the Bay of Bengal and along the Coromandel coast.

1 Feb.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE ¹

Sir,

Whitehall February 1st 1776

Since my letter to you of the 5th of January every effort has been exerted in the different Departments, to bring forward the Preparations for the ensuing Campaign in North America, and though the Severity of the Weather, almost beyond what has ever been known in this Country, very much obstructs the Service in the Naval Department, yet I am encouraged

to hope that the Reinforcement for the Army under your Command will be embarked before the end of March, and that the Armament intended for Quebec may be ready much sooner.

The unfortunate Events, which have happened in Canada, make it necessary that we should not only exert every Endeavour for the relief of Quebec as early as possible, but also for having a Force there, ready to commence its Operations, as soon as the Season will admit.

The great Attention, which the King shews upon all occasions to the rank & Merit of His Officers, would have led His Majesty to have appointed Major General Clinton to command upon this Service, under Major General Carleton, but as His Majesty's Pleasure has been already signified that he should command the Body of Forces to be employed upon an Expedition to the Southward, & he is, by this time probably sailed for Cape Fear, in order to wait their Arrival, His Majesty has thought fit that Major General [John] Burgoyne should act as Second in Command to General Carleton in Canada, and that he should proceed thither with the Eight Regiments from Ireland, which I hope will be ready to sail by the 20th of next Month.

If Quebec should fall before any Relief can be got thither and Major General Carleton should unhappily not survive the Loss of it, the King's Intentions are that, in such an Event, the Command of the whole of His Majesty's Forces in North America should devolve upon you. It is also His Majesty's Intentions immediately to appoint Majors General Clinton, Burgoyne, Lord Percy & Lord Cornwallis, Lieutenant Generals in America; The old Colonels, who now act as Brigadiers, are to have Commissions as Majors General; and the other Colonels will be appointed Brigadiers.

In case of Major General Carleton's death it will remain with you to dispose of the different Commands, as you, in your discretion, shall think fit. It will consequently be in your power to leave the Command of the Troops on the Side of Canada to Major General Burgoyne, or, if you think it more advisable you may appoint General Clinton to that Service; And it being His Majesty's Pleasure that Major General Lord Cornwallis should be employed in Canada, he & his Regiment are to be sent thither as soon as he joins the Army under your Command.

In the present state of Affairs in North America the Security of Nova Scotia & Newfoundland are Objects of Attention; and I am commanded by the King to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure that the two Battalions of Marines, now serving under your Command, or any part of them you shall judge necessary, should be posted at Halifax, and that a Detachment of Major [Joseph] Gorham's Corps be posted at St. John's in Newfoundland, as a Garrison will be wanted there. It is also his Majesty's Pleasure that as many of the private Men of the 65th Regiment as are fit for Service should be turned over to the 27th Regiment, and if there are more than will complete it, you will incorporate them in any other Corps; That the 27th Regiment, when so completed, be joined to the Army under your Command, and that the Commissioned & Noncommissioned Officers & Invalids of the 65th be sent home to England.

I must not omit to acquaint you, before I leave the Subject of Military Arrangement, that the Officers of the Guards have expressed such Spirit & Zeal for His Majesty's Service, that His Majesty has ordered a Detachment of a Thousand Men rank & File, with Officers in proportion, to serve under you in America, and I have only further to add, that the King is so desirous of expressing upon every occasion His Royal approbation of the General Officers serving in the principal Ranks in America, that He has declared His Intentions that he will not employ any General Officer from hence who may be superior in rank to Majors General Clinton, Burgoyne, Lord Percy or Lord Cornwallis.

This letter will be entrusted to the Care of the Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Greyhound*, who will also deliver up to you the Officers of the Privateer fitted out by the Rebels under a Commission from the Congress, & taken by one of Admiral Graves's Squadron. The private Men have all voluntarily entered themselves on board His Majesty's Ships, ² but the Officers having refused so to do, it has been judged fit to send them back to America, for the same obvious reasons that induced the sending back the Rebel Prisoners taken in Arms upon the Attack of Montreal in September last. ³

It is hoped that the Possession of these Prisoners will enable you to procure the Release of such of His Majesty's Officers and loyal Subjects as are in the disgraceful Situation of being Prisoners to the Rebels, for although it cannot be that you should enter into any Treaty or Agreement with Rebels for a regular Cartel for the Exchange of Prisoners, yet I doubt not but your own Discretion will suggest to you the means of effecting such Exchange without the King's Dignity & Honor being committed, or His Majesty's Name used in any Negotiation for that purpose; And I am the more strongly urged to point out to you the Expediency of such a Measure, on account of the possible Difficulties which may otherwise occur in the case of foreign Troops serving in North America. I am &c

Geo: Germain.

1. Baxter, ed., *History of Maine*, XIV, 328-31.

2. That the crew of Washington's brig *Washington* entered voluntarily into the king's service is contradicted by experiences of Israel Potter and John Walkar. The former stated:

From the hospital those of us who survived were conveyed to Spithead, and put on board a Guard Ship, and where I had been confined with my fellow prisoners about a month when I was ordered into the boat, to assist the bargemen (in consequence of the absence of one of their gang) in rowing the lieutenant on shore. As soon as we reached the shore and the officer landed, it was proposed by some of the boat's crew to resort for a few moments to an ale house, in the vicinity, to treat themselves to a few pots of beer; which being agreed to by all, I thought this a favourable opportunity and the only one that might present to escape from my Floating Prison, and felt determined not to let it pass unimproved; accordingly, as the boat's crew were about to enter the house I expressed a necessity of my separating from them a few moments, to which they not suspecting any design, readily assented. As soon as I saw them all snugly in and the door closed, I gave speed to my legs, and ran, as I then concluded, about four miles without one halting.

Life and Remarkable Adventures of Israel R. Potter . . . (Providence, 1824), 20.

Walkar's experiences was related by him to Franklin in a letter of February 19, 1779 in which he wrote:

when we got home to England in the frigate *Taughter* [*Tartar*] our Captain patient to the Court that his men were willing to serve H. M. voluntarily which was

falce & by that he was Sent home to amarica again & I was put on bord of the *royal oak* & frome thence on board of the *ousstrige* & was Sent awy to the west Enges [Indies].

Franklin Papers, XIII, 123, APS.

3. Colonel Ethan Allen and the privates taken with him.

Public Advertiser, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1776

London [February 1].

Notwithstanding the many Boats of the Americans having a powerful Squadron of armed Vessels, a Naval Officer informs us, that the largest Vessel they have, or are able to send to Sea, is not to be compared to one of his Majesty's Frigates; and it is well know the few Vessels they have dare not engage the smallest Cruizer his Majesty has on that Station.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, FEB. 1." ¹

This day a detachment of marines, consisting of one captain, one lieutenant, two serjeants, two corporals, one drummer, and 49 private men, embarked hence on board his Majesty's ship *Isis*, of 50 guns, at this port, commanded by Charles Douglas, Esq; bound for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 3 to February 6, 1776.

2 Feb.

LORD NORTH TO GEORGE III ¹

[2 February, 1776.] ²

Lord North thinks it necessary to apprise his Majesty that Lord [Richard] Howe intends to demand an audience of his Majesty today in order, as he says, to tell his own story, & he fears to signify his intention of quitting the service, for, although Lord Howe did not explicitly tell Lord North that such was his design, Lord North apprehends that he will do so, from some expressions that he dropt, & from the general turn of his conversation. Lord North feels the greater uneasiness on this occasion, as he at first proposed to Lord Sandwich the separate command in the river St Lawrence as an expedient to save the honour of the Admiralty, & of Admiarl Shuldham, & to free the Administration from the charge of having advised a harsh measure. Lord Howe looks upon this measure as materially disgraceful to him, & is very jealous of Lord Sandwich, thinking that he does not wish him well, and doubtful that he would not give him a proper support, if he took the command of the Fleet. The appointment of Lord Howe, which begun to get wind, had a very good effect in the Public but, if it is now laid aside, the consequences will be much worse, than if it had never been in agitation. Lord North can not still help thinking that his proposal was well calculated to save Adl Shuldham, & carried no disgrace to Lord Howe, but, as he is quite unacquainted with Military punctilios, he may, perhaps, have done wrong. His Majesty, when he sees Lord Howe to-day, will be best able to

prevent his taking a hasty step, till we find some means of accomodating this matter.

Friday mornng

1. Sir John Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of King George the Third from 1760 to December 1783* (London 1927, 1928) III, 335-36. Hereafter cited as Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*.
2. Date established by the king's reply, February 2, 1776.

GEORGE III TO LORD NORTH ¹

Lord North - I can easily imagine You must be anxious to know how matters stand with Lord Howe, I therefore before I get to dinner just take up my pen to acquaint You that things are very far from desperate that if no one will interfere I do not despair of bringing things to rights: by a greater degree: [*sic*] of rightheadness in Lord Sandwich then wrongheadedness in the other party; therefore rest satisfied till You hear more from Me.

Queens House Feby 2d 1776. $\frac{m}{46}$ pt 5 P.M.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 336.

LORD NORTH TO GEORGE III ¹

Lord North begs leave to return his Majesty his most gratefull acknowledgements for his very gracious note. He trusts that by his Majesty's powerful interposition every thing will be right. By a conversation he had with Lord Howe today, He thought that he perceived him to be very uneasy at the apprehension that he would be thought to decline service, in a critical moment, &, therefore, hopes that there is not in his mind any determination to avoid the appointment.

Friday. Feb: 2 [1776]. $\frac{m}{40}$ pt 6 P: M.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 336.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London 2 February 1776

News from the Ports.

Plymouth.

Milford left for Halifax. *Deal-Castle* is repaired. *Aldborough* is ready to sail for Gibraltar with Hanovarian troops.

Dublin of 74 and *Boyne* of 70 will be fitted out and sent to America. However *Dublin* is in such a condition of rot that another ship will probably have to take her place. Both new ship yards are completed. One of them will build a new ship of 50 guns which will be called *Medusa*. Several transport ships are expected from various ports. An order to build 5 thousand beds has been given.

It seems that other ships will be put in commission. Everything belonging to the ships lying up in ordinary has been examined; everything missing has been replaced by new equipment ready to be used immediately. Portsmouth.

Carcass, a bomb-galiot, sailed for Boston. A new Corvette called *Cygnet* has been launched.

Deptford.

Mars is coming to Chatham. *Brune* is being commissioned. *Repulse* is being equipped. *Amazon*, *Ambuscade*, *Aeolus*, *Galathea* are being repaired. All the frigates moored in the river will be put into commission. *Carysfort* and *Isis* will sail down the river when the weather will permit. The name of the ship *Diligence* has been changed. She was purchased to accompany *Resolution* in the South Seas. She is now called *Discovery*.²

1. AMAE, Correspondence Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, LC Photocopy. De Guines was the French ambassador to the Court of St. James; Vergennes, the French Foreign Minister.
2. The *Resolution* and the *Discovery* were the ships to be commanded by the celebrated naval officer and explorer, Captain James Cook.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1776

London, February 2.

Orders are sent to Portsmouth for his Majesty's frigate *Tartar*, at that port, to be fitted out immediately for the North America station; she is already commissioned and the command given to Capt. Omminey [Cornthwaite Ommanney].

A frigate is stationed to cruise in the Downs, with orders to stop all ships that come in and go out, and strictly to examine what they are laden with, particularly to see what letters they have on board.

3 Feb.

GEORGE III TO LORD NORTH¹

Lord North — I have seen Lord Sandwich and I think settled the Command of the N. American Fleet agreeably to Lord Howe's proposal to Me yesterday the mode of Saving Lord Sandwich and Shulldham I think really without the least objection; if there had been any I should have jumped over it to settle this material affair. Lord Sandwich deserves commendation for being so very complying. I desire You will take no notice of this he will state the whole at Your Dinner and is already gone to speak to Lord Howe. I out of delicacy to Lord Sandwich leave the expedients I have consented to, to be named by himself to You.

Queens House Feby 3d 1776 $\frac{m}{1}$ pt 3. PM.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 337.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III ¹

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform Your Majesty that he has seen Ld Howe & told him that he should have his promotion antedated, & the compleat Command in the river St Lawrence as well as in other parts of America, upon which he expressed his readiness to obey your Majesty's Commands. Lord Sandwich told him that he should contrive to satisfy Admiral Shuldham by some other means, but did not intimate what those means were, nor did Lord Howe ask a single question upon the subject.

Admiralty Feb: 3 [1776]. half past four.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 337-38.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS,
PORTSMOUTH ¹

In pursuance of His Majestys pleasure signified to Us by Lord George Germaine in his Letter of Yesterdays date that the five Officers belonging to the Armed Brig taken in No America & brought to England in the *Tartar* should be sent back Prisoners to Boston in the *Greyhound* & her Commander directed upon his arrival there to deliver them up to the Order of Major General Howe; You are hereby required & directed to order Capt [Archibald] Dickson to receive the said five Officers on board the *Greyhound* & convey them to Boston delivering them up to the Order of Major Genl Howe upon his arrival accordingly; And to Victual them during their continuance on board as the Ships Company Given &c 3d Feby 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Penton

By &c G Jackson D S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 384.

2. The officers of Washington's brig *Washington*, taken in December 1775, by the frigate *Fowey*; namely: Sion Martindale, Captain; Moses Turner, First Lieutenant; James Childs, Second Lieutenant; Consider Howland, Master, and Jacob Tyler, Master's Mate.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1776

London, February 3.

Several light vessels are ordered to be equipt for the American service. They are intended for conveying ammunition, provisions, &c. from the ships of war and transports to the different parts of the coast, for the use of the government troops.

Lord [Richard] Howe is to have the command of the fleet against the Americans, and his brother being commander by land, the most spirited conduct is expected next campaign.

Last Wednesday Capt. [John] Macartney was appointed to the command of his Majesty's frigate the *Ambuscade*, of 32 guns, at Chatham.

4 Feb. (Sunday)

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 4 Febr'y 1776

In my last Letter of the 30th past; I acquainted their Lordships with my intention to remove the Troops from the *Clibborn* into the *Friendship*, and to send the former to Plymouth, since which time the weather has not been proper for it, and on Thursday last, at two o'Clock in the afternoon a violent Tempest arose, and veer'd in Gusts from the S S E to the W S W, and continued 'till midnight. The *Lord North* Transport is the only Ship that has suffer'd, the *Friendship* Arm'd Ship having drove foul of her & carried away her Bowsprit, with part of the Knee of the Head, & damaged her Catt-Heads, the particulars their Lordships will see in the Report I now transmit you, from the Carpenters of the *Actaeon*, *Bristol* & *Carcass* Bomb, whom I ordered on the Survey, and as they are of opinion that it will take twelve men for one Week to repair the damages,² and as it may require some time to procure the materials, I have in consequence stopped the removal of the Troops from the *Clibborn*, and have directed Lieut Knowles to move the Troops this Day from the *Lord North* (instead of the *Clibborn*) into the *Friendship*; and to Order the Master of the *Lord North* to proceed as soon as possible to Plymouth, acquainting the Navy Board with his arrival.

I have received your Letter of the 23d past directed to the Captain of any of His majesty's Ships at Corke, of Commodore Sir Peter Parker's Squadron, signifying their Lordships commands that he should proceed with the Convoy I have given him charge of, and not wait for the *Levant* Victualler – If all the Ships under my Orders had been here for these three Weeks past, the weather would not have permitted us to have sail'd, so that no time has been lost; and as Lord Cornwallis is satisfied to go without the *Pigot* Hospital Ship, I shall proceed the instant the Wind & Weather favour us, with the Squadron, Transports, &c. now here, and not wait for the Ships in the Ports to the westward of us – (Viz) The *Sphynx*, *Thunder* Bomb, her Tender, and the *Pigot* Hospital Ship – It is likely that the *Sphynx* will be with us, as soon as the wind moderates. I propose to leave her here, to wait only for the *Thunder* Bomb, her Tender, and the Hospital Ship, and as Captain [Anthony] Hunt, will be fully inform'd of the Tract I mean to follow, he may either overtake us, or be at the Cape nearly as soon – The *Deal Castle* and *Sybella* Storeship, are I suppose many leagues to the westward, I shall leave Orders for them, with Genl Cunninghame at Corke, who will hear immediately of their arrival, and desire the favor of the General in case those Ships should not arrive, within six Weeks after my departure, to transmit them to you. The Captain of the *Deal Castle*, I shall Order to follow me directly, taking under his Convoy such Ships as may be intended to join me; and the Master of the *Sybella* Storeship to wait here for Convoy, giving their Lordships an account of his arrival. – The Squadron that I shall sail with (supposing the *Deal Castle* & the Ships in the Western Ports do

not arrive before) will consist of the *Bristol*, *Active*, *Actaeon*, *Solebay* & *Carcass Bomb*.

Inclos'd is the State & Condition of His Majts Squadron under my Command. I am [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

2. *Ibid.*, the report reads:

Pursuant to an Order from Sir Peter Parker &ca of this days date—We whose Names are hereunto subscribed have been on board the *Lord North* Transport, And there taken a strict and careful survey of the Forecastle & Catt Heads complain'd of, as also the loss of the Bowsprit, and find as follows—

The Bowsprit broke close off, with part of the Knee of the Head—The Bolts of the Catt Heads are drawn, the Timber head that secures the Anchors & Catt Head are carried away—And we are of opinion that the damages sustained on board the said Ship so complained of may be repaired by Twelve Men in one Week, And we do declare that we have taken this Survey with the utmost care and equity & are ready if required to make oath to the impartiality of our proceedings—Given under our hands on board the said Transport the 3d February 1766 [*sic* 1776]. John Wood Wm Young Jam^s Town.

5 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN THOMAS FITZHERBERT,
H.M.S. *Raisnable*, PLYMOUTH ¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Raisnable* at Plymouth, which we have order'd to be fitted and stored in all respects proper to serve as a Guardship there, in the room of the *Dublin*,² mann'd with the number of Officers, Seamen and Marines mention'd in the annex'd Scheme, and supplied with such Guns, Gunners Stores small Arms and Ammunition as the other Guardships of her Class are; You are hereby required and directed to exert your utmost diligence in getting her ready for the above Service accordingly, and then remain at such moorings as the Navy Board may appoint, following such Orders as you shall receive from the Commanding Officer of His Majts Ships and Vessels at Plymouth, until you receive further Order.

You are to take care to keep your Complement of Men complete and never on any Account to have less than the Number mention'd in the above Scheme borne on the said Ships Books duly qualified to serve in their respective Stations; That none but able Seamen be entertain'd to serve before the Mast, and that Your whole Crew do consist of such as shall appear to be able and fit to go to Sea. Given &c the 5th Feby 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton

By &c. G. J. DS.

Complement of Men allow'd to Guardships of the 3d Rate of 64. Guns.

Adm'ty Office 5th Feby 1776

	No		No
Captain	1.	Servants	12.
Lieutenants	3.		3.
Master	1.		1.
Boatswain	1.		2.
Gunner	1.		2.
Carpenter	1.		2.
Purser	1.		1.
Cook	1.		1.
Surgeon	1.		1.
Masters Mates	2.		—
Midshipmen	8.		25.
Captains Clerk	1.		
Quarter Masters	5.		
Do Mates	3.		
Boatswains Mates	3.		
Yeomen of the Sheets	2.		
Coxswain	1.		
Sailmaker	1.		
Do Mate	1.		
Gunners Mates	2.		
Yeomen of the Powder room	1.		
Quarter Gunners	8.		
Armourer	1.		
Carpenters Mates	2.		
Pursers Steward	1.		
Surgeon's Mates	2.		
Master at Arms	1.		
Corporal	1.		
Captains Cook	1.		
Seamen	175.		
Marines	42.		
Servants as above	25.		
Total	300.		

The Captain is strictly enjoined not to enter any of his menial Servants (except his Cook) in any other quality than Captain's Servant.

The Carpenters are to have only one Servant on the Ships Books, if they have any on the Yard Books, & in that case there is to be one Seaman more in the Complement.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 387-89.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Dublin* had been ordered to be laid up in the yard at Plymouth and the crew to be paid off.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1776

London, February 5.

We are assured, that Admiral Shuldham is not to have the command of the fleet destined to serve against the Americans, and that Lord [Richard] Howe is certainly appointed, and has accepted the command. This change is in consequence of a representation made to his Majesty shortly after Admiral Shuldham's nomination, by the senior flag officers, of the impropriety of placing a junior to command older officers, and that in short it would be looked upon as an affront offered them, and they would certainly lay down their commissions, rather than serve on such terms, which the naval arrangements made in this kingdom have heretofore been unacquainted with. This had such weight with his Majesty, that Lord Howe, as the senior Admiral, was appointed, and is now preparing to take the command.

The *Deal Castle* man of war, and the *Pigot*, an old East-Indiaman, taken up as an hospital-ship for America, and which sailed from Falmouth the 5th of Jan. last for Corke, were not arrived there the 19th.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Bristol Cove of Cork 5h Febr'y 1776

Inclosed is a Copy of a Letter of this day's date, from Captain [Robert] Dring of the *Carcass Bomb*,² respecting Lieutt [John] Stoddart, whom he left behind at Portsmouth, and desiring as he is return'd on board, that I will restore him to his duty, 'till their Lordships pleasure shall be known – As I have not authority to hold Courts Martial here, and Lieutt Stoddart might be a considerable time under suspension, before I could know their Lordships pleasure; I have order'd Captt Dring to admit him to do his duty, and to acquaint him at the same time that notwithstanding, it depends entirely on their Lordships, whether they would call him to an account for his late Conduct.

The *Sybella* Storeship which sail'd from the Downs the 30th of last December, arrived here yesterday evening, she has been driven twice, 50 or 60 Leagues to the Westward, and has not touched at any Port, or met with any accident. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

[Endorsed] Acq him with all that has been [done] on his representation of Mr Stoddarts absenting himself.

[Second endorsement] He has already been acquainted with the Marshal being directed to apprehend Mr Stoddart, and a Commission has been sent to him for Mr Rickmen to be Lieut of the *Carcass* in his room, which is all that has been done hereupon

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

2. *Ibid.*

MARQUIS DE GRIMALDI TO PRINCE MASSERANO ¹

Your Excellency: The Consul of His Britannic Majesty in Malaga, suspecting that an Anglo-American sloop, which entered that port enroute from Barcelona to New York, carried on board a quantity of rifles, sought the help of the Captain-General of the Coast of Granada in a search of the vessel. The Consul had been informed that the rifles had been bought in Barcelona. As a consequence, the Captain-General complied with the request and searched the vessel, but he did not find on board the sloop anything of which the Consul had spoken.

The King, being advised of this, wishes that Your Excellency be informed of it in order that you may manifest to the Ministry that, as a consequence of the excellent harmony which His Majesty wishes to reign between the two monarchies, not only is as much assistance given here as the English Consuls solicit, but also that the royal orders, not to make available to the American rebels any military equipment, are observed with the greatest scrupulousness. God grant [&c.]

The Prado, 5 February 1776.

Marquis de Grimaldi

1. AHN, Estado, Legajo 4281, 7, LC Microfilm. Jerónimo, Marquis de Grimaldi, was Spanish Minister of State. Felipe Victor Amedeo Ferrero de Fieschi, Prince of Masserano, was Spanish ambassador to Great Britain.

6 Feb.LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 6th February 1776

Having received a Letter from Rear Admiral Gayton, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Jamaica, dated the 10th of Decr last, giving an account of the Seizure of an English Schooner, and of her being carried into Carthagena, where the Master and Crew, with a number of other English Subjects, are kept in Confinement; We send your Lordship a Copy of Rear Admiral Gayton's Letter, together with one to him from the Master of the Said Schooner, for the King's Information. We are &ca

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 22.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 6 February 1776

Your Lordship having acquainted Us, in your Letter of the 15th of last Month, that it may eventually be necessary for His Majesty's Service that two armed Sloops, of about ninety Tons each, and, at least four hundred Batteaux from 36 to 40 feet in length, and 6 or 7 feet in Breadth on the Beam, should be prepared in Canada, for the conveyance of Troops and Stores through Lake Champlain, and at the same time signified the King's pleasure, that We should give Directions for preparing, and sending to Quebec, all such Materials, Timber and plank only excepted, as shall be necessary in the Constructing and Navigating the said Sloops and Batteaux, and

that such a number of Artificers should be engaged as shall be judged proper to assist therein.—And Mr [William] Knox having, by your Lordship's Command, transmitted to Our Secretary, a Return he had received from Colonel Christie of the particulars of Stores and Materials, and a number of the Artificers that will be wanted for Building the said Vessels and Batteaux. — We are to acquaint your Lordship in return, that immediately upon receiving the King's Pleasure We gave Directions to the Navy Board for preparing, and sending to Quebec, the necessary Materials for Constructing the above Sloops and Batteaux, as likewise concerning the Materials and Artificers that will be wanted for the same, and having received from the said Board their Report, We send your Lordship a Copy thereof, for His Majesty's Information, submitting to His Majesty whether from the reasons, mentioned in the said Letter, in regard to the Artificers, it may not be advisable to order such a number only to be sent, as is therein proposed. We are [&c.]

J. Buller Palmerton H. Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 25–26.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office 6 February 1776

As the *Triton* one of the Frigates intended to take onboard at Plymouth, part of the 29th Regiment, and to proceed from thence to the relief of Quebec, is ordered to Portsmouth, which will make an alteration in the number of Officers and Men, to be carried round from Chatham; I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith, for the Information of Lord George Germain, and that the Numbers necessary according to the aforementioned Alteration to be sent from Chatham to Plymouth will consist of, only, Vizt

Commissioned Officers

Non Commd Officers

& Privates

2

27 To go in the *Alborough*

1

18 in the *Martin* Sloop

I am further to acquaint you, that the Officers and Men proposed to have been Embarked in the *Triton*, are ordered to be received and provided for in the *Bute* Transport Ship I am, &ca

Geo. Jackson

P:S: Since writing this the Navy Board have acquainted my Lords, that the *Dorothy* Transport intended to carry the Men to Plymouth, sailed from Deptford Yesterday Morning

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 23. Pownall was Deputy Secretary of State.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office 6th Febr'y 1776

Having laid before my Lords Commiss[ioners] of the Admiralty your Letter of this Day's Date, informing them that the King's Pleasure has been

signified to the Master General of the Ordnance, that two Light Field Pieces, and Ammunition in Proportion, together with a proper Quantity of Intrenching Tools, should be put onboard the *Lord Howe* Transport, for the Service of the 29th Regiment, I am commanded by Their Lordships to acquaint you, for the Information of Lord George Germain, that the Navy Board are directed to cause the same to be received on board the said Transport, also the two Officers & Twenty Eight Men of the Artillery mentioned in your said Letter, whom they have ordered to be victualled and supplied with Beds & Necessaries for the Voyage. But their Lordships conceiving it to be of Importance to the Service to have the said Ship fall down the River without Loss of Time, they have given directions that she shall proceed (with the *Bute*) to the Nore, without waiting for the said Stores & Men, in Hopes, if they do not get on board before they sail, it may be convenient to send & put them on board at that Place. I am &c

Geo. Jackson D.S.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 24.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH¹
Sir [Admiralty Office] 6th February 1776

I have communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of yesterdays date, inclosing one you received from the five New England Men who are the Officers that were taken in the armed Vessel and brought in the *Tartar*

You having in your said Letter acquainted their Lordships that Captain [Archibald] Dickson, of the *Greyhound* not having any person on board who had ever seen the Coast of America, and the Pilot of the aforesaid Vessel having offered his Services you had ordered him to be discharged into her accordingly; Which their Lordships approve of, But they recommend it to you to order Captain Dickson to be exceedingly cautious as he approaches the Coast with respect to the confidence he puts in him.²

As to the Surgeon of the said American Vessel who you represent is very desirous of entering into His Majesty's Service; It is their Lordships directions that you let them know in what capacity he is willing to serve.³ I am &c

Geo. Jackson D:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 73-74.

2. William Ford, pilot of Washington's armed brig *Washington*.

3. John Manvide, French Canadian surgeon of the *Washington*.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1776

London, Feb. 6.

Yesterday at the levee Lord Howe kissed the King's hand, upon being appointed Commander in chief of his Majesty's forces in North America.

All the men of war and transports now fitting out for America, are ordered to be at Spithead the 24th inst. at which time it is said they will be reviewed by the Earl of Sandwich.

The ship *Canadian*, Capt. Abbot, is arrived express from Halifax in

Nova Scotia, and brings advice of the *Britannia*, White, the *Thames*, Laird, the *Friendship*, Miller, and the *Generous Planter*, Calf (Transports) being safe arrived at Boston; also the *Jenny*, Forster, from London for Boston, being taken and carried into Marblehead by the Americans.¹

1. Taken December 8, 1775, by Captain John Manley, in the armed schooner *Lee*. The *Public Advertiser*, on February 7, repeated verbatim the account of the capture of the *Jenny* and added, "but had luckily only a large Quantity of sour Crout on board."

Public Advertiser, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1776

London [February 6].

Information has been received, that the Americans are fitting out several Privateers in France, but our Ministry have the strongest Assurances that not one will be allowed to sail.

Nothing could exceed the extreme Wretchedness of the Crew of the Privateer lately taken from the Americans.¹

1. Crew of the armed brig *Washington*.

MARQUIS DE GRIMALDI TO PRINCE MASSERANO ¹

Your Excellency: Recent events in Malaga, concerning a shipment going to Anglo-America, were referred to in another letter of this date in order that it be new evidence of our consideration for the English Court. I add for Your Excellency's information the following: another vessel, named the *Polly*, arrived at La Coruña, and the British Consul sought to have the patent and all the papers impounded in order to impede its putting to sea. Our Commandant-General, Don Felix Oneille, did not lend himself to such violence. The King, on being informed, approved this decision. While the King does not wish to give the least aid to the Americans with arms or munitions (being unable to distinguish which are innocent and which are guilty), he does not believe it correct to make them hostile or to close the ports to them when they come to continue a legal commerce that they have conducted here. Your Excellency will make the most convenient use of these facts on those occasions that may present themselves to you. I remain praying to God that your life [&c.]

The Prado, 6 February 1776.

Marquis de Grimaldi

1. AHN, Estado, Legajo 4281, 9, LC Microfilm.

7 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN MAXIMILIAN JACOBS,
H.M.S. *Amazon*, CHATHAM ¹

Having appointed you Captain of His Majestys Ship *Amazon* at Chatham which we have ordered to be fitted & Stored at that Place for Foreign Service, Mann'd with two Hundred & Twenty Men & Victualled for Six Months with all species of Provisions except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow & to be supplied with a proportion of

Wine or Spirits in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby required & directed, to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly & then falling down to Blackstake take in her Guns & Gunners Stores & proceed to the Nore for further Order.

Given &c. 7th February 1776 ²

Sandwich Palmerston H. Palliser

By &c. G Jackson D S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 390.

2. These orders to ready "for Foreign Service" are typical of similar orders issued for many ships of the Royal Navy as Britain moved to bolster her strength afloat in the early months of 1776.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1776

London, February 7.

The following frigates of 32 guns, are now fitting out at Chatham for the North American station, viz. the *Emerald*, Capt. [Benjamin] Caldwell; the *Brune*, Capt. [John] Ferguson; and the *Blonde*, Capt. [Philemon] Pownal.

Two American armed schooners, who detained Capt. Air, of the *Clementina* 24 hours in the Gutt of Canso,¹ reported that the *Elizabeth*, Russell, from London to St. John's, is lost, but great part of the cargo was saved.

One of the King's yachts is ordered to be got ready to carry the Lords of the Admiralty to Portsmouth and Spithead, to review the ships that are ordered for America.

1. Washington's armed schooners *Hancock*, Captain Nicholson Broughton, and *Franklin*, Captain John Selman.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO COUNT DE GUINES ¹

[Extract]

Versaille 7 February 1776

It is fortunate that the incident concerning the two Danish vessels which were taken to English ports has enlightened the English Ministers as to the necessity of restraining their sea officers with the proper instructions.² They would extend their jurisdiction quite far if, because war is being waged in North America, they claimed the right to suppress in Europe the freedom of trade relative to goods which are known as contraband only when they are exported to a nation at war with another.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, LC Photocopy.

2. See journal of the *Speedwell*, November 8 and December 11, 1775, in Volume 3, 355, 422.

8 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY TO CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON,
H.M.S. *Boreas*, SPITHEAD ¹

Transports
Amity's Desire
Munificence
Archer
Storeship
Betty

Whereas we intend that you shall take under your Convoy the three Transport Vessels & Naval Storeship named in the Margin which are now either at Portsmouth or Spithead You are hereby required & directed to take the said Vessels under your Convoy & putting to Sea with the first opportunity of Wind & Weather make the best of your way with them to the Island of Madeira where you are to take in a sufficient quantity of Wine for the Ship's Company & then lose no time in proceeding to Jamaica where you are upon your arrival to deliver to Vice Adml Gayton the enclosed Pacquets & follow his Orders for your further proceedings. Given &c 8th Feby 1776

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c G J DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 422.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sr [Admiralty Office] 8th Feby 1776.

I have communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your letter of Yesterdays date, inclosing one you received by Express from Lieut Robertson at Weymouth, who was arrived there in the Ship *Sampson* from New York; And informing their Lordships that you have given Orders that when the said Ship arrives at Spithead no Person whatever shall be admitted to go on board, or from her 'til their Lordships pleasure respecting her is known, which their Lordships approve of; and it is their direction you acquaint me of her arrival, by Express, for their Information. I am &c

Geo. Jackson DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 84.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, FEB. 8." ¹

Orders are received at the Commissioner's office in this dock-yard for the following frigates to be sheathed and fitted with the greatest dispatch for America, viz. *Amazon*, *Diamond*, *Ambuscade*, *Richmond*, and *Lark*, of 32 guns each.

Tuesday arrived here John Macartney, Esq. when the *Ambuscade* frigate of 32 guns was put into commission, that Gentleman being appointed to the command of her.

Yesterday sailed from hence for America his Majesty's ship *Isis*, of 50 guns (a fine new ship) commanded by Charles Douglas, Esq. she will stop at Blackstake to take in her powder and guns, after which she is to proceed

without the least loss of time. Part of the 29th regiment (at present quartered in our barracks) are to embark on board her.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 10 to February 13, 1776.

9 Feb.

JOHN POWNALL TO SIR STANIER PORTEN ¹

Sir,

Whitehall, 9th February 1776

Intelligence having been received, that a Ship called the *Elizabeth* Commanded by a Captain [Robert] Campbell, was fitting out at Philadelphia by the Continental Congress, and intended to Sail about the 20th of January with Dispatches to the Abettors of the American Rebellion in Great Britain and Ireland, and that the said Vessel had orders to proceed from Philadelphia to Cork, and from thence to Falmouth and London, from whence, she is to return with Intelligence of the Plans and Operations of Government; ² I am directed by Lord George Germain to acquaint you with this very important Information, and to beg you will immediately communicate it to Lord Weymouth, and submit to his Lordship whether it may not be expedient that the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland should be Instructed to give immediate Directions that the arrival of any such Vessel at Cork, should be watched with the greatest Attention, and that upon such arrival, strict Search should be made for her Papers, and whatever may be found onboard (the Ships Papers only excepted) Seized and sent over to England. — I am &c

J. Pownall

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/139, 30. Porten was Keeper of the State Papers.

2. Advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Journal*, December 13, 1775: "For Cork, Falmouth and London. The Ship *Elizabeth*, Robert Campbell, Commander. Any person inclinable to go passenger, may apply to the Commander on board, and at the Coffee-House, or of Richard Neave, jun."

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office. 9 February 1776

Vice Admiral Sir James Douglass Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Portsmouth, having acquainted Us by His Letter of the 7th Instant, that in consequence of Information he had received from Captain [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] of His Majesty's Ship *Phoenix* at New York of their being Dispatches onboard the Ship *Sampson* from the Continental Congress and leaders of the Rebellion in America, he had sent an Officer onboard the said Ship upon her arrival at Portsmouth, to whom the Master delivered nine Packets, one of which is directed to be delivered by himself, & another not to be put into any Post Office, which he hath detained and given directions not to admit of farther Communication between the Ship & the Shore, except to the Custom House, where he hath desired the strictest Search may be made;

We signify the same for His Majesty's Information, and are to desire your Lordship will receive and communicate to Us the King's pleasure con-

cerning the Directions necessary to be given to the Vice Admiral herein. — We are &c

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 29–30.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London 9 February 1776

Both Houses of Parliament are still idle with respect to external affairs. One expects very interesting debates in the House of Lords next week on the prodigious number of foreign troops that will be in the pay of Great Britain and at the disposal of the King of England.

The Officers of the Regiments of the English Guards are displaying much less zeal than they did before; several are requesting to sell their commissions. This war is disliked by every one. Recruits for the army as well as for the fleet are difficult to find. If the necessary numbers can be achieved, nothing more can be done. But when failure and losses will occur and replacements will be indispensable the Ministers' heads will spin with this problem as with all others. I do not know a single one who knows a remedy for an unfortunate campaign. They can foresee this happening and their discouragement even causes the rising influence of Lord George Germain. This Minister, who has nothing to lose, adds to his real talents the advantage of appearing less doubtful than other men in such crisis. He presents rays of hope, makes himself heard and his power increases every day. This explains the aversion for his own worth I noticed in Lord North; because it is he who brought Lord George to the Ministry....

There are no changes in the ports with this exception: *Arethuse*, *Thetis* and a ship of the [East India] Company left Spithead but stopped at Cowes. These frigates are to sail for Ste. Helena in order to convoy the ships returning from India.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, 514, LC Photocopy.

VICE ADMIRAL JOHN MONTAGU TO GEORGE JACKSON ¹

Sir

Wedley Feby: 9 1776

I was last night honor'd with your letter of the 6 Instant, acquainting me His Majesty has been pleased to order a Promotion of Flag Officers of His Fleet, and that my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in consequence thereof had signed a Commission appointing me Vice Admiral of the Blue, I shall therefore attend at their Lordships Board next week to take up my Commission I am Sir [&c.]

J: Montagu ²

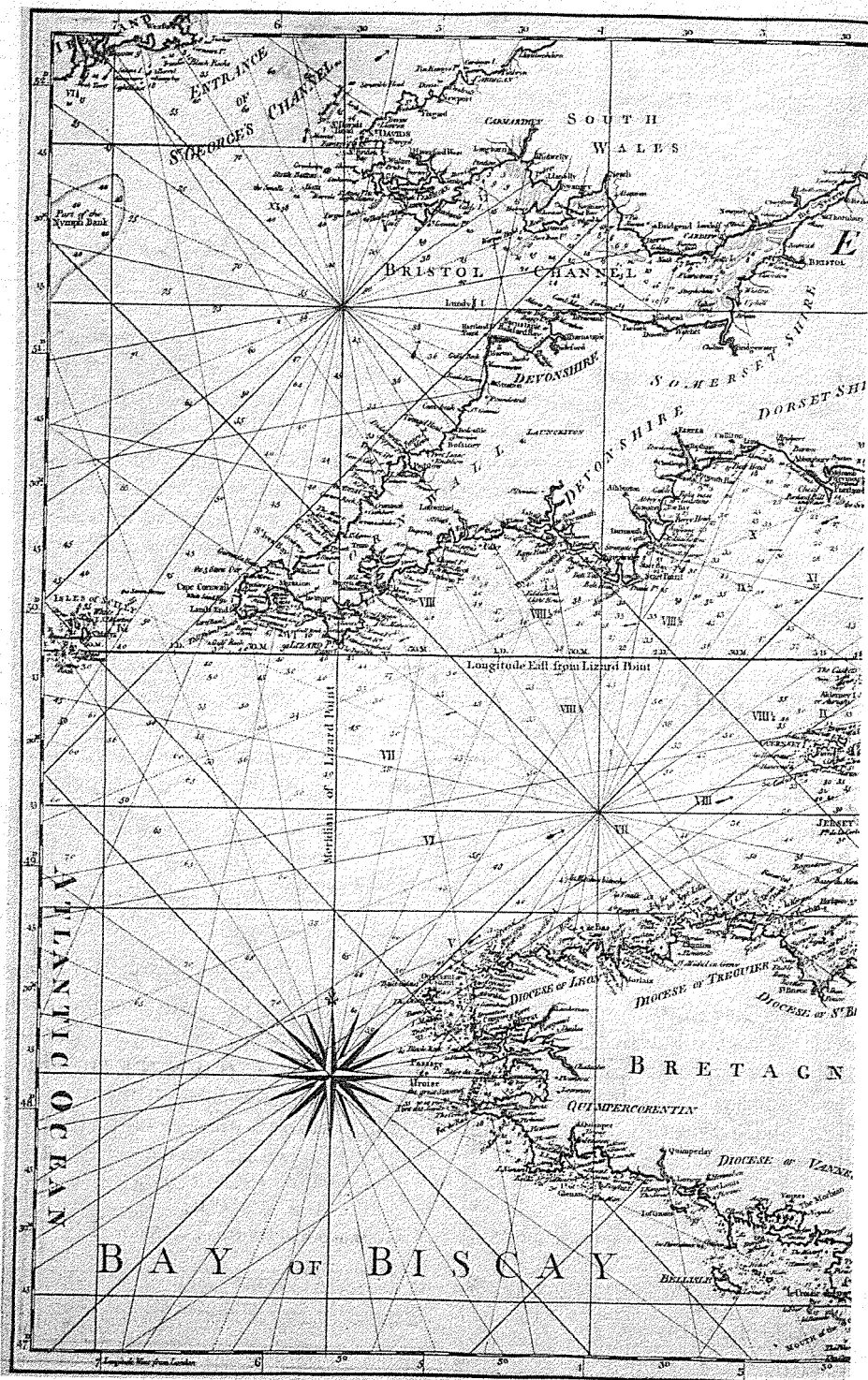
1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

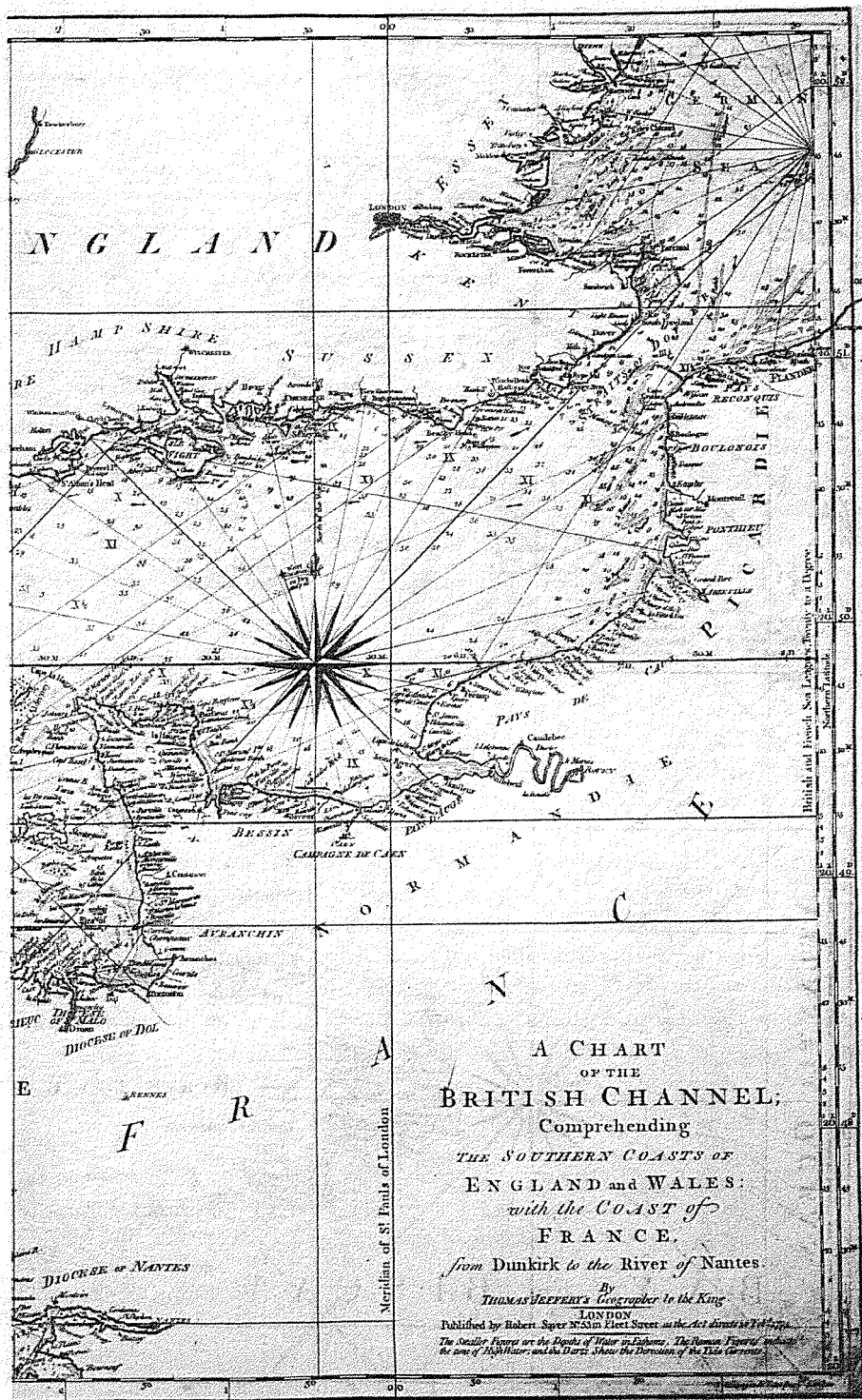
2. John Montagu not to be confused with John Montagu, Lord Sandwich.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1776

London, February 9.

Orders are given for all the small ships and sloops of war now lying up





at Deptford, Sheerness, Chatham, and Portsmouth, to be fitted out against the Spring, to be employed as cruisers, &c.

On Wednesday his Majesty's ship the *Fox*, Capt [Patrick] Fotherington, went out of Portsmouth harbour to Spithead.

Yesterday the crews of the *Charlotte*, *William and Mary*, and *Fubbs* yatchts, sailed on board the *Royal Escape* for Harwich to bring up the *Royal Sultan* (the largest seventy-four gun ship in the navy) which is to be repaired, and fitted for the American service.

10 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

Admiralty Office 10th Febr'y 1776

My Lord, Having received a Letter from Captain Parker of His Majesty's Ship the *Phoenix* dated at New York the 6th of last Month giving an account of his Proceedings, and enclosing several Papers of Intelligence, We send your Lordship Copies of his said Letter and Papers for the King's Information. And are, My Lord [&c.]

Sandwich Palmerston H Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 61a.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, PORTSMOUTH ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 10th February 1776

Lord George Germain, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State having in his Letter of yesterdays date signified to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the Kings Pleasure that orders be given to you to transmit to his Lordship the Nine Packets delivered to you by the Master of the Ship *Sampson* and that you do also cause strict search to be made for any other Papers that may be concealed on board the said Ship, and if any are found (not being the Ships Papers) to transmit them in like manner to his Lordship; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to deliver to the Bearer Board the said Nine Packets and such others as may upon the aforementioned examination be found on board in order to his carrying the same to Lord George Germain accordingly. I am &c

Geo. Jackson D. S.

By Haysom the Messenger at $\frac{3}{4}$ past 5 o'Clock P.M.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 98.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT PATRICK SINCLAIR,
H.M.S. *Ambuscade* ¹

Whereas we intend that you shall be employ'd to raise Voluntier Seamen & Landmen in & about Town for the Service of His Majesty's Ship *Ambuscade* at Chatham; You are hereby required and directed to observe the following Instructions Vizt

1t

You are to hire a proper Room for a Rendezvous, and to apply yourself with the utmost diligence to the aforesaid Service causing Bills to be printed and stuck up, inviting such Voluntiers to repair thereto and taking care not to receive any but who are of strong bodies and in health, the Seamen not under Twenty or above fifty and the Landmen not under Eighteen or above Twenty five years of Age.

2d

You are to send such Men as you may procure from time to time with their Chests and Bedding under the care of one of your Petty Officers on board such Tender at Tower Wharf as Capt. [Robert] Kirk (who is employ'd to regulate the Service of raising Men in and about Town) shall direct, her Commander being order'd to receive and convey them to the Nore, where they are to be put on board His Majesty's Ship the *Conquistador* in order to their being sent to Chatham, you are to take particular care that Lists be sent at the same time of their Names and times of Entry, distinguishing the Seamen from the Landmen, that they may be transmitted to the Captain of the *Conquistador* and by him to Chatham when they proceed thither, in order to their being enter'd for Wages accordingly on board the *Ambuscade*.

3d

You are to apply to the Navy Board for an Imprest of Twenty pounds which we have order'd for you and when the same is expended you are to let Us know it, And you are at liberty to charge Two Shillings and nine pence a day for your own subsistence and to pay the Petty Officers employ'd under you one Shilling & nine pence a day each for their subsistence also, during the time you shall be employ'd as aforesaid.

4th

You are to send an Account every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to our Secretary of the Number of Men rais'd distinguishing therein how many you have procur'd in the whole, and how many since the Account immediately preceeding.

5th

When this Service shall be over, you are to deliver to the Navy Board an Account of your disbursements making an Affidavit at the foot thereof in the following form Vizt.

"This Deponent maketh Oath that the Sum charg'd against each particular Article was expended for the purpose mention'd in such Article & no other."

Given &c. the 10th Feby 1776. —

Lieut Patk Sinclair in Town

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 398-400. Similar recruiting orders, with various alterations and additions, for recruiting in London were issued during February and March for lieutenants from eight or more of his Majesty's ships.

12 Feb.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall, 12th February 1776

In my Letter to your Lordships of the 22d January, I signified to your Lordships His Majesty's pleasure, that, if upon the arrival at Isle aux Coudres, of the Armament destined for the relief of Quebec, the Commander of His Majesty's Ships should learn that the Town was taken by the Rebels, he should in that case not proceed higher up the River, But as it appears upon further Information that, notwithstanding that Event, is might possibly Assist the Operations of the Army that is to follow, if this advanced party was to proceed up the River as near to the Town as the Ships can lye with safety; It is therefore His Majesty's further pleasure, that the Commanders of the said Ships now going out be Instructed to use their own discretion in this case, and according to the Intelligence they receive, either to continue at the place of Rendezvous, or to advance higher up as they shall think will be most advisable for effectuating the Object of this Expedition, and either giving relief to Quebec or forwarding the Operations of the greater Force that is to follow.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 64.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Bristol Cove of Cork 12th Feby 1776

Sir

at 6 o'Clock in the morning. –

Since my last Letter of the 5th instt acquainted their Lordships of the arrival of the *Sibella* Storeship; the Winds have been from Wt to S S W, and mostly hard Gales, but this morning at 3 o'Clock, the Wind came to Wt N Wt and soon after to N Wt; the ships are unmooring, and I hope, as the Wind seems likely to continue, or may come more to the Northward, to have them all clear of this Harbour by Eleven o'Clock –

I shall leave the Orders, with General Cunninghame, for the *Deal Castle*, or any Ship that may be appointed in her room, and also for Captain [Anthony] Hunt of the *Sphynx*, who is to follow me, with the *Thunder Bomb*, her Tender, & *Pigot* Hospital Ship, agreeable to the Tract I have left for him – If this wind continues they must all be here to morrow. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

"A LIST OF MEN OF WAR, BOMB, BOMB TENDER, TRANSPORTS, ORDNANCE VESSELS VICTUALLERS &c,
WHICH SAILED FROM CORKE THE 12TH FEBRY 1776, UNDER CONVOY OF
COMMO SR PETER PARKER IN HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Bristol*"¹

Ships Names	Capts Names	Ships Names	Master's Names	Ships Names	Master's Names
<u>Ships of War</u>		<u>Lt Knowles's Transports</u>		<u>Army Victuallers</u>	
<i>Active</i>	Wm Williams	<i>Myrtle</i>	Lt Knowles	<i>Sovereign</i>	Php Flin
			Goland Burton	<i>Thoetis</i>	Willm Burns
<i>Solebay</i>	Thos Symonds	<i>Nancy (1st)</i>	Chas Yarrel	<i>Thos & Willm</i>	James Smith
<i>Actaeon</i>	Chrisr Atkins	<i>Emanuel</i>	Danl Spencer	<i>Sea Nymph</i>	John Levitt
<i>Bristol</i>	Jno Morris	<i>Blessing</i>	Jno Atkinson	<i>Friendship</i> }	John Cox
<i>Carcass Bomb</i>	Robt Dring	<i>Adml Shuldham</i>	James Mather	<i>Adventure</i> }	
<i>Ditto Tender</i>		<i>Saville</i>	Thos Brown	<i>Pce of Piedmont</i>	Fras Warman
		<i>Content</i>	Jno Taylor	<i>Nancy</i>	Paul White
		<i>Earl of Orford</i>	Jas Johnson		
		<i>Union</i>	Wm Wallis	<u>Armd Ship</u>	
		<i>Jenny</i>	Wm Pigg	<i>Friendship</i>	Robt Lumley
		<i>Nancy (2d)</i>	Saml Tate	<u>Navy Storeship</u>	
		<i>King George</i>	Peter Kelly	<i>Sibella</i>	Geo Robinson
		<i>Neva</i>	Bolo Willson	<u>Hospital Ship</u>	
		<i>Rachl & Mary</i>	Fras Rowbottom	<i>Pigot</i>	Sailed with the <i>Sphynx</i>
		<i>Ann & Isabella</i>	Grif Read	<u>Ordnance Vessels</u>	
		<i>Golden Rule</i>	Isl Thompson	<i>Earl of Derby</i>	Jno Habberson
		<i>Good Intent</i>	Jno Wiely	<i>Nancy</i>	Willm Brown
		<i>Rt & Elizabeth</i>	Thos Hoopes	<i>Noble Bounty</i>	Jno Duckman
		<i>Aurora</i>	Jno Wetherall		
		<i>Clibborn</i>	Wm Thomas		
<u>Lt Tonkin's Transpts</u>					
<i>Juliana</i>	Wm Johnson				
<i>Ocean</i>	Jno Mallam				
<i>Mercury</i>	Jas Chalmers				
<i>Peace & Plenty</i>	Elisha Preston				
<i>Chatham</i>	Josa Walker				
<i>Harcourt</i>	Lt Tonkin				
	Thos Price				

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125, 6d.

LORD GRANTHAM TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

No 5

[Madrid] 12th February 1776.

I have received advice from His Majesty's Consul at Corrunna, that an American vessel had put into that port and that the captain had refused to submit his passport and register to a regular inspection by the said Consul, and further that the Commandant General had not been able to assist him in obtaining it. Mr Boden, the master of the said vessel, wrote to me at the same time, alleging his fears of the consequence of giving up his passport, but referring much to my advice, which I have given him by a separate ostensible letter to Mr. [H.] Katenkamp, exhorting Mr Boden to comply with the usual admiralty orders, as his best security.²

I have likewise had information of a transaction of a similar nature at Malaga, and that five American vessels have put into Bordeaux.

All these circumstances made me think it not inexpedient to speak to the Spanish Minister upon them, in order to see how much assistance might be depended upon at the Ports of this Kingdom for compelling the masters of American vessels to comply with the usual, regular, and legal forms hitherto observed.

I did not think myself authorized to require or expect, that this government should actually use force on these occasions, but only that it should appear that no encouragement would be given here to a trade which might be independently and illegally carried on.

By the discourse held by M.Grimaldi on this occasion, I found him averse to taking any positive measure unless applied to for that purpose, and unless he was apprized of the intentions of the French Court on the same subject, but with respect to the utmost rigor in preventing ammunition &c from being in any shape carried to America from this country, it should be observed, and the orders already given should be most explicitly repeated; and he added in a language very friendly to us, and politick with respect to his own Court, that the fullest reasons why this kingdom, and the governors of it, deprecated the growth of American Independence in our Colonies.

At the same time that I have the satisfaction of transmitting these general sentiments of this Court for His Majestys information, I would humbly suggest that the Consuls here will stand in need of particular instructions, as the number of these ships from America are likely to increase, perhaps to a degree which may be more easily prevented by intercepting them, than remedied after they reach the European Ports.

1. Letters and Extracts from the Correspondence of Lord Grantham, In Spain, January 1776 to June 1779, Sparks Transcripts, No. 23; I, 3-5, HU. Hereafter cited as Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, HU. Lord Grantham was British ambassador to Spain. Lord Weymouth was Secretary of State for the Southern Department.

2. *Ibid.*, I, 5, H. Katenkamp's letter to Lord Weymouth, from Corunna, February 3, 1776, covering the same subject, is summarized as follows:

Narrates the circumstances of the arrival of the *Polly*. Capt Boden, a brig belonging to Marblehead, in Massachusetts Bay, referred to in Ld Grantham's No. 5, and also states that there are now at Bilboa three other North American vessels, supposed to be waiting to load stores on the French or Spanish coasts.

13 Feb.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL¹

Sir,

Admty 13 Feby 1776

Vice Admiral Sir James Douglas Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Portsmouth having in his Letter of the 11h instant informed my Lords Commissrs of the Admiralty that the Master of the *Two Sisters*, a Danish Snow, then at Anchor in Cowes Road, had given him Intelligence that on the 16h January there were at Bourdeaux a Brig of 100 Tons, and two Sloops one of 70 the other of 50 Tons laden with Powder, bound to America, which he supposes to be now at Sea; Also that a French Merchant Ship was loading there with all kind of Warlike Stores for America; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith for Lord George Germain's information, And am [&c.]

Geo. Jackson D S.

I. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 67.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN MICHAEL KEARNEY, R.N.¹

You are hereby required & directed to proceed forthwith to Cork where we have appointed you to superintend & regulate the Service of raising Men for His Majestys Fleet, and in the performance thereof you are carefully to observe the following Instructions Vizt

1st

You are to take under your command such Lieutenants as shall be ordered by Us to act under you & to employ them in such manner as may be most likely to meet with success agreeable to their Instructions.

2d

You are to send the new raised Men whom you find to be regularly procured and fit for the Service; on board such Tenders as shall be appointed for the purpose, whose Commanders will be ordered to follow your directions, and when as many shall be put on board as she can conveniently carry you are to dispatch her away with them to Plymouth, with Orders to the Lieutenant who commands her, to dispose of them as the Commanding Officer of the Kings Ships there for the time being shall direct & then to make the best of his way back to Cork, and you are to take particular care to send with the said Men Lists of their Names & times of Entry distinguishing the Seamen from the Landmen to be delivered with them in order to their being enter'd for Wages in the Ships wherein they may be appointed to serve.

3d

You are to draw upon the Navy Board for such Money as you shall have occasion for, to carry on this Service, and to advance what shall be necessary to the Lieutenants; always taking regular Vouchers for whatever Mony you shall so advance to them or pay upon any other occasion.

4th

You are not to fail to transmit to our Secretary every Week (so as to arrive at the Admiralty Office on a Monday) an Account under your own Hand according to the annexed Scheme ² of the number of Men procured by yourself or the Lieutenants employed under you, distinguishing therein how many you may have procured in the whole & how many since the Account immediately preceeding.

5th

The better to enable you to carry on this Service you may employ a Clerk under you & allow him after the rate of Twenty Shillings a Week

6th

And for your trouble & pains in the execution of these Instructions you are to have an Allowance of Two Pounds a Week (besides your half Pay) and you will be allowed Twelve Pence a Mile travelling Charges for your repairing to, and returning from the place you are hereby appointed to proceed to.

Given &c 13th Feby 1776

Sandwich

To Capt Michael Kearney in Town

J. Buller

By &c G Jackson D. S.

Palmerston

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 405-07.

2. *Ibid.*, 408, the "annexed Scheme" consisting of a simple form, headed "February 1776 Regulating Captains Account of Men procured at Cork," and containing seven columns, captioned "Lieutenants Names," "Number of Men raised," "Seamen," "Landmen," "Total," and the last two columns having the general caption "Men raised since last Account," and broken down into "Seamen" and "Landmen."

14 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON,
JAMAICA ¹

Whereas we think fit that three Vessels ² shall be purchased for His Majesty, to be employed under your command; You are hereby required & directed to cause three of the best Schooners, Sloops or Brigs you can procure to be purchased for His Majesty accordingly, upon the best & cheapest terms you can, directing the Naval Officer at Jamaica to draw upon the Navy Board for the expence attending the same.

And whereas we intend that the said three Vessels shall be registered on the List of the Navy by the Names mentioned in the Margin & that they shall be commanded by Lieutenants, You are to call them by those Names and to appoint Lieutenants to command them accordingly.

Badger
Porcupine
Racehorse

You are to cause the said Schooners to be Armed, fitted, Victualled & Stored in a proper manner for the Service on which they are to be employed & Mann'd with Forty five Men if they are capable of mounting Ten Guns and with Thirty Men if

capable of mounting only Six Guns agreeable to the annexed Scheme, directing the Lieutenants you appoint to command them to take charge of and Indent for the Provisions Stores & Ordnance that may be supplied to them, and to account for the same according to the rules of the Navy, the better to enable them to do so & keep their Books properly. We have allowed them an Instrument under the title of Clerk & Steward. And also a Boatswains Mate, Gunners Mate & Carpenters Mate; to assist in the several branches of Duty to which they are adapted. Given &c 14th. Feby 1776^a

Sandwich H. Penton H. Palliser

By &c GJ. D.S.

Complement of the Schooners to be purchased called the –

1 Lieutenant to command	}	at 5s/ p Diem
1 Masters Mate		
1 Midshipman		
1 Boatswains Mate		
1 Gunners Mate		To be allowed
1 Carpenters Mate		Sixths rates pay
1 Surgeons Mate		
1 Clerk & Steward		
1 Servant to the Lieutenant		

And the remainder to be Seamen

[Endorsed] Duplicate signed C. Spencer – Lisburne – H Palliser

By &c P.S.

By the *Winchelsea*

Triuplicate sign'd Sandwich, J. Buller, C Spencer.

By &c P.S.

By the Packet 4th June

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 409–10.

2. Originally written "three Schooners" but crossed out and "three Vessels" substituted.

3. *Ibid.*, 424–26, on February 19 Vice Admiral James Young was ordered to purchase two vessels to be named *Pelican* and *Endeavor*.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAINS JAMES COOK AND
CHARLES CLERKE, R.N.¹

Having appointed you Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the *Resolution* at Deptford which we have order'd to be sheath'd, filled, fitted and stored at that Place for a Voyage to remote parts, Mann'd with one hundred and twelve Men agreeable to the Scheme hereunto annex'd and victualled for twelve Months for the said Complement, with all Species of Provisions except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow; You are hereby required and directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, and then falling down to Galleons Reach take



Captain James Cook, R.N.

in her Guns and Gunners Stores and proceed to the Nore for further Order.
Given &c. the 14th Feby 1776.²

Captn. Cook, *Resolution*, Deptford.

Sandwich

" Clerke, *Discovery*, Deptford, Seventy Men.

J. Buller

By &c. G.J. D.S.

H. Palliser

<u>Resolution</u>		<u>Discovery</u>	
Captain	1.	Captain	1.
Lieutenants	3.	Lieutenants	2.
Midshipmen	6.	Midshipmen	4.
Master	1.	Master	1.
Do Mates	3.	Do Mates	2.
Boatswain	1.	Boatswain	1.
Do Mates	3.	Do Mates	2.
Gunner	1.	Gunner	1.
Do Mates	2.	Do Mates	2.
Surgeon	1.	Surgeon	1.
Do Mates	2.	Do Mates	2.
Carpenter	1.	Carpenter	1.
Do Mates	3.	Do Mates	2.
Carpenters Crew	4.	Carpenters Crew	3.
Master at Arms	1.	Master at Arms	1.
Corporal	1.	Armourer	1.
Sailmaker	1.	Sailmaker	1.
Do Mate	1.	Do Mate	1.
Armourer	1.	Cook	1.
Cook	1.	Do Mate	1.
Do. Mate		Clerk	1.
Clerk	1.	Quarter Masters	4.
Quater Masters	6.	Able Seamen including	22.
Able Men including Servants	46.	Servants	
	92.		58.
Marines.		Marines	
Lieutenant	1.		
Serjeant	1.	Serjeant	1.
Corporals	2.	Corporal	1.
Drummer	1.	Drummer	1.
Private	15.	Private	9.
Total	112.	Total	70.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 412, 413.

2. *Ibid.*, a similar order was sent to Captain William Shackerly of the Fireship *Strombolo* at Sheerness, with a crew of 45 men and victualed for six months.

LORD STORMONT TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹Most secret

No. 14/

Paris february 14, 1776

My Lord,

I will use my utmost Endeavours to procure Your Lordship the information you desire in your most Secret Letter No. 9. 'tho' it certainly is, as you so justly observe, a matter in which I must proceed with the utmost Caution. there is every Reason against any Step that could Shew the least Suspicion of the Sincerity of the friendly Professions of this Court, 'tho' it requires no great penetration, to know with what Grains of Allowance they are to be received.

A M.Hopkins, an officer who quitted the English Service some years ago, & obtained the Rank of Colonel in this with a Pension; an American by birth, & strongly attached to that Cause, has been watched by a person whom Mr. [Horace] St.Paul set to watch him, and has repeatedly said to that person (who has contrived to get his Confidence), that several Ideas have been Suggested to the French Ministry, but that they reject them all, will give the Americans no Assistance and persist in their Resolution not to interfere; which Resolution this Mr. Hopkins speaks of with such Resentment, and Contempt, as makes all that he says upon the Subject still more credible.²

'Tho' I am persuaded, My Lord, that France does, & must see our difficulties with that Secret pleasure, with which it is natural to behold a Rivals distress, and tho' I believe it highly probable, that she does, and will contrive to give the Americans Such Secret assistance, as may tend to feed the Rebellion, and waste our strength by a long and difficult War; Yet I must say, My Lord, that I do not think it likely, that the present French Ministry will take a bold, and open part against us. I rest this opinion chiefly upon M de Maurepas' want of Enterprize, and Love of Ease, but then, My Lord, as I have more than once Observed to Yr. Lordship, We are Exposed to the Danger of a Chance, either from M. de Maurepas' Death or Removal. This Danger does indeed not seem immediate at present, as his health is good, and his Credit the same as Ever, Yet I happen to know, My Lord, that at this very moment, the Duke of Choiseul is not without secret hopes, that out of M. de Guines's Recall, the General Dissapprobation it meets with, & the Resentment of the Queen, something may arise to bring him Choiseul again into Play. Your Lordship will be so good to consider me, as speaking, only of M.de Choiseul's hopes, not of the Probability of his Success, of which I cannot as yet pretend to give an Opinion. I am with great truth and Respect My Lord [&c.]

Stormont

Lord Viscount Weymouth

[Endorsed] Paris 14 feby 1776 Lord Stormont (No 14) most secret R[ceived] 19th.

1. B. F. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles of Manuscripts in European Archives Relating to America 1773-1783* (London, 1889-1895), No. 1314. Hereafter cited as Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*. Lord Stormont was British ambassador to France.

2. Joseph Hopkins. "I have repeatedly seen Mr. Hopkins, formerly of Maryland, now advanced to be a brigadier-general in this service. He talks of coming out to America. Should the Duc de Choiseul, who is his friend and patron, come into the lead of administration, he might come out to advantage," Silas Deane to the Committee of Secret Correspondence, August 15, 1776, Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence*, II, 126.

15 Feb.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON, JAMAICA ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 15th Feby 1776

Their Lordships command me to acquaint you that for the reason you have given they approve of your having complied with the request made by the Governor & Council of the Island of Jamaica for a supply of your powder from the Kings Ships under your command

Their Lordships approve of your having given Lieut Phipps of the *Squirrel* leave to quit that Ship for the recovery of his Health & have signed a Commission for Mr Geo. Oakes (to whom you had given an order to act in his absence) to be Lieut of that Ship in his room

Their Lordships approve of your having given a Commission to Lt [James] Vashon to be first of the *Maidstone* & will confirm the Warrant you had given to Wm Smyth to be purser of that Ship in the room of the purser whom you have represented to be Dead.

A Second Lieut of Marines is ordered to be sent out to the *Squirrel* in the room of Lt Bell whom you have removed to the *Antelope*. And he will be directed to proceed in the *Boreas* now under Orders to join you.

By the *Boreas*

Duplicate sent by the *Winchelsea*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 125-27.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1776

London, February 15.

It is said that the crew of the *Washington* provincial privateer, that was taken and brought to England, have all, at their own request, been taken into the government's service.¹

1. See Germain to Howe, February 1, 1776, and footnote.

16 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 16th Feby 1776.

The Earl of Dartmouth having, in his Letter of the 2d of April 1774, signified to us His Majesty's Pleasure, that upon the Arrival of the Transport Vessels, then under Orders to proceed to Boston, the said Transports should either continue there, or proceed to the respective Places of their Destination, according to such Directions, as they should receive from Lieut General Gage, or the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North

America, for the Time being; and finding that, in consequence of the said Directions, the Transports, which have ever since been sent with Troops to North America, have been considered as under the Directions of the Commander in Chief of the Army, which having, in many respects, been found prejudicial to His Majesty's Service, and being contrary to the constant practice of the Navy, which has always been, to put the Transports under the Direction of the Officer commanding His Majesty's Ships; We are to desire Your Lordship will be pleased to acquaint His Majesty therewith, and submit to His Majesty, whether, for those Reasons, it will not be adviseable, to order all the Transports, as well those now in America, as those which are going, or that may hereafter be ordered thither, to be put under the Directions of the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships on that Station, and to follow such Orders, as he shall, from time to time, think fit to give them, for His Majesty's Service We are &c

Sandwich Palmerston H. Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 31-32.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 16th Feby 1776.

As the Season now approaches for the Sailing of His Majesty's Ships for the Coast of Newfoundland, to protect the Fishery at and about that Island; We desire Your Lordship will please to receive, & communicate to us His Majesty's Pleasure, whether we should make any Alteration in, or additions to the Instructions under which Vice Adml [Robert] Duff sailed last Year to that Station. We are &c

Sandwich. Palmerston. H. Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 32-33.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS,
H.M.S. *Isis*, AT THE NORE ¹

Whereas Lord George Germaine One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, has acquainted Us, by his Letter of the 4th of last Month, that it is the King's intention that every effort be made to send relief to Quebec, And whereas we intend that the Ship you command shall take on board one Captain, one Lieutenant one Ensign & Ninety four private Men part of the 29th Regiment doing duty at Chatham & proceed on this Service, You are therefore, after having embarked the said Troops which you are to bear on a Supernumerary List for Victuals at two thirds allowance, hereby required & directed to put to Sea without loss of time; And in pursuance of His Majestys farther pleasure signified by another Letter from Lord G. Germaine dated the 22d of last Month make the best of your way to the Isle aux Coudres in the River St Lawrence, observing if upon entering the Gulph of St Lawrence you find the passage through it impracticable on account of the Ice, to make the nearest & safest Port, watching with great attention the earliest opportunity of proceeding upon your Voyage.

Upon your arrival off Kameraska you are to use your utmost endeavours to procure intelligence from the Inhabitants of that Parish of the state of Quebec And if you learn the Town is still in His Majestys possession you are to use your utmost efforts to get up to the Bason or as near as possible contriving all practicable means of sending intelligence to Major Genl. Carleton of your arrival and of the relief which may be expected (particulars of which will be explained to You in a Letter from our Secretary) And also desiring his advice and directions with respect to such farther steps as it may be proper for you to take: But if on the contrary you should learn that the Town of Quebec has been taken by the Rebels, you are to remain at the Isle aux Coudres, making it a place of Rendezvous & there land the Troops you have on board if you find you can protect them until the arrival of a larger Body of Forces which are to sail from Ireland early in the Month of March.

But if notwithstanding this last mentioned Event, as the nearer approach of the Ship you command to the Town might possibly assist the operation of the aforesaid Army, you are in obedience to His Majestys further Pleasure, signified in Ld G. Germaines Letter of the 12th Inst to proceed with her as near to the Town as she can lye with safety; observing, however, that your continuing at the Place of Rendezvous or advancing higher up is left to your discretion, not doubting but you will act herein as you shall think most adviseable for effectuating the object of giving relief to Quebec, or forwarding the operations of the greater Force that is to follow.

If upon your arrival at Isle aux Coudres you shall find there are any of His Majestys Ships whose Captains are Junior to you you are to take such Captains under your command, directing them, & not failing to give every assistance in your & their power for the relief of the Place not only upon the plan laid down by these Instructions, but in every other way which the same can be rendered.

You are on no account to suffer the Pilots to be landed; but so soon as you find either the Ship you command or the others which may join you, are in such situations that they can be spared you are to send them by one of the Frigates to meet the expected Army & thereby make them farther serviceable in bringing up the Ships which have the same on board.

You are to inform yourself by every means where Intelligence can be gained, if any of the Enemys Armed Ships are Cruizing in the River St Lawrence, and if you shall find there are such, you are to use your utmost endeavours to intercept & take them as Prizes: but not to let this interfere with your other endeavours to assist the Town which is to be your chief great object.

As your proceedings will in some measure depend on the Intelligence you receive at Kamariska or other places: You are to be cautious in the Credit you give to it that you may not be in danger of acting upon wrong information.

You are to remain at Quebec or in the River St Lawrence 'til you shall receive directions from Vice Admiral Shuldham, or the Commg Officer of

the Squadron in No America, whose command you are to put yourself under & follow his Orders for your further proceedings. Given &c 16th Feby 1776 ²

Sandwich J Buller Palmerston

By &c G. Jackson D.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 417-19.

2. *Ibid.*, 429-33, similar orders were issued on February 20 to Captain Skeffington Lutwidge, H.M.S. *Triton* at Portsmouth.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 16 February 1776.

The Ministers entertain some hope with respect to Quebec: it is founded neither on the alleged success of a sortie about which they know nothing, nor on a misunderstanding between M. Arnold and M. de Montgomery about which they know nothing either, although the public claim they do; but they know that during the first days of January Quebec was still holding, that the city was under the weak attack of four thousand men lacking everything required for a siege, that M. Carleton had given the order to all persons who were not needed to evacuate the place within twenty-four hours, and finally, that according to all indications this general intended to put up a vigorous resistance. Consequently they have ordered the embarkation of a reinforcement of eight hundred men that M. [Charles] Douglas, an experienced sea officer, believes he can take into the St. Lawrence river in early April. To tell the truth, all the facts are against any hope of success in such an undertaking; every single man who knows Quebec and the river declares that it is impossible to sail there with a squadron before the first days of May; however, M. Douglas insists on taking this responsibility. As a matter of fact, this expedition, whether it is possible or not, presents an advantage to the Ministry which can use it to close the mouth of the Opposition as far as the capture of Quebec is concerned (unless it is announced positively), and which, until then, will always oppose to this sort of rumor the measures taken to assist this place.

The Ministry hastened the march of the Hessians: since I sent you my last despatch, Lord North told me what you confirmed to me in your despatch No. 174 with respect to the departure of the first division of German troops. The Ministry hopes these troops will embark some time next month and the rest during April. The number of these troops amounts to 18,000 men, to wit 12 th. Hessians, 4 or 5 th. men from Brunswick; one regiment from the hereditary Prince of Hesse-Cassel and another from the Prince of Waldeck. These forces added to 22,000 Englishmen will make up an army of forty thousand men divided into two corps, one in Canada and the other in the province of Yorck [*sic* New York]. I have this information from Lord North himself.

From this account, which is certainly reliable, it can be forecast that success is impossible. All the Germans who are to embark are in a state of despair. All the Ministers from the neighboring courts, or those who take

an interest in this emigration, agree on this point; thus, desertions either preceding the embarkation or following the debarkation of the troops will weaken this army extremely. One could also add that the army of the Rebels will increase in proportion. But what must be considered as being even more dangerous is the rivalry between two generals whose operations must necessarily be combined and who will probably be rarely in agreement. A single general in command of the land forces, as it was felt necessary for the fleet, would have been the only assurance of a successful campaign. The operations required to achieve this would have been decided through the authority of a single man without opposition. But if the two corps must be united, if one must be weakened in order to reinforce the other, it appears that this will not be done without waiting for the orders from the Council, and consequently the campaign will fail.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, LC Photocopy.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1776

London, February 16.

Letters from Gibraltar by the *Minerva*, Capt. Calhan, who is arrived at Portsmouth, bring advice, that a vessel was put in there from Cadiz; and the master reports, that two days before he left that place three vessels loaded with wheat, and other things, the produce of America, arrived in that port; that he was informed, that the Spaniards carried on a considerable trade with the Americans; and that they took but a few goods in return, but were generally paid in hard dollars.

CAPTAIN JOHN TOONE TO PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE ORDNANCE BOARD ¹

Copy

On board the *Elizabeth*

Ordnance Storeship Cowes Feby 16: 1776

Honourable Sirs I beg leave to acquaint your honours that pursuant to Instructions I received from the Respective Officers of the Ordnance at Portsmouth dated the 26 Jany a Copy of which I have Inclosed you and have followed the same as far as Wind and Weather would Permit. I further beg leave to acquaint you that this day I have received further directions (a Copy of which I have Inclosed you likewise) from Lieutt William Cummings Agent for Transports. Pursuant to Orders from the honorable the Commissioners of the Navy: said Orders directs me to put myself under the directions of Mr Samuel Roberts and follow such orders as he shall deliver me for my Proceedings: I beg leave to acquaint your Honours, that Contrary to the Orders I first received from the Respective Officers of the Ordnance at Portsmouth, I am now to Proceed to Cork and on my arrival at the said Port to put myself under the Convoy of His Majesty's Ship *Greyhound* and with her Proceed Immediately to Boston where on my arrival to deliver such Ordnance Stores I have on board the *Elizabeth* to Major General [William] How[e] or such Person as he shall appoint to Receive the same. I have acquainted the Respective Officers of the Ordnance at Portsmouth

herewith – who have directed me to acquaint your Honours with the Particulars, and as the said Orders are so contrary to each other and in two different Departments therefore beg your Honours will be so good to send my final Instructions for my Proceedings as soon as convenient to the Respective Officers of the Ordnance at Portsmouth. I am Your Honours [&c.]

Jn^o Toone Master

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 211–12.

17 Feb.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON ¹

Duplicate
Sir,

Whitehall, February 17, 1776

The Events which happened in the Province under your Government in the month of November, left no room for any other Consideration, but that of sending as early as possible a Relief to the Town of Quebec, in case you should have been able, with the small Garrison you had collected together, to maintain possession of it during the Winter; Such Relief to be followed by a Body of Troops sufficient to Retake the Town, in case it should have fallen into the Hands of the Rebels, and to effect the recovery of the whole of the Province to His Majesty's Possession.

To this end it was judged expedient, immediately upon the arrival of Lieutenant [Thomas] Pringle, in the *Nancy*, to equip a small Squadron of his Majesty's Ships, consisting of the *Isis*, of 50 Guns, the *Surprise* & *Triton* Frigates, and the *Martin* Sloop-of-War. This squadron has been accordingly prepared with the greatest Dispatch, and will be accompanied with 3 Victuallers and two large Navy Transports, having on board provisions for 3000 Men for Three Months.

His Majesty has also thought fit to direct, that the 29th Regiment should be distributed on board the different Ships, in the manner stated in the inclosed Paper, and the whole being now ready to sail, inclosed I send you Copy of my Letter of Instructions to Lieutenant Colonel Gordon, and the Instructions given by the Admiralty to the Captains of the several Ships, pursuant to the Directions I had the honour to send their Lordships by His Majesty's command.

Every effort is making to push forward the second Embarkation of Troops, so that they may be ready to sail by the 20th of next Month.

That Embarkation will consist of six Regiments from Ireland, and two from Great Britain, together with four Companies of Artillery, and a large battering Train, the whole to be under the command of Major General Burgoyne, who, together with Major General Lord Cornwallis, is appointed by the King to serve under you on the Side of Canada, but it will possibly be some time before you can have the Assistance of Lord Cornwallis, as he is at present appointed to serve under Major General Clinton, upon an Expedition to the southward; but he will proceed to Quebec with his Regiment as soon as that Service is over.

To this Force it is proposed to add about 5000 foreign Auxiliary Troops furnished by the Reigning Duke of Brunswick, & the Prince of

Waldeck, of which about 3000 will be ready to embark in the Elbe in the Beginning of March, and the remainder as soon after as possible.

Inclosed I send you the state of the British Regiments that are to proceed under the Comands of Major General Burgoyne, and I am to signify to you His Majesty's Commands that you do give the necessary Directions for the Disembarkation of the said Troops, as well as of the foreign Auxiliaries, and that you do employ them in such manner as you shall think most effectual for His Majesty's Service.

Major General Burgoyne will be so fully instructed in every point in regard to the important Services that are to be carried on, on the Side of Canada, that it will be unnecessary now for me to say anything on that Subject, and therefore, I have only to enclose to you His Majesty's Warrant containing a Signification of His Majesty's Pleasure for your direction in carrying into execution the Powers vested in you by your Commission of posting Officers to Vacancies. I am &c.

Geo: Germain

1. BM, Additional Manuscript 21697, LC Photocopy.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON, JAMAICA ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 15th [*sic* 17th] 1776 ²

Sr. I have communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of the 10th of December last enclosing Copies of the Orders you have given to the Captains of the *Squirrel* & *Maidstone* for Cruizing off the Little Caico's & Heneago to intercept American Vessels which their Lordships very well approve of.

And in return to that further part of your said Letter wherein you recommend the purchasing two Schooners to be also employed in that Service, I am to refer you to the Order you will receive herewith for purchasing three of those sort of Vessels and directing you will appoint them to such Stations as may effectually answer that desireable end.

Their Lordships are concerned to hear of the Accident which hath happened to the *Diligence* Sloop at Pensacola but still more from the apprehensions you are under about the *Ferret* Sloop which seems so well grounded that they cannot any longer continue a Hope of hearing a favourable account of her.

Duplicate by the *Winchelsea*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 127-28.

2. This letter seems to have been erroneously dated by the copyist.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON, JAMAICA ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 17th Feby 1776

Ld Geo. Germaine One of His Majts Principal Secretaries of State, having in his Letter of the 26th past informed my Lords Commrs of the Admty that the King having thought fit to direct that the Commissioned & Non Commissioned Officers of the 50th Regt now at Jamaica should be

brought from thence to Great Britain together with such of the private Men as are Invalid or unfit for Service should be sent to No America in order to be incorporated into another Corps with the number of Women & Servants & allowance for Baggage specified in the paper enclosed herewith.

And my Lords having ordered the three Transports named in the Margin ² to be fitted Victualled & supplied with necessaries proper for the Aforementioned Regiment And to proceed to Jamaica under Convoy of His Majs Ship the *Boreas*, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith And to signify their direction to you that after the Transport have got the Troops on board, You order them to proceed under proper Convoy to New York and disembark there or at such other port as shall be appointed, as many of the private Men as the Commr in Chief of His Majts Forces shall direct; And having so done you will order the Masters of the respective Transports to apply to Vice Adml Shuldham or the Commg Officer of his Majs Ships for such farther directions as he shall think fit to give for their return to Great Britain pursuant to His Majs intention with the Commissioned & Non Commissioned Officers & Invalids.

It being His Majesty's intention that if upon the arrival of the Transports at New York they should find that Major Genl Howe & the Troops under his command remain still at Boston, You are in that case, to order the Convoy to proceed with them to that Port.

So soon as the Ship you appoint for this Service shall have seen the Transports in safety at New York or Boston, You are to order the Captain to return to his Station under your command unless it shall happen that this Service can be performed by the *Pallas* which is a Circumstance would give great satisfaction to their Lordships as thereby you would be at liberty to keep all your other Ships to attend on those several other duties which are recommended to your care. I am &c.

G. Jackson D S

By the *Boreas* Duplicate by the *Winchelsea*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 129-30.

2. The transports named in the margin were the *Amity's Desire*, *Munificence* and *Archer*.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON, JAMAICA ¹

Sr

[Admiralty Office] 17th Feby 1776

The West India Merchants having applied to my Lords Commrs of the Admty requesting as the Trade from the Island of Jamaica will be constantly sailing from thence to Europe between the 25th of next Month & 1st of August that such directions may be given as will be effectual to protect their Ships in their present defenceless State against Attempts to be made on them by Cruizers fitted out by His Majts Rebellious Subjects in No America, And having further requested that such Convoys may be appointed to sail from the Island at the end of the Month of April, May & June & on the 26th July, also in October & in December observing that it will be sufficient if they see the Trade clear of the Island from 80 to 120 Leagues according to the discretion of the Officer Commanding the Convoy; And my Lords being desirous

in consequence of the said Application that the Merchants be accomodated in their said request, And having with a view thereto thought fit to reinforce the Squadron under your command by the *Boreas* & the three Armed Vessels to be purchased in pursuance of an Order which I have now the honor to transmit to you; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith & to signify their direction to you to appoint Convoys at the periods, & to order their commanders to proceed as aforementioned which their Lordships by means of the Ships & Vessels to be put under your command including the *Atalanta* which is to join you from the Coast of Guinea & remain they hope you will be fully enabled to comply with &c

G Jackson D S

By the *Boreas* Duplicate by the *Winchelsea* ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 131-32.

2. *Ibid.*, on February 20 similar instructions were sent to Vice Admiral Young at Antigua.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 17th Feby 1776

Lord George Germaine having in his Letter of the 22nd of Last Month signified His Majts Pleasure that you do as soon as conveniently may be, place one of the small Ships of your Squadron upon the Station of Pensacola, and that you do also procure and fit out, a proper Armed Vessel, drawing about Six feet Water abaft, and mounting two 4 Pounders, and two 3 Pounders, to be stationed in the Lakes Ponchartrain and Maurepas, in order to intercept any Craft that may attempt to Pass through that Channel, with an intention to Commit Hostilities in West Florida, I am commanded in Pursuance of His Majts Pleasure aforesaid to Signify the direction of my Lords Commiss: of the Admty that you do Comply therewith accordingly, & that you do to this end purchase a Proper vessel answering the description aforementioned as soon as may be observd & following such farther Directions with respect to the Manning fitting & victualling her as contained in an Order from their Lordships of the 14th Instant and Registering the Vessel you shall so purchase by the Name of the *Florida*. ²

I am farther commanded by their Lordships to direct, that if at any time you receive Intelligence of West Florida being invaded by the Rebels, you do in that Case immediately send such part of your Squadron to Pensacola for its Relief and Protection as can be spared from the Necessary Services of the Jamaica Station, I am &c.

G Jackson D S.

Vice Adml Gayton – Jamaica by the *Boreas*

Duplicate by the *Maidstone*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 132-33.

2. Commonly called *West Florida*.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE,
H.M.S. *Surprize*, PLYMOUTH ¹

Whereas Lord George Germaine One of His Majestys principal Secretaries of State has acquainted Us by his Letter of the 4th of last Month that it

is the Kings intention that every effort be made to send relief to Quebec And whereas we intend that the Ship you command shall take on board one Captain, one Ensign & Twenty Seven private Men part of the 29th Regiment doing duty at Chatham & proceed on this Service &c (same as the preceeding Order to Capt Douglas except the last Paragraph which is as follows)

Having disposed of the Troops you have on board as Major General Carleton or the Commanding Officer of the Army shall desire you are then to proceed to Newfoundland calling in you way at the Magdaline Islands and off Port au Basque for intelligence and if you shall hear of any Rebel Cruizers in the Gulph or on the South Coast of Newfoundland you are to go in pursuit of them & afterwards join Vice Adml [Robert] Duff upon his Station putting yourself under his command & following his directions for your farther proceedings. Given &c 17th Feby 1776 ²

Sandwich J Buller H. Penton H Palliser

By &c G J D S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 420.

2. *Ibid.*, 421, similar orders were issued this date to Captain Henry Harvey, H.M. Sloop *Martin*.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1776

London, February 17.

The *Ambuscade* frigate, which is put in commission at Chatham, commanded by Capt. [John] Macartney, is to carry his brother Sir George Macartney, to his government of the Grenades, and then proceed to join Lord Howe's squadron.

18 Feb. (Sunday)

JOHN BODDINGTON TO WILLIAM KNOX ¹

18 Feby 1776 –

Tower Sunday 5 oClock

Sir I have this Moment received your Letter and Dispatched an Express to Captain [John] Toon of the *Elizabeth* to Loose no Time in proceeding to Cork, both orders agreeing in that point – This Transport hath nothing on board but what belongs to Earl Cornwallis's Expedition – Waggon – Carriages – Ammunition – Stakes and Articles added from time to time upon the first appointment for the Expedition: This will allow Time to Correct any Mistake, the several circumstances I mention have all happened since 30th Decr and notice given from time to time to Your Office – I am Confined by Illness or would be more particular I am Sir [&c.]

John Boddington

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 215–16. Boddington was secretary of the Board of Ordnance.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, FEB. 18.”¹

His Majesty's frigate the *Amazon*, of 32 guns, is put into commission at this port, and the command of her given to Capt. [Maximilian] Jacobs.

Friday last his Majesty's frigate *Carysford*, of 32 guns, sailed hence for America; she is commanded by Robert Fanshaw, Esq. She was to stop at Blackstake to take in her powder and guns, after which to proceed with the greatest expedition on her voyage.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 22 to February 24, 1776.

19 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 19th Feby 1776.

The Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy having, in their Letter of the 16th Inst, transmitted to us a further List of the Transports fitting in the Clyde, which they have appropriated for receiving the 31st Regiment, ordered to embark there; We send Your Lordship the same, in addition to our Letter of the 15th Instant.

And the Navy Board, being desirous of appropriating a further Quantity of the Tonnage of those fitting in the Clyde in aid for the Service of the Six Regiments to be embarked at Cork, leaving sufficient for the Highlanders which are to be embarked in the Clyde, have requested to be informed, as soon as possible, of the Number of those Troops, and when they may be expected to be ready, that they may make a Disposition accordingly; We desire your Lordship will give Us the Information, that we may acquaint the Navy Board with the same. We are &c

Sandwich Lisburne H. Penton

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 33-34.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA¹

Sr.

[Admiralty Office] 19th Feby 1776

I received & communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty your Letter of the 17th Novr enclosing one you received from Mr Strode Purser of the *Argo* desiring your leave to return to England on his private Affairs also a joint Letter from him & Mr Lawford Purser of the *Apollo* requesting their Lordships permission to exchange Ships for duty and informing them that you have given Mr Strode leave to come home & appointed Mr Lawford to do Duty as Purser of the *Apollo*² And in return I am commanded to acquaint you that their Lordships cannot approve of Officers Exchanging Ships for Duty upon such reasons as are mentioned in Mr Strodes Letter, And that they have therefore signed a Warrant confirming Mr Lawford Purser of the *Argo* and also One appointing Mr John Bell late Purser of the *Squirrel* to

be Purser of the *Apollo*; and ordered Mr Strode to be put on the List of Candidates for Purserships &c

G Jackson D S.

By the *Seaford* Duplicate by the *Shark*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 138.

2. Probably a copyist's error. Lawford was assigned to the *Argo*.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 19th Feby 1776

I have laid before their Lordships the State & Condition, also the Disposition of the Squadron; and in consequence of the necessity which you have represented of reinforcing the same, their Lordships have ordered the *Seaford* to proceed to join you, and have directed her Captain to follow your Orders for his further proceedings; And you will likewise receive their directions to purchase two Vessels vizt Brigs, Sloops or Schooners, to be commanded by Lieutenants and employed as a further Addition to your Squadron, not doubting but you will thereby be enabled to perform the Services expected from you.

In regard to the bad Condition of the *Lynx*, their Lordships approve of your ordering her to return to England as soon as the season shall be favourable for her Passage, —

Having communicated the request of Mr Hay the Marine Officer of the *Pomona* to serve as a Voluntier in America, their Lordships Command me to acquaint you that although they approve the Zeal he has shewn they cannot accept his Offer as it would be inconvenient to the Service to send another Officer to supply his Place in the *Pomona*.

I am also to acquaint you that as the *Lynx* is ordered home their Lordships have been pleased to grant Mr Hammond purser of that Sloop leave to remain in England til her return. I am &c

Geo Jackson D S.

By the *Seaford* Duplicate by the *Shark*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 138–40.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS,
Seaford, PORTSMOUTH ¹

You are hereby required & directed to proceed forthwith in His Majesty's Ship under your command to Madeira, where you are to take in without loss of time a sufficient quantity of Wine for the use of her Company, and then make the best of your way to Antigua, where you are to deliver the inclos'd Pacquet to James Young Esq. Vice Admiral of the Red & Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at the Leeward Islands, and follow his Orders for your farther proceedings. Given &c. the 19th Feby 1776.

Sandwich J Buller H. Penton

By &c. G J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 426–27.

20 Feb.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III ¹

Admiralty Feb: 20. 1776

Lord Sandwich will pay immediate obedience to Your Majesty's Commands, by writing to Mr [William] Eden to desire that Mr Mathias may be instructed by this nights Post, to make enquiry for Transports at Bremen & Lubeck, as well as at Hamburgh. There is every reason to hope that foreign bottoms may be used on this occasion without the aid of an Act of Parliament, but to put ourselves properly on our guard, the Admiralty propose to take the opinion of the Attorney & Sollicitor General, but in the mean time to go on with the measure. The Navy board are directed to send an Agent to Holland as well as to Hamburgh, as we have reason to believe that many transports may be got there; and we flatter ourselves that as soon as it is known that we are determined to deal with foreigners, we shall get the better of the combinations among the owners of Ships at home.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 338-39.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 20th February 1776

I have received and read to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your two Letters of the 30th of august also of the 23d of october last giving an account of your proceedings in particular of the measures you have taken to prevent as far as in your power the Contraband Trade carried on by the French, Dutch and Danish Islands with america for the supply of Gunpowder and other Warlike Stores, which I am to acquaint you their Lordships approve of; and they have been pleased to transmit Copies of the whole of your last mentioned proceedings to Lord George Germain for the Kings information.

They command me to observe that altho' they cannot disapprove your orders for supplying the *Greyhound* Merchant Ship with Stores from the Kings Magazines taking it for granted she could not be supplied by any other means Yet they recommend it to you in all cases of this nature to be as cautious as possible in complying with such requisitions lest the contrary should at any time be the occasion of the Kings Ships laying by for want of those Stores which may be spared to Merchant Ships.

From what you represent concerning the bad state of the *Sandwich* Tender, and the necessity you lay down of having such a Vessel to carry on the business of the Station their Lordships are pleased to approve of your having ordered one to be purchased to supply her place. I have the honor to be &c

Geo. Jackson D.S.

(By the *Seaford*) Duplicate by the *Shark*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 149-50.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 20th February 1776

Having received and read to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 26th of November last acquainting them that upon receiving a Complaint from the 1st Lieutenant of the *Argo* against Captain [Francis Grant] Gordon Commander for embezzling the Kings Stores and other misdemeanours you had suspended him and assembled a Court Martial to try him for the same, and that the Court having found him guilty of part of the charge and dismissed him from the command ² you had therefore removed Captain [William] Garnier to the *Argo*, Captain [Henry] Bryne to the *Hind* and appointed Lieutenant [William] Young to command the *Pomona* in his room; In return I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you they approve the Commissions you have given to Captains Garnier and Bryne, but they cannot approve your appointment to [of] Mr. Young the same being not only contrary to the Rules of the Service as he is the Youngest Lieutenant in the Ship but also to your Instructions which direct that in case of the Death or Dismission of an officer you to appoint such other Person as by the quality of his Employment ought to succeed to the vacancy – they have therefore signed a Commission which by their directions I send you herewith appointing Mr Eastwood the 1st Lieutenant to command the *Pomona*, and another to the Honble Mr Windsor to succeed at 1st Lieutenant in his room. I am &c

Geo. Jackson D. S.

P:S: The established Fee for Mr Eastwoods Commission being £2: 3: 0, and for Mr Windsors 5/ for the Stamps, I am to desire you will please to let your Secretary receive and be accountable to this Office for the same.

(By the *Seaford*) No Duplicate sent of this Letter

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 151–52.

2. For Gordon's court martial, see Volume 2, 1151.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[February 2 – February 20, 1776]

The Wind being now favourable and fresh the Vice Admiral got out to Sea, and pushed for the English Channel with all the Sail he could carry, and losing sight of the *Canceaux* and *Trident* in the first Week of the Passage, made the Edystone the 18th, and, got into Plymouth Sound, without any Accident, the 20th in the Afternoon, before the *Somerset* from Halifax, who had sailed from thence the 15th of the last month & was much shattered in the Voyage, by the Violence of the weather.

1. The Conduct of Vice Admiral Samuel Graves in North America in 1774, 1775 and January 1776, British Museum, Mss. 14038 and 14039, II, 42. Hereafter cited as Graves's Conduct, BM.

21 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord, Admiralty Office 21st Febr'y 1776.

Having received a letter from Vice Admiral Gayton, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Jamaica, dated the 24th of December last, giving an account of Preparations making in the Island of Hispaniola, and of the Arrival of a french Frigate from thence, We send Your Lordship a Copy of the Vice Admiral's Letter for the King's Information, and are &c

Sandwich. J Buller. Palmerstone.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 34-35.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords, Whitehall, 21st Febr'y 1776

In answer to your Lordships Letter of the 19th Instant, desiring to be informed when the six Regiments ordered to embark at Cork, and the Highland Corps which are to be embarked in the Clyde may be expected to be ready, and the number of those Troops; I have the Honor to acquaint your Lordships, that each of the Six Regiments ordered to embark at Corke, consists of 677 Men Officers included, that 60 Women and 12 Servants are allowed, & 86 Tons will be wanting for the Baggage.

The 42d Regiment of Highlanders consists of 1168 Men, Officers included, 80 Women & 16 Servants are allowed, and 140 Tons for Baggage.

Fraser's Corps consists of 2098 Men, Officers included, 160 Women & 32 Servants are allowed, and 280 Tons will be wanted for the Baggage; and they will all be in readiness to embark, at the places directed for their Embarkation the middle of next Month. I am &ca

Geo: Germain

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 80.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1776

London, February 21.

Sir Peter Parker, with the fleet under his command, sailed from Corke the 13th instant for America with a fair wind.

The *Triton* man of war from Plymouth arrived on Monday at Spithead, where she waits for orders.

22 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

The Service on which you have been employ'd being at an end; You are hereby required & directed to strike your Flag & come on shore. Given &c. the 22d Feby 1776

To Samuel Graves Esq.

Vice Adml of the Red &c.&c. at Plymouth

By &c G. J. DS.

Sandwich

C Spencer

H. Palliser

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 435. Thus ended the active service of Samuel Graves. He was promoted to Admiral of the Blue in 1778, and became Admiral of the White in 1782. Admiral Graves died on March 8, 1787 in his seventy-fourth year.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, FEB. 22." ¹

This day the *Lark* frigate, of 32 guns, was taken into dock to be sheathed: She is daily expected to be commissioned for America.

The *Amazon* frigate, of 32 guns, commanded by Maximilian Jacobs, Esq; is also taken into dock, being to go to America.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 24 to February 27, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, FEB. 22." ¹

Last night arrived, and came into harbour, the *Trident* transport, Capt. Potts, from Boston. She sailed from thence the 2d instant, under convoy of Admiral Greaves, in the *Preston* man of war and *Canceaux* armed vessel, but parted company on the 17th instant. Nothing new had happened at Boston, when they left it; but on the day they sailed, as they came down the river, they heard much firing from the shore. Sir William Pepperell and family, and Lieutenant Prior of the 63d regiment came passengers.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 22 to February 24, 1776.

23 Feb.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 23rd Feby 1776

Lord George Germain having in his Letter of the 17th Instant signified the Kings Pleasure, that the Transports which are now in North America, or may be hereafter sent thither, be put under the direction of the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships of War, With Authority either to return or discharge them, as he shall think fit; I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith for your information and government; And that the Commissioners of the Navy have Orders to direct their several Agents to follow your directions accordingly.

But in the Orders you may give respecting the said Transports, it is their Lordships directions that you do take Care to detain such a Number as shall, under all Events, be necessary for the removal of His Majesty's Troops

from place to Place as the Commander in Chief of those Troops shall think necessary and proper. I am, &c.

Geo. Jackson DS

By the *Greyhound* at Spithead

Duplicate sent 29 March To Mr [John] Pownall

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 161-62.

COUNT DE GUINES TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 23 February 1776

The Ministry received yesterday a very important piece of news brought by Admiral Graves who returned from Boston. On the first of January, at four o'clock in the morning, Generals Montgomery and Arnold and a major of the Rebel army attacked Quebec in three different places. General Carleton put up the most vigorous resistance. General Montgomery was killed, General Arnold wounded and captured, and the Major who had led a successful attack and penetrated the city with 300 men was defeated and captured with the rest of his Men.² I have these details from Lord North himself. They were learned in Boston before Admiral Graves' departure who also brought copies of papers printed in the Rebel army and from a man who holds a very important position in their party and who came to Boston. In spite of these positive statements, a few persons still doubt these facts; however, the opposition in the Ministry also admitted them to me and even added a very important fact: Mr. Montgomery's father-in-law, a man who displayed much zeal and held a leading position in the Rebel party, hanged himself following the events of the first of January.³

Lord North added that the Rebels, however, had not lost courage and that Congress had ordered a new army to march on Quebec: but one cannot hide that General Carleton's advantage is decisive, it is correct, because it is a long way from Boston to Quebec

The drawback, which I presented to you, Sir, in my last despatch, posed by the rivalry between the two Generals in America is greatly lessened by the credit which General Carleton acquired for himself; he is senior to Mr. [William] Howe, the army in Canada will be larger, and surely after what happened, General Carleton will carry in his pockets patents which he will be free to use according to their circumstances.⁴

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, LC Photocopy.

2. A garbled account of the unsuccessful attack upon Quebec.

3. Montgomery's father-in-law, Robert R. Livingston, of New York, had died December 9, 1775, more than three weeks prior to the attack upon Quebec.

4. This was de Guines' last letter as ambassador. Vergennes recalled him, partly because of his ineptitude in the post, and also to induce England temporarily to recall Lord Stormont, the British ambassador.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO LOUIS XVI ¹

[Extract]

[London, 23 February 1776] ²

To the King only
Peace or War.

Sire, The notorious dispute between America and England, which will soon divide the world and change the European system, requires each power to examine carefully how it can be affected by this separation and if the consequences will be beneficial or prejudicial.

The most concerned power of all is certainly France whose sugar islands have been, since the last war, the object of constant regret and hope on the part of the English; desires and regrets which will unfailingly bring us war unless, because of an inconceivable weakness, we agree to sacrifice our wealthy possessions in the gulf to the chimera of a shameful peace, more destructive than this war which we fear.

... Mr. L. (M. de Vergennes will tell his name to your Majesty), secret envoy ³ of the Colonies in London, is completely discouraged by his useless efforts as he attempted through me to obtain in the form of powder and war ammunition from the French Ministry, and told me today: "For the last time, has France finally decided to refuse us any help and to become the victim of England and the laughing stock of Europe in her unbelievable torpor? ... We offer to France, in exchange for her secret assistance, a secret trade agreement which will make her enjoy for a certain number of years following the peace all the riches that England has acquired from us for the past century, and in addition, a guarantee for her possessions depending on our strength. Don't you want this? ..." ⁴

1. Henri Doniol, *Histoire de La Participation de La France à l'établissement des États-Unis d'Amérique* (Paris, 1886), I, 402-07.

2. Date approximated. This long and impassioned appeal is undated, but Doniol, *op. cit.*, 369, writes that it carried an endorsement in Beaumarchais' hand indicating delivery to Vergennes on February 29, 1776.

3. Arthur Lee, American agent in England, but not a "secret envoy."

4. Baron Albert de Dorlodot of Suarlée, Belgium, has done exhaustive and scholarly research in the documentation bearing on European assistance to the Americans. He questions the validity of this Beaumarchais letter and concludes that it was the Count de Lauraguais (see Lauraguais to Vergennes, February 24) who first conferred with Arthur Lee; and should be credited with bringing the American question forcibly before the King of France.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, FEB. 23." ¹

This morning are arrived at Spithead, the *C[a]nceaux* armed ship, Capt. Mouat [Henry Mowat], from Boston. She left Boston some few hours after Admiral Graves, and the *Trident* transport; and brings advice, that the Provincials had laid siege to Boston, and were firing briskly on the town when she came away.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 24 to February 27, 1776.

24 Feb.

JOHN POWNALL TO GEORGE III ¹

Secy of States Office.

24. Feby [1776] ½ pt 7. P.M.

Mr Pownall most humbly presumes to lay before your Majesty the most particular Account which has been yet received of the Attack made by the Rebels upon Quebec on the 1st of Janry. – Mr Pownall also most humbly transmits to your Majesty two papers of Intelligence received from the General Post Office. The account said to have been brought by the *Canceaux* of the Rebels having attacked Boston is most probably untrue as Mr Pownall has seen an Officer of the Highland Emigrants who came home in that Vessel & who reports that a firing was heard just as the *Canceaux* came out of the harbour, but that by the best observation that could be made from the Mast head it was nothing more than some of our Batterys firing upon the advanced Works of the Rebels.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 341–42.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admty Office 24th Feby 1776.

Having laid before My Lords Commrs of the Admiralty your letter of Yesterday's date informing them that the Board of Ordnance have represented to Lord George Germain that the Transports which they have engaged are not sufficient to receive the Ordnance and Stores directed to be sent to North America with the first Embarkation, & that it will be impossible for them to procure a Vessel in time for that Service, & signifying his Lordship's desire that My Lords will spare the Board of Ordnance a Ship of 300 Tons out of those which will be the soonest ready, such Ship to be immediately taken into the Pay of that Board. In return I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you for Lord George's Information, that as the quantity of Tonnage to be hired for the Service of carrying Troops is exceedingly great, and there yet remains a considerable quantity to be procured, they hope they shall be excused ordering any part of those Transports already provided to be spared to any other Service, as by so doing it may render it impossible for them to comply with the Orders they are under. I am &c

George Jackson D.S.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 36–37.

COUNT DE LAURAGUAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

[London, February 24, 1776] ²

... It was impossible in France to deny that the British Ministry saw the opportunity and realized that the only way to restore the power of England was to capture the Spanish and French islands, not only because they were the eternal objects of regrets on the part of England since the last peace, but rather because the immense progress of cultivation and popula-

tion in America made it as impossible for the Americans to submit to the Navigation Act as for the British to repeal it or to hope they could convince or compel the Americans to return under the yoke.

... The agent of the Colonies [Arthur Lee] told me ³ he had intended to go to Versailles four months ago in order to make the same proposals that Congress had then made to the Spanish court through an envoy....

Having pressed him on the proposals he intended to present, he told me he could ask France for ammunition and give her the guarantee of a trade agreement between her and America for a period of 4 years following the peace.... He insisted on the advantage of taking away the American monopoly from England,...

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy. Vergennes was using Lauraguais as an observer in London.
2. Date approximated. Letter carries endorsement, "Delivered to the King 1 March 1776."
3. Lauraguais writes in this letter: "I spoke of this to M. de Beaumarchais and told him that I had met the American agent two days in a row at dinner." See Beaumarchais to Louis XVI February 23 and footnote 4 following.

H. KATENKAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

Corunna 24th Feby 1776.

I have now the honor to acquaint Your Lordship that the Pass belonging to the American brig therein mentioned, which I had procured to be deposited with the Captain General, on the master's refusal to deliver it to me, has been restored him by orders of this government. ² I read the Marquis Grimaldi's dispatch which contained them, but could not procure a copy of it; however, his words are fresh to my memory, "that tho' His Catholic Majesty's intentions are not to favor the Colonies that are in rebellion, yet he does not think himself justified to wage war against them (*de hacerlos la guerra*) and is therefore pleased to observe a strict neutrality, and to lend no compulsory hand against the American vessels, nevertheless, to oblige the Court of London, the King has agreed, in order to prevent any warlike stores from being carried to the Colonies, that all ships suspected of having sent contraband articles on board, should be examined in order to prove their property."

On enquiry I find that orders had actually been given some months ago, for searching such ships, tho', by the negligence of officers, they had not been complied with, and perhaps never would, had not the Marquis' dispatch suggested to me that some such order must have been given. I have since, on having reason to suspect a ship, applied to the Captain General to have them put in execution, which has been done to my entire satisfaction.

There are some more American vessels arrived at Santander and Bilbao, one of them reported to be an armed frigate, but I cannot learn their names; however, their business can only be to load gunpowder and other warlike stores, perhaps not in the ports of Spain, but very probably at sea, where it is believed they are supplied by the Dutch.

1. Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, I, 5, 6, HU. Katenkamp was British Consul at Corunna.
2. Captain Abijah Boden of the Marblehead brig *Polly*.

25 Feb. (Sunday)

"NOTE ON THE AFFAIRS LEFT PENDING BY COUNT DE GUINES AND TO BE CONCLUDED BY M. GARNIER" ¹

[Extract]

London 25 February 1776

The Count de Guines was authorised to send to America M. de Bonvouloir who was granted two hundred guineas by the Court as a remuneration for his services. Last September, this officer received one year's pay in advance, as shown by his receipt. He has not been heard from yet. ² The Count de Guines agreed with him that he would send his letters to M. Guillebert, Consul in charge, or to M. Martin Froment, assistant to the mayor in Calais who would give them to M. Grandin responsible to forward them to the King's Ambassador. Because of the fact it was impossible to entrust a code to M. de Bonvouloir who might be searched and whose coded letters, furthermore, could not come on English ships, it was decided that all his letters would be addressed to a Company in Anvers, that they would treat commercial subjects and that secret information would be written with milk. This writing can only be seen with the help of a red-hot scoop.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 514, LC Photocopy.

2. See Bonvouloir's report, Philadelphia, December 28, 1775, Volume 3, 279-85.

26 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX
SHULDHAM ¹

Having ordered the Vessel purchased by Vice Adml Graves at present commanded by Lieut George Dawson to be registered on the List of the Navy as a Sloop & established with a Complement of Fifty Men including the Officers & Petty Officers usually allowed Sloops in the Kings Service; You are hereby requested & directed, to cause her to be fitted Victualled & Stored as a Sloop, and Mann'd with the aforementioned Complement, And to give Lieut George Dawson a Commission to command the *Hope* accordingly.
Given &c 26th Feby 1776

Sandwich H. Penton H. Palliser

To Molineux Shuldham Esqr Vice Adml of the Blue &c &c in No America

By &c G J. DS. By the *Greyhound*

Duplicate signed Sandwich J Buller Palmerston by the *Canceaux*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 437.

Public Advertiser, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1776

London [February 26].

The Fleet that sailed with Sir Peter Parker from Corke is dispersed in a very heavy Gale of Wind. The *Bristol*, Sir Peter's Ship, has been obliged to throw over her upper Deck Guns. The *Carcass*, one of his Fleet, has put into Plymouth with the Loss of his Mizenmast.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1776

London, February 26.

The *Carcass* bomb, which sailed in company with Sir Peter Parker's fleet, is put back to Portsmouth, having received some considerable damage, in which she was obliged to throw a great number of her stores overboard. The captain informs us, that on the 18th instant they met with a heavy gale of wind and a high sea, so that out of 42 sail of ships in the fleet, he left Sir Peter Parker with only 25. He met with several hard gales of wind before he could reach Portsmouth.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL SPANISH NAVAL COMMANDERS IN THE WEST INDIES ¹

At the Prado, 26 Feb. 1776

Instructions of the Spanish Court ²

In order to take as much as possible the precautions which might be desired in view of the situation of the English Colonies and the course which must be followed to go from their ports to the Gulf of Mexico, the Island of Cuba, Porto-Rico, &c. observation ships must be ordered to cruise as follows:

A war frigate to cruise to windward of the Island of Porto-Rico, that is to say East of the Cape of St. Juan at a distance of 30 or 40 leagues, tacking North and North-West in the event the English should want to pass between the Islands of St. Martin and Anguilla or to leeward of the latter to proceed then South of Porto-Rico and the Island of Hispaniola to the Gulf of Mexico; or in the event they should come and reconnoitre these Islands or the area between them and Porto-Rico, apparently following a course to windward only to fall then to leeward towards the latter.

Another frigate to cruise and reconnoitre between the watering place of St. Juan of Porto-Rico [Aguadilla] which is on the western part of this island and the point of the Espada (the Sword) which forms the eastern headland of St. Domingue in the event they should want to sail through this passage between the two Islands.

Another frigate to cruise from Baracoa and the point of Maisy, which is the eastern headland of the Island of Cuba, to Mariguana in order to see if they would try to use the Old Canal to go to La Havana or reach more quickly the Gulf of Mexico. This frigate could be accompanied by a barge or a schooner which would navigate more conveniently among the keys and the shoals, and which could be detached in order to carry messages.

Another frigate to cruise from Cape St. Antoine on the Western part of Cuba to Vezil and the place where one begins to take soundings before reaching Campeche in order to prevent their sailing unnoticed into the Gulf of Mexico by accident, or after having sailed too much to windward, they passed south of Porto-Rico and St. Domingue without being recognized by the frigates stationed there.

The only instructions which the Ministry will give to the Commanding officers of the frigates and other vessels destined to cruise in the area agreed

upon at the Council in order to watch the conduct and movements of the British squadrons are limited to the following points,

1) They should hide as much as possible, even from their crews, the purpose of their cruise.

2) They should all act in concert exchanging intelligence which might guide them as much, of course, as distances and other sea accidents will allow it, while each one will keep strictly to the primary object of his mission.

3) With regard to the detention and visit of English vessels, they should not stray from the general practice which has been followed up to now, that is to say, they should pretend that they are trying to stop smuggling on the coasts of the King's possessions; but each time they will be able to detain them on these just grounds they will attempt to obtain skillfully information as to the destination, movements and business of the vessels of the English fleet.

4) Each time they will discover something of importance, they should communicate this information to the Spanish Commanders or Governors and particularly to the one most concerned by reason of his own security.

5) In pertinent cases the same information should be given to the Governors of the main French Colonies because, independently from the fact that both Nations share the same interest in this matter, the subjects of H[is] M[ost] C[hristian] M[ajesty] will endeavour on their part to obtain other intelligence which they will deedfully communicate to our governors.

6) If they should encounter French Warships which might have the same destination in these seas, they should conduct themselves toward their commanding officers with suitable courtesy and trust and exchange intelligence they might have and which might be useful to the service of both Monarchs.

7) At every available opportunity they should approach vessels returning to Spain or coming therefrom and bound for one of the main American ports, and use them as a means to acquaint the Spanish Governors and the Ministry of all the items of information which they will have successively acquired.

1. AN, Marine B4, 134, LC Photocopy.

2. These instructions served as a guide to Sartine, French Minister of Marine, in issuing orders to his naval commanders in the West Indies.

27 Feb.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 27th February 1776.

I am informed that since my letter to Your Lordships of the 29th Decr signifying His Majesty's Pleasure that the *Elizabeth* Storeship, Captain [John] Toone, should proceed to Boston, her Cargo has been taken out by the Board of Ordnance, & that She has been loaded with military Stores for the Service of the Expedition under Sir Peter Parker. Your Lordships will therefore be pleased to recall any Orders you may have given for her pro-

ceeding to Boston, & to direct her to proceed according to such Directions as have been given by the Board of Ordnance. I am &ca

Geo: Germain

[Endorsed] Draft to the Lords of the Admiralty. Whitehall 27th Feby 1776.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 94.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1776

London, February 27.

It now appears that the rich transport taken by the provincials was met the day before by the *Cerberus* sloop off the coast, and ordered to keep by her; but in strong blowing weather no boats could pass, the ships separated in the night, and the transport was taken by a small schooner with eight men and no guns. The Captain of the transport was an American, as is well known in Boston, where this matter is looked upon as a very trifling occurrence, and what may naturally happen again on so extensive a coast.¹

1. A British apologia for the loss of the ordnance brig *Nancy*, taken by John Manley in Washington's schooner *Lee*, on November 28, 1775.

LETTER FROM CHATHAM¹

Feb. 27.

Yesterday arrived here Charles Fielding, Esq; on which his Majesty's frigate *Diamond*, of 32 guns, was immediately put into commission to go to America, that Gentleman being appointed to the command of her.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 29 to March 2, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, FEB. 27."¹

The *Seaford* is sailed down to St. Helen's, to wait for a fair wind to proceed to Antigua.

The *Greyhound*, and all the outward-bound ships, have made several attempts to put to sea, but cannot, owing to contrary winds.

1. *London Chronicle*, February 29 to March 2, 1776.

28 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL JOHN MONTAGU¹

Whereas by our Commission dated this Day We have appointed you Commander in Chief of His Majts Ships & Vessels employed and to be employed at & about the Island of Newfoundland the Islands of Madelaine & Anticosti and upon the Coast of Labrador from the River St John to the entrance of Hudson's Straits and intending you shall proceed thither in His Majestys Ship the *Romney*; You are hereby required & directed to proceed to Portsmouth & hoist your Flag on board the said Ship, & taking her, and

the *Cygnets* Sloop under your Command (their Captains being directed to follow your Orders)² hold yourself in constant readiness for Sailing
Given &c 28th February 1776

To John Montagu Esqr Vice Adml of the Blue &c &c

Sandwich Lisburne H Penton

By &c PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 456.

2. *Ibid.*, 455. Captain G. Keith Elphinston, *Romney* at Portsmouth and Captain Elliot Salter of the *Cygnets* at Spithead were issued similar orders this date.

29 Feb.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 29th Feby 1776.

Having appointed John Montagu Esqr Vice Admiral of the Blue to be Commander in Chief of His Majt's Ships & Vessels, employed & to be employed, at and about Newfoundland, the Islands of Madelaine & Anticoste, & upon the Coast of Labrador, from the River St John to the Entrance of Hudson's Straits; We desire Your Lordship will be pleased to obtain His Majesty's Commission for him to be Governor of Newfoundland &c in the same manner as hath been granted to former Commanders in Chief upon that Station. We are &c

Sandwich. J. Buller. H. Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 39.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD DICKSON,
H.M.S. *Greyhound*, Spithead ¹

You are hereby required & directed upon your arrival at Cork to make enquiry for all Ships & Vessels laden with Provisions or Stores for His Majestys Army & Navy at Boston that may be at that place ready to sail & taking them under your Convoy make the best of your way to that place where you are to put yourself under the command of Molyneux Shuldham Esqr Vice Adml of the Blue or the Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships & Vessels in No America for the time being & follow his Orders for your further proceedings Given &c 29th Feby 1776

By &c PS.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

Duplicate signed S. J B H Penton, sent next day to Cork P Express at [blank] p m.

1. PRO, Admiralty, 2/100, 447.

LORD COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JAMES WORTH,
H.M.S. *Deal Castle*, PLYMOUTH ¹

Whereas we think fit that the Ship you command shall proceed forthwith to Newfoundland with such Ships & Vessels, belonging to the several

Ports named in the Margin,² as may be assembled at Plymouth with a view of proceeding to that Island for the ensuing Fishery. And that she shall be afterwards employed on a part of the Coast of the said Island for the protection of the Fisheries carrying on there, and to endeavour to take or destroy any of the Ships or Vessels belonging to the associated Colonies of No America which may be found in those parts; You are hereby required & directed to make enquiry at Plymouth for all Ships & Vessels bound to Newfoundland & taking such of them whose Masters may be ready & willing to accompany you, under your Convoy, make the best of your way with them towards that Island; passing over the Grand Bank in the Lat. of 46° 30', And having left there such of the said Ships & Vessels as may be desirous of commencing their Fisheries, And taken destroyed or driven away any Ships or Vessels belonging to the abovementioned Colonies, which may happen to be in the Bank either for the purpose of Fishing or Trading or annoying & disturbing the Fishery, You are to endeavour to make the Land about Cape Race, and then to run up to the Northward as high as St John's calling at the several Ports on that part of the Coast & seeing the remainder of your Convoy in safety as far as your way & theirs may be together; And having so done you are to continue Cruizing between St John's & Cape Race using your utmost diligence to protect & defend the Fisheries carrying on by His Majts Subjects within that Station, & to take or destroy any Ships or Vessels belonging to the aforesaid associated³ Colonies or any other piratical Ships or Vessels which may be found within the above Limits or in the Neighbourhood thereof: And in the execution of that Service, You are to observe the following Instructions until such time as you shall receive others from Vice Adml. Montagu, or the Commander in Chief of the Squadron of His Majts Ships intended to be employed this Year at & about Newfoundland. Vizt

1st

You are agreeable to an Act of Parliament of the 10th & 11th Years of King William the 3d entitled "An Act to encourage the Trade to Newfoundland" (which you will receive herewith) to be aiding & assisting to the Admirals, Vice Admirals & Rear Admirals, of the respecting Ports & Harbours of Newfoundland from time to time as need shall require, in preserving the peace & good Government among the Seamen & Fishermen, & in apprehending Offenders.

2d

You are to be careful that there be not taken into the Ship you command to be transported to Newfoundland any Seamen or others than such as do belong to her; You are not to lend any of her Company to any of the Fishing Ships so neither are you to suffer to be taken on board her any sort of Fish either by way of Merchandize, Freight or otherwise, excepting what shall be necessary for the use & spending of her Company.

3d

And whereas the Lords Commrs for Trade & Plantations have represented to Us, that it is very prejudicial to this Kingdom that the Fishing

Ships do not bring home from Newfoundland the Complement of Men they carry out, many of them being enticed away to New England & others left in the Country, And for that reason have desired that it might be signified to the Masters of all British Ships at Newfoundland that they take care to bring home the number of their Men they carry out (except in case of Death) for that otherwise they will be prosecuted at their return, You are to let the Masters know the same accordingly, And to use your best endeavours to oblige them thereto, as far as in you lies.

4th

And Whereas no Foreign Ships or Vessels whatever (except as herein after excepted) have any rights to fish at or about Newfoundland, And the Commanders of the Ships of War bound as Convoy thither have at all times past, been directed not to allow of their fishing in those parts it is therefore His Majts pleasure that you take especial care to prevent the same, and that his Orders given herein shall be strictly complied with; And if you shall meet with any Foreign Ships fishing at or about Newfoundland, you are to oblige them to desist & depart from off the Coast excepting Ships & Vessels belonging to the Subjects of His Most Christian Majesty fishing agreeable to the 13th Article of the Treaty of Peace concluded with France at Utrecht in the Year 1713 & to the 4,5th & 6 Articles of the Treaty of Peace concluded at Paris the 10th day of February 1763, Copies of which you will receive herewith. Given &c 29th Feby 1776 *

Sandwich H Penton H Palliser

By &c PS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 442-45.
2. Ports listed in the margin were: Pool, Weymouth, Bridport, Lyme, Topsham, Tingmouth and Dartmouth.
3. "Rebellious" was written lightly above "associated."
4. *Ibid.*, 449-53. This date similar orders were issued to Captain Patrick Fotheringham, H.M.S. *Fox*, Spithead, "to make the Land about Cape Race and then proceed along the Southern Coast." Fotheringham's orders included the following additional instructions:

5th

And whereas, pursuant to the 24th Article of the said Treaty of Paris, possession of the Islands of St Pierre & Miquelon has been given to France & from their vicinity to the Island of Newfoundland and other parts of His Majesty's dominions in No America, an illicit Trade may be attempted to be carried on between the British, Indian or any other Inhabitants of His dominions and the Subjects of France residing in the said Islands of St Pierre & Miquelon, or employed in the Fishery by Virtue of the said Treaties or between His Majesty's said Subjects & other Subjects of France or of other Powers trading or pretending to Trade to, or with the said Islands of St Pierre & Miquelon; In case any endeavours shall be made by the abovemention'd associated Colonies to obtain Supplies from Europe through the Channel of the said Islands, you are to be particularly attentive to the same & prevent if possible all communication whatever between the said Islands of St Pierre & Miquelon & any part of His Majesty's dominions in No America contrary to the Plain and direct meaning of this Instruction avoiding at the same time the taking any step that may be injurious to the Subjects of the French King or have a tendency to disturb that harmony which now so happily subsists between the two Nations. But

6th

The French having in the Year 1766 claimed a right of Fishing on the Coasts of the abovemention'd Islands of St Pierre and Miquelon, the Duke of Richmond one of

His Majesty's then principal Secretaries of State signified to Us, that, tho' we cannot admit that, by the Treaties subsisting, the French have any right to the said claim of Fishing between those Islands and the Coast of Newfoundland, and therefore that no such concession ought to be made to them, yet as Commo [Hugh] Palliser had reported that he had not found it immediately necessary to His Majesty's Service to interrupt the French Boats fishing on the Coasts of those Islands, it was His Majesty's pleasure that we should instruct him to hold the same conduct til' further Orders or til' the behaviour of the French by any abuse of that liberty, should make it necessary for him to alter it; You are also, during your continuance in the above Service, to hold the like conduct in this respect until further Order, or til' the behaviour of the French by any abuse of the said Liberty shall make it necessary for you to alter it.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 29th Feby 1776

Their Lordships have satisfaction in your recommendation of Captain Wallace, and will as you propose remove him into a larger & better Ship than the *Rose*, the first Opportunity there is for doing so.

It is not in their Lordships power at present to comply with the Proposal contained in Commissioner Arbutnots letter of sending two Deck'd Ships for the Protection of the Yard at Halifax; and they Hope from the several other Measures now taking not only for the security of the Province of Nova Scotia but all His Majesty's Colonies in North America, the same will not be found necessary, Their Lordships approve of your appointment of another Officer to the Command of the *Gaspee* Armed Brig, if on your farther Information concerning her, she is not in possession of the Rebels.

Lieut Mouat [Henry Mowat] having informed my Lords that there is a Ship at Boston of Tonnage and dimensions very fit to be established as a Sloop, and their Lordships intending that she shall be purchased for His Majestys Service I have it in Command from them to acquaint you therewith and that you may expect their Order for so doing, also for establishing the said Vessel as a Sloop and appointing Mr Mouat to the Command of her, who will return in the *Canceaux* so soon as she can be got ready which they expect will be in the Course of a few days and there will be sent in her a set of Guns proper to be supplied for the said Sloops use.² I am &c.

By the *Greyhound* at Spithead

Geo. Jackson DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 194-95.

2. Mowat has left an account of this incident, which is entitled: "A relation of the services in which Captain Henry Mowat of the Royal Navy was engaged in America, from 1759 to the end of the American War in 1783," *Collections and Proceedings of the Maine Historical Society*, 2nd series, II, 357-58. He wrote:

... he cruised in Boston Bay to January 1776, when the Ship was found unfit to continue any longer on that Service, And in Consequence thereof was put under orders to proceed to England, carrying Dispatches & Letters from the Commanders in chief representing Captain Mowat's Services and Usefulness on that Coast, And at the same time a request from them, that he might therefore be returned to America without loss of time in a Ship fit to do Justice to his Experience of the Station.

On his arrival he was received with the most gracious approbation of His Majesty, of the Admiralty Board & of the Secretary of State, & had the Step of Master & Commander Conferred on him, but it was to a Ship then at Boston.

Captain Mowat, finding the Ship was in America & considering the time it would take him to join & to prepare her for Sea, expressed to Lord Sandwich & to Lord

George Germaine a wish of being appointed to one on the Spot & his hopes that the long time he had Commanded the *Canso* & the Services performed in her intitled him to the Promotion of a Post Ship.

Lord Sandwich was pleased to observe he had every desire to give him a frigate, but none were ready for Commissioning; & if there were, it would require Months to Man her, urging at the same time the desire of Admiral Shuldham & of General Howe for his Speedy return & adding that there was no doubt on his arrival in America he would be appointed to the first vacant Post Ship on the Station, And the same encouragement was equally given by the Secretary of State.

On this foundation he readily Sett out for America; On his Arrival he found the evacuation of Boston had taken place & the Ship intended for him was left there.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1776

London, February 29.

His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Vice Admiral Montague to the government of Newfoundland, and he is to have the command of a very large squadron to assist the operations of Lord [Richard] Howe. He kissed the King's hand yesterday on the occasion.

His Majesty's ship *Preston*, lately arrived at Plymouth, from Boston, brings a confirmation of the account of the ship *Queen of England*, James Arnaud, master, belonging to Plymouth, and bound from Cork, with provisions for the royal army at Boston, being taken and carried into Marblehead in New England, by an American privateer.¹

His Majesty's ship *Jersey*, of 60 guns, is now fitting out at Chatham for the North America station; she is already commissioned, and the command given to Capt. Halsted.

1. As the *Queen of England* was not taken until July 21, 1776 in Nantasket road by the armed ship *George*, the "confirmation" of her capture four months earlier could be regarded rather as a premonition, than a fact.

New York Packet, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1776

London Feb. 29.

To prevent the transports being taken by the small provincial privateers, orders are given to the surveyors of the navy, that none be taken up under 300 tons, and these also to have six 9 pounders upon deck for their defence.

1 Mar.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MARCH 2 TO TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1776

House of Commons [March 1]

The motion to enquire into the present state of the navy or home service was made on Friday last [March 1] in the House of Commons by Mr. Temple Luttrell, and seconded very ably by the Right Hon. Mr. Thomas Townshend. Mr. Luttrell introduced his motion with some strictures upon the Admiralty for the little care that had been taken in manning the men of war for the American service, by which misconduct some of the frigates had run ashore, and others been impeded in their voyage, &c. He insisted upon

it, that so numerous a fleet as that, which it was said would amount to near 100 sail could not possibly be fitted out without press warrants; yet he did not condemn the withholding such expedient; for next to the compelling Americans to serve against Americans, nothing could be worse than to force Britons to fight against them. He asked if it would not be wiser to have 50 men of war on that service properly manned, than 100 in so wretched a condition? The fleet in America, including storeships, victuallers; and small craft, must require upwards of 20,000 men, which would be more than could be spared at so remote a distance, consistent with the safety of these islands, when your resources of men for land and sea service were so reduced, and the French and Spaniards actually fitting out large naval armaments, and increasing their military establishments. Some ministerial gentlemen had asserted the evening before, that we had 20 sail of line of battle ships fit to encounter any enemy whatever at a few days notice. This was absolutely a false state of facts. He would engage to prove by indisputable evidence at the bar, that when the rest of the ships destined for America shall have sailed, you cannot have mariners in all your ports put together to complete the complements of 14 sail of the line. The Spaniards will in less than six weeks have a greater force than that within two days sail of Gibraltar, and you have only one ship of the line in the Mediterranean. The French are now superior to you in all parts of the world, excepting North America: You have not a single line of battle ship either in the East or West Indies. France has a squadron at Hispaniola, and 10,000 land forces. Are we then henceforward to hold our very existence as a nation by no better tenure than the impolitic faith or commiseration of the House of Bourbon? This Gentleman spoke upon various other matters relative to the subject with great force of argument, and seemingly from very diligent information; and he replied to the material part of the objections at the close of the debate, and shewed precedents in his favour. He was answered by Sir Hugh Paliser, and another Lord of the Admiralty, who persisted in the present flourishing state of our navy at home, and the satisfactory manner in which the American ships were manned. The guard-ships had supernumerary hands, and seamen came in faster than was requisite. Lord Mulgrave supported these assertions, and declared as a professional man, that we could have a fleet of 40 sail of the line in a few weeks, and 60 in a month's time, if necessary. All these arguments were replied to in a very spirited and masterly speech by Governor Johnstone, who shewed that there was but too much reason to apprehend we were going to our lowest ebb as a maritime power as well as a commercial one. He justly observed, that the representations of the Hon. Gentlemen who had spoken on this occasion varied so widely, and upon a matter of such importance, that a clear conclusion must be drawn to go into an enquiry for the truth. Lord North and Lord Clare opposed the motion, and were answered by Sir Geo. Younge, Mr. Byng, and Mr. Hartley, lately chosen for Berkshire, who expressed his concern that country gentlemen should encourage ministry in the infamous and unconstitutional practice of withholding necessary information from the

representatives of the people. It was his first speech, and he acquitted himself much credit. The numbers on the division were 93 against the motion, 44 for the motion.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 1 March 1776

Guided by your superior judgment and by your orders, I could not take anything more to heart than the Instructions you find agreeable to send me. Perhaps, before your formulate them, it would be useful to inform you of the relations that exist among the Ministers of whom His British Majesty's Council is composed. Lord George Germain who took charge of the American affairs became intimate with Lord Suffolk. Lords Weymouth, Gower and Sandwich side together: so that Lord North, although he is the Prime Minister, is almost by himself since Lord Dartmouth, the only one with whom he is on good terms, is not by his position as Keeper of the Privy Seal an essential member of the King of England's Council. All are jealous of the rise of the Secretary of the Colonies, especially Lord Sandwich whom Lord George treated with little consideration when he fought to have Admiral [Molyneux] Shulldham, creature of the First Lord of the Admiralty, removed from his command of the fleet in America in order to replace him with Lord [Richard] Howe, an enemy of Lord Sandwich. The latter was not used to this sort of humiliation in his department and he sees with regret the decline of the full powers to which he was accustomed. . . .

Holland has agreed to lend the Scotch Brigade to the King of England; but I still do not know what are the terms of this new treaty. You must have learned, My Lord, that the Hessian troops have interrupted their march to Stadt because the transport ships on which they are to embark have not yet arrived there. Since the ships of the Indian Company which were hopefully to be used are not available because of the refusal of the private builders to whom they belong, other vessels are being chartered everywhere in Holland and in Hamburg. Those chartered in this last port being of heavier burden are especially destined to carry the flat-bottom which are being built hurriedly and which will be used to sail upstream on the American rivers where ships cannot penetrate. Several bomb-galiots are also being built. All these hostile preparations will apparently constitute the counterpart to the conciliatory instructions given to Lord Howe. I shall attempt, My Lord, at another time, to call your particular attention on the name, the character and the reputation of this Plenipotentiary Admiral who will leave with the most extensive powers and who is only too capable to go beyond these powers.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1776

London, March 1.

Yesterday some dispatches were brought to Lord George Germaine's of-

fice from the Earl of Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, received by the ship *Samuel*, Capt. Shepherd; arrived in the Downs from that province.

The *William*, Mercier, from Georgia to London, is taken by some armed vessels, and carried into South Carolina.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, MARCH 1.”¹

This day a detachment of marines, consisting of one Serjeant, one Corporal, one Drummer, and 40 private men, under the command of Faithfull Conway Fortescue, Esq; second Lieutenant, embarked here on board his Majesty's frigate *Emerald*, of 32 guns, commanded by Benjamin Caldwell, Esq; for America.

At the same time another detachment of marines, consisting of the like number, under the command of — Hinckley, Esq; second Lieutenant, embarked on board his Majesty's frigate *Blonde*, of 32 guns, commanded by Philemon Bownhall, Esq; bound also for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 2 to March 5, 1776.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, MAR. 1.”¹

Since my last Admiral Greaves [*sic*] struck his flag, and set out for London; his Majesty's ship *Preston* is ordered to be fitted out immediately for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 5 to March 7, 1776.

2 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL JOHN AMHERST¹

You are hereby required & directed in case His Majts Sloop the *Ranger* is not sailed from Plymouth Sound, to direct her Commander to remain there until he receives further Order & to cause her Provisions to be completed to Six Months of all Species except Beer of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow & her Stores to a proper proportion for Foreign Service; holding himself in constant readiness for Sailing. Given &c 2d March 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

To John Amherst Esqr Vice Adml of the White &c &c at Plymouth

By &c PS. By Express

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 454.

3 Mar. (Sunday)

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND¹

[Whitehaven] 3d Mo: 3d-76 Almost the latter end of a great Number of our Vessels engaged in Government Service are Sailed for Glasgow — some for Cork some for Plymouth &c — on the American Expedition.

1. WPL.

PRÉCIS PREPARED FOR THE KING OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE
EXPEDITION AGAINST THE SOUTHERN COLONIES ¹

[Extract]

[March 3, 1776]

In his passage to Corke he [Sir Peter Parker] met with continued adverse winds & tempestuous weather; so that he did not arrive there before the 5th of January; and instead of the 1st of Decr it was the 12th of Febry before the whole Armament was collected together & ready to proceed to Sea. A few days after they left it, they met with a violent gale of wind at South West, which dispersed the whole fleet & forced back, into different ports several of the Transports and Storeships, disabled & distressed.

Upon receiving an acct of this unfortunate event, a letter was dispatched by lord Geo Germain to General Clinton, dated 3d March 1776 – stating to him all the difficulties & delays that had attended the Expedition, & observing that it was now become very doubtful whether any of the objects of it could be effected, at least without exposing the Troops to great risk, and retarding, if not defeating the operations of the Army under Major General [William] Howe, of which those Troops were always intended to make a Part.

His Majesty's Commands were therefore signified to Major General Clinton, that if upon the arrival of the Armament at Cape Fear he should be of opinion upon a mature consideration of all circumstances, that nothing could be soon effected that would be of real & substantial service and advantage; or that the making any attempt would expose His Majesty's Troops to great loss from the season being too far advanced, & that there would be a hazard of disappointing the Service to the Northward, he do in that Case, proceed immediately to join Major General Howe with his whole Force, or at least with the major part of it; for if notwithstanding the above circumstances it shall appear to him, that the Friends of Govt in any of the Southern Colonies, who in confidence of the promised assistance, may have taken up Arms, can with the support of a Regiment or two effect the restoration of legal Govt – it is the King's intention that, in such cases, he should be at liberty to afford them that assistance if he shall think it advisable.

The Dispatches both from Lord Dartmouth & Lord George Germain, to Major Genl Howe, on the subject of this Expedition, have been already stated. The second of those Dispatches, namely that of the 22d Octr was received by Genl Howe the 30th Decr & in consequence thereof Major Genl Clinton sailed the 20th Janry in the *Mercury* Frigate for Cape Fear, which was accompanied by the *Falcon* Sloop & 2 Transports, having on board 2 Companies of Light Infantry, & some Highlanders, which the General thought might be usefull in getting Men in No Carolina, if Govr Martin was not deceived in his Expectations of which the Genl seems to express some apprehensions, & says he is of opinion that it would have been better to have left the Southern Provinces in the full persuasion of their own Security until the Rebels should have been defeated on the side of New York, which Event appeared to him more clearly than ever of so much Importance, that our ut-

most strength should be exerted to accomplish it before Designs of less Importance were taken up inconsistent with the general Plan of the Campaign; & that he thought that the Southern Rebels would have been less able to defend themselves, if they had not been roused by the imprudent Conduct of their own Governors. – Besides the Instructions given him in conformity to what had been pointed out in the Secretary of States' letter, Genl Howe gave him blank Commissions, in case it should be found, at any time, advisable to embody Provincials for the Service. The Genl. also sent Commissions to three Gentlemen who had been long in North Carolina, secureg the attachment of the Highlanders settled in that Colony.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/232.

4 Mar.

DIARY OF THOMAS MOFFAT ¹

Febr 7th [1776] attended Ld North at his House at nine in the Evening by appointment of Sr Grey Cooper. Ld N was punctual to the minute entred immediately on the Subject. Kept me till near twelve. Saw him divers times in the same manner.

March 4th Ld G[eorge] G[ermain] proposed my return to Boston referring me to Ld North who also acquainted me that I must return to London.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC. See also diary entries in Volume 3.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MARCH 2 TO MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1776

London, March 4.

Letters by the *Samuel*, Capt. Shepperd, who arrived in the Downs the 28th ult. from Virginia, mention, that the town of Norfolk has been bombarded by the King's ships, and great part of it burnt down, upon which the natives set fire to the other part; so that the town is laid in ruins, except three houses which are standing.

Frazer's battalion of Highlanders are ordered to be at Greenock by the 15th of April, they are to embark for America, and are now learning their exercise.

Public Advertiser, MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1776

London [March 4].

There are Letters in Town, that since the Beginning of last December, upwards of 20 Sail of Ships have been taken by the Provincial Privateers, and carried into Salem and other Ports; that some of them were taken in Sight of the Men of War, which were so locked up in the Ice, that they could not move.

Capt. Shepherd, of the *Samuel*, who is arrived in the Downs from Virginia, on his Passage met with a great Number of small armed Cutters cruising about with Guns both on Deck and at the Port Holes, which he took to be Americans, who were looking out after the Ships from England.

We are assured, that upwards of One Hundred American armed Vessels are continually cruising about, in order to attack the Transports that go from England.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, MARCH 4." ¹

Yesterday morning sailed from this port for America, the *Blonde* and *Emerald* frigates, of 32 guns, the former commanded by Philemon Pownall, Esq; the latter by Capt. [Benjamin] Caldwell.

Yesterday the *Lark* frigate, of 32 guns, was put into commission, and the command of her given to Capt. Smith. She is also to go to America.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 5 to March 7, 1776.

5 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 5 March 1776.

In pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure, signified by Your Lordship in your letter of the 19th of last Month, We gave Directions to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy for causing twenty Boats to be prepared for Service in Canada, and having received a letter from those Commissioners, reporting the progress they have made in providing these Boats, We send Your Lordship a Copy of their Letter for His Majesty's Information, and are &c

J Buller Lisburne. H Penton.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 41.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT,
H.M. ARMED VESSEL, *Canceaux*, SPITHEAD ¹

You are hereby required & directed to repair with His Majts Armed Vessel under your command into Portsmouth Harbour where we have ordered her to be cleaned graved & refitted, Stored for Foreign Service & her provisions completed to Six Months of all Species except Beer of which she is to take as much as she can conveniently stow; And to be supplied with Wine or Brandy in lieu of the remainder

Applying to Vice Adml Sr James Douglas for the security of her Men

And repairing when ready to Spithead & remain there until you receive further Orders.² Given &c 5th March 1776

J Buller Lisburne H Penton

By &c PS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 461.

2. "... he cruised in Boston Bay to January 1776, when the Ship was found unfit to continue any longer on that Service, And in Consequence thereof was put under orders to proceed to England, carrying Dispatches & Letters from the Commanders in chief representing Captain Mowat's Services and Usefulness on that Coast, And at the same time a request from them, that he might therefore be returned to America without loss of time in a Ship fit to do Justice to his Experience of the Station. On his arrival he was received

with the most gracious approbation of His Majesty, of the Admiralty Board & of the Secretary of State, & had the Step of Master & Commander Conferred on him, but it was to a Ship then at Boston." "Captain Henry Mowat's Service," *Collections and Proceedings of the Maine Historical Society*, 2nd series, II, 357-58.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MARCH 2 TO TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1776

London, March 5.

Yesterday Admiral Greaves arrived at the Admiralty, and after making his report to the Lords of that Board, Lord Sandwich reported the same to his Majesty.¹

By the *Sandwich* packet, that arrived at Falmouth, from South Carolina, we learn, that the provincials had taken a ship laden with indigo, bound to London, which cargo is insured here for a considerable sum.

The *Speedwell* sloop of war, and *Carysfort* frigate, and *Shrewsbury* East Indiaman, from the Downs, are arrived at Spithead. Sailed from thence the *Boreas* man of war, Captain Thompson, for Jamaica, and *Seaford* frigate, Capt. Colepoys, for America.

Four privateers, carrying from 26 to 14 guns, with a proportionable number of hands, sailed together from Philadelphia in January last.²

1. "Soon after his Arrival by Order he struck his Flag, now become by a late promotion Vice [Admiral] of the Red, and went to London, where he was immediately told by the Lords of the Admiralty that they accused him of no neglect whatever, & therefore could not order him to be tried, which the Vice Admiral had requested to justify his conduct to the publick. He then waited upon the several Ministers of State, expostulated about the unmerited Treatment he had met with, and through the first Lord of the Admiralty desired and had an Audience of his Majesty in his Closet, to whom with the most respectful Freedom he submitted the hardship of his Case. This was all he thought a good Subject in so national a Crisis could warrant, notwithstanding the confirmed Sense he had of the wrong done him; being withall persuaded, that as the Board under which he acted, and which was the most competent Judge of his Proceedings, avowedly justified his Conduct, so Time, the impartial Arbiter of human Conduct and Establisher of Truth, would not fail at length to afford him that Justice which his unwearied Endeavours for the Public Service intitled him to, but which the Ignorance, the Passions, and the Prejudices of Mankind, for the present, denied him." *Graves's Conduct*, II, 41, BM.
2. British version of the first Continental fleet.

Public Advertiser, TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1776.

London [March 5].

Letters from Bourdeaux advise, that there arrived at that place the 11th ult. a Ship named the *Catherine*, commanded by Capt. [Peter] Young, from America, in order, according to Appearance, to purchase warlike Stores for the English American Colonies. Capt. Young said he was a Hollander from St. Eustatia, and carried Dutch Colours but on a proper Officer going on board, he could produce no Dutch Papers, in consequence of which he was obliged to depart without making any Purchase,

New York Packet, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1776

[London] March 5.

Several of Sir Peter Parker's fleet, which sailed from Cork the 12th ult.

we learn, were seen bearing away for Lisbon, having lost their main top-masts, sails, &c and it was imagined that most of the men of war were got into the above place.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAR. 5.”¹

Yesterday Admiral Montague's flag was hoisted at the foretop, on board his Majesty's ship *Romney*, he being promoted to a vice admiral of the blue.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 5 to March 7, 1776.

6 Mar.

DIARY OF JOHN BRAGG OF WHITEHAVEN, ENGLAND¹

[Whitehaven] 3d Mo: 6 – 76 This day arrived here the first acct of the Town of Norfolk in Virginia being burnt the fore part of January & that most of the Kings Loyal Subjects were oblidge to fly & remain on board several Shipp's riding off there.

1. WPL.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, MARCH 5 TO THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1776

London, March 6.

Yesterday the Lords Sandwich, Germaine, Howe, and Admiral [John] Montagu, had a very long conference with his Majesty, and finally settled the plan of operations in America. Admiral Montagu set out immediately for Portsmouth, and is to sail with his fleet the first fair wind. Lord Howe will follow him as soon as the *Eagle* is ready to receive him. There is reason to hope that the appearance of two such experienced and active commanders will soon put an end to the naval equipment of those unhappy deluded people the Americans, without the effusion of much blood.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1776

London [March 6].

A Letter from Flushing says, “Two Transports are loading here with naval Stores, said to be intended as a Present to the Dey of Algiers; but there is the greatest Reason to expect the real Place of their Destination is a more western Quarter, as they are shipped with great Secrecy.[”]

7 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 7th March 1776.

The Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy having in their letter of Yesterday, acquainted Us that the Stores for the Sloops intended to be built in America, will be ready to be shipped in ten days, but none of the Frames of the 14 Boats intended to carry one Gun, which are as many of the 20 they were ordered to contract for as they could engage the Boat builders to un-

dertake, will be ready to be shipped before the end of this Month, We signify the same for the King's Information in addition to what was represented in our letter upon this subject of the 5th instant. We are &c

Sandwich Lisburne. H. Palliser.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 42.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR
VICTUALING ¹

Whereas Captn [Henry] Duncan Commr of His Majts Ship the *Eagle* fitting for the reception of Vice Adml Lord Howe, hath desired, as the great resort of Officers upon Duty to Flag Ships unavoidably occasions a very considerable expence to their Officers, that she may be supplied, on her arrival at Portsmouth, with six or seven Hundred Gallons of Port Wine in lieu of a proportionable quantity of Rum which she is at present order'd to receive, And whereas we think fit to comply with his request, You are hereby required and directed to cause the *Eagle* to be supplied with that quantity of Port Wine, instead of Rum, on her arrival at Portsmouth accordingly, provided there is sufficient Wine in Store at that Port to enable you to do it.
Given &c. the 7th. of March 1776

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

By &c. P.S

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 462-63.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, MARCH 5 TO THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1776

London, March 7.

The *Seaford* man of war, bound to America, after being out several days, and meeting with a hard gale of wind, put back to Portland Roads, and was safe at anchor the 4th inst.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MARCH 7." ¹

This morning sailed from St. Helen's. . the *Isis* man of war, Capt. [Charles] Douglas, for Quebec; and *Greyhound* frigate, Capt. [Archibald] Dickson, for Boston; the *Judith and Hillaria*, Brett, for Jamaica; and the *Tagus*, Davis, for Lisbon.

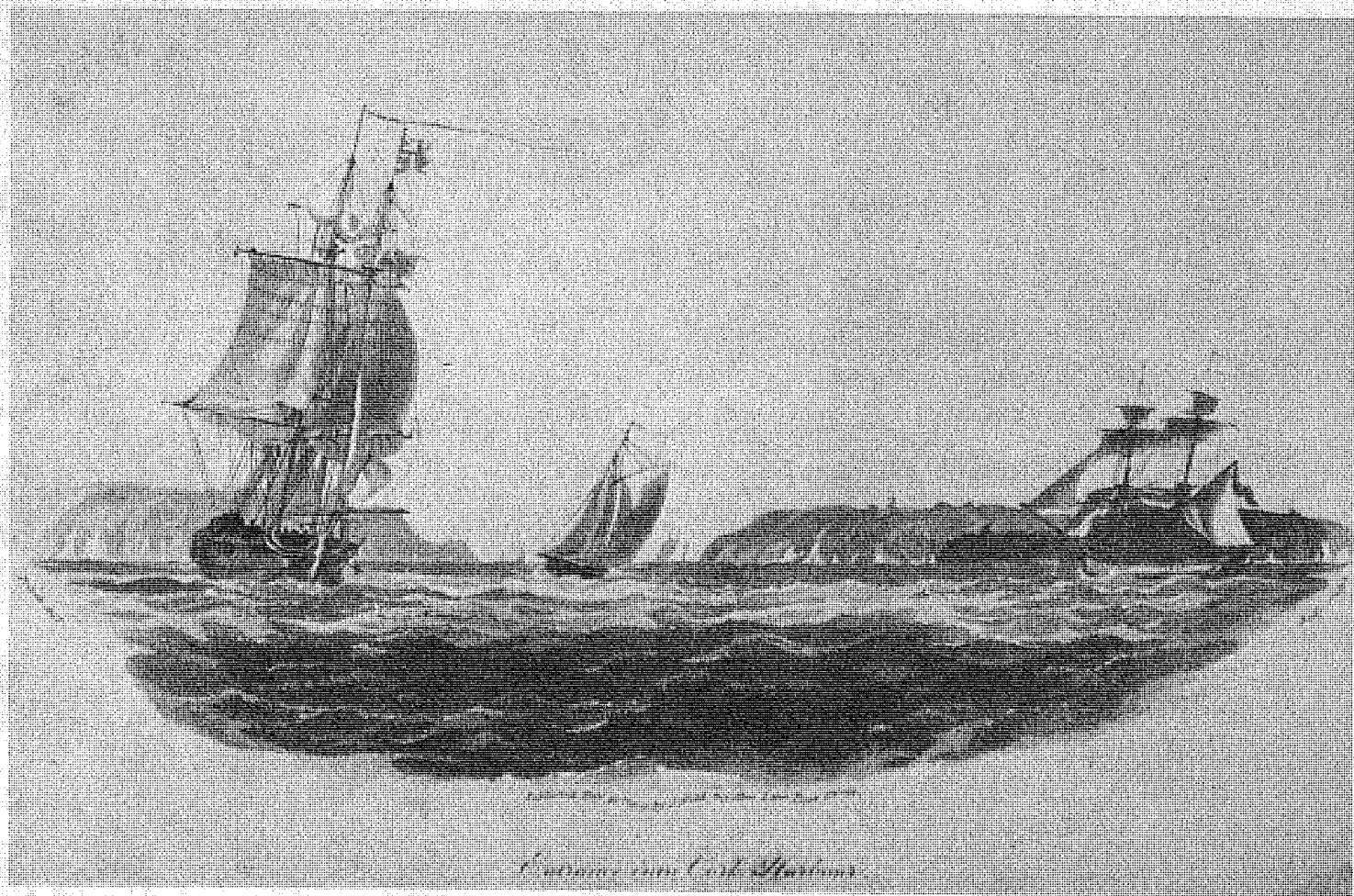
1. *London Chronicle*, March 7 to March 9, 1776.

"LIST OF SHIPS LADEN AT CORKE FOR BOSTON, FROM THE 10TH OF SEPTEMBER
1775, TO THE 7TH OF MARCH, 1776" ¹

Sept. 15. *Two Sisters*, with an assorted cargo of provisions, liquors, &c. taken by the Provincials.²

Sept. 25. *Queen of England* - 1700 barrels of pork, 500 firkins of butter, 100 casks of meal, potatoes, bacon, candles, &c. put into Lisbon damaged, afterwards taken and carried into Marblehead by the Provincials.³

Oct. 7. *Fanny* - 1050 barrels of pork, 400 firkins of butter, potatoes,



cheese, tongues, bacon, &c. sailed the 18th of October with the cargo, and is supposed to be taken, as she was not arrived at Boston the 1st of February.

Oct. 27. *Sukey* – with an assorted cargo of beef, butter, pork, tongues, salmon, pease, potatoes, wines and candles, and sundry articles for the Officers at Boston, taken and carried in by the Provincials.⁴

Oct. 21 *Waters* – 1860 barrels of pork, 800 firkins of butter, &c.&c. sailed, and put back the 2d December, after being out 38 days, and is now in this harbour waiting for a convoy.

Jan. 9, 1776 *Sally* – 760 barrels of pork, 150 firkins of butter, now waiting here for a convoy.

Jan. 11. *Mars* – 1940 barrels of pork, 450 firkins of butter, now here waiting for convoy.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 19 to March 21, 1776.

2. Chased into Beverly, November 8, 1775, and seized by the inhabitants.

3. See note under *London Chronicle* entry February 29.

4. Carried into Newburyport, January 16, 1776.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Copy/

Bristol at Sea 7th March 1776.

Sir I take this opportunity by the *Cleveland* Brig to inform their Lordships, that I sailed from Cork the 12th past, with His Majesty's Ships *Bristol*, *Active*, *Actaeon*, *Solebay* & *Carcass* Bomb, her Tender, *Sibella* Storeship, seven Army Victuallers, Three Ordnance Vessels & Twenty seven Transports – The *Sphynx* join'd us that Morning off the Harbour, and I sent her in to wait for the *Thunder* Bomb &c – that Night it blew fresh from the So Wt and the next Morning we missed Nine Sail, which I suppose put back to Cork; from that time 'til within these few Days, we have had Storms of Wind & contrary, and we are now only thirteen Sail in Company besides the *Bristol* & *Solebay* – The Frigates that have parted Company will no doubt make the best of their way to the Rendezvous off Cape Fear, and be ready to protect the Transports as they arrive, tho' I have not any apprehensions for them from the Rebels, so far to the Southward – All that are with us are in good health & no accident of any consequence has happened, excepting to the *Thetis* Victualler, who sprung a Leak & is gone into the nearest Port in Spain to stop it & to follow us as soon as possible – We are now in the Latitude of 42°32' No Longitude from London 12°16' Wt The Wind S W b W the Weather fine & a prospect of a fair Wind. I am &c

P. Parker²

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 14.

2. *Ibid.*, 5/259, 55, Stephens sent this letter to Deputy Secretary of State John Pownall on April 4.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES CORNWALLIS TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

On board the *Bristol* March 7th 1776

Latitude 42:34

Longitude 13:42 from London

My Lord

I take the opportunity of informing Your Lordship by a homeward

bound ship, that we have stopt for a few minutes, that our Voyage hitherto has been very unsuccessfull, the wind has been almost always contrary & 'till the first of this month constant & most violent gales of Wind, we have now but fourteen sail in Company with us, notwithstanding the utmost care & attention of Sr Peter Parker, & of the fourteen there are but six or seven transports with troops. I fear there is no chance of our arrival on the American coast before the end of next month at soonest, & the assembling the fleet off Cape Fear where there is no port may be a work of some time. The Wind is now South West, which is nearly the course we want to Steer. The *Active* & *Actaeon* Frigates are separated from us, & I hope they will make the best of their way, & cruise off Cape Fear for the Protection of our Transports as they arrive. Sr Peter Parker sends to the Admiralty a more circumstantial account of our Voyage; Your Lordship will make allowances for the motion of the Ship when you are decyphering this scrawl, & believe me Your [&c.]

Cornwallis

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, 759-61.

8 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO SIR PETER PARKER ¹

Whereas the Armament intended for an Expedition to the Southern Colonies has, in the preparation of it & before it could be collected at Cork, met with so much delay from contrary winds, bad weather, & other accidents and, since it's leaving that place in order to proceed to it's destination, been dispersed by most violent Gales of wind, by which the two Bomb Vessels & Tender, with the Transports, Storeships & Victualler named in the inclosed List, have been forced back to the places against each exprest & many of them disabled; And whereas, in this situation of the Expedition (from which, had it proceeded, great advantage might have been expected) it is become doubtful whether any of the Objects of it can be now effected at least without exposing the Troops to great risque, & retarding, if not defeating, the Operations under Major General Howe, of which those Troops were always intended to make a part;

If, therefore, upon the arrival of the Armament off Cape Fear, the Major General Commanding the Troops shall, upon mature consideration of all Circumstances, be of Opinion that nothing can be expected which will be of real and substantial Service & advantage, or that the making any attempt will expose His Majesty's Troops to great Loss from the Season being too far advanced & that there will be a hazard of disappointing the Service to the Northward, And should, in that case, desire to proceed immediately to join Major General Howe with his whole Force, or such part of it as shall remain after he has provided for the assistance & support of the Friends to Government who may have taken up Arms in the Southern Colonies, if he shall think it adviseable to make such provision, You are hereby required & directed, upon his signifying such his desire to you, to proceed with the

Ships under your command & the Troops; with all possible expedition to Boston in New England, or to such other place as you may learn with certainty the General with the Army is; And if the Admiral Commanding in Chief His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in North America, should not be at the same place, you are to join him with the Ships under your command wherever he may happen to be, & follow his orders for your farther proceedings; taking care, before you quit the Southern Colonies, to leave, upon proper Stations on the Coasts thereof, such of the King's Ships & Vessels of your Squadron as, with those which may be employed there under like Orders, you shall judge expedient & necessary to assist & protect His Majesty's well disposed Subjects & to obstruct and defeat the measures of the Rebels; and also to station a Ship or Sloop off Cape Fear to look out for, collect, & convoy to Boston, any of the Transports, Victuallers or Storeships of your Fleet which may happen to be missing at the time you leave the abovementioned Colonies.

And whereas the Commander of the *Thunder Bomb* Vessel has acquainted us that he should put to Sea again the first opportunity of wind & weather in order to follow you, And we intend that her Tender, together with the the Transports, Storeship & Victualler named in the before mentioned List (except the *Aurora* Transport which is to sail directly from Cork to join you, & the *Levant* Victualler which, as she did not arrive at that place in time to sail with the *Sphynx*, is now intended to be sent to Boston) shall proceed to join you as soon as they can be collected & got ready, under Convoy of His Majesty's Sloop *Ranger* by whose Commander you will receive this, you are, upon their arrival, if you have no particular service for the *Thunder Bomb*, to send her & her Tender immediately, under proper Convoy, to Boston, to follow the Orders of Vice Admiral Shulldham, or the Commander in chief there for the time being; & to send with them, the *Carcass's* Tender if she shall be with you, as we mean to dispatch the *Carcass* herself to that Port so soon as she is refitted, she having received so much damage that there is no probability of her rejoining you soon enough to be of any use.

You are not, upon any account, to detain the *Ranger* any longer than may be necessary for you & the Major General to prepare any Dispatches which you may have to send to England, and then to hasten her away with them to Spithead; directing her Commander to transmit such Dispatches, by Express to our Secretary immediately after his arrival, and to remain there until he receives further Order. Given under our hands the 8th March 1776.

Sandwich Lisburne H. Palliser.

To Sir Peter Parker Knt Commander in chief of a Squadron of his Majts Ships & Vessels employed on a particular Service.

[Enclosure]

A List of the Ships & Vessels which have separated from the Squadron un-

der the command of Commodore Sir Peter Parker, & put into the places against each exprest.

B. <i>Thunder</i>	Bomb Vessel	Marble head
<i>Carcass</i>	do	Portsmouth
<i>Thunder's</i>	Tender	Plymouth
<i>Nancy</i>	Ordnance Storeship	do
<i>Treasury</i>	Victualler	Falmouth
<i>Levant</i>	Navy do	Kingroad
<i>Aurora</i>	Transport	Cork
<i>Content</i>	do	Plymouth
<i>Neva</i>	do	Falmouth
A. <i>Shuldham</i>	do	do

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/123, 110a, 110b.

LORD WEYMOUTH TO LORD GRANTHAM ¹

[Extract]

No. 4.

[St. James's] 8th March 1776.

The Act lately passed for prohibiting all trade and intercourse with any of our rebellious Colonies, will enable His Majesty's ships to take their vessels, and by that means put a stop to the illegal trade carrying on to the different ports of the kingdom where you reside; therefore it becomes less necessary to solicit the Court of Spain to seize or detain those vessels in their ports.

1. Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, I, 5, HU.

JOHN BURROW TO GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE ¹

Private No 5

London March 8th

...

P:S: March 9^t 1776 – Regarding News, the papers, will Governor, inform You; but shall just observe, a greater Majority in favour, of measures of Government, was never known, in both houses, & the most active measures, are to be pursued; – Lord Temple, in an Eloquent, nervous, Speech, on the Subsidiary treaties, most heartily, joined, Administration – And the Opposition, in the house of Commons, is Weak indeed; [Edmund] Burke being silent, on many Occasions; – 22,000 foreign Troops, are taken into pay; – All to be employed, in America; – which with our Own, will make an Army, of upwards, of 50000; – These under different Commands, of Generals, of Approved Abilities, together, with a fleet, of 70 Sail, Under Lord Howe, & other experienced Admirals, will strike such a terror, into these deluded people; that I am in great hopes, this Year, will see an end of the Contest; – We are much in doubt, about the last news, from Quebec, I wish much, to hear from that place; – General Carleton, is said to be recalled, & General Burgoyne, to go in his room; – Your friend Capt Collier, now Sir George Collier, has got a 50 Gun Ship, & goes to America; – the 59^t Regiment, are safe Arrived; – A Certain Lt Coll: was parading about, the other

day, & is now in town; Capt Gray is Appointed Major in the room of Mil-board, & Paulet from the loss of a leg, has had, a Company, of Invalids given him; – General Gage, does not go out again, & General Howe, is to have the Supreme Command. – Admiral Graves, by his Own Request, is to be tried, by a Court Marshall; – the inclosed letters, permit me Sir, to request, the delivery of. –

J B

1. Dartmouth Manuscripts (copy), Nova Scotia Papers, DAC.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 8 March 1776

Whatever the case, the right which His British Majesty reserved to employ in Europe, and consequently in England even, the [foreign] troops which he has in his pay has not been opposed with as much violence as could have been expected. This observation, however, seemed to be related to the condition of weakness in which Great Britain and Ireland will be with respect to the national troops intended for their defense: seven thousand regular troops in the first of these kingdoms and six thousand effective troops in the second are indeed all that will remain by the month of April next to oppose any foreign invasion . . . But their sollicitude [by the members of the opposition] was concerned mostly with the intentions of France and Spain. They claim, therefore, that both of these powers having reasons to revenge themselves upon England would try to take advantage of this easy opportunity and overwhelm her.

. . . [the Ministry] did not hesitate to point out that the National Militia would be in a condition to defend the Kingdom as efficaciously as experienced troops. Since this picture of the national defense was not likely to inspire much respect, the navy came to the rescue of the remnants of the Army and Lord Sandwich did not spare his assertions. During the summer he will have left nineteen guard-ships with crews totalling 6,800 men. In his opinion, a few days of impressment in case of need would be sufficient to complete their armament and make them fit to face the French and Spanish forces.

The Ministry is not in a position to wage war. It would mean its downfall as well as that of the country. Therefore, it hopes for peace above all; but since it is as indolent in its wishes as it is careless in its undertakings, we cannot rely upon its foresight nor trust its conduct. It will employ Admirals, Generals whose character, dispositions and interests are opposed to its peaceful system. It cannot deserve their respect nor punish them. These officers may even be so bold as to provoke with their insults the very powers they are supposed to respect the most, and we would already be at war that the Ministers would exhaust themselves, with as much uselessness as sincerity, in putting forth assurances of their peaceful intentions.

I did not hide this from Lord North during a rather long meeting which I was honored to have with this Minister. My remarks could not have been more welcome. He told me that he considered everything I had

said to him as a proof of friendship and that he had been much impressed by the soundness of the representations which I had been instructed to make to him at the start of the hostilities; therefore, he wanted to tell me in confidence that he had been induced by them from then on to refuse the letters of marque eagerly requested by the English Shipowners who like to freeboot a little by nature (this is the term he used); that they had thereby avoided that the safety of the foreign flags be exposed to the uncontrollable avidity of the privateers. He assured me that their sea officers had been given such precise instructions that he was perfectly at rest in this respect and that, if against all appearances there were grounds for complaint, justice would quickly be dispensed. . . .

At least we know with certainty that the Americans are not falling asleep, that they are in no way inclined to give in to force and that, taking advantage of all the carelessness and all the acts of cruelty committed against them, their fanatic and relentless hatred of England does not keep them from combining with maturity, the resources which are most likely to assure their revenge and their separation from the mother country. They have just seen Norfolk, an important city in Virginia, burned by the ships under the orders of Lord Dunmore, and they were present at the accomplishment of an act of fury which cannot be very profitable to England. They have already captured and are continually capturing transport ships. They are arming privateers in their main ports. They claim that they will have more than twenty frigates at sea by next summer, and Congress has ordered the construction of ships of the line. I know from a reliable source that on the 5th of January last five well armed frigates left Philadelphia for an expedition which, I was assured, will surprise Europe. Their destination is unknown, but I have reasons to believe that their mission is different from that of the frigates already sent to the Cape or the Island of Ste. Helena in order to cruise against the English vessels returning from the East Indies.² I believe really that the Americans will be neither discouraged nor subjugated, in spite of the care taken by the Ministry to frighten them with our so-called hostile intentions towards them, an idea which I was told, is shared by several Members of Congress. Perhaps M.de Bonvouloir from whom we have not heard yet will enlighten us on this point some day. Meanwhile, I shall not neglect any information which I may receive from other sources. . . .

The expedition against Virginia may very well fail because the Squadron, commanded by M. Parker, which was to go there has been completely scattered. Several of the transports, loaded with troops and war ammunition, returned to England; others sailed towards Lisbon. The flag-ship, being disabled, was seen making sail for this port.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. This was the first Continental fleet, under Esek Hopkins, which sailed from Philadelphia on January 5, as stated, but proceeded by slow stages down the Delaware, and did not get to sea until mid-February.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 8 March 1776

It is not impossible, although it may be against all likelihood, that the storm which presently rumbles over Northern America may pounce elsewhere and strike areas which seem to be the least exposed. It is therefore very important, Sir, to keep a close watch so as not to be surprised by events which might have irreparable consequences. I know your caution, your zeal and your active intelligence and I am convinced that you will not be duped by deceptive appearances; you know English ethics and how far they may be trusted.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 8 March 1776

You will find enclosed herewith, Sir, the extract of a letter which was sent to M. de Sartine by Captain de Bausset ² you will see that the English ships in that area do not merely cruise on the high seas against the New England vessels, but that they even establish their cruises at the entrance of our roads; that they come daily on our forts without hoisting their ensigns in order to be recognised; that they chase vessels almost under our batteries; that they fire on our own vessels in order to make them come alongside. It is the King's intention, Sir, that you denounce these facts to the British Ministry as contrary to the laws of the sea and the good intelligence which reigns between the two nations, and that you urge them to give specific orders to the ships employed in America so that they conduct themselves in the future with more circumspection towards us, and especially so that they abstain from approaching our forts beyond the limits prescribed by usage as well as interrupting the sabotage of our vessels by forcing them against all rights to come alongside. The numerous marks of complaisance which the King has shown to the Court of London since the beginning of the disorders in America are the best guarantee of the consideration with which this Court will regard our representations, as well as the strictness of the orders it will send in consequence to all the English ships which are called to cruise in the waters of our Colonies. We pretend neither to keep England from intercepting the trade of the insurgents nor to favor the traffic of arms and ammunition in which these may wish to engage in the islands ruled by the King; but, on the other hand, this power must abstain from turning her vigilance into a real inquisition as well as hampering the freedom of our trade and shipping. You will please, Sir, to use these reflections when you approach the British Ministry; I need not recommend that you use all the eloquence you will deem necessary to obtain results.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. Commander of the French frigate *L'Oiseau* in the Road of St. Pierre, Martinique.

9 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROGER WILLS,
H.M.SLOOP *Ranger*, PLYMOUTH ¹

You are hereby required & directed to make enquiry for the Ships & Vessels named in the inclosed List which have separated from Commodore Sr Peter Parkers Squadron, the three first being at Plymouth, and the others ordered to that place from Falmouth; And, as soon as they shall be all got together you are to take them under your Convoy, and putting to Sea with the first opportunity of Wind and Weather proceed down Channel, and when you get Twenty Leagues to the Westward of the Lizard you are to open the inclosed Pacquet and follow the Orders therein contained for your further proceedings. Given &c. the 9th March 1776

Sandwich Lisburne H Palliser

By &c. G. J. D.S.

<i>Thunder Bomb Vessel's Tender</i>	}	at Plymouth
<i>Nancy</i> Ordnance Storeship		
<i>Content</i> Transport		
<i>Nova</i> Do	}	at Falmouth under Orders to proceed immediately to Plymouth.
<i>Adml Shulldham</i> Do		
— — * — — — A Treasury Victualler		

By Express at P.M. **Adventure*, Cox Master.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 468.

Public Advertiser, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1776

London [March 9].

The *Mercury*, —, with 2600 Barrels of Flour, 280 Tierces of Bread, 100 Chests of Spermaceti Candles, &c. is taken by the *Experiment* Man of War; the *Fortune* Schooner, with Oil, Brandy, Wine and Slaves, and the *Mary* Sloop, with Raisins, Candles, Liquors, dry Goods and Slaves, are taken by the *Argo* Man of War, and all carried into Antigua.

New York Packet, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1776

[London] March 9.

It is reported that his Majesty will go to Portsmouth to take a survey of the fleet before they sail to America.

Before the end of next May there will be fifty frigates in America, which are to form a chain along that continent, to prevent all intercourse with the Provincials.

The ships of war fitting out for America are ordered to have their war complement and victualled for six months.

10 Mar. (Sunday)

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MARCH 10." ¹

This morning orders came down here for the *Canceaux* man of war, Capt. Mouat [Henry Mowat], to be got ready with all expedition, and we got her into dock this tide; the men are ordered to work night and day.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 9 to March 12, 1776.

11 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW,
H.M. SLOOP *Carysfort*, PLYMOUTH ¹

Having ordered Capt [Thomas] Wilkinson, Commander of His Majts Ship the *Pearl* to proceed, without loss of time, to Cork & to follow your Orders for his further proceedings; You are hereby required & directed to make the best of your way in the Ship you Command to that Place & to take him under your command accordingly.

You are then to make enquiry for the Transport Vessels named in the annexed List which are intended to carry seven Battalions from that Place to Quebec, together with the *Speke* Hospital Ship & any Victualling, Store ships, or other Vessels whose Masters may be desirous of accompanying you, And, so soon as all the said Transports shall be arrived & the Troops embarked, you are, in pursuance of the King's pleasure signified to Us by Lord George Germain one of His Majts Principal Secretaries of State, to take them under your Convoy & make the best of your way with them to the Isle aux Coudres in the River St Lawrence, and, being arrived there, in conjunction with the Commander in Chief of His Majts Land Forces, to take such further steps as shall be judged necessary for the establishment of His Majts Government within the Province of Quebec & for repelling any hostile Invasion of it by His Majts Rebellious Subjects from the other Colonies; And, during your continuance on the above Service, you are to put yourself under the Command of Vice Adml Shulldham, or the Commander in Chief for the time being of His Majts Ships & vessels in North America, following such Orders as you shall receive from him, or the Senior Captain of His Majts Ships in the River St Lawrence for your further proceedings.

Given &c 11th March 1776.

By &c Geo. Jackson D S.

Sandwich J Buller C. Spencer

[Enclosure]

A List of Transport Vessels taken up to carry Six Regiments of Foot from Ireland, and the 31st Regiment of Foot from the River Clyde.

To carry the Six Battalions which are to be embarked at Cork.

<i>Providence</i> (lt)	}	Order'd to Cork from the River Thames.	
<i>Charming Sally</i>			
<i>Caesar</i>			
<i>Favorite</i>			
<i>Champion</i>			
<i>Lucretia</i>			
<i>Amitys Succession</i>			
<i>Sarah</i>			
<i>Kitty</i>			
<i>London</i>			
<i>Gale</i>	}	Ditto from Plymouth.	
<i>Rosseau</i>			
<i>Woodcock</i>			
<i>Christie</i>			
<i>Ostenbotten</i>	}	Ditto from Portsmouth. NB. The first Seven are lately returned from Gibraltar & the others from Minorca.	
<i>Speedwell</i>			
<i>Adamant</i>			
<i>Lively</i>			
<i>Fidelity</i>			
<i>Myrtle</i>			
<i>Favorite</i>			
<i>Kent</i>			
<i>John</i>			
<i>King George</i>			
<i>Friendship</i>	}		
<i>Garland</i>			
<i>Henry</i>			
<i>Success's Increase</i>			
<i>Britannia</i>			
<i>Grace</i>			
<i>Lord North</i>			
<i>Prince George</i>			
<i>Brilliant</i>			
<i>Sisters</i>	}	Ordered to Cork from the River Clyde.	
<i>Britannia</i>			
<i>Liberty</i>			

To take on board the 31st Regmt in the Clyde & then repair to Cork.

<i>Lilly (1st)</i>	}	In the Clyde.
<i>Mermaid</i>		
<i>Patty</i>		
<i>Rainbow</i>		
<i>Hunter</i>		
<i>Morisinia</i>		
<i>Lilly (2d)</i>		
<i>Boyd</i>		

Speke Hospl Ship—Order'd from the Thames to Cork.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 477-80.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 4

London, 11 March 1776

My Lord, If I am well informed, the mission of the five frigates which left Philadelphia on the 5th of January ² is to destroy all the drying platforms and fishing establishments which belong to the English in the Island of Newfoundland. On board this small squadron are troops in a number deemed sufficient by Congress to capture St. John, at least temporarily, and remove from there everything of which the loss would be detrimental to the English and the acquisition beneficial to the Americans. I have reason to believe that what belongs to the French on the Coasts of the Island will be respected by the Americans who are quite far from wanting to offend us. But the consequences that may affect us if this expedition succeeds seem to be of such a serious nature that I would not hesitate, My Lord, to send you a special messenger in order to inform you of this, had I not as reliable an opportunity as that offered by the Marquess of Parcieu, former Counsellor at our Embassy in Vienna, who leaves for Paris and intends to get there as quickly as possible. . . .

I must tell you, My Lord, that I have not said a word concerning this information which I received in the greatest secret from a reliable source. But, perhaps, one might take advantage of it in France and send a small squadron in that area at least on the pretext to drive off the hostilities of the Americans. I do not claim to offer any advice. My only ambition is to carry out your orders well and on the other hand to submit my poor ideas to your judgment. At all events, I shall take care to keep you informed of the exact time of departure of Admiral [John] Montagu who will take command in Newfoundland. He will be on the *Romney* of 50 guns which will be his only large ship . . . He will also have under his command a few frigates or corvettes about which I must also get precise information. I unfortunately still do not know the condition or the distribution of the present forces on land and at sea. But I hope to obtain information on this matter towards the end of the month. . . .

General Lee arrived in New York with five thousand men. This detachment, composed of troops from the Province of Connecticut, has not been drawn from the Army of General Washington which is still encamped in full strength in front of Boston tightening more and more the blockade of this city. Since all the letters from America are opened by the Government it becomes extremely difficult, and it will soon be impossible to obtain directly any information relative to what is happening there.³ You can see, My Lord, that M. de Bonvouloir's mission has not produced and will not produce anything. If you judge that it is important for the Service of the King to know in detail and with certainty what is happening in that part of the world, it seems to me that there remains a way which will cost nothing and which will give you complete satisfaction. A merchant from Bordeaux or Nantes, or some other port, might receive regularly the packets which Congress, or rather the Americans belonging to either party, might want to send to England. Since these packets would come only on American vessels, the risk would be theirs alone.

Among the fifty and some members of whom Congress is composed and who are all assumed to have superior qualities, those who are considered as the most capable and trustworthy are Messrs. [Benjamin] Franklin and [John] Dickinson, Deputies from Pennsylvania, M. [John] Jay, Deputy from New York, M. [Thomas] Johnson, Deputy from Maryland, Messrs. [Benjamin] Harrison and [Richard Henry] Lee, Deputies from Virginia, M. [Samuel] Adams, Deputy from the Province of Massachusetts and Messrs. [John] Rutledge and [Thomas] Lynch, Deputies from Southern Carolina. The first five form the Secret Committee. The last one is the most violent of all and urges with a few others that the independence of the Colonies be formally declared . . .

America, united by a common will and a hatred which will soon be indestructible, run by an Assembly of men whose energy and talents appear to have been designated for such a juncture, has more arms than necessary in order to resist all the forces which England may gather against her. However, a few of her supporters fear that the Insurgents are lacking mortars, bombs, good gun-locks, sulfur and especially clothing and wool-blankets. Money is needed to obtain these items, and they do not have much of it. They can do without it on the domestic market with the help of paper money issued by Congress. But this money will not be honored by the Dutch, the Danes, &c. who might supply what they need. If this great revolution depends only on some moderate assistance which could not compromise anyone and which the Power concerned should tolerate by not looking, it would be rather strange that it should fail for lack of such help. It is not for me, My Lord, to see the whole significance of such an event. It merely seems to me that this is a critical moment, and that the resentment of America who has learned to know her own strength is as dangerous as her gratitude will eventually be precious, although our experience with Holland and Portugal taught us that we cannot rely on this one motive as the basis of a solid and durable relationship. But still, even today, is it not better for

these States to be independent than to belong to the Power from whom they separated with out help?

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. Esek Hopkins' fleet.

3. From the misinformation contained in the preceding paragraphs, it would seem that the lack of direct information was, indeed, a serious problem.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 5

London, 11 March 1776

My Lord, The Government has finally published officially the news, which it had received two weeks ago, concerning the defeat and the death of General Montgomery, Commander of the American troops in front of Quebec. It is the report issued by Congress itself, and the Government certainly does not have any other since it has decided to publish a copy of it without adding any comments. . . .

You will also observe that M. Tryon, Governor of New York and quoted here for having sent a duplicate of the same report which had already been received through General Howe, is on board a war ship where he has set up his Government, having been forced to withdraw from New York long before General [Charles] Lee captured the city. Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, and Lord Campbell, Governor of South Carolina, have also taken refuge on board the ships sent to assist them. Furthermore, My Lord, you will see that the blockade of Quebec is not raised yet and that the American troops must have received reinforcements in order to pursue this undertaking which is considered as being very important for the Insurgents since by securing Canada for them it would provide them with good soldiers, ordnance, ammunition, good Indian warriors and all the resources which the Government had flattered itself to draw from this Province during the present war. There is presently in Portsmouth a warship of 50 guns, called *Isis*, ready to sail for Quebec. It is not superfluous, My Lord, to give you some information on this ship as well as on the vessels which will sail for the River St. Lawrence when General Burgoyne will leave for Canada where he will take command of the troops sent there either to defend or to conquer that province. The station of these vessels will be close enough to Newfoundland that they could combine their forces in case of need with those of Admiral Montagu's squadron.

I have not yet mentioned to you the two Indian Chiefs who have been here for some time. They are the deputies of the Six Savage Nations of America and are here to negotiate with the Government. It seems to me that the Opposition has not neglected them and that, if the Ministers count on their help, they will be duped by these Ambassadors of the new world who are said to have much shrewdness and sagacity.

The House of Commons is considering the possibility to make a levy of six thousand Militia-men in Scotland. Although the same Bill which established the Militia in England had also force of law in Scotland, one had not until now trusted the frame of mind of the inhabitants of that part of Great

Britain so far as to provide them with arms. Today, the Government feels more at ease in this respect, especially with regard to the war against the Americans who have few supporters among the Scots; and since the exigencies encountered by the State require that all resources be put to use, this one is being resorted to and I believe that it will take place.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MARCH 9 TO TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1776

London, March 11.

On Saturday his Majesty's frigate the *Perseus* was commissioned, and the command given to the Hon. Keith Elphinston; she is ordered to be got ready immediately for America.

New York Packet, THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1776

[London] March 11.

Lord Sandwich ascribed the burning of the town of Norfolk "to the rebels, who fired at a flag of truce, an action unprecedented in war." General Montgomery, in a letter to Carleton, makes use of this expression, "Firing on a flag of truce, hitherto unprecedented, even among savages, prevents my following the ordinary mode of conveying my sentiments." From this passage it appears, that Carleton's people did at Quebec, the very thing for which Lord Sandwich blamed the rebels at Norfolk. "They fired on a flag of truce, which is a mode of proceeding unprecedented among savages."

Orders are given for two frigates to be immediately stationed on the Irish coast, where, we are informed some foreign vessels have lately been discovered making observations.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, MARCH 11."¹

Yesterday sailed from this port for America the *Flora* frigate of 32 guns, commanded by John Brisbane, Esq.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 12 to March 14, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, DATED MARCH 11"¹

This morning sailed from hence the *Greyhound* frigate, Capt. Dickson, for Boston.²

1. *London Chronicle*, March 12 to March 14, 1776.

2. *Ibid.*, March 14 to March 16: "Five persons are on board one of the men of war [*Greyhound*] now going to America, who were taken prisoners on board one of the Provincials privateers, [armed brig *Washington*], but ordered to be sent back again; one Captain, two Lieutenants, a Master, and a Master's Mate."



Charles Gravier, Count de Vergennes.

12 Mar.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MARCH 9 TO TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1776

London, March 12.

The *Sukey*, —, from Liverpool to Boston, is taken by the Provincials.The *Blue Mountain Valley*, Dempster, from London to Boston, is taken by a Provincial privateer, and carried into Elizabeth-town.

The loss of a ship taken by the Provincials is like to make work for the lawyers; the Underwriters declaring they are not Pirates, and the policy not providing against Rebels.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, MARCH 12." ¹Capt. Roger Wills is appointed to the command of the *Ranger* sloop of war at this port, who is ordered to convoy the transports belonging to Sir Peter Parker's squadron at this port to America.

We have upwards of twenty sail of transports fitting out here for America; besides six sail of Sir Peter Parker's squadron.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 16 to March 19, 1776.COUNT DE VERGENNES TO MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH CABINET ¹

Versailles, 12 March 1776

M. Le Cte. de Maurepas

The Controller General

M. de Sartine

M. Le Cte. de St. Germain

I have the honour to send you, Sir, a memoir of Considerations relative to the interest France and Spain may have in the circumstances which are agitating the English Colonies in North America, and in the consequences which these circumstances may have.² The King, who has ordered me to communicate this paper to you, desires that you would give him, as soon as possible, your opinion of it in writing. You will feel, Sir, the importance of dispatch as well as secrecy. I must not omit to tell you that Spain, who is not without anxiety as to what is happening in America, awaits his Majesty's decision. I have the honour to be with very perfect attachment, M. your [&c.]

de Vergennes

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1315.

2. See next entry.

"CONSIDERATIONS ON THE AFFAIR OF THE ENGLISH COLONIES IN AMERICA" ¹

[Versailles] 12 March 1776.

The position of England with regard to her colonies in North America, and the possible and probable consequences of the result, whatever it may be, of that quarrel, deserves, without doubt, in every respect, the most serious attention on the part of France and Spain.

The political calculations which can be formed regarding this great crisis are indeed such, that it is problematic whether they [France and Spain]

should desire the subjection or the independence of the English colonies, and they are threatened, in either hypothesis, with dangers which it is not perhaps in the power of human foresight to anticipate or to avert.

We shall not enter into the discussion which the development of these reflections would require; we shall limit ourselves to making them evident, observing that, if, on the one hand, the continuation of the war may be regarded as infinitely advantageous to the two Crowns, since it will exhaust both victors and vanquished, on the other hand it may be feared, 1st. That the English Ministry, feeling the insufficiency of its means, may consent to a reconciliation; 2nd., that the King of England, in conquering English America may make an instrument of it to subjugate likewise European England; 3rd., that the English Ministry, beaten on the continent of America, may seek an indemnity at the expense of France and Spain, which would at once efface their shame, and give them the means of reconciliation with the insurgents, to whom it would offer the trade and provisioning of the Isles; 4th., that the colonies, having become independent, and preserving no tie with England, may become conquerors from necessity, and that, surcharged with goods, they may seek a forced outlet in the sugar islands, and in Spanish America, which would destroy the ties which attach our colonies to the mother country.

These different suppositions may almost equally lead to a war more or less distant with France and Spain. The first, because with the forces which the Court of London has prepared, it may be tempted to employ them in the too easy conquest which the West Indies offer to it. The second, because the subjection of the mother country could only be effected by flattering the national hatred and jealousy by a war, the duration of which would fit her for the yoke, and the successes of which would ensure it; lastly, the third, by despair and by the necessity of saving the heads of the Ministry, and perhaps even the person of the King from the rage of the English people, by procuring for them a conquest useful as well as brilliant, which would spare the shame of an arrangement patched up by an acquisition which would be the price of victory, the compensation for defeat, or the pledge of reconciliation.

Such is, indeed, the state of the colonies of the two nations, that, with the exception, perhaps, of Havannah, none is in a position to resist the least part of the forces which England is sending to America, and the physical possibility of the conquest appears but too evident.

As to the moral probability of an unprovoked invasion, and which would be contrary to public faith and to treaties, it would be a strange mistake to believe the English susceptible of being restrained by such motives; neither gratitude nor a just reciprocity of polite attentions would have more power over them than the sacred laws of morality. They appear to applaud ours only with a sort of derision. Experience has but too well proved that they believe everything just and honourable which they regard as advantageous to their nation, and destructive to their rivals. We know the maxims of most of their statesmen, who do not calculate the actual harm France does

them, but that which she may one day be able to do them. They feel that if England is exhausted by the present war, and France and Spain take the measures which their power and wisdom prescribe to them, they will find themselves, at the end of the fight, unable to struggle against these two Powers. Already has this reflection been made; already has the Opposition appeared to unite, in these general maxims, with the present Ministry; already there is reason to fear that the latter, feeling its weakness, may seize the only means of getting out of the labyrinth in which it is involved, by giving up the reins to the Opposition, and Lords Chatham, Shelburne, Weymouth, Sandwich and Richmond will expect alike to maintain their popularity, and, by coming to an agreement with America, and by employing the enormous mass of forces set in motion, to prevail in rectifying the conditions of the last Treaty of Peace, against which they have not ceased to rise up implacably. The English of all parties appear to be unanimously persuaded that a popular war against France, or the invasion of Mexico, would end, or at least lull, their domestic disputes, and extinguish their national debt.

In the midst of so many dangers, the lovely preference which the King and the King of Spain have for the preservation of peace, seems to prescribe most measured steps. If the disposition of these two princes were warlike, if they were disposed to give way to the impulse of their interests, and perhaps to the justice of their cause, which is that of humanity, so often offended by England; if their military and pecuniary means were at the point of development and energy proper and proportionate to their effective power, it would be necessary doubtless to tell them that Providence has marked this moment for the humiliation of England, has struck her with the blindness which is the most certain precursor of destruction, and that it is time to avenge on that nation the ills which since the beginning of the century, she has caused to those who have had the misfortune to be her neighbours or her rivals; it would then be necessary to neglect none of the means possible to render the coming campaign as vigorous as can be, and procure some advantages for the Americans. The degree of fury and exhaustion of the two parties which would result from it would then determine the moment to strike some decisive blows, which would cause England to return to the rank of secondary powers; would take from her the empire which she claims to exercise in the four quarters of the world with so much pride and injustice, and would deliver the universe from a rapacious tyrant who wishes to swallow up at the same time all power and all riches.

But if that is not the point of view from which the two monarchs wish to regard matters, their role appears, in the present conjuncture, to be necessarily limited to a circumspect but active foresight.

If this principle is adopted, it will remain to decide what is the most suitable conduct to attain that end.

We should, it seems, before deciding, establish some results from the succinct outline which has just been drawn. 1st. We must avoid compromising ourselves, and not provoke those evils which we wish to prevent; 2nd., we must not flatter ourselves, nevertheless, that the most absolute and

rigorous inaction will guarantee us from all suspicion. We know that our present conduct is not exempt from it. The English, accustomed to be led by the impulse of their interests, and to judge of others by themselves, will always believe that we are not allowing such a good opportunity of injuring them to escape; even if they did not believe it, they would feign to do so, if they wanted to attack us, and Europe would be persuaded of the truth of their imputation, in spite of our denials. 3rd., the continuation of the war, at least for a year, appears desirable for the two Crowns, either because it is necessary that the forces which are going to America should find employment against the Colonies, or because the Ministry would necessarily change, if a reconciliation were to be made now, or because the English army, weakened by her victories or her defeats, will not be in a condition to undertake a vigorous enterprise, or finally, because a year gained for measures of vigour and foresight, may, in many respects, change the aspect of affairs. 4th., the most assured means of attaining this end would be, on one hand, to keep the English Ministry persuaded that the intentions of France and Spain are pacific, in order that it may not fear to embark in the operation of a brisk and expensive campaign; whilst on the other hand, we should sustain the courage of the Americans by some secret favours, and by vague hopes that would prevent the steps which it is sought to induce them to take for a reconciliation, and that would contribute to cause those ideas of independence to burst forth, which as yet are only secretly budding amongst them. The ills which the English cause them to experience will embitter their minds, they will be all the more furious for war, and in the event of the mother country being victorious, she would, for a long time, have need of all her strength to crush the spirit of independence of the Americans, and she would not dare to expose herself to the efforts they would make, combined with a foreign enemy, to recover their liberty.

If all these considerations were judged to be as true and solid as they are probable, the most natural inductions would seem to be: —

1st., That we should continue to feed with dexterity the security of the English Ministry as to the intentions of France and Spain.

2nd., That it would be desirable to give to the insurgents secret help in munitions, in money, &c. The presupposed utility would justify this small sacrifice, and no reason of dignity or equity would be opposed to it.

3rd., That it would not accord with the King's dignity, nor with his interest, to enter into a compact with the insurgents. Some reflections taken from amongst a crowd of others appear to prove it. That compact, indeed, could only be of value if they became independent, and only so long as they found it to their interest not to break it, so long as the régime did not change to an administration as unstable and which will necessarily be stormy, and finally, so long as the Act of Navigation did not become the basis of a reunion between the mother country and the colonies. Such an arrangement can only be solidly founded on respective interest, and it seems that it would not be time to examine this question until the liberty of English America had taken positive consistency.

4th., That if France and Spain give help, they must only seek the value of it in the momentary political end at which they aim, reserving to themselves to decide in the sequel according to events and conjunctures.

5th., Perhaps it might be necessary to consider, in good policy, that a too marked apathy in the present crisis will be interpreted as the effect of fear, and of that immoderate love of peace which, in the last few years, has produced so many evils and injustices, and that England, judging the lack of means and the pusillanimity which she supposed in us to guarantee each other, may become still more exacting than she is already, and that she may dare everything, either directly and openly, or by the insolence and injustice of her searches and cruises, and by insults of detail which she would not and could not atone for, and which we could not and would not brook. The English respect only those who can make themselves feared.

6th., The result which the collection and succession of these facts and reflections seem to present with most force, is the necessity of putting ourselves in a position which may either restrain the English, render their attacks uncertain, or ensure the means of punishing them. Measures of foresight, wisely combined, which would raise the effective and active forces of the two monarchies to the level of their real power, would at all times be useful and proper, but at a time when the public weal is in danger in so many ways, this foreseeing activity becomes indispensable. It appears to offer the only means which can at once efficaciously prevent possible evils, and repair those which we may not have been able to prevent, more especially as of all the probable conjectures which circumstances may warrant, the least apparent is that peace can be preserved, whatever may be the result of the present war between England and her colonies.

Such are the principal points of view which this important problem admits of, and which we have simply proposed to indicate to the wisdom and penetration of the King and his Council.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1316.

"COPY OF THE LETTER FROM MESSRS. JOSEPH VILLIERS AND SON, MERCHANTS
TO M. DE SARTINE. BLAYE, 12 MARCH 1776."¹

My Lord, We were much honored by your letter of the 25th of February last. Allow us, My Lord, to inform Your Highness of the intelligence which a Dansiger Captain coming from Neury in Ireland gave us. He told us that the English were arming 18 large ships and a number of transports in Portsmouth and that the transports were to take on 6 to 8 thousand troops in order to make a raid on New England. They are laying up all the coasting vessels in order to get all the sailors and put them on their ships as they need them. This same Captain also said that His English Majesty had forbidden all his subjects to take Beef or woollen cloth to any French Port so that our Ships which sail to our Colonies would not be in a position to supply New England. There were in various Irish ports several Vessels with cargoes of Beef and woollen cloth which were destined for Bordeaux. Among these were two Swedish vessels which were stopped by the English

who stripped their sails until they had unloaded all their cargoes of Beef and woolen cloth and who forced the two Swedish vessels to sail in ballast. This same Captain also said that there was a revolt of great magnitude among the people of New England and that all those who leaned towards Great Britain were sacrificed and stabbed. We wish, My Lord, to be able to give you more complete information. It is the assurance given you by two true Citizens who have the honor to be with very great respect, My Lord,

V. and S

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

13 Mar.

New York Packet, THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1776

[London] March 13.

The 8th instant came into Milford, his Majesty's sloop *Wolfe*, which in a gale of wind, for the preservation of their lives, was obliged to throw over board all her guns and boats.

14 Mar.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 14th March, 1776

Sir Stanier Porten, Secretary to Lord Weymouth, having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a Letter giving Intelligence of two Vessels being lately sailed from Bourdeaux to America, laden with Powder, and Ammunition, and that another is at the same place taking in the like Lading, and will soon sail for America, I am commanded by their Lordships to send you the inclosed Copy of the said Letter for your information. And am &ca.

Geo Jackson DS

By the *Greyhound* – sent to Corke 16 Mar

Duplicate sent 29 March to Mr Pownall

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 267. The same date Jackson wrote further to Admiral Shulldham that intelligence from Nantes indicated "that there was an American Vessel in that Port, and that there were several in other Ports of France, in search of Ammunition."

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COWES, MARCH 14" ¹

This day sailed with a find wind at east, several transports with troops, &c. bound for North America, which have been detained by contrary winds for several days past.

1. *New York Packet*, May 30, 1776.

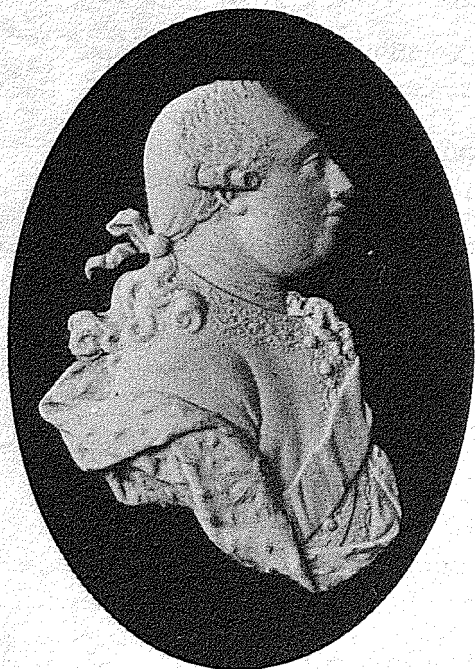
15 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 15th March 1776.

Having received a letter from Comm[issione]r [Marriot] Arbuthnot,



George III.



Earl of Sandwich.



Lord George Germain.

dated at Halifax the 3d of last Month, wherein he represents that the fortifying of the Yard goes on slowly, "and that it is much to be wished more force was sent to defend it" We signify the same to Your Lordship for His Majesty's Information; and are &c

Sandwich. Lisburne. H: Penton.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 46.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HUGH DALRYMPLE,
H.M.S. *Juno*, PORTSMOUTH ¹

You are hereby required & directed to receive on board the Ship you command the Shipwrights and other Artificers named on the other side hereof,² and give them a Passage to No America when you proceed thither; Victualling them during their continuance on board as the Ships Company. Given &c 15th March 1776

J Buller Palmerston C. Spencer

By &c. G J DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 504.

2. The list on verso comprised four shipwrights, nine shipwright caulkers, and two blacksmiths.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 15 March 1776

The Duke of Grafton and Lord Cambden asserted both that they had reliable information concerning the two Frenchmen² who, after being introduced to and received by General Washington, went afterwards to the Assembly of the Congress with recommendations from this same General; they said that it was easier to guess than ascertain the motive which brought them to America and if the Ministry disclosed the information it had with respect to our intentions it would appear that France and Spain planned to take advantage of the circumstances in order to wage war upon England; finally, they said that they had come to the conclusion with the other members of the Minority that it was necessary to achieve a reconciliation with the Americans. Lord Mansfield and Lord Sandwich used the same arguments to prove how urgent it was to reduce and subjugate the Colonies, considering that, should a storm arise as it probably would in the course of things, England would need all her forces combined with those of her Colonies in order to weather it.³ . . .

The Duke of Manchester and Lord Sandwich held opposite opinions as to the present condition of the English Navy, or rather as to the ease or difficulties encountered in the commissioning of ships because of the number of sailors. From this discussion, upon which I believe superfluous to report in greater detail, it resulted that the ship *Romney*, destined for Newfoundland, does not have her crew yet because it would be quite unnecessary to give her her full complement now since she is not to leave for a few months yet.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. Penet & Pliarne, Nantes.

3. In this and the succeeding paragraph, Garnier is reporting upon a debate in the House of Lords.

MEMOIR OF COUNT DE SAINT GERMAIN ¹

[Versailles, 15 March 1776]

Si vis pacem, para bellum. This ancient axiom will no doubt appear trivial, but none the less will it be eternally true.

France, for the sake of equity in the first place, but likewise on account of her temporary powerlessness, should avoid war with the greatest care: but these two reasons should not plunge her into a fatal torpor, which would draw upon her the contempt of all Europe, and would certainly increase the boldness of her enemies; – a great Power always has some.

If my neighbour's house is on fire, both reason and prudence demand that I should take every possible precaution to save myself from it. Without taking such precautions, my house is burnt with my neighbour's, and nobody pities me.

America is on fire; it is a neighbour of the French Colonies. The war which has broken out there must naturally be long and stubborn, and weaken, and cost much to both belligerent parties: what means more natural and easy can they find, to recover at once from their losses, than to seize the French Colonies? It is difficult to perceive any means better and more prompt: the facility of one conquest gives rise to a desire for others, and pretexts are easy to find.

Whatever may be the result of the war which is going on in America, the wounds of both peoples will be great, and the grumbling infinite; the King of Great Britain will then see himself forced, in order to appease it, to make some advantageous operation which shall appear to compensate his people for their losses.

From all these considerations, and others well thought out, there appears to result the absolute necessity of putting in safety, as far as possible, the French Colonies, and of not losing a moment in so doing: when one is threatened with dangers, one cannot sleep quietly until they have been averted.

After having taken all necessary precautions to avert the dangers which threaten, would it not be wise policy, in order to remove them still farther off, to help the American Insurgents secretly and without compromising ourselves? Cannot France sell both to the English and the Americans those things which they respectively have need of, and modify her commerce according to such rules of policy as may be desirable?

Whatever course the King may take in the circumstances, it seems that England will always have preponderating forces in America. In the latter case, could we not, and ought we not to give her, in concert with Spain, some fears for her European possessions? It seems that this might be done without assuming a threatening air, and while preserving all outward appearance of most perfect harmony.

England is powerfully armed, and at great expense, can we flatter

ourselves that she will not wish to take advantage of all that, and can we rely on the hope of her moderation?

Saint Germain.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1319. Saint Germain was French Minister of War. He prepared this memoir at the request of Vergennes. *Ibid.*, No. 1318.

"REFLECTIONS UPON THE NECESSITY OF ASSISTING THE AMERICANS AND OF
PREPARING FOR WAR WITH ENGLAND"¹

[Versailles, March 15, 1776]²

The truth of the picture which has been drawn of our present situation with regard to England cannot but be acknowledged. It attracted long ago the attention of the King's Council and the reflections contained in the Memoire on which His Majesty orders an opinion were thereupon made.³ What is contained, then, in that Memoire, the truth and justice of which are felt throughout, will not be repeated; but, passing directly to the conclusion, it is thought that, practically, it is necessary.

1st. To commence by maintaining the confidence of the English ministry.

2nd. That it is not unsuitable, and is even necessary, to assist the insurgents indirectly by supplies of munitions or of money, but without making any treaty with them until their independence is established and notorious. It is necessary even that that assistance be always cloaked and hidden and may appear to come only in the way of commerce, so that we may at any time deny it.

3rd. That it is time to quit the state [of] apathy in which we appear to be plunged; but to quit it warily and with prudence. It is well therefore to begin by allowing the troops and vessels, which the English destine against their colonies, to leave, so as to let the campaign open, and to try and get notice of all occurrences in order to be able to act accordingly.

4th. That in the meantime the Navy ought to provision its arsenals with everything which could be required in order to arm next year as strongly as possible.

5th. That from this very year preparations be made to send into the colonies, towards the month of September, a squadron which might overawe the English or at least render difficult the enterprises which they may entertain against Martinique or St. Domingo, and which could only take place with troops already wearied and with vessels long at sea.

6th. Lastly, in accordance with the circumstances then existing, preparations be made in the course of the winter to deal them in India, a blow which would be very dangerous for them; by aiding the native powers which bear their yoke but impatiently.

Such as the projects which may be formed at present while avoiding compromising ourselves; but it cannot be concealed that there will never be a more favourable time for reducing the power of England than when, still loaded with the debts of the previous war, she is obliged to contract new and very considerable debts for that which she is waging against her colonies and

when, deprived of their commerce, the downfall of her credit and of her public funds appears inevitable.

It must also be considered that in the present situation of Europe there is no reason to fear that the English may employ the resource, which has always succeeded so well for them, of raising against us a territorial war. Our alliance with the Court of Vienna does not permit us to suspect that Court; it also guarantees us on the score of the King of Prussia. The only diversion which she could cause us, would therefore be a war of Russia upon Sweden, whom we could assist with a little money, and who, in her present state, could make a lengthy resistance, especially as the health of the King of Prussia gives reason to believe that he could not meddle therein.

All these considerations together then would lead to the conclusion that the offensive is the sole means of reestablishing our Navy on the one hand and on the other of weakening that of England and the sole means of definitely securing the peace of the Continent which has never been troubled except by their intrigues or their money and which will be still less disturbed by reason of the respectable footing on which the King's troops will be placed in consequence of the projected arrangements.

But this project and even that of simple precautions must be governed by the state of the finances; and the funds which may be destined for the navy will be considerable, even if we were to maintain only simple precautions, and must be assured for several years; since even if we maintain only the simple defensive, there is every appearance that this defensive will entail a war.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1320.

2. A French archivist has endorsed upon this paper, "Undated This paper appears to be at the beginning of 1777 After 5 January 1777." The text, however, scarcely confirms such a date. It appears much more likely to have been an answer, by one of the members of the French Cabinet, to the request contained in Vergennes' "Considerations" of March 12, 1776. Doniol, in his history, thought the "Reflections" those of M. de Maurepas. This is questionable. From the frequent references to the French Navy, the writer could have been the Minister of Marine, Sartine. The reference to finances in the concluding paragraph might point to the Controller General, Turgot, but in view of this minister's adherence to economy and reform, it is unlikely that he would have so strongly supported enlargement of the navy, and preparations for an eventual war. At any event, the "Reflections" seem to be an answer to Vergennes' request, and a logical date is March 15, 1776, the same day as Saint Germain's Memoir.

3. See Vergennes to various Ministers, March 12, 1776.

16 Mar.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 16 Mar: 1776

The inclosed paper of intelligence having been received by My Lords Commissrs of the Admty, I am commanded by their Lordships to send it to you for your information. And am &c

G. Jackson D S

By the *Greyhound* at Cork

Duplt sent 29 Mar to Mr Pownall

NB. The above Paper contains an Acct of Privateers that left the City of Philadelphia the 4 January & fell down to the Fort on Delaware River

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 280.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 16th March 1776

Sir Stanier Porten, Secretary to Lord Weymouth having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a Letter from the Consul at Corunna, dated 3rd Feby. last giving Intelligence that the *Polly*, Captn Abijah Bodon a Brig belonging to Marble Head in Massachusetts Bay was then at Corunna supposed to be bound for some Port in the Possession of the Rebels: that the *Lyon*, Captn John Wilson had saild from St Andro with a full Cargo of Gun Powder for Philadelphia, And that there were then at Bilboa three other North America Vessels supposed to be waiting to load Stores on the French or Spanish Coast. Vitz a Schooner belonging to Salem, the Brig *Africa*, belonging to Marblehead, and the Brig *Elizabeth*, William Babson of Boston; That the Schooner has arrived at Bilboa but lately and boasts that he got out of Salem in spite of some of His Majesty's Ships and in full view of them, and he intends to return the same way: I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you with the said Intelligence, and am &c.

Geo. Jackson D S

By the *Greyhound* at Corke

Duplicate sent 29 March By [blank]

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 277-78.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 16th March, 1776

It being His Majestys Intentions that the 6th Regiment of Foot now at St Vincents shall be carried from thense to North America and that the Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers of the 48th Regiment, now in Grenada and the other ceded Islands, should be brought to great Britain, with such Part of the private men as are not fit for Service. And Lord George Germain One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State having in his Letter of the 15th Inst: signified the Kings Pleasure that such a number of the Transport Vessels under your Command be sent to St Vincents as shall be sufficient for the Conveyance of the 6th Regiment to North America, and of the Officers and Invalids of the 48th Regiment to Great Britain, I am therefor commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify their direction to you, whenever the Service in which the Transport Vessels are employed will admit of their being Spared for the above purpose to cause a Sufficient number of them to be properly fitted, victualled and Stored and supplied with Bedding and necessaries and sent to St Vincents to receive on board the 6th Regiment and carry them to North America and to bring the Officers and Invalids of the 48th Regiment to Great Brittain accordingly

The Sixth Regiment will consist of 677 Men, Officers included; 60 Women & 12 Servants are to be allowed, & 90 Tons will be wanted for the Baggage; But as the Passage will not probably be a Long one from St Vincents to North America the allowance of a Ton & half to a man is judged fully sufficient.

It is impossible to ascertain the exact quantity of Tonnage that will be wanted for the Commissioned & Non Commissioned Officers and Invalids of the 48th Regiment but upon the Largest scale of Computation it is not supposed that the Number of Commissioned Officers will exceed twenty or that the non-Commissioned Officers and Invalids will amount to more than Eighty, but allowance must be made for forty Women & 12 Servants and of 60 Tons for the Baggage.² I am &ca

Geo. Jackson DS

By the *Greyhound* at Corke

Duplicate sent 29 March To Mr Pownall

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 279-80.

2. *Ibid.*, 353-54, orders to move the 48th Regiment were revoked on March 27, 1776.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT MAN, MINORCA ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 16th March 1776

Mr [John] Robinson Secretary to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having [by] his Letter of the 10 instant, acquainted my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Intelligence had been received that Mr Willing a Merchant of Philadelphia, and one of the Congress has prevailed on them to permit the Merchants in the different American Colonies to export to Spain &ca Twenty thousand Barrels of Flour on their giving Bond to the Congress that the return for the said Flour shall be in Ammunition; that Mr Willing some time ago sent his Partner Mr Morris to Cadiz who is still there, and that the three Cargoes are arrived there,² I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith that you may direct the Captns of the Ships under your Command to use their utmost endeavours to intercept the Ships employed on this trade. I am &c

Geo Jackson

By the Post

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 286.

2. A garbled bit of intelligence about the activities of Willing, Morris & Co. Robert Morris did not go to Cadiz or any place else on the European continent.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, MARCH 14 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1776

London, March 16.

His Majesty's ship the *Seaford*, bound to Boston, and several outward bound West Indiaman, that sailed on Monday last from Portsmouth, are put into Plymouth.

17 Mar. (Sunday)

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MARCH 17." ¹

Yesterday the wind came round to the North-east, when his Majesty's ship the *Triton*, Capt. [Skeffington] Lutwidge, and six sail of transports, with troops on board, sailed from Spithead for Boston.² The others remain here, to take on board the troops that are to come from London.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 16 to March 19, 1776.

2. They sailed for the relief of Quebec.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, DATED 17 MARCH 1776" ¹

I read yesterday in a public paper that Lord Sandwich said in the House of Lords that, far from being reluctant to serve in America, the Sailors preferred to go there rather than stay at home. But I am certain that Lord Sandwich is mistaken and that he mislead the House. I spoke to several members of Boyne and Somerset, and I see that all the men among them who have some common sense, and they form the majority, have a great dislike for the Service. Of course there are a few, but thank God they are very few, who are ungodly and blasphemous scoundrels, people who respect neither law nor religion and who would not hesitate one moment to set fire to the paternal home and to murder father and mother, if Lord Sandwich were capable of giving them such an order. He apparently referred to these people. Indeed if the people are so eager to take a part in this American war, why do the Ships sail so poorly manned?

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy. Enclosed in Garnier to Vergennes, March 29, 1776.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

No. 3

Versailles, 17 March 1776

The details which you have sent us, Sir, on the condition and the intentions of the Colonies are very interesting and correspond fairly well with the intelligence we have received from other sources; it is only natural to assume that the Ministry will try to give the Americans a false image of our intentions towards them; but they should easily understand that it is merely a lure designed to intimidate them by taking away from them any hope of foreign assistance. However, M.de Bonvouloir who must have arrived there at the end of December will have quickly brought the situation back in its true light and put them on their guard, for the future, against the false insinuations of their enemy.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

19 Mar.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 19th March 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having directed the Navy Board by their order of the 6th Instant to cause a proper assortment of Stores to be provided for the Ships intended to be employed this Year in America of the several Classes mentioned on the other side hereof, and to get them in readiness to sail with Convoy from Spithead as soon as possible: also to send out to America a set of Careening Gear fit for Ships of 50 Guns, in two different Ships, to be used where the Commanding Officers for the time being shall direct, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you herewith.

Their Lordships also direct me to acquaint you that the *Levant* Victualler (which was intended to have sailed with Sir Peter Parker, but prevented by springing a Leak) is now ordered to proceed under Convoy of the *Greyhound* to join the Fleet under your Command, the Provisions on board being to be made use of in addition to the other Measures taken for supplying the same. I am &c

Geo: Jackson D:S.

By the *Canceaux*

Duplicate Sent to Mr Pownall 29h March

[Verso]

Ships	Guns
1 of	64
7	50
3	44
15	32
12	28
7	24 & 20
16	Sloops
2	Bombs
1	Fireship
1	Hospital Ship
12	Schooners & armed Ships

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 304-05.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MARCH 16 TO TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1776

London, March 19.

The *Deal Castle* man of war that lost all her masts and put into Fal-mouth in January last, and the *Carysfort* man of war from Portsmouth, both bound to America, put into Plymouth the 14th instant by contrary winds.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, MARCH 19." ¹

Since my last sailed his Majesty's ship *Seaford* for Antigua; and the *Deal Castle* ship of war, for Newfoundland.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 23 to March 26, 1776.

20 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord

Admiralty Office 20th March 1776

Having in obedience to the King's Pleasure, signified in Your Lordship's Letter of Yesterday, appointed His Majesty's Ships the *Juno* & *Blonde* to convoy the Transports which are to carry the first Embarkation of the Brunswick Troops, engaged to service in North America, and to proceed to the Isle aux Coudres in the River St Lawrence, which Your Lordship represents in your Letter to be the Place of Rendezvous for the Ships & Troops destined to serve in Canada; We are to acquaint Your Lordship therewith, for the King's Information, and that as it will be inconvenient to detach one of the Ships to Plymouth; to lay off that Port with the Transports having the 21st Regiment on board, and highly improper for them to put to Sea before the other Convoy appears, We have, instead thereof, directed the Admiral commanding at Plymouth, so soon as the said Regiment is embarked, (the time for which is submitted to Your Lordship) to send the Transports into the Sound, and to take care that they do immediately join the Convoy, upon a Signal to be made for that Purpose, and for which the Commander of the Convoy shall have the necessary Directions from us. We are, &c

Sandwich J Buller H Penton

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 48-49.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO REAR ADMIRAL JAMES GAMBIER,
PORTSMOUTH ¹

Whereas Capt Mouat [Henry Mowat] hath desired that his Son Alexander Mouat may be discharged from the Royal Academy at Portsmouth in order to serve on board His Majts Sloop the *Discovery* at the request of Capt Clark [Charles Clerke] her Commr You are hereby required & directed to cause him to be forthwith discharged for that purpose accordingly. Given &c 20th March 1776

Sandwich J Buller Lisburne

By &c G.J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 512.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN GEORGE YOUNG,
H.M. SLOOP *Alderney*, YARMOUTH ¹

The Lords Commissioners of His Majestys Treasury having acquainted Us that the Commissioners of the Customs transmitted to them Copies of several Letters from the Collector & Comptroller of New Castle & the Deputy

Comptroller at Bridlington with respect to two Smugling Vessels waiting on that Coast for the *Mermaid* Cutter Capt Armstrong & the *Eagle* Cutter Capt Radley both in the Service of the Customs with an intention as it is supposed to destroy the said Cutters. And their Lordships having therefore desired that a fast sailing Sloop might be forthwith sent to join the Commanders of the said Cutters & to afford them every necessary Assistance in order to defeat the intention of the Smugglers: You are hereby required & directed to proceed in the Sloop you command without a moments loss of time to Bridlington & thence if necessary to Shields & get what further information you can from the Officers of His Majestys Customs there concerning the said Smuglers, and having so done proceed according to such information in quest of them & use your best endeavours to seize them & to bring them into Port to be dealt with according to Law letting the Commanders of the said Cutters know that you are sent upon the above Service in order that they may proceed with you if it shall be thought proper the more effectually to enable you to carry the same into execution; And, as soon as you shall have taken, destroyed, or driven off the Coast the abovementioned Smugling Vessels, or shall have reason to think that they have quitted the same & that the Cutters are in no further danger, You are to return to your present Station & Cruize thereon agreeable to former Orders. Given &c 20th March 1776

Sandwich J Buller Lisburne

By &c. G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 511-12.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, MARCH 19 TO THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1776

London, March 20.

Orders are sent to Portsmouth for his Majesty's frigates *Tartar*, Capt. Ommanie [Cornthwaite Ommanney] and the *Pearl*, Capt [Thomas] Wilkinson, of 32 guns each, to be fitted out with all dispatch for the North America station.

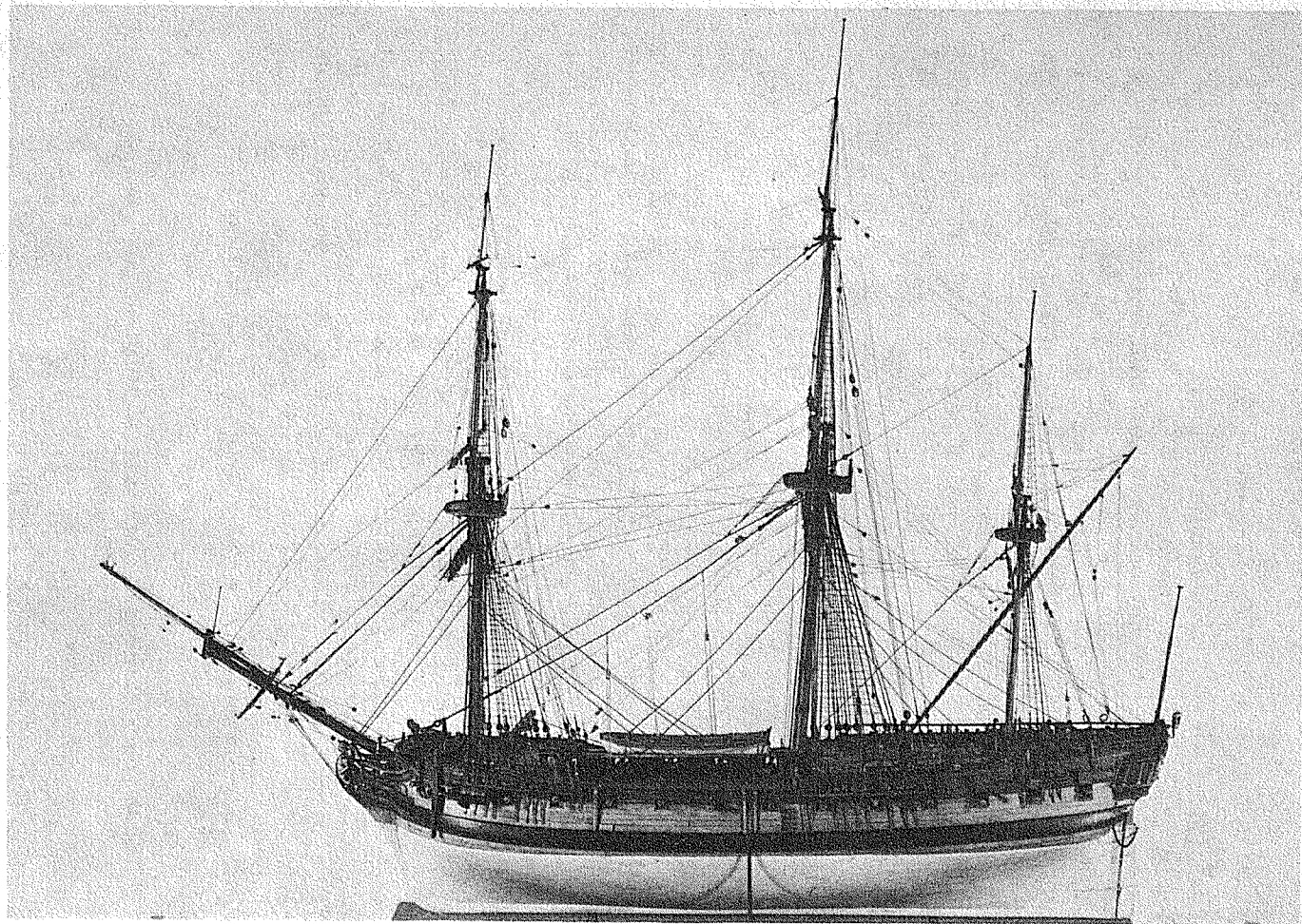
The *Shark* and *Vulture*, two new sloops lately launched at Deptford, are commissioned, and ordered to be fitted for sea.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, DATED MARCH 20." ¹

Sunday night an express arrived from the Admiralty-office, at Commissioner [Charles] Proby's, with orders to fit out the *Jersey*, of 60 guns, commanded by Captain Halsted, with all possible speed, to serve as an hospital ship in North America.

Monday sailed from hence for America, the *Brune* frigate, of 32 guns, Capt. [James] Ferguson.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 12 to March 23, 1776.



British frigate, 32 guns.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE ¹

March 1776

[In the English Channel]

Monday 18th

at Noon all the Convoy in Company ²

1st pt [light breezes & fair] Mid & Latr fresh Breezes & Cloudy – at 1 P M made the Signal & tack'd to the SE ½ pt 7 made the Signal & tack'd to the Westwd – at 10 Do & Tack'd to the SE – ½ past 10 the *Swift* hail'd me, informing me She was on Fire – a few minutes after She bore down towards me & the flames burst out on board her abaft – made Sail ahead to get clear of her & hoisted out the Pinnacle & Cutter – the other Ships of the Convoy got their Boats out & we saved all the People on Board her, except Lieut [blank] & Ensign [blank] with 5 Soldiers who were drown'd by their own small Boatd being overset –

Tuesday 19th

the *Swift* continued burning till ½ past to 4 A M, when She blew up – at ½ past 6, made the Signal & tack'd to the NW – at 11, spoke a revenue Cruiser belonging to Weymouth & sent on Shore by her an Express (concerning the Accident) to the Admiralty.

First pt fresh Gales & hazy – Mid. & Lat. more mod – ½ past 1 P M – bore away with the Convoy for Portland Road, & at ½ past 5, made the Signal for Anchoring – at 8 Anchor'd with the small Br in 9 Fms & veer'd to [blurred] Cable –

Wednesday 20

at 10 A M. weigh'd & work'd up under the Bill – at 11 Anchor'd again with the small Br in 8 fms sent on Shore the Master, Mate, Carpenter, & Servants belonging to the *Swift*, & enter'd the Seamen as part of the Comp[lemen]t.

First & Latr pts fresh Breezes & Cloudy – Mid, Mod – P M, sent the Soldiers & Women saved out of the *Swift*, on Bd. the *Bute*, & gave Lieut Parry an Order to receive & victual them –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.

2. *Ibid.*, 8/52, the convoy sailed from Spithead, bound for Quebec, on March 16, 1776.

21 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR
VICTUALING ¹

Wheres His Majts Ships & Vessels intended to proceed this year from England to Newfoundland for the protection of the Fisheries there have sailed & will sail earlier, & will probably remain on that Coast later, than usual; And whereas the Service may require some of them to be left there during the Winter, You are therefore hereby required and directed to provide and ship on freight on board the first Merchant Ships bound from the River Thames to St Johns in the said Island, a proper proportion of provi-

sions of all Species (Spirits excepted) for twelve hundred men for six months; consigning the same to Vice Admiral Montagu Commander in Chief of His Majts Ships upon that Station, who will have the necessary directions for the disposal thereof, Given under our Hands the 21st March 1776

Sandwich J Buller H: Penton

By &c G: Jackson DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 515.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, MARCH 19 TO THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1776

London, March 21.

The *Greyhound*, and *Pearl*, men of war, for America, are put into Plymouth.

Orders are sent to Chatham for His Majesty's frigate *Richmond*, of 32 guns, to be fitted out for the North America station; she is already commissioned, and the command is given to Capt. [John Lewis] Gidoin.

This day was launched from his Majesty's yard at Woolwich, a new frigate, immediately after which his Majesty's ship *Eagle*, commanded by Lord [Richard] How[e] sailed from the above place for America.

22 Mar.

"BY THE KING, — A PROCLAMATION FOR ENCOURAGING SEAMEN TO ENTER THEMSELVES ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS OF WAR." ¹

George R.

Whereas it is Our Royal Intention to give all due Encouragement to all such Seamen, who shall voluntarily enter themselves in Our Service; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to publish this Our Royal Proclamation: And We do hereby promise and declare, That all such Able Seamen, not above the Age of Fifty, nor under the Age of Eighteen Years, fit for Our Service, who shall, on or before the Thirtieth Day of April next, voluntarily enter themselves to serve in Our Royal Navy, either with the Captains or Lieutenants of Our Ships, or the Chief Officers on Board such Tenders as shall be employed for raising Men for the Service of Our Navy, shall receive, as Our Royal Bounty, the Sum of Three Pounds each Man, and all such Ordinary Seamen, fit for Our Service, who shall so enter themselves as aforesaid, shall receive the Sum of Two Pounds each Man, as Our Royal Bounty, in Lieu of all other Bounties mentioned in Our Proclamation dated the Third of January, and Our Order in Council of the Twenty-eighth Day of February last; such respective Sums to be paid them by the respective Clerks of the Cheque residing at the ports or Places where the Ships, into which they shall be entered, shall be, immediately after the Third Muster of such Seamen: And We do declare, that the Qualifications of the Seamen so entering themselves as aforesaid, shall be certified by the Captain, Master, and Boatswain of the Ship or Vessel where they shall enter. And for Prevention of any Abuses by any Persons leaving the Vessels

to which they shall belong, and entering themselves on Board any other Ships or Vessels, in order to obtain the said Bounty-Money; We do hereby declare and Command, that such Seamen belonging to any of our Ships or Vessels, as shall absent themselves from any of the said Ships or Vessels to which they shall belong, and shall enter themselves on Board any other of our said Ships or Vessels, in order to obtain the said Bounty, shall not only lose the Wages due to them in the Ships or Vessels they shall leave, but also be severely punished according to their Demerits.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the Twenty-second Day of March, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, in the Sixteenth Year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

1. *London Gazette*, March 19 to March 23, 1776.

LORD WEYMOUTH TO H. KATENKAMP ¹

[Extract]

No. 1

[St. James's] 22 March 1776.

You will be extremely cautious how you avail yourself of the orders sent by M. de Grimaldi,² and call on His Catholic Majesty's officers to search any vessel that you may suspect to have warlike stores on board, observing to them at the time, that this search is made at your particular requisition, that it may not hereafter be used as precedent, and you will not call for such examination without having good reason to believe arms and ammunition are actually on board the ship.

1. Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, I, 6-7, HU.

2. See H. Katenkamp to Lord Weymouth, February 24, 1776.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 22 March 1776

In my opinion, My Lord, there is something more surprising than the upkeep of the finances: I am referring to the condition of the factories which are still active except for a few items that have suffered. Indeed, one mentions an increase of the exportations to Russia, Poland, Spain, Italy and especially the Levant. I want to believe in this increase, however difficult it may seem as a time when prices go up everywhere and when the Merchants must pay their sailors 50 and some pounds of our money per month. But how can we conceive that the surplus of all these articles put together can replace the lack of trade with a nation of three million men who, having the same customs and tastes as the English, dressed from head to toe and furnished their houses only with English goods? How can I convince myself that an increase of five to six hundred thousand pounds sterling to Europe will compensate the loss of a yearly exportation worth three millions to America? Either all the premises are false, or the inadequacy of these precarious resources will soon be evident although the facts do not yet indicate such an outcome. It is believed that it would have already been felt if the

transport ships which sail to America did not carry English goods in order to meet the needs of the Colonists who must use them since all sort of foreign resources are being cut off from them

The first reinforcements destined for Canada sailed on board the war-ship *Isis* and five transports of about 600 tons each. They carried 15 hundred troops. All these ships are not sailing on the same convoy. Each will be on her own, crowding on all sail, to see which one will get there first. Not a single moment must be lost in trying to save Quebec, if it is still time. The troops from Brunswick, already embarked at Stade, are to sail for this province and will be under the command of General [John] Burgoyne. The Hessians will be employed on Boston. An Army Corps is also destined for New York so as to be able to attack the Provinces of Connecticut and Massachusetts on the flank, command the navigation on the Hudson and cut the lines of communication between Pennsylvania and New England.

According to this plan, New England will be attacked by three Armies at the same time, from the North, the West and the South, while a large fleet will devastate the coast and cruise along its whole length in order to intercept any assistance coming by sea. They apparently flatter themselves that once this Colony, which is considered the most stubborn, will be subjugated, all the others will become divided or will fall by themselves.

The control of Canada is deemed important here not only because it would clear the way to the Northern part of New England but also because its resources in wood and wheat are badly needed to supply the West Indies as well as the Army itself.

It is therefore essential for the Americans to take advantage of the end of the winter and take possession of Canada, even if it means blowing up the fortifications of Quebec before the arrival of the fleet, as well as ravaging the country in order to delay the march of the troops by eliminating their means of subsistence, after having enrolled them among those Canadians who would want to follow their flag. . . .

This is what I was able to learn about the military operations of this country, My Lord. You will be able to judge if these measures are sufficiently well-concerted to deserve some credence. Meanwhile, the greatest part of Nova Scotia has just taken sides with the united colonies and has decided to send deputies to the Congress. American privateers have recently devastated the Island of St. John in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This island provided beef and other commodities to the Royal troops and the Americans wanted to eliminate this source of supplies.² This operation must have been planned along the lines of the expedition against Newfoundland. They bear so much resemblance that it strengthens my belief in an expedition which would have sailed from Philadelphia against the English establishments in the island of Newfoundland. Also, an American privateer was bold enough to attack the Royal Corvette *Lynx* in the waters of Antigua; this ship escaped with difficulty after an uneven fight and suffered casualties.³

As for the political operations, the Council appears to be still undecided.

ed with respect to the plans it will follow. Lord George Germain who has the greatest influence and who is heard by his master, would like to entrust all the powers for a reconciliation to Lord [Richard] Howe and the General, his brother. This is not, or must not be to the taste of the other Ministers who feel indeed that their fate would be completely in the hands of Lord George or those of the Howes. I was also assured that the Admiral whose commission has not yet been signed had refused to report to the Admiralty, that he wanted to correspond with the Secretary for the Colonies and that he was ready to give up everything rather than renounce this pretention. However this matter has been settled and I assume that he will correspond with the Admiralty in all maritime matters and with Lord George in political matters. Lord Sandwich had Admiral [John] Montagu, senior to Admiral Howe, assigned to Newfoundland; consequently he will not be under the latter's command during this cruise; I believe this will not hurt us in any way

I spoke to Lord Weymouth yesterday and I complied with the orders which I had the honor to receive in your letter No.2 relative to the conduct of the English vessels cruising against the Americans in the waters of the islands belonging to the King. ⁴ . . .

Lord Weymouth and the Ministers agree to all this, My Lord. They eagerly approve everything we tell them in this respect. Comparing the promises and the facts, I come to the conclusion that we could place much hope in their intentions, were it not for the fact that we have everything to fear from the execution of their orders.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. The unauthorized raid on the island of St. John by two of Washington's captains commanding schooners commissioned by him in October 1775.

3. A report without foundation in fact.

4. See Vergennes to Garnier, March 8, 1776.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, MARCH 21 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1776

London, March 22.

Fraser's new raised regiment of Highlanders are to be assembled in three divisions on Monday next at Stirling, Inverness and Perth, to be reviewed and approved by the commander in chief in those parts, previous to their embarking at Glasgow for North America.

The *Unicorn*, a new ship, is put into commission, and the command given to Capt. [John] Ford.

Orders are sent to Chatham for his Majesty's frigate *Richmond*, of 32 guns, to be fitted out for immediate service; She is already commissioned, and the command given to Capt. Charles Fielding.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, MARCH 22." ¹

Yesterday sailed from this port for America, the *Repulse*, of 32 guns, commanded by Capt. [Henry] Davis.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 23 to March 26, 1776.

CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD DICKSON, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Greyhound, Cork 22d March 1776 –

I beg you will be plea'd to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I have this day Anchord in Cork Harbr. with his Majestys Ship *Greyhound*, under my Command, after a Passage of two days from Plymouth, his Majtys Ship *Carrysfort* Sail'd in Company with us, but is not yet Arriv'd; I have Receiv'd the Dispatches for General Howe and Vice Adml. Shulldham, with their Lordships Order of the 29th Febry and in Pursuance thereof Shall make immediate Enquiry for such Transports as are ready and, taking them under my Convoy, Proceed with all possible Dispatch for Boston I am Sir [&c.]

Arch^d Dickson

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1706, Section 9, 5.

23 Mar.LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL JOHN MONTAGU ¹

Whereas the West India Merchants have requested, as the Trade from the Sugar Islands will be constantly sailing from thence to Europe between the 25th of this Month & the 1st of August, that such directions may be given as will be effectual to protect their Ships in their present defenceless State, against any attempts which may be made on them by Cruizers fitted out by His Majesty's rebellious Subjects in North America; And whereas we have sent Orders to the Commanders in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Jamaica & the Leeward Islands to appoint Convoys to see the said Trade, at their stated Times of sailing, a certain distance clear of the islands agreeable to the request of the said Merchants, and are desirous that every other step should be taken to protect their Ships from any such attempts; You are therefore hererby required and directed to give Orders to the Commanders of such Ships or Vessels of your Squadron as may be appointed to protect the Fishery on the Grand Bank of Newfoundland to stretch occasionally to the outer edge of that Bank to look out for and secure the Trade of His Majts Subjects passing that way, and to endeavour to take or destroy any of the aforesaid Cruizers which may be found in those parts; And, you are to take care, during the Fishing Season, to keep one or more of the Ships or Sloops of your Squadron (if it can be done without neglecting the more material Objects entrusted to your Care) constantly cruising on the Grand Bank, as well for the above Service, as for the protection of the Ships employed on the Fishery

Given &c. the 23d March 1776.

Sandwich Lisburne H. Palliser

By &c G.J. D.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 543.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL JOHN MONTAGU ¹

[Extract]

Whereas we intend that the Squadron to be employ'd this Year, under your command, for the protection of the Fisheries carried on by His Majts Subjects at and about Newfoundland, and for Convoy to the fishing Ships bound to, and from that Island, shall consist of the Ships and Vessels mention'd in the enclosed List, And whereas the *Fox & Deal Castle* are already sailed with Instructions (Copies of which you will receive herewith) to cruize on the Stations against each exprest until they receive further Orders from you. And the *Surprize & Martin* are gone into the River St Lawrence upon a particular Service after which they are order'd to join you at Newfoundland; You are hereby required & directed to put to Sea with the first opportunity of Wind & Weather, and proceed with the *Romney - Cygnet* on your Voyage to that Island, calling off the several Ports named in the Margin ² in your way down Channel for any Fishing Ships or Vessels bound the same way which may be ready & whose Masters may be willing to accompany you, and then, taking them under your Convoy, proceed in the first place to the Grand Bank in Latd 46°: 30'': where you are to leave such of the said Fishing Ships whose Masters may be inclined to begin the Fishery, And also the *Cygnet* Sloop with Orders to her Commander to cruize on the said Bank, and to use his best endeavours to take or destroy any Ships or Vessels belonging to the associated Colonies of North America which may happen to be there either for the purpose of fishing or trading or for annoying & disturbing the Fishery, and also any other Piratical Ships or Vessels, And having continued on that Service for three Weeks or longer if you shall judge it necessary, either to rejoin you, or to put into execution such further Orders as you shall think fit to give him. You are yourself to proceed in the *Romney* to St John's, calling in your way at Renouse, Ferryland, & the Bay of Bulls in order to obtain Intelligence and to give any protection & assistance to His Majesty's Subjects on that part of the Coast that they may stand in need of, And then too proceed, & to dispose of the Ships under your command, from time to time, in such other manner as you shall judge best for carrying into execution the following Instructions Vizt

3d

You are to be careful that there be not taken into the Ships under your command, to be transported to Newfoundland, any Seamen or others than such as do belong to them, And, as you are not to lend any of the Ships Companies to any of the Fishing Ships, so neither are you to suffer to be taken on board them any sort of Fish, either by way of Merchandize, Freight or otherwise, excepting what shall be necessary for the use & spending of the Ships Companies.

4th

And whereas the Lords Commissioners for Trade & Plantations have represented to Us that it is very prejudicial to this Kingdom that the Fishing Ships do not bring home from Newfoundland the Complement of Men they

carry out, many of them being enticed away to New England & others left in the Country, and, for that reason, have desired that directions might be given to the Masters of all British Ships at Newfoundland that they take care to bring home the Number of Men they carry out (except in case of death) for that otherwise they will be prosecuted at their return, you are to let the Masters know the same accordingly, & to use your best endeavours to oblige them thereto, as far as in you lies, except only such of their Men as shall have enter'd into His Majesty's Service.

[7th.]

And whereas the Society of Unitas Fratrum, urged by a laudable zeal for promoting Christianity have already, under his Majesty's protection & with His permission, form'd Establishments in the Northern parts of the Coast of Labrador for the purposes of civilizing the Savages and converting them to the Christian Religion, in which their Success has been answerable to their Zeal; And His Majesty hath signified His express will and pleasure to the Governor of Quebec, that he do give them every countenance & assistance in his power and not allow any Establishment to be made but with their consent within the Limits of their possessions; You are in pursuance of His Majesty's farther pleasure signified to Us as aforesaid, to give such support and protection to the Establishment of the said Society as shall correspond with His Majesty's most gracious intentions to them.

Besides the superintendance and regulations of the Fisheries of the Island of Newfoundland and on the Coast of Labrador above mention'd you are, . . . to afford every protection in your power to those which are carried on in the Gulph of St Lawrence within the Limits of your command, and also upon the Islands in that Gulph, and to keep Cruizers constantly employed on that Service; taking particular care that no Vessels belonging to any of the associated Colonies be permitted to fish or carry on any trade or Commerce in those Seas, and that every Effort be made to take or destroy any such as also any Piratical arm'd Vessels which may be fitted out by the Rebels with a view to disturb the British Fisheries & intercept defenceless Vessels in their Passage to Quebec; . . .

11th

And whereas pursuant to the 24th article of the said Treaty of Paris, possession of the said Islands of St Pierre & Miquelon has been given to France, and, from their vicinity to the Island of Newfoundland & other parts of His Majesty's dominions in North America, an illicit Trade may be attempted to be carried on between the British, Indian, or any other Inhabitants of His Majesty's Dominions, and the Subjects of France residing in the said Islands of St Pierre & Miquelon or employed in the Fishery by virtue of the said Treaties, or between His Majesty's said Subjects & other Subjects of France or of other powers trading, or pretending to Trade, to or with the said Islands; In case any endeavours shall be used to carry on such illicit Trade as aforesaid you are to be particularly attentive to the same, and to prevent, if possible, all communication whatever between the said Islands of

St Pierre & Miquelon, and any part of his Majesty's dominions in No. America, contrary to the plain & direct meaning of this Instruction.

And whereas there is great reason to apprehend that a Plan has been form'd by the Continental Congress to obtain supplies from Europe thro' the Channel of those Islands & there can be little doubt that endeavours will also be used to procure those supplies by means of the French Ships employed in the Newfoundland Fishery, You are, therefore, in pursuance of His Majesty's further pleasure signified by Lord George Germain as aforesaid, to use your utmost vigilance & attention to defeat any such design; avoiding at the same time the taking any step that may be injurious to the Subjects of the French King or have a tendency to disturb that Harmony which now so happily subsists between the two Nations;

15th

And when the Service will admit, you are to send home the other Ships & Vessels of your Squadron except the arm'd Vessels, Schooner & Shallops which (with one of the Sloops or both if you shall judge it necessary) are to be left at Newfoundland during the Winter at such Place or Places as you shall judge best, with Orders to their Commanders to get them equipt in the Spring as early as possible & to exert their best endeavours for the protection of the Coast from any attempts of the Rebels or others until your return; assigning them such Stations & giving them such Instructions as you shall think most likely to answer that purpose; And you are to direct the Commanders of the Ships which you shall send home as aforesaid to take under their Convoy any homeward bound Trade that may be ready & willing to accompany them and to see them in safety as far as their way lies together; which Ships as well as the others of your Squadron are, on their return to England, to repair to the following Ports, Vizt.

<i>Romney</i>	}	Portsmouth
<i>Surprize</i>		

<i>Fox</i>	}	Plymouth
<i>Deal Castle</i>		

<i>Martin</i>	}	If they return; one to Portsmo
<i>Cygnet</i>		

the other to Plymouth.

16th

By the end of October you are to take under your Convoy any Fishing Ships which may be then bound to Portugal & Spain & see them off their respective Ports as far as the Southward as Cadiz, And in case you shall find at that Port any homeward bound Trade ready & willing to accompany you to England, you are to take them under your care, & putting to Sea with the first Opportunity of Wind & Weather proceed to Lisbon where you are in like manner, to take under your care such homeward bound Trade as may be there, And, then after a stay not exceeding eight days at farthest, you are to leave that Port & make the best of your way with the whole of the aforesaid Trade to England; seeing them in safety as far as their way & yours may lie together. In case however it shall be necessary, or more eligible, for you to

send a Frigate to perform this Service you are at liberty to do so and to proceed yourself directly in the *Romney* to England with such homeward bound Trade as may be desirous and in readiness to accompany you, repairing to Spithead where you are to remain until farther Order; And sending Us an Account of your arrival and proceedings.

17th^s

In case you shall at any time find that a greater Number of Ships & Vessels than those which may be under your command shall be necessary to enable you to execute the Service on which you are employed you are to apply to Vice Adml Shuldham or the Commander in Chief for the time being of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels employed & to be employed in the River St Lawrence and along the Coasts of Nova Scotia, the Islands of St. John & Cape Breton & thence to Cape Florida and the Bahama Islands for such reinforcements as you shall stand in need of; who has our Orders to supply you therewith.

Given &c. the 23d March 1776.

To John Montagu Esqr
Vice Admiral of the Blue & Commander
in chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels
employ'd and to be employ'd at and about
the Island of Newfoundland the Islands
of Madelaine & Anticosti & upon the
Coast of Labrador from the River St
John to the entrance of Hudson's Straits.

Sandwich
Lisburne
H. Palliser

By &c. G.J. DS.

Admty Office
23d March 1776. }

A List of Ships and Vessels to be employed this Year
under the Command of Vice Adml Montagu at and
about Newfoundland &c.

Rate	Guns	Ships	Commanders	Present Disposition
4th	50	<i>Romney</i>	Captn Elliot Salter	At Spithead
6th	28	<i>Fox</i>	Patk Fotheringham	} On their Passage to Newfoundland
"	20	<i>Deal Castle</i>	James Worth	
"	28	<i>Surprise</i>	Robt Linzee	} Gone into the River St Lawrence & then to proceed to Newfoundland.
Sloop	14	<i>Martin</i>	Henry Harvey	
"	16	<i>Cygnat</i>	Honble Lt Finch, p Order,	At Spithead
6	24	<i>Fowey</i>	Captn Geoe Montagu	} Under the command of Vice Adml Shuldham will be order'd to Newfoundland.
Schooner		<i>Egmont</i>	Lt Alexr Christie,	At Newfoundland

Arm'd Vessels	<i>Postillion</i>	Lt	} To be purchas'd
	<i>Penguin</i>		
Shallops	<i>Labrador</i>	Bourchier	} At Newfoundland.
	<i>Canada</i>	Sampson Edwards	
	<i>Placentia</i>	Chas Lefebore	
	<i>Quebec</i>	Edwd Bowater	

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 519-40.

2. The ports named were Poole, Topsham, Dartmouth and Plymouth.

3. The detailed and lengthy instructions are divided into 20 numbered sections. Several of the more important have been selected for inclusion in this extract.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, MARCH 21 TO SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1776

London, March 23.

Lord [Richard] Howe is making preparations for his departure for America; and the *Eagle*, of 60 guns, on board of which ship he is to hoist his flag, is fallen down to Long Reach to take in her guns and stores, after which she will sail for the Downs to proceed on her voyage.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CORK, MARCH 23." ¹

This day arrived here the *Greyhound* man of war, Capt. [Archibald] Dickson, and the *Carysfort* man of war, Capt. [Robert] F[a]nshaw, from Plymouth, to convoy the transports from hence to America, which will sail with all convenient speed.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 30 to April 2, 1776.

24 Mar. (Sunday)

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

No. 4

Versailles, 24 March 1776

Undoubtedly, it is not the empty assertion made by the opposition and concerning the alleged Frenchmen received by General Washington, then sent to Congress with the General's recommendation, which will cause His British Majesty to change his plans. ² The appearance of these two Frenchmen may be quite true, I am even surprised that there are not any more of them among the insurgents. We know how eagerly our young heads seek the hazards of war, and since there are some who look for them even among our enemies, we shall not be surprised to find a few in the nation which do not play yet any important role in the political European system. Furthermore, it appears that if these two Frenchmen were on some official mission, some care would have been exercised in concealing their presence. This lack of precaution proves at least that this mission was foreign to us. This is how you will explain this situation, Sir, when the opportunity will arise; it would not be suitable to provoke such an opportunity we may ignore and we

must scorn the opinions ventured by a few individuals in parliament; it would be against the King's dignity to say anything which might look like a justification.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.
2. Penet & Pliarne.

25 Mar.

Public Advertiser, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1776.

London [March 25].

We are credibly informed that the News from Corke of the Captures of the Provision Ships for Boston is not true, as two of the Vessels announced to be taken by the Rebels, viz. the *Queen of England* and the *Fanny* from the last Accounts were not under the List of Captures.

According to the most authentic Accounts of the sixteen Victuallers, which sailed from Ireland for America in January last, nine are fallen into the Hands of the Provincials, two lost, and the rest got safe into Boston.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CORKE, MARCH 25." ¹

This day arrived here the *Pearl* man of war, Capt. [Thomas] Wilkinson.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 2 to April 4, 1776.

26 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

My Lord,

Admiralty Office 26th March 1776.

Having ordered Capt [John] Brisbane, of His Majesty's Ship the *Flora*, to proceed to the Clyde, and there take under his Convoy the Transport Ships appointed to embark the Highlanders, to be carried to such Place as His Majesty shall be pleased to direct; We acquaint Your Lordship therewith, and desire you will receive, and signify to us His Majesty's farther Pleasure thereon. We are &c

J. Buller Lisburne H Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 51.

HUGH PALLISER TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Dear Sir

Admiralty Office 26th March 1776

The *Flora* is the Ship destined at present for Convoy to the Scotch Corps in the Clyde; she is arrived at Spithead and may have her sailing Orders, when it is determined whether she shall proceed to join them at the Clyde, or whether they shall meet her at Cork; the latter will be advisable if there will be any Victuallers at that time at that Place for the Army &c in that Case the same Convoy will serve both. If there should be no such Victuallers the *Flora* may proceed to the Clyde, and from thence pass to the

North of Ireland. I mentioned this Matter Yesterday to Lord Sandwich, who will settle it this Morning.

I understand the whole of the Transports for the Scotch Corps will be ready in time, but their Victualling will not be compleated before the 20th of April.

I reckon we may expect to hear of the Brunswick Transports passing the Downs this Day. I am, &c

Hugh Palliser

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 50-51.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

Grafton Street [London] 26 March 1776

Lord Howe has the honor to return to Lord George Germain, the Drafts of the Commission, & Instructions he was favored with last Saturday Evening. And begs leave to submit at the same time, the difficulties that have occurred to him in the consideration of them.

He observes that the first step he is directed to take on his arrival in America, is to publish the preliminary conditions upon which only the Colonies or part of them, are to expect the King's Grace & Mercy, and to be declared at His Majesty's Peace. From which however, Connecticut & Rhode Island are, by the 11th Art. of the Instructions, excepted; But he is restrained from entering any Treaty, until those conditions are absolutely complied with. Whence he conceives, that the military operations must necessarily be continued, until the Americans have been compelled to retire to the back settlements, or are reduced to a situation that would render their subjection of no benefit to this country.

With regard to Pardons, & the power of declaring Parts and Districts at the King's Peace; He begs leave to mention, that the limitations in the 4th Art: of the Instructions do not appear to extend so far as the Descriptions prescribed by the commission.

Should the Americans submit to the preliminary conditions, and afterwards comply with the Terms specified in the 4th Article which authorizes their being declared (Rhode Island & Connecticut excepted) at the King's Peace; He begs to submit to his Lordships consideration, whether the Governors of the respective Provinces would not be more proper than the General & himself, to frame the subsequent arrangements alluded to in the Instructions; And for settling the compensations required in the next Article, wch he conceives will be attended with very great obstacles and embarrassment.

He always flattered Himself the Intentions of Government were that he should be authorized upon his arrival, to hold forth to the Americans, in the mildest tho' firmest manner, the most favorable terms that Government mean to grant. In order to induce them to lay down their Arms & return to their Duty.

But observing that a method directly the reverse is now ordered to be pursued, it is with infinite concern he finds himself obliged to confess, that



cut 266 *engraved after Sir H. Mitchell & Co. London*
The RIGHT HON.^{BLE} RICHARD LORD HOWE.
Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Fleet in America

he is disqualified from engaging as a Commissioner in the execution of Instructions framed on that Plan.

He might still be happy enough to see renewed, his hope of having his humble Services accepted in that capacity, should it be thought fitt to vary the intended propositions to the delinquent Colonies, to the following effect:

Viz – If they will agree to offer a contribution in lieu of Taxation, lay down their Arms, Restore the civil Government; And by their assemblies declare their obedience to the authority of the British Legislature, and apply to be relieved from the restrictions upon their Trade, in such manner as shall be deemed a satisfactory evidence of their future good intentions: they shall then be declared at the Kings peace; and any complaints made in a dutiful manner, shall be received & favorably considered.

Howe

1. Germain Papers, CL.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GEORGE III ¹

[Extract]

Lord Howe has many Difficultys about the Instructions; however at all Events he will not decline the Command of the Fleet; upon hearing that Circumstance your Majesty may not be very anxious whether he accepts of being one of the Commissioners.²

Pall Mall March 26th 1776 ^m 10 pt. 8. P.M.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 345, 346.

2. The peace commission which was to be bestowed upon the Howe brothers.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HUGH DALRYMPLE, H.M.S. *Juno*, SPITHEAD ¹

Whereas the Transports with the first embarkation of the Brunswick Troops engaged to serve in No America may be expected to arrive shortly at Spithead And whereas we think fit that the Ship you command & the *Blonde* shall Convoy the said Troops, and also the 21st Regt of Foot which is to embark at Plymouth to the place of their destination; You are hereby required & directed to take the *Blonde* under your command (her Captain being directed to follow your Orders) and so soon as Major Genl Burgoyne & his Suite shall be embarked on board her, & the Brunswick Troops abovementioned shall be arrived at Spithead & ready to put to Sea: You are to take the Transports having those Troops on board under your Convoy & proceed without loss of time off Plymouth Sound, where you are to make a Signal by hoisting an Ensign at the Foretop Gallant Mast head, for the Transports having on board the 21st regt to join you we having given directions for their being kept in the Sound in readiness for that purpose; And then taking them under your Convoy also, You are in Pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to Us by Lord Geo. Germaine one of His Majts prin: Secretaries of State in his Letter of the 19th Inst to proceed with the whole Armament to the Isle aux Coudres in the River St Lawrence which is the place of Rendezvous for

the Ships & Troops destined to serve in Canada & being arrived there, you are if you find any Officer of His Majts Ships in that River Senior to yourself, to put yourself under his command & follow his Orders for your future proceedings, or, if not, you are to take such of His Majts Ships & Vessels as may be there under your command, and in conjunction with the Commander in Chief of His Majts Land Forces to pursue such steps as shall be judged necessary for the establishment of His Majestys Government within the province of Québec & for repelling any hostile Invasion of it by His Majestys rebellious Subjects from the other Colonies: And during your continuance on this Service you are to consider yourself under the command of, & to follow such Orders as you shall receive from Vice Adml Shuldham or the Commander for the time being of His Majts Ships & Vessels in No America. Given &c 26th March 1776

Sandwich J Buller C Spencer Lisburne

By &c. G J D S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 555-56.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 26 March 1776

The Bulletin also mentions the new incentives offered by the Government to the Sailors so that they will enlist in the service of the fleet. At the same time, the ship-owners and the merchants will be allowed to use more foreign sailors on their ships, as it is the custom in time of war. These measures do not seem to reflect as large an affluence of sailors as it had been publicized. Once all these expedients have been employed, there will remain the press which they would like to avoid as much for the domestic problems it would create as the alarm it would not fail to provoke in foreign countries. Indeed the foreign Powers have always considered such extreme measures, designed to set all the forces of England into motion, as the signal to put themselves on their own guard. . . .

I expected to send you this letter by the mail-post, but since I have an opportunity to send it by way of Calais; I shall take advantage of this to inform you that the Ministry is considering sending five ships of the line to the East Indies. This step, which is still under délibération has not been decided yet, and I can hardly believe it will be in the affirmative unless the forces which we are allegedly sending to India are so important that England feels compelled to defend her establishments. Lord Sandwich spoke of this plan to M. [James] Gambier, Navy Commissioner in Portsmouth; he also said to him that after the departure of the fleet for America, His British Majesty would come to Portsmouth and pass in review a fleet which is to go there in order to show Europe that England has enough forces left to defend herself independently from those which she is sending against her Colonies. I know of no other nation as charlatanic as this one, and in this nation, I know no greater charlatan than Lord Sandwich. This bravado, if it should take place, seems very much out of place all the more because Eng-

land should display more calm in Europe at this time and refrain from doing anything that might draw any further the attention of her neighbors.

F. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, MARCH 23 to TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1776

London, March 26.

The *Pearl* man of war, and *Woodcock* transport, are sailed from Plymouth for Corke.

Captain [Keith] Elphinstone is appointed to the *Perseus* frigate, and Capt. [Charles] Fielding to the *Diamond*.

His Majesty's frigate *Ambuscade* of 32 guns, is now fitting out at Chatham, to carry Sir George McCartney to his government of Dominica; she is afterwards to join the fleet on the North America station.

Orders are sent to Sheerness for his Majesty's ship *Rainbow*, of 44 guns, to be fitted out for immediate service. She is already commissioned, and the command given to Sir George Collier.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, MARCH 26." ¹

Since my last arrived at Spithead from the Downs, his Majesty's ship *Flora*, and 6 transports. . . .

The *Tartar* frigate is come out of dock, and is fitting for America.

Admiral Montague is come down and will sail in a few days.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 28 to March 30, 1776.

27 Mar.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir [Admiralty Office] 27h March 1776

The ordnance Board having been made acquainted with your representation in your Letter of the 28h January last of the great scarcity of ordnance small Stores at Halifax for the use of the Fleet, particularly three and four Pound Shot for the small Cruizers; And they having in return, by their Letter of the 23d Instant, acquainted my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that a supply of ordnance Stores is already sent to Halifax, and that a further supply is getting ready for that purpose; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, in further answer to your Letter abovementioned I am &c

Geo. Jackson D: S:

Sent to Mr Pownall 29 March

Duplicate sent by the *Canceaux* 19 April

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 352.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, MARCH 26 to THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1776

London, March 27.

Orders are sent to Sheerness for his Majesty's frigate *Winchelsea*, Cap-

tain [Nathaniel] Bateman, to be fitted out for the American station, and a number of hands are now employed for that purpose.

28 Mar.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, APRIL 2 TO THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1776

Glasgow, March 28.

Saturday last a party of the 42d, or Royal Highlanders, marched from this place to Greenock, in order to quell a disturbance which had happened there, by some sailors belonging to the transport ships coming ashore, and refusing to proceed on their voyage without an augmentation of their wages. Happily before the arrival of the party (the Magistrates having secured some of the ring leaders) the difference was made up, and all the sailors are gone aboard.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE¹

Sir,

Whitehall, 28th March 1776.

There being no Ship of War in immediate Readiness to sail for North America, I have thought fit to dispatch one of His Majesty's armed Packets, with this Letter, that you may be informed, as early as possible, of the additional Force you are to expect from hence, and of the present State of Our Preparations.

The inclosed Treaties will inform you of the Number of Foreign auxiliary Troops engaged to serve in North America, of which Number 12,200. Men, being the whole Body of Hessians, are intended to serve in the Army under Your Command; and the Brunswickers, Waldeckers, and the Regiment of the Hereditary Prince of Hesse, together with the Nine British Battalions, and the whole of Lieutenant Colonel Maclean's Corps, are to serve in Canada, under Genl Carleton.

The transports for the first Division of Hessians, amounting to 8,200. Men, are already compleated, and on their Passage to the Place of Embarkation: A Detachment of Guards, consisting of 1098 Men, formed into a distinct Corps, is on its March to Portsmouth; and I am not without Hope that the first Division of Hessians may arrive at Spithead in time, so that the whole may proceed to North America together.

It appears to me, as far as I stand informed at present, that this Body of Troops should proceed to Rhode Island, and I shall take the King's Pleasure for the necessary Instructions accordingly, in Confidence that, if you approve of that Destination, they will find, upon their Arrival there, such Orders from you, as will determine their further proceeding, or, otherways, that a proper Number of Cruizers will be stationed upon the Coast, to watch the Arrival of the Fleet, and to proceed with it to such other Place, as you shall appoint.

The Difficulties in procuring Transports have been very great, and it is impossible, as yet, to form a guess, when a sufficient Number will be ready

to receive the second Division of the Hessians; but I trust it will not be long first, and that the Corps of Highlanders; consisting of the 42d & 71st Regiments, making together 3466 Men, which are nearly, if not intirely completed, will embark in the Clyde, by the 20th of next Month at farthest.

The Delays and Disappointments which have attended the Armament sent out to the Southern Colonies, have been greater than could have been expected; and as the Fleet did not leave Corke before the 12th of last Month, and afterwards met with very tempestuous Weather, in which many Ships were separated and put back in Distress, there is but little hope that any of the Objects of that Expedition can be obtained; and, therefore, I received the King's Commands, to dispatch a Vessel after the Fleet, with a Letter to Major General Clinton, of which I inclose you a Copy, and also of the Instructions sent, at the same time, by the Admiralty to Sir Peter Parker.

The Effect of these Orders will probably be, that the whole, or, at least the greatest part of that Armament will join you, as early as the Troops can arrive from hence, so that you may be able to open the Campaign in the Month of May or Beginning of June.

Our Recruiting for some time went on very slowly, and the Men raised in Ireland will be of little Use to you; Since the Parties have been removed to England we have had better Success, and the Recruits raised may make Soldiers: they will be sent over to you by different Ships; as Opportunities offer, or whenever a Number is collected sufficient to be the Object of a separate Embarkation; but there is no Prospect that we shall be able to procure in time for this Campaign, all that are necessary to complete the Augmentation.

I observe that in your Disposition of the Battalions under your Command, you include the 6th Regiment at St Vincent's, and therefore it was the King's Intention, to give you that Regiment complete, by turning over to it the effective Men of the 48th; but the slow Progress made in forming the additional Battalions & Companies of the Royal Americans, has made it impossible to take both the 6th & 48th from the Ceded Islands for the present; and, therefore, all that we can do is, to give you the 6th Regiment in its present State, and you will, therefore, send for it, when you can spare Transports for that Purpose; & as there are many Recruits already raised for that Corps they will be sent immediately to you, by which means that Battalion will be tolerably compleat.

With regard to the Service on the Side of Canada, and the Operations of the Force to be employed there, (of the Extent of which you are already informed) it will depend upon the Situation of Affairs in that Province: but if the Rebels shall, in consequence of their Repulse & Defeat, on the 31st of December, have given up all thoughts of Conquest on that Side, which is most probably the Case, there is good ground to hope, that the Army will be able to advance into the other Colonies, by the Passage of the Lakes, and accordingly every proper preperation has been made here, that can give Facility to such a Plan.

As far as I can judge of what is likely to be the general Plan of Opera-

tions in North America, and indeed, in all Events, the securing the Affection & Assistance of Our old Friends & Allies the Indians of the Six Nations, is a Consideration of no small Importance; and I hope Col. Guy Johnson, who is now here, and is preparing to return by the first Ship, will be found useful.

The King has been pleased to give him the same Commission & Appointments as were given to Sir William Johnson in 1756, and he is in all respects made subject to your Direction & Controll. You will therefore employ him in such manner, and give him such Instructions as you shall think necessary & proper.

I have already acquainted you, in my Letter of the 1st of Febry, of His Majesty's Intention to give higher Rank to His General officers serving in North America, and inclosed I send you a List of the Commissions which have been signed by His Majesty for that Purpose, with the Date of each Commission respectively.

You will observe that the Rank given by these Commissions is confined to America only; but it is hoped that this Arrangement will have the Effect to prevent any Embarrassment or Inconvenience, which might otherways arise, from the General Officers of the Foreign Troops claiming the Command, in consequence of their superior Rank.

In your Letters of the 16th and 22d of January N[o]s. 7 and 8 you express a Wish to receive Instructions concerning the Corps under the Command of Lieutenant Colonels Maclean and Gorham. I have therefore made Inquiry into that matter, and find that His Majesty's Pleasure was signified by my Predecessor in Office to the Commander in Chief authorizing him to raise such Corps, and to grant Commissions for that purpose, but the Officers were not to be entitled to Half Pay, or to have any other Rank than what was allotted to the like Corps in the last War.

With regard to the Bounty Money and Pay of these Provincial Levies, I apprehend that the Commander in Chief must supply the Sums necessary for that purpose, but the proper steps have been taken for supplying them here with Cloathing, Arms and Accoutrements, and also with Tents and other Camp necessities. These are the Regulations which were thought fit with respect to those Corps, and they will equally apply to the Nova Scotia Regiment, or any other provincial Corps which may be raised in America for His Majesty's Service in the present Rebellion.

I must not conclude this letter without congratulating You upon the Appointment of Lord Howe to the Naval Commander in Chief in North America; The Choice His Majesty has been pleased to make, of so able & experienced an Officer, has given universal Satisfaction, and will, I am persuaded, have the most happy Consequences. I am &c.

Geo: Germain

P.S. You will observe that in Speaking of the Force to be employed in Canada, I have mentioned only 9 British Battalions, in which I have not included Lord Cornwallis's Regiment, which I acquainted You in my letter

of the 1st of February was to be sent to Quebec as soon as it returned from the Expedition to the Southward.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, 137-51.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HUGH DALRYMPLE,
H.M.S. *Juno*, Spithead ¹

In case the Transport Vessels having the Brunswick Troops on board which, by our Order of the 26th Inst you are directed to Convoy into the River St Lawrence should not be ready to sail before the arrival of those with the Hannau Regiment which may be hourly expected: You are hereby further required & directed to take the Transports having on board that Regiment under your care to convoy them to the Isle aux Courdes also; but on no account to wait for them. And for your further information we send you herewith a List of the Transports abovementioned as well as of those which are to carry the 21st Regiment from Plymouth.

And, in further addition to our beforementioned Order, You are hereby required & directed to make enquiry for all Storeships, Victuallers & other Vessels which may be at Spithead, Portsmouth or Plymouth, bound to Canada whose Masters may be ready to sail & desirous of accompanying you & to take them under your Convoy & see them in safety into the River St Lawrence as far as the Isle aux Coudres.

Given &c 28th March 1776

Sandwich Lisburne H. Penton

By &c G J DS.

[Enclosure]

Admty. Office

28th March 1776

A List of Transports designed to carry the first Division of Brunswick Troops including those for the Hannau Regiment hourly expected at Spithead, and also the 21st Regiment of Foot now at Plymouth Vizt

	Tons	
<i>Minerva</i>	311	} For the first Division of the Brunswick Troops
<i>Lawrie</i>	283	
<i>Pallas</i>	344	
<i>Ld Sandwich</i>	317	
<i>Apollo</i>	361	
<i>Providence</i>	366	
<i>James & John</i>	355	
<i>Elizabeth</i>	320	
<i>Nancy</i>	304	
<i>Polly</i>	309	
<i>Union</i>	261	
<i>Royl Briton</i>	303	
<i>Pr of Wales</i>	447	
<i>Harmony</i>	449	
<i>Peggy</i>	360	
<i>Martha</i>	326	30 Horses

<i>Three Sisters</i>	469	} For the Hannau Regiment
<i>Content</i>	335	
<i>Stag</i>	317	
<i>Margaret & Martha</i>	353	
<i>Neptune</i>	179	} For the 21st Regiment
<i>St Helena</i>	270	
<i>Katy</i>	278	
<i>Friendship</i>	201	
<i>Walter</i>	265	
<i>Ps Royal</i>	152	
<i>Dorothy</i>	237	

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 556-58.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW,
H.M.S. *Carysfort*, CORK ¹

Whereas it now appears that the *Speke* Hospital Ship cannot arrive at Cork in time to proceed under your Convoy; You are hereby required & directed not to wait for her but to put to Sea the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather with the Transports & Troops mentioned in our Order to you of the 11th Inst & proceed with them with all possible expedition to the Isle aux Coudres agreeable to our said Order.

Given &c. 28th March 1776

Sandwich J Buller H. Palliser

By &c G J DS By Express 5 PM

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 563.

Public Advertiser, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1776.

London [March 28].

Advice is received from Jamaica, that Admiral Gayton has taken several Sloops and Schooners into the Pay of Government, and fitted them out as Tenders; each is commanded by a Lieutenant, to cruize for the American Vessels off the Havannah, Monti Christi, St. Eustatia, and Curacoa, where they have met with great Success, having taken between twenty and thirty Prizes in the Course of a few Months.

29 Mar.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW,
H.M.S. *Carysfort*, CORK ¹

Whereas it is intended that Lord Viscount [Richard] Howe, Vice Admiral of the Blue, shall proceed from Spithead in the course of next Month with a considerable Body of British and Foreign Troops to reinforce the Army under the command of General [William] Howe, and that his Lordship shall take upon him the Chief command of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employ'd, and to be employed, in North America, and co-operate with

the General in such Measures as shall be judged proper to be taken to quell the Rebellion which unhappily subsists in some of His Majesty's Colonies there; You are hereby required and directed to assemble at Boston such of the Ships and Vessels under you command as can be spared from other necessary Services, and continue with part of them in that Port and to keep others cruising off that part of the Coast to meet his Lordship, until he arrives, taking care that they be held in constant readiness for the Sea; But if you also learn that his Lordship instead of going to Boston, as is now intended, shall have proceeded to some other Port in North America, You are to concert with General Howe what part of the Naval Force it might be proper to leave at Boston in case he himself should continue, or should leave any part of the Army there, and proceed with the remainder to join Lord Howe at the Port where you learn he is: Or, if it should be the General's Intention to proceed with the Troops from Boston to the Port where his Lordship with the abovemention'd Reinforcement shall be, you are, in such case, to give all necessary assistance in embarking the Troops and to convoy the General and them to such Port accordingly.

Upon joining Lord Howe you are, to deliver to him attested Copies of our Instructions to you, and of such orders as you shall have received from Us which remain in the whole, or in any part unexecuted, And to furnish his Lordship with such Information as may be necessary or in any degree useful to him in the execution of the important Service in which he is to be employed; And you are to put yourself under His Lordships command and follow his Orders for your further proceedings.

Given &c the 29th. March 1776

Sandwich J Buller Lisburne

By &c G. J. DS.

Sent same day to Lord George Germain's Office to be forwarded from thence with his Lordships dispatches

Duplicate – signed Sandwich – Buller – Palmerston by the *Canceaux*

Triplicate signed Sandwich Buller H Palliser. by Commodore Hotham

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 561-63.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

[Extract]

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 29h March 1776

... Sir Peter Parker put to Sea from Cork with the Ships and Transports under his Convoy on the 12h day of the last Month but after being six days at Sea was met by bad weather which seperated him from part of his Convoy – Such of these as have put into Ports in England have been refitted and ordered to assemble at Plymouth, and they are now waiting to proceed under convoy of the *Ranger* which will put to Sea the moment the wind is favorable.

Besides this Ship [*Greyhound*] there have sailed the *Isis* and *Triton* for the River St Lawrence and with them two large Ships named in the

Margin² with Lieutenants to command them, which last mentioned Ships after landing the Troops they have on board are to be fitted as armed Ships and put on the establishment of Sloops; and the said Lieutenants are then to take upon them the command as such; having Commissions from their Lordships appointing them thereto.

These four Ships have taken in Troops intended for the relief of Quebec, and have Orders to use their utmost endeavours to that end, and to remain at Quebec or in the River St Lawrence til they shall receive directions from you or the Commanding Officer of the Squadron in North America whose Command they are then to put themselves under.

Sent to Mr. Pownall 29h March

Duplicate sent by the *Canceaux* 19 April

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 358-60.

2. Lord Howe, Lieutenant Pringle; Bute, Lieutenant Parrey.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

No. 10

London, 29 March 1776

The troops from Brunswick arrived on the 27th in the road of Portsmouth, from whence they will sail as soon as possible for their destination.

His British Majesty has just signed a promotion list of General Officers in America. Messrs. [Guy] Carleton and [William] Howe were made Generals. Messrs. [Henry] Clinton, [John] Burgoyne, and the Lords [Hugh] Percy and [Charles] Cornwallis were appointed Lieutenant Generals, and seven Colonels were promoted to the rank of Major General valid in America only. General Burgoyne is getting ready to sail with the troops from Brunswick and the rest of the English troops destined for Canada. If General Carleton is still free, M. Burgoyne will have to serve under his command.

A thousand men from the Guards are embarking at Portsmouth for Boston. As the King of England treated them with great courtesy when he passed them in review, some practical jokers claimed that it was His Majesty's last farewell to men he would not see again. The arrival of the Hessian troops is expected. Everywhere, transport ships are hurriedly chartered and ships and frigates are fitted out. Everything bustles with activity. . . .

No plans are being made here my Lord, to organize any establishment at Falkland. At some time I had advised the Court that the New Englanders went there for whale-fishing because of the convenience of both tropics and the Equator. The Government told the Prince of Masseran that they wanted to chase the Americans from there but that they did not have any intention to establish themselves there, and I believe, indeed, that nothing is farther away from his thoughts. It may be that Captain [James] Cook has been ordered to carry out this expulsion in the course of his journey.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MARCH 29." ¹

The *Blonde* frigate, [Philemon] Pownall, has received her orders to sail for America; she is to carry out Gen. Burgoyne, who is expected here from London this evening. The above frigate and the *Juno*, [Hugh] Dalrymple, are to convoy out the Brunswick troops.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 30 to April 2, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, MARCH 29." ¹

This day sailed from hence, his Majesty's ship the *Ranger*, with five sail of Sir Peter Parker's squadron, which were separated from him some time ago, in a violent gale of wind, in their passage from Corke for America. We have no transports here at present, but expect several from the Downs hourly.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 30 to April 2, 1776.

1 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT CUTHBERT
COLLINGWOOD, R.N. ¹

Whereas we intend that you shall be employed to raise Voluntier Seamen & Land[s]men in and about London for the Service of His Majesty's Sloop *Hornet* at Woolwich, You are hereby required and directed to observe the following Instructions. Vizt

1st

You are to hire a proper Room for a Rendezvous and to apply yourself with the utmost diligence to the aforesaid Service; causing Bills to be printed and stuck up inviting such Voluntiers to repair thereto; And taking care not to receive any but who are of strong bodies and in health the Seamen not under eighteen or above Fifty and the Landman not under eighteen or above Twenty five years of Age.

2d

You are from time to time, to send such Men as you may procure together with their Chests and Bedding under the care of one of your Petty Officers on board the above Sloop whilst in the River Thames, taking care to transmit at the same time, to her Captain a List of their respective Names & times of entry, wherein the Seamen are to be distinguished from the Landmen in order that they may be enter'd in her Books for Wages accordingly.

3d

You are to deliver daily to Captn [James] Kirk who is appointed to regulate the Service of raising Men in Town an account of the Number of Men raised, distinguishing therein the Seamen from the Landmen, also how many you have procured in the whole & how many since the Account immediately proceeding.

4th

You are to subsist the new rais'd Men til' such time as they shall be sent on board the *Hornet* at the rate of nine pence a day each which is to be in full for their Lodging also. And, the better to enable you to carry on this Service, you are to keep the eight first good Seamen who may enter constantly in Town with you, in order that they may be employed in assisting you & the Petty Officers in raising other Voluntiers; allowing them one Shilling and three Pence a day each for their subsistence which is to be in full of all charges and claims for Refreshments, Drink Money &c. transmitting their Names and times of entry to the Captain of the *Hornet* that they may be enter'd for Wages accordingly, on the said Sloop's Books; sending them on board her under the care of one of your Petty Officers when you shall be order'd to break up your Rendezvous; And as a rowing Boat to go amongst the Shipping may give you a better opportunity of inviting Men to enter you are to hire a proper Boat for that purpose on the best and cheapest terms you can & to employ such of the eight Men abovemention'd as you can best trust in rowing her amongst the Shipping accordingly under the direction of one of your Petty Officers. With respect to your own Subsistence and that of your Petty Officers you are at liberty to charge Two Shillings and nine pence a day for your's, and to pay the said Petty Officers One Shilling & nine pence a day each for their's, during the time you and they shall be employ'd as aforesaid.

5th

As the nature of this Service may require some other disbursements you are to use all possible frugality and good husbandry therein for no unreasonable or unnecessary Expence will be allow'd; And for your better guidance in this matter, you are to observe that your charges for the following Articles must not exceed the rates against each express'd Vizt.

	£	s	d
Rendezvous & Lodging rooms P Week	1	11	6
Entry Money for Voluntiers each		1	0
Beat of Drum, Fife playing & all other Petty Charges. P Week		10	0

Stationary Wares, printing fixing up & dispersing invitation Bills not to exceed £1.10. 0, upon coming on Service for the first Month; nor to be more than 7s. 6d P. Month afterwards

To your Petty Officers for their travelling Charges in coming from, & returning to the Ship 3d P. Mile.

6th

And in order to enable you to make the above disbursements (of which you are to be very particular in keeping & transmitting monthly to the Navy Board a regular Account) you are to apply to the said Board for an Imprest of Twenty pounds which we have order'd for you; and when the same is expended, you are to let us know it in order to your being supplied with more if it shall be found necessary, And as soon as the above Service shall be over,

you are to deliver to that Board an Account of all your disbursements making an Affidavit at the foot thereof in the following form Vizt

"This Deponent maketh Oath that the Sum charged against each particular Article in the above Account was expended for the purpose mention'd in such Article and no other."

Given under our Hands the 1st of April 1776. —

Lieut. Cuthbert Collingwood of His Majts Sloop *Hornet* in Town —

Sandwich Palmerston Lisburne

By &c. Geo. Jackson, D.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 1-4. During April identical recruiting orders were given for four sloops and the frigate *Galatea*, all lying at Deptford. They were: April 3; Lieutenant Charles Loder Carne, of the *Vulture*; April 8; Lieutenant Hugh Cloberry Christian, of the *Shark*; April 10; Lieutenant William Augustus Merrick, of the *Galatea*; April 18; Lieutenant William Cregg, of the *Hound*; April 20; Lieutenant Richard Creyk, of the *Spy*; *ibid.*, 6, 13, 22, 38, 41.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

My Lords,

Whitehall 1st April 1776.

I have not failed to lay before the King Your Lordship's letter to me of the 26th ulto acquainting me that you had ordered Captain [John] Brisbane, of His Majesty's Ship *Flora*, to proceed to the Clyde, and there take under his Convoy the Transport Ships appointed to embark the Highlanders, and I am commanded by the King to signify to Your Lordships His Majesty's Pleasure, that you do give Orders to Captain Brisbane that so soon as the two Highland Regiments shall be embarked on board the Transports, which, I hope, will be by the 15th instant, he do proceed therewith to Boston in No America and if, upon his Arrival in that Harbour he shall be informed that General Howe & Vice Admiral Shuldhham with the Land & Sea Forces under their Command, are removed from thence, he is to follow them, with the said Transports and Troops, to such place as they may be removed to, or to proceed according to such Directions as they may have left for that purpose.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 11.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 1st april 1776

Mr Robinson, Secretary of the Treasury, having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a Letter from Mr Stanley, Secretary of the Customs, dated the 26 past, accompanied by an Extract of one from Mr Kelly of the *Active* Cutter in that Service dated 24th. past, respecting a Philadelphia Brig then at Dunkirk which had taken on board between 30 and 40 Tons of Shot, and were to receive Gunpowder expected from Holland, which Ship was to clear out for Ireland, but her real destination is

for North America; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you the inclosed Copies of the said Letters, for your information. I am &c

Geo: Jackson D:S:

By the *Canceaux*, 18 Apr

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 381.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

Grafton Street [London] 1[s]t April 1776

Lord Howe has the honor to acknowledge the great obligations he is under to Lord George Germain, for the regard & indulgence shewn to his difficulties on the draft of the Instructions, by having obviated some of his former objections. But he begs leave to observe, that there still remains one material article upon which he finds himself under the necessity of giving His Lordship this farther trouble.

Connecticut & Rhode Island, are totally excluded from the advantages of peace, until some measure be agreed to respecting Alterations in their charters. Lord Howe understands that the commissioners are to receive propositions upon that head, and to transmit them to England where they are to be decided upon; But that in the mean time, those Colonies, however well disposed they maybe & whatever submissions they may profess themselves ready to make, are proscribed, and must remain under all the restraints & sufferings of the prohibitory act. He therefore takes the liberty to submit to Lord George, whether the precise alterations intended to be made in their charters (if that point is still to be insisted on) might not be specified in the Instructions; and the commissioners empowered to declare those Colonies at the Peace of the King, upon their consenting to such alterations, and to the general preliminary conditions.

He farther begs leave to submit a doubt he entertains whether the prohibitory Act is not compulsory, with regard to the declaring of Connecticut & Rhode Island, as well as all the other Colonies, at Peace, whenever they shall be disposed to return to their duty.

He conceives that the declaring of peace (with an exception to Connecticut & Rhode Island) and the granting of Pardons, are the only decisive measures which the Commissioners are empowered to take. And that all the other Articles of the Instructions convey merely an authority to confer or treat upon propositions offered, and to transmit them to England. But he humbly submits, whether the desired accommodation would not be facilitated, if the Commissioners conferring upon the Point of Taxation, were at liberty to enter upon some explanation of the conciliatory proposition of the House of Commons; so far at least, as to intimate what Ideas of contribution they can with any hope of success transmit to His Majesty's Ministers for the consideration of Parliament.

He had the honor to mention these objections to Lord George Germain when he returned the first Draft of the Instructions; and would not

have taken the liberty to repeat them, if he had not thought them very substantial and important.

Howe

1. Germain Papers, CL.

CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD DICKSON, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Greyhound Cork Harbr 1st April 1776

I beg you will please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that I have this day got all the Ships down at Cove that are ready for Boston, and Inclose a list of the same, the *Howe* a Large Ship with Provisions for Boston the Master Promised Genl. [Robert] Cunningham and me, to be ready on thursday last, yet She now wants between 30 & 40 Casks, She is a ship of 20 Guns and 70 men on Board. there appears to me to be some neglect in the Shipping the Provisions, as She will not be ready in some days, and their Lordships Orders to me are to Proceed wth. such ships as are ready for Boston, Shall therefore immediately Sail with the 9 Sail that have taken Orders without Loss of time I am Sir [&c.]

Arch^d Dickson

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1706, Section 9, 6.

2. *Ibid.*, 9, adverse winds held Dickson in port and Howe joined his convoy on April 4.

MARQUIS DE GRIMALDI TO PRINCE MASSERANO¹

Your Excellency: It has been our experience that the captains of English warships conduct themselves strangely in some of the ports of the King. They propose to search merchant vessels of their own country within those very same ports. The Marquis de Tavalosos, Commandant-General of the Canaries, reports that Captain William Corneballes [Cornwallis], who commands the English frigate of war named *Palas* [*Pallas*], on the 11th of January last year, fired a cannon at an American called the *Honor & Helen* because she set sail flying a pennant. On the 28th of November of the same year another English frigate of war named the *Atlanta* [*Atalanta*], under Captain Thomas Underwood, having anchored in the Port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, took possession of a brigantine of her own nation and put aboard a lieutenant with soldiers from the frigate. He searched it thoroughly and took the papers and bills of lading that it carried. Later, however, on being better advised, he changed his mind. Lastly, on the 28th of December of the aforementioned year, the frigate of war *Palas* returned to and anchored in Tenerife. One of the officers was sent to board an English brigantine that had arrived from Barcelona. He searched it thoroughly, conducted a detailed inquiry, and obliged the captain of the brigantine to remain ashore in the process of which the captain was struck.

These events are truly against the honor and sovereignty of the King and have merited His Majesty's full attention. He orders me to instruct Your Excellency as his agent to inform the appropriate officials of the British Ministries of this, in order that they may warn the captains of English warships to abstain from committing similar offenses, because the Governors of the

King in those places have been instructed to maintain the honor and rights of His Majesty, although on our part they have been cautioned to use tact and courteous conduct. God grant to Your Excellency [&c.]

Madrid, 1 April 1776.

Marquis de Grimaldi

1. AHN, Estado, Legajo 4281, p. 14-15, LC Microfilm.

2 Apr.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE.¹

[Whitehall April 2, 1776]

Lord George Germain presents his Compts to Lord Howe, he is very sorry that the Alterations which were made in the Instructions have only in part Obviated the Objections made to them. Lord George is very ready to explain verbally his Ideas upon the Construction of any of the Articles, but he cannot take upon himself to make any Material Alterations in them without the previous Concurrence of the Ministers as this last Draft was settled with and approved by them in hopes that it would have been satisfactory.² Lord George Cannot understand that Rhode Island and Connecticut are so proscribed as Lord Howe imagines them to be, for if they Consented to a proper Alteration in their Charters and to acknowledge the Legislative Authority of Great Britain He Cannot see that the following words in the Instructions viz. that you do not declare those Colonies to be at our Peace until some measure is agreed to, for rendering those Governments more immediately Subject to the Authority of Great Britain; can preclude His Lordship from putting them upon the same footing with the other Provinces without sending to England for any farther Powers As to the Matter of [alter]ation, it is very proper that Ld Howe shd be acquainted with the Expectation of the Ministers and particularly of Ld North upon that subject tho' the Instructions can be only general the Idea that the Restraining Act is compulsory, Ld George believes that upon reconsidering it Lord Howe will find that the Commisioners are only Empower'd b[u]t not required in any Case to declare those Rebellious Provinces at Peace

Lord George wishes to show every mark of regard and attention to Lord Howe upon this and Every other occasion, and shall be happy to hear that he is willing to undertake being one of the Commissioners

1. Germain Papers, CL.

2. *Ibid.*, next day Howe replied to Germain: "Lord George having already honoured him with his verbal ideas upon the construction of the articles, he cannot think of breaking in again upon his Lordship's time, and deeming the matter to be of the greatest moment, is unwilling to commit his Lordship in declarations of his private sentiments."

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM, R.N.¹

Whereas we think fit that you shall serve under the command of Vice Admiral Lord Howe, who is appointed Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed and to be employed in North America, and that you shall proceed thither, in His Majesty's Ship the *Preston* whose Cap-

tain is directed to follow your Orders and to enter you, together with your Secretary Retinue and Servants on her Books from the date hereof; You are hereby required and directed, to repair forthwith to Portsmouth, and, upon the *Preston's* arrival at Spithead (where she may be daily expected) to repair on board her, and to remain with her at that place until you receive further Order; holding yourself in constant readiness for sailing when you shall receive directions for that purpose; And as soon as you shall put to Sea and get out of the British Channel, you are to hoist a Broad Pendant on board the said Ship, and to wear the same until you return to England, or 'til further Order. – Given &c. the 2d April 1776

Sandwich J. Buller Lisburne

To Capt William Hotham
in Town – By &c. Geo. Jackson D.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/100, 5-6.

New York Packet, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1776

London, April 2.

Yesterday morning four waggons laden with money was sent off from the Bank, under a proper escort, to Portsmouth, for payment of his Majesty's ships and the transports lying there bound to America.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, APRIL 2." ¹

Saturday sailed from this port for America, the *Jersey* hospital ship, of 60 guns, commanded by Capt. Halsted.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 4 to April 6, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 2." ¹

Yesterday dropped down to St. Helen's, his Majesty's ships *Romney*, Admiral Montague, and *Cygnat*, Capt. Finch; and this morning the wind being fair, they sailed for Newfoundland; but it is expected they must put back, as the wind is again come around to the S.W.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 2 to April 4, 1776.

3 Apr.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 6 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1776

Edinburgh, April 3.

On Friday last the 42d regiment of Royal Highlanders (Lord John Murray's) were reviewed by General [Adolphus] Oughton, before several Officers of distinction. We hear they are ordered to be on board the transports destined for America by the 10th instant; and the 71st regiment (Fraser's) are ordered to be on board by the 20th instant.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN GEORGE MACKENZIE, R.N.¹

You are hereby required & directed to cause one Hundred Men belonging to the *Mars* & the same number from the *Ramillies* to be discharged from them to enter on board His Majestys Ship the *Eagle* in the Hope taking them as they stand on the Ships Books either from the first or last name; And to cause Pay Lists to be made out & transmitted to the Navy Board that the aforesaid Men may be paid the Wages due to them before the *Eagle* proceeds to Spithead.

Given &c 3d April 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

To George Mackenzie Esqr Captain of his Majts Ship *Ramillies* & Commr in Chief of His Majts Ships &c in the River Medway &c By &c G J DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 7.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON¹

Sir [Admiralty Office] 3rd April 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admty having received a Paper of intelligence dated Hague March 26th 1776 of three Ships having a Quantity of Gunpowder on board which it is said are intended to be conveyed to North America, I am commanded by their Lordships to send you herewith a Copy thereof for your information. I am &ca

G Jackson DS

By the *Canceaux* 18 Apr.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 388.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, APRIL 3." ¹

The Ships in this ordinary and Sheerness, are considerably reduced by the present equipment to America. The following is a list of such as have been commissioned since the 30th of June last, viz. *Centurion*, *Isis*, and *Bristol*, of 50 guns. *Roebuck* and *Rainbow*, 44 guns. *Amazon*, *Ambuscade*, *Blonde*, *Emerald*, *Brune*, *Diamond*, *Flora*, *Repulse*, *Richmond*, and *Lark*, 32 guns. *Boreas*, *Milford*, *Syren*, *Liverpool*, and *Carysfort*, 28 guns. *Atlanta*, 16 guns; *Jersey* hospital-ship. *Strombolo*, fire ship.

The *Pembroke* of 50 guns, is under preparation to be sent to America, to be made a hulk.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 6 to April 9, 1776.

4 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Whereas Lieut: Mouat [Henry Mowat], who commands His Majts Armed Vessel the *Canceaux* and by whom you will receive this, hath represented to Us that there is at Boston a Merchant Ship called the *Britannia*

which has been surveyed by your order, in dimensions as far as he can recollect, something larger than His Majts Sloop the *Falcon* & judged capable of carrying sixteen six Pounders with Swivels; and Whereas we think fit that the said Ship shall be purchased for His Majts Service & be registered as a Sloop on the List of the Royal Navy by the name of the *Albany*; established with a Complement of 125 men, including such Commission, Warrant & Petty Officers as are allowed to Sloops bearing that number of Men; supplied with the number & nature of Guns above mentioned, and Armed, Stored & Victualled in every respect proper for a Sloop of that Class; You are hereby required and directed, so soon after the receipt hereof as possible, to purchase the said Ship upon the most advantageous terms you can for His Majesty, and to call her by the name of the *Albany* accordingly; directing the Naval Officer at Boston to pay for the purchase of her.

You are then to give Commissions to the above mentioned Lieut Mowat² to command her & to some proper person to be her Lieutenant, and also to appoint such Persons to be her Warrant Officers; as shall be fitly qualified for their respective employments; and to cause her to be manned, armed, stored & victualled in the manner abovementioned.

And whereas we shall order her Guns to be sent out in the *Canceaux* or some other Ship that will shortly sail to Boston, but intend that the Carriages for them shall be provided in America, You are to cause Carriages to be immediately prepared for the use of the said Guns accordingly, in such way as you shall judge best for His Majts Service.

You are to appoint a Lieutenant to command the *Canceaux* in the room of Mr: Mowat & to turn over as many of her men into the *Albany* as you shall see fit, in order to serve as part of her Complement; And you are to employ the said Vessels in such manner as you shall find most conducive to His Majts: Service entrusted to your Care. Given &c 4th Apl 1776

Sandwich H: Penton H. Palliser

By Command of their Lordships Geo: Jackson DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 9-11.

2. "On his [Henry Mowat] arrival [in England] he was received with the most gracious approbation of His Majesty, of the Admiralty Board & of the Secretary of State, & had the Step of Master & Commander Conferred on him, but it was to a Ship then in Boston. Captain Mowat, finding the Ship was in America & considering the time it would take him to join & to prepare her for Sea, expressed to Lord Sandwich & to Lord George Germaine a wish of being appointed to one on the Spot & his hopes that the long time he had Commanded the *Canso* [*Canceaux*] & the Services performed in her intitled him to the Promotion of a Post Ship. Lord Sandwich was pleased to observe he had every desire to give him a frigate, but none were ready for Commissioning; & if there were, it would require Months to Man her, urging at the same time the desire of Admiral Shuldham & of General Howe for his Speedy return & adding that there was no doubt on his arrival in America he would be appointed to the first vacant Post Ship on the Station, And the same encouragement was equally given by the Secretary of State. On this foundation he readily Sett out for America." *Collections and Proceedings of the Maine Historical Society*, 2nd series, II, 357-58.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN BRISBANE,
H.M.S. *Flora*, RIVER CLYDE ¹

Whereas we intend that the Ship you command shall proceed to North America with the Transport Ships which are to carry thither the two Highland Regiments under Orders to embark in the River Clyde; ² You are hereby required and directed to make enquiry for the said Ships, the Names of which will be given you by Lieut [John] Henry at Greenock who is appointed Agent to them; And, so soon as those Regiments shall be embarked (which it is hoped will be the 15th. inst) You are to take the Ships having them on board under your Convoy, And, in pursuance of the Kings pleasure signified to Us by Lord George Germain one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, in his Letter of the 1st. inst. to put to Sea with the first Opportunity of Wind and Weather & proceed with them, without a Moments loss of time, to Boston in New England; and, if upon your arrival in that Harbour you shall be informed that General Howe and Vice Admiral Shulldham with the Land and Sea Forces under their command, are removed from thence, you are to follow them with the said Transports & Troops to such place as they may be removed to, or to proceed according to such directions as may have been left, for that purpose, by the said Vice Admiral or the Commander in Chief, for the time being of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in North America; whose Orders you are to follow for your further proceedings.

Given &c. the 4th April 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton

By &c. G.J. DS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 8-9.
2. The 42nd and 71st Highlanders.

DIARY OF THOMAS MOFFAT ¹

1776 April 4th at noon left London with Captn Mowatt and George Cumberland a youth designd for Sea service: came to Portsmouth at Eleven at night, learnd that General Burgoyne had saild that morning with a fair wind. Greatly entertaind with viewing Portsmouth most kindly receivd by Dr Lind of Haslar Hospital also by Admiral Sr James Douglass.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

Public Advertiser, THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1776

London [April 4].

Captain Salmon, of the *Cleveland*, who is arrived at Milford from America, spoke with Sir Peter Parker's Fleet 35 Leagues to the Westward of Cape Finistre on the 7th ult. all well, then standing to the Southward; 18 Sail in Company; among whom was the *Clibborn*, *Thomas*, *Harcourt* &c. The *Harcourt* had carried away her Main-top-mast, and sprung the Head of her Main-mast in a violent Gale in La. 42.30. Long. 11.50.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 4." ¹

This morning sailed . . . the *Juno* frigate, Capt. [John] Dalrymple, and the *Blonde* man of war, Capt. Pownoll [Philemon Pownoll], having on board Gen. Burgoyne and Col. Phillips, with the transports; on board of which are the Brunswick troops and British train of artillery under convoy for Quebec. Also sailed the *Romney* and *Cygnets* men of war for Newfoundland; the *Samuel*, Baigrie, for Jamaica; and *Woodland*, Manners, for Quebec.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 4 to April 6, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Blonde*, CAPTAIN PHILEMON POWNOLL ¹

April 1776

Moored at Spithead

Thursday 4

at 9 AM anchor'd here the *Repulse*, at noon came on board the generals [John] Burgoyne and [William] Phillips with several other Officers going to Quebec
at 2 PM Weighed & sailed at 3 joined the *Juno* at St Helens and sailed with 28 Transports under Convoy, at 6 another Transport joined

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/118.

5 Apr.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GEORGE III ¹

Lord George Germain has the honor of acquainting your Majesty that last night at 12 o'clock, the Messenger return'd from Portsmouth. M. General Burgoyne writes word that he was at 12 o'clock at noon going on board and Expected to be under sail in Two Hours. The Naval Officers were withdrawn from the Transports, and the Ordnance Store Ships were preparing to join the rest of the fleet at St Hellen's. no Intelligence of the *Speke* Hospital Ship, or of the *Jane* Ordnance Transport. Major General [William] Philips reports that almost all the Light Artillery together with the most Essential Stores are left behind. many of the Engineers Stores likewise left behind. these particulars are reported to Lord Townshend and Sr Jeffy Amherst.

Pall Mall 8 o'clock A. M. April 5th 1776.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 350.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM A. HALSTED,
H.M. HOSPITAL SHIP *Jersey*, BLACKSTAKES ¹

You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea, with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather, in the Ship you command and proceed

in her, without a moment's loss of time, to Spithead; where you are to remain until you receive further Order.

Given &c 5th Ap. 1776

Palmerston H. Penton H. Palliser

By command of their Lordships

G. Jackson DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 13.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

No. 12

London, 5 April 1776

Admiral [John] Montagu sailed from Portsmouth yesterday with the troops from Brunswick destined for Canada. I would like to blame Lord Weymouth's false report on the possibility that he might not have known these facts; but, associating this report with one of the same nature made by Lord Sandwich who stated positively in the House of Lords on the 15th of last month that the ship *Romney* with Admiral Montagu on board would not sail for a few months yet, I find an obvious display of bad faith on the part of the English Ministers. I cannot conceive the reason which determined them to hide their plan to hasten the departure of this squadron, which was not supposed to sail until the end of June or early July, unless they flatter themselves to catch by surprise a number of American ships by arriving suddenly in these waters. If this supposition is true, the false announcement made by Lord Sandwich was perhaps a shrewdness designed to inspire the Americans with a false sense of security, although the occasion for using this small trick was hardly well chosen. What can I say of Lord Weymouth who wants to deceive me with respect to the journey of the Army even after its departure. . . .

The arrival of the first division of the Hessian troops which embarked in Bremen on the 25th of last month is expected any day. The second division will be delayed by the lack of transports of which a sufficient number could not yet be gathered.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

6 Apr.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, APRIL 4 TO SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

London, April 6.

A letter from Jamaica mentions, that several merchants of that island had made application to Admiral Gayton, for leave to fit out some privateers to cruize against the Americans; and the letter adds, so great a desire had the seamen there to enrich themselves, in hopes of taking many prizes, that a brigantine, a schooner, and two sloops, all armed vessels fitted out at Port Royal by the Admiral, were manned in less than ten days by volunteers from the merchant ships.

It is said that yesterday an express came to government from Portsmouth, with an account of the arrival there of the *King's Fisher* sloop, Capt. Montagu, from Virginia. She was sent express from Lord Dunmore.¹

1. An erroneous report. The *Kingsfisher*, Captain Alexander Graeme was "Alongside the Wharf at Halifax," from March 30 to April 28, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CORKE, APRIL 6." ¹

This day sailed from hence his Majesty's ship *Greyhound*, Capt. Dickson, with ten store ships, and victuallers under her convoy, with troops, stores, &c. for Boston. Wind N.E.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 13 to April 16, 1776.

H. KATENKAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

[Corunna] 6th April 1776

The Frigate therein mentioned, is called the *Santa Dorothea*, and is ordered to cruise between Cape Finisterre and Cape St Vincent, and as it is reported and believed that one of His Majesty's frigates is stationed there to intercept the American vessels, it is thought the Spanish Frigate is destined to observe her.

1. Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, I, 8, HU.

7 Apr. (Sunday)

ARTHUR LEE TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CADWALLADER COLDEN ¹

Dear Governor/

[London] April 7th 1776.

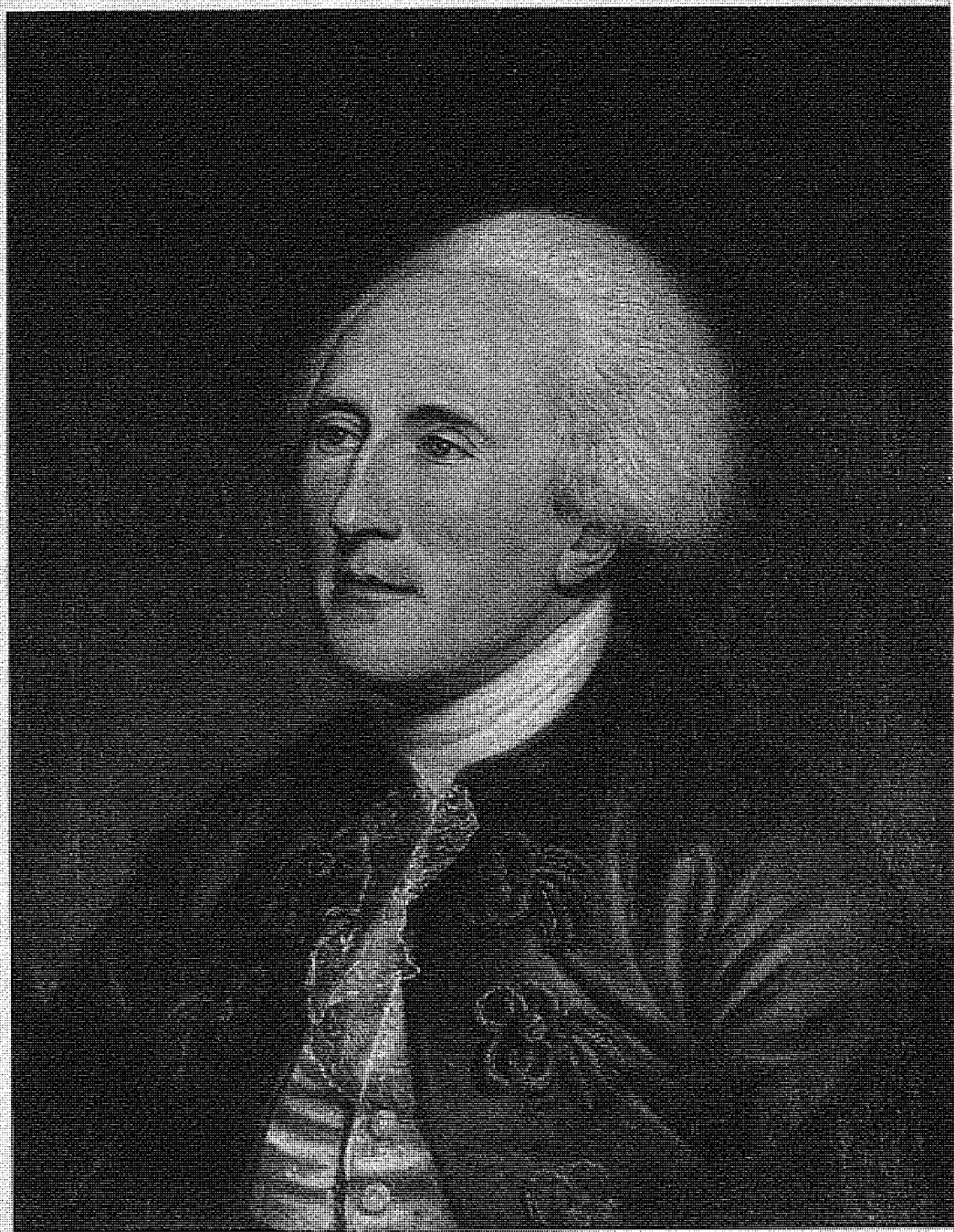
The plan against the Colonies, & the means of executing it are now settled. Ten thousand men Brunswickers & british, are to go against Canada under General Burgoyne, who is accompanyd by Col. Phillips & Capt [Edward] Foy, who were the Engineers at Minden. Two thousand 300 of the brunswic troops, & a thousand others are now embarked & saild this day from Plymouth for Quebec, with the General. Transports are not collected at Stade, & at Corke for the remainder.

Next month, the great Body of Hessians and british Troops, amounting to about Sixteen thousand will sail to re-inforce Howe. Their rendezvous is to be on long Island, where they think the Provincials will not venture, & the People are their friends. Howe is first to carry such of the provincial posts as woud annoy his embarkation, & leaving a garrison in Boston, is to land with the main Army of about 23 thousand men at New York, and begin the reduction of that province.

Sr Peter Parker, has been saild some weeks for Cape Fear River in North Carolina with three thousand men, commanded by Lord Cornwallis, who is to join General Clinton & fall upon Virginia & the Carolinas.

Lord Howe has at length agreed to command the Fleet, & will sail in about ten days in the *Eagle* line of battle Ship of 64 Guns. The whole of this Armament, however formidable in appearance, will be very inadequate

to the business if the provincials act with their usual spirit & prudence. That is, if they occupy good posts, entrench well, avoid a general Action but upon great & sure advantage, harrass the march & intercept the Convoys. All this their superior knowlege of the Country will enable them to do, so as to distress if not destroy the invading Army. The Regulars trust to their Artillery of which more has been shipt off, three times over, than went out of this Kingdom before. All this will embarrass their motions, & may, by proper precautions on the part of the provincials, be rendered ineffectual. As the Landgrave of Hesse, is a notoriously dishonest man, it is probable the troops he furnishes will be the worst he has. The british troops are mostly new raisd, & therefore in discipline will be inferior to the Americans. It is conceivd too that if proper offers are made to the Germans, they will desert in great numbers. Not one of the ships of war, has more than a third Seamen, the rest are landmen, therefore if the provincial vessels attack any of them, it will not be surprising if they succeed. Such is the terror entertaind of the service at land, that the officers of the Gaurds, now going, are cloath'd like the common men, that they may be in less danger; & it is supposd the whole Army will follow their example. Their apprehensions went so far, as to make them talk of wearing breast plates. The Provincials with proper attention, may be greatly superior in Cavalry, as there are but three british Regiments & those light, & some german. The Americans, both men & horse being accusomd to ride thro the woods will have an infinite advantage in forced marches, beating up quarters & cutting off Convoys. There are a thousand Waggons & three thousand draft Horses sent for the Artillery & Baggage, wch will cost them near £200,000 & may soon be destroyd with proper attention. The expence of this Armament you may well conceive will be enormous. 6 millions are already voted & it is computed that full 6 more will be requird. The Extraordinaries only of last year exceeded £800,000. If they do not succeed this campaign, which they will not be able to commence till July, all men agree that this Country cannot support it longer either in men or money. Every nerve is now stretchd & every resource exhausted. Lord George Germaine therefore gives it out as an encouragement, that the Americans will lay down their Arms, without a struggle, & that he has receivd the most humble offers from the Congress, but as he will not treat he sends this Armament to ensure an unconditional submission, of which he is secure. You may depend upon this language coming immediately from his lips. The Corporation of London, have voted the freedom of the City in a gold box to Dr [Richard] Price, for a pamphlet in defence of America, & petition'd the throne for a declaration of the difinitive terms intended to be granted to the Colonies. The King's Answer was, that when they laid down their Arms & submitted, he shoud think of mercy. The Colonies will see that their safety depends solely on their firmness, unanimity, & prudence. It is no longer in their option to be independent or connected with this Country as before. Independency or Slavery is the only alternative. Lord Shelburne however still gives it as his opinion, that just &



Arthur Lee.

liberal terms offered from hence for America would be accepted. But the Ministry have no such intention. That Lord, & the Earl of Chatham, are still the firm friends of America. A forged Letter in the name of the latter, approving of the measures against the Colonies, was inserted in all the Papers. But it was soon contradicted by his authority. It is supposed this was a ministerial manouvre, to dishearten the Americans; as it is in their power to send the forgery & withhold the contradiction.

The whole of this Armament may be expected by the latter end of July, as they will sail in May. If the Provincials had attack'd Halifax, it would have been a capital stroke & an easy conquest; They are now strengthening it with all assiduity. Admiral Montague is sailed to command on that station.² The french & Spanish are silent, but arming very fast; & certain intelligence is received of the former having collected a force in the East Indies that is very alarming. But, Such is the rage against America, that the Administration are determined, at every hazard, to make one desperate push. The whole Empire is put into the hazard, with the sole hope of enslaving a part, which the firmness & unanimity of the Colonies will, under God, infallibly disappoint. Farewell.
Lieutenant Governor Colden³

1. Arthur Lee Papers, VHS.

2. Admiral Montagu was sent to Newfoundland, not Halifax.

3. The Colden address was a camouflage adopted by Arthur Lee in a number of letters. The recipients were most likely his brothers, both members of the Continental Congress.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, DATED APRIL 7."¹

This morning came in here his Majesty's ships *Romney*, Admiral Montague, and the *Cygnets*, both from Portsmouth. Sailed his Majesty's ship *Preston*, for Portsmouth; also came in sight his Majesty's ship *Emerald* with the transports under her convoy from Portsmouth for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 9 to April 11, 1776.

8 Apr.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III¹

[Extract]

Your Majesty will observe from the enclosed letters from Corke that in all probability the *Carysfort* & *Pearl* are by this time Sailed with the troops for Quebec; as there were only six of the transports wanting on the 28th; past, which I doubt not arrived soon after.

The Marines returns are very satisfactory for this last week.

Admiralty April 8. 1776.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 350.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN SANDS AND OTHERS OF THE SNOW *Dickinson*¹

Copy

John Sands first Mate, George David second Mate Robert Martin Mariner of and belonging to the Snow *Dickinson* burthen about Two hun-

dred and forty Tons of and belonging to Philadelphia in North America the property of Messrs Bayard & Jackson of Philadelphia aforesaid severally make Oath and first the said John Sands speaking for himself saith that they sailed from Philadelphia aforesaid the 16h Day of February last with a Loading of Flour Wax, Staves and Spermaceti Candles bound for Nantz in France That the Captain of the same Vessel (William Meston) declared to him the said John Sands that he had received Directions from his owners not to open his orders til he had been some time at Sea and that about a fortnight after they had sailed the Captain called this Deponent into the Cabin and informed him that he had opened his orders but was astonished at their Contents this the Deponent then read the Orders under the hands (as he believes) of the said Messrs Bayard and Jackson by which is appeared that the Cargo belonged to the Continental Congress and that they were to take in the Neat proceeds thereof in Arms and Ammunition for the use of the Congress. That this Deponent then informed the Ships Crew of the nature of their Orders and they being all unanimous not to comply therewith he went with them to the Captain and informed him that he had no longer any Command aboard and that he seized the same Vessel in His Majesty's Name That the Captain from that time behaved himself merely as a Passenger and the Crew steered the Vessel for London but were obliged by contrary Winds to make the Port of Bristol where they arrived this Morning. And the said George David and Robert Martin speaking for themselves severally say as to what is herein before stated to have passed after the Ships Crew were made acquainted with their orders they do verily believe the same to be true.

John Sands

George Davis

Robert Martin

Sworn the Eighth day of april

1776 at the City of Bristol before me

Jn^o Seager Jun^r – a Master in Chancery Extraordy

In the presence of Jer: Osborne Noty Publick

[Endorsed] In Mr Jackson's (to JP) of 9th April 1776. Copy transmitted to Sir Stanier Porten in Mr Pownall's Letter of 9th April 1776.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 21d.

Bristol Journal Extraordinary, MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1776

Bristol, April 8.

This morning came up to the Key, the Snow *Dickenson*, William Meston, Master, from Philadelphia, bound to Nantz in Old France, where she was to discharge her loading, and take in a cargo of warlike stores and ammunition for the use of the Continental Army. She was taken up and fitted out by order of the Congress, and consigned to Messrs. Montandouin and Frere, merchants, in Nantz, as appears by the Captain's orders which are here-under copied verbatim.

The Mate and people on board, finding that they were to load with warlike stores for the use of the Americans, and having, as they declare, been

forced into the service, took the vessel, and instead of proceeding to France, determined to make the first British Port. They accordingly brought her into Bristol, after beating upwards of a fortnight about the mouth of the Channel; and the Mate is immediately going off for London, and will take all the letters and papers which were on board the said vessel, for the inspection of Government.

She is a very fine vessel, about 250 tons burthen, and now lies at the Quay, till the determination of Government concerning her is known.

Her cargo, which consists of 2221 barrels of flour, 260 boxes of Spermaceti Candles, 13 casks, and 1 bag Bees-wax; and 5600 barrel staves, is valued at near 6000l. and the vessel is worth upwards of 1500l. She is the first American vessel that has been brought into England since the Act passed for granting the seamen certain privileges and rewards for seizing any of the Provincial Ships, &c.

The particular articles mentioned in the owners letters to the French merchants to whom her cargo was consigned, are as follows; 1500 stands of arms, with bayonets, and steel ramrods; 15 tons of good gunpowder, or in case of not procuring the powder, to get the same quantity of saltpetre, with 15 lb. of sulphur to every hundred weight of salt-petre; and if not able to get any of those articles, to bring returns back in specie.

The following vessels sailed at the same time the *Dickenson* did, all bound for different ports in France, and on the same business; but as she is a very swift sailer, she left them soon after they put to sea; The Ship *Sally*, Rowland [Thomas Rawlins]; *Neptune*, [Robert] Collins; the *Aurora*, Checky; and three Brigs, Captain's names Montgomery, Bethel, and Martin, and many other vessels, the names of which are forgot.

About three Weeks before the *Dickenson* left Philadelphia, a French Nobleman, (who with another Gentlⁿ of the same nation had been sometime treating with Continental Congress, and had visited the Camp of the Grand Army at Cambridge, in New-England) ¹ had put his baggage on board her, and was to have went passenger to Nantz; but, as she was very deep laden, and another vessel in the same Employ arriving there in ballast, he had all his effects removed on board the last, and is supposed to be now on his passage for France. The day they came down Delaware river, a French vessel, laden with powder, ball, and small-arms, arrived there.

The above circumstances, together with the vast preparations now making by our natural enemies, seem to be a prelude to something more serious than the generality of people are aware of.

1. Pliarne and Penet.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 8." ¹

Went out of the harbour to Spithead, the *Tartar* frigate, Captain Ommanney.

Yesterday Captain Appleby took command of the *Preston*, in the room

of Captain [John] Robinson; and we hear Captain [William] Hotham is to hoist his broad pendant on board the said ship.

1. *Public Ledger*, London, April 17, 1776.

LORD GRANTHAM TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No. 12

[Madrid] 8th April 1776.

As the Act passed for prohibiting trade and intercourse with any of our rebellious Colonies, will enable His Majestys ships to take their vessels, and that the latter conforming or not with the usual forms in the several ports of Europe, will not exempt them from that risk, I have written to some of His Majesty's Consuls that they might be less anxious upon that subject, in soliciting the government here for their assistance, or making the difficulty in obtaining such assistance matter of complaint, but I have added a caution to them that they should be very vigilant, that a temporary relaxation in one case, is not construed into a precedent in others.

1. Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, I, 7, HU.

9 Apr.

GEORGE JACKSON TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 9th April 1776

The Friends of Mr William Lewis, late Purser of the *Rose*, who you superceeded by appointing Mr Hargood, Purser of her in his Room, on account of his being absent from his Duty, having represented to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the cause of such absence was his having in October last been taken Prisoner by the Rebels and therefore prayed that he may be restored to the said Pursership or appointed to another Ship; I am commanded by their Lordships to signify their direction to you to fully State Mr Lewis's Case, with your Opinion whether he merits their Lordships Favor. I am &ca

G Jackson D S

Vice Adml Graves, in Town

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 414.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN STOTT,
H.M.S. *Alarm*, SPITHEAD ¹

You are hereby required and directed to repair with His Majts Ship under your command into Hamoze, where we have ordered her to be cleaned, graved and refitted, stored for Foreign Service, and her Provisions completed to Six months of all Species except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow, and to be supplied with Wine or Spirits in lieu of the remainder.

And you are strictly to observe the following instructions.

You are to give a constant attendance at the Ship and to keep your Officers and men together during the whole time that she is in Harbour.

You are to use your utmost diligence in getting out your Guns and Powder, and, if necessary, your Stores, Provisions and Ballast or so much thereof as shall be necessary, and no more; and to leave no part thereof to be done by the Officers of the Yard.

You are to use the like diligence in getting in your Guns, Powder, Stores and Provisions, (as also your Ballast, if you found it necessary to put it out) when the ship is ready for it, and in putting her into a Condition to proceed on Service.

If you have any men who you suspect will run away, you are to apply to Vice Admiral [John] Amherst for their Security.

When the Ship is ready again in all respects for the Sea you are to proceed into Plymouth Sound and wait there for further Orders.

You are always to keep your Provisions Stores and Water compleat till you proceed to Sea.

Given &c the 9th Apl 1776

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton

By &c G: Jackson DS

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 14-15.

EXAMINATION OF JOHN SANDS, MATE OF THE SNOW *Dickinson* ¹

Admty Office 9th April 1776

Examination of John Sands.

He is Mate of the Snow *Dicki[n]son* Messrs B[a]lyard & Jackson Owners.
Cargo on board is 2,220. Bars Flour

260. Boxes Sperm: Candles

13. Casks of Wax.

5,600. Bars Staves.

The Snow sailed from the Capes on the 1t March bound for Nantz – Seven more Vessels were in Company – Names two Vizt *Hancock & Adams*, Smith Master: & *Sally*, Rawling's, Master.

The Cargo is the property of the Continental Congress.

The Master on opening his Orders found he was to load at Nantz with Arms and Ammunition; was greatly hurt at this; told his Orders & Opinion to the Mate, the Mate related the Facts to the rest of the Company, and by their concurrence he took the Command from Meeston [William Meston] the Master who at the same time delivered up all his Papers.

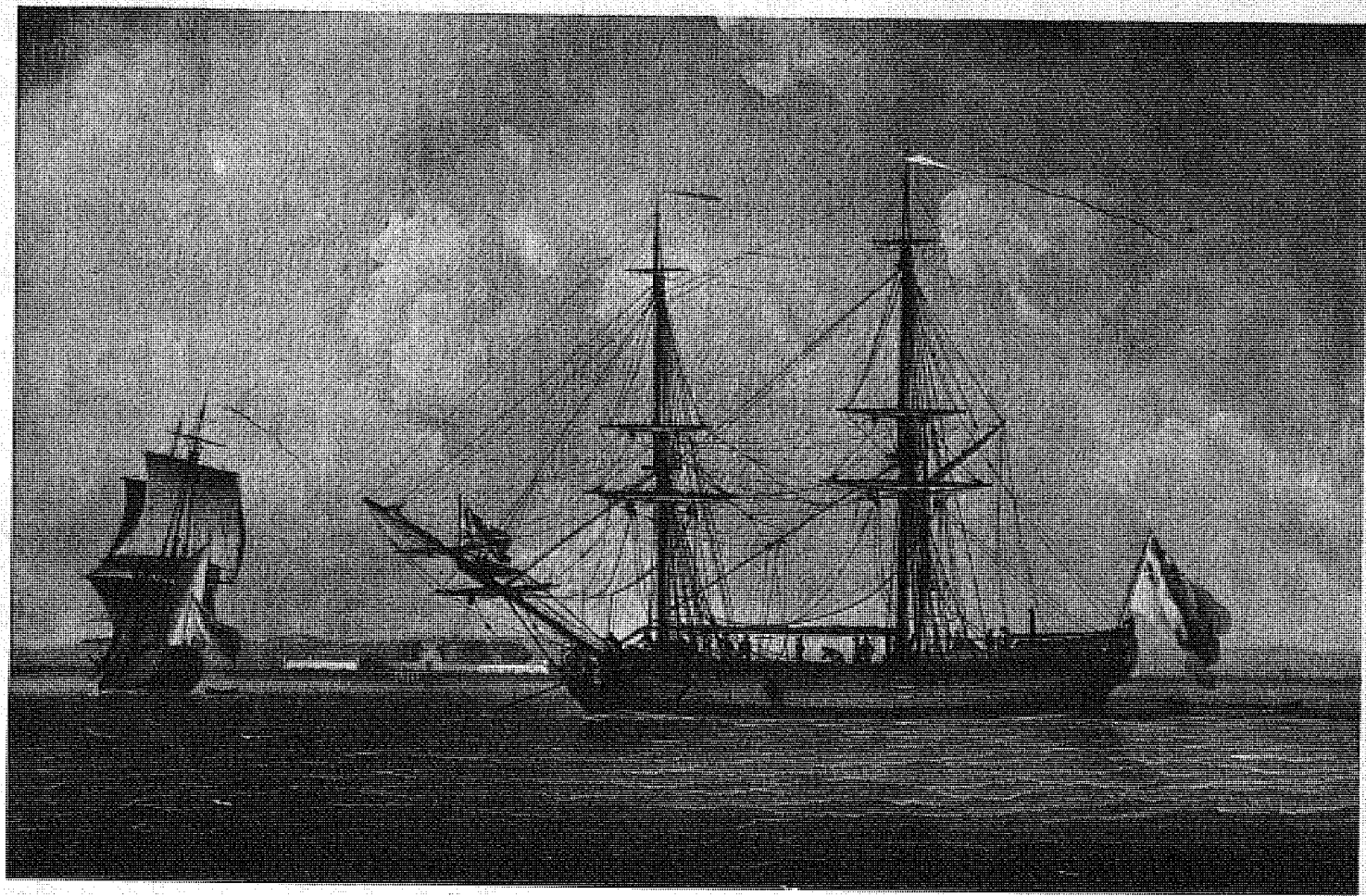
Their design was to come to London, went to Bristol owing to the Winds being fair:

The Cargo they were to take on board at Nantz was to consist of 15. Tons of good Powder

1,500. Stand of Arms

&c. &c.

The Ship on return to Philadelphia (according to Instructions) was upon appearing off Cape Delaware to hoist Jack at the Foretop Mast head, and to be answer'd from Cape May by hoisting a white Sheet.



A snow lying at anchor.

Meeston did not know his Orders till he open'd them, knew, only, that he was to proceed with his Cargo to Nantz.

Besides the Eight Vessels which sailed as aforementioned, Two more Vizt *Neptune* Collins Master; *Aurora*, Ketchy, were taking in the like sort of loading for Ports in France or Spain.

Brings Intelligence that thirteen row Gally's were at Philadelphia which had been ready for Service since Septemr last, except Men, of which they had got only from 50. to 60. in part of their Complement which is 70. Men.

That five Privateers had sailed from Philadelphia about the middle of Feby Vizt

Alford—Commr Hopkins 30. Guns & 300. Men

Columbus

Sebastian Cabot

Providence

—— Name forgot.²

That they were Victualled for six Months.

That 13 Frigates were under Orders to be built – of which four were on the Stocks at Philadelphia. The rest were to be set up at Baltimore & Rhode Island.

Men he says are much wanted & he adds that while he was at Philadelphia A French Pollacre arrived with small Arms from Martinica.

[Endorsed] Examination of John Sands. In Mr Jackson's (to JP) of 9th April 1776. Copy transmitted to Sir Stanier Porten in Mr Pownall's Letter of 9th April 1776. –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 21c.

2. *Andrew Doria*.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 6 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1776

London, April 9.

The *Friendship*, Capt. Jann, is arrived at Glasgow from Virginia in 28 days, and brought dispatches from Lord Dunmore, which arrived at Lord George Germaine's Office on Friday.

Several Scotch families are arrived at Glasgow from Virginia, in the above ship, on account of the present disturbances that now reign there, as all the Scotch houses in Virginia are destroyed by the Virginians.

10 Apr.

LORD HARCOURT TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

My Lord — Dublin Castle 10: April 1776.

By Letters received this Day from Cork dated the 7th Instant, I am informed that the Embarkation of all the Troops was compleated and the Fleet ready to sail on Friday Evening the 5th:, and that some of the Transports had moved that Night towards the Mouth of the Harbour, and the rest were following on the 6th: when five of them in getting down run on Shore, three

of which got off, but two of them, the *Successes Increase*, and the *Adamant*, could not and must remain until the next Spring Tides, The Troops on board of them with their Baggage &c: were removed on the 7th to two spare Transports in the Harbour, the *Lord North* and the *Liberty* which were under Orders of returning to England being more than were wanted for the present Service, and it was expected they would be ready to sail in a day or two. These Letters add That the *Conway* and the Victuallers for Boston sailed on the 6th and it was supposed would soon be clear of the Irish Coast, the Wind having been very fair ever since, with a Prospect of its continuing favorable.

And I herewith inclose to Your Lordship an Abstract of the Embarkation Returns, by which Your Lordship will find the exact State of the Troops when they went on board. I have, [etc.]

Harcourt. ²

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 350-51.
2. Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

GEORGE JACKSON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Admiralty Office, 10th April 1776.

Mr Jackson presents his Compliments to Mr Pownall. By a list received from Captn Dickson of the *Greyhound* from Corke of the Ships that were to proceed under his Convoy to Boston, it appears that the *Hope*, Alexander Lumsdale Master,— Mather Owner, is among the number with 1500 barrells of Powder on board, and upon Examining, Mr Jackson does not find any Licence has been granted for that Ship

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 56.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT RICHARD PICKERSGILL,
R.N. ¹

Whereas we think fit that you shall command His Majesty's Arm'd Vessel the *Lyon* at Deptford; You are hereby required and directed to take upon you the charge & command of her accordingly, her Officers and Company being hereby directly required to observe & follow your Orders; And you are carefully to observe & execute the general printed Instructions & such Orders & directions as you shall at any time receive from Us, or any other your superior Officer for His Majtys Service.

And whereas we have order'd her to be fitted and stored for foreign Service, mann'd with forty Men whose pay and qualities are mention'd on the other side hereof and victualled for eight Months with all Species of Provisions except Beer, of which she is to have as much as she can conveniently stow and to be supplied with one Months Spirits in lieu of the remainder; You are hereby further required and directed to use the utmost dispatch in getting her ready for the Sea accordingly, & then falling down to Galleons Reach and take in her Guns and Gunner's Stores at that place & proceed to the Nore for further Order.

You are to take charge of, and Indent at the several Officers for all Provisions, Stores & Ordnance receiv'd on board the said Arm'd Vessel, & to issue the same agreeable to the Rules of the Navy, and to keep regular Accounts of such Issues and pass the same, in the usual Methods. The letter to enable you to do which, as well as to keep the Books as Commanding Officer, we have allow'd you an Instrument under the Title of Clerk and Steward, and have also allow'd you a Boatswain's Mate, Gunner's Mate, & Carpenter's Mate, to assist in the several Branches of Duty to which they are adapted. Given &c. the 10th April 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller H. Palliser

To Lieut Rd Pickersgill hereby appointed to command
His Majts Arm'd Vessel the *Lyon* at Deptford

By &c. G.J. DS.

The Complement is to consist of.—

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Lieutenant to command. | at 5s P day. |
| 1. Master | } To be allow'd
6th Rate's
Pay |
| 2. Midshipmen | |
| 1. Clerk & Steward to the Commandg Officer | |
| 1. Boatswain's Mate | |
| 1. Gunner's Mate | |
| 1. Carpenter's Mate | |
| 1. Surgeon's Mate | |
| 1. Servant to the Lieutenant | |

And the remainder to be Seamen.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 20-21.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BRISTOL, APRIL 10." ¹

Capt. Meston, of the *Dickinson*, from Philadelphia (who was brought in here this week by the mate and crew who rose on him) says, that great preparations were making there for war; that five battalions of volunteers, consisting of upwards of 2000 men, had left Philadelphia to join Gen. Lee at New York, a few days before he sailed. He fully confirms the account of the French assisting the Americans with ammunition, &c. and that a French Nobleman had been some time at Philadelphia. He says that the account we had of the action at Quebec is the same they had there? and that the Congress immediately on receiving advice of the defeat of their troops, ordered a considerable reinforcement, which marched off from Philadelphia in a few days.

The following are the names of the crew on board the above vessel: John Sands, Mate; George Davis, Second Mate; Robert Martin, Andrew Mackey, William More, John Guernsey, Edward Barret, and James Allen; all of whom signed the ship articles to go to Nantz, on the 16th of January, at Philadelphia, and each man received a month's advance.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 11 to April 13, 1776.

11 Apr.

Public Ledger, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1776

London, April 11.

Advice is received from Gibraltar, that one of his Majesty's ships of war, belonging to Admiral Man's squadron, has chased five American vessels into the Bay of Cadiz. The Captain of the man of war immediately waited on the commander in chief at that port, who informed him, that if he would put to sea immediately, the Americans should not land their cargoes, but quit the place in 24 hours. The man of war left the port directly, and cruizing off the mouth of the Bay 'till the above vessels (which were forced to put to sea) came out, which they made prizes of and carried into Gibraltar.

LETTER FROM BRISTOL, APRIL 11, 1776¹

I yesterday had a long conversation with Captain Meston, the master of the *Dickenson*. The crew consisted of four Scotchmen, four Irish, and one Englishman, including the master, who is a Scotchman. Some people at Bristol suspect this last of being concerned in the villany, but I am fully persuaded he was not. He has a wife and family at Philadelphia, and cries like a child at the misfortunes that has happened to him. He thinks the river Delaware sufficiently secured, and speaks highly of the unanimity and war-like appearance of the Pennsylvanians. He confirms the death of Montgomery, and was at Philadelphia when the unfortunate news from Quebec was received. Two thousand volunteers, he says, turned out, and offered to march immediately into Canada. I asked him if they went? He believed they did; but could not say positively. The truth is, he is one of the most ignorant fellows I ever conversed with. As he did not expect to come to this country, he brought no newspapers with him.

The mate of the vessel, an Irishman, is gone up to make his merits known to Lord George Germain. He was the cause of the conspiracy, and will, of course, be graciously received. It is very doubtful whose prize she will be. The custom-house, the lieutenant of the man-of-war, and the treacherous crew, all claim her. I hope the infamous traitors may be disappointed.

When the crew brought her opposite to the wharf, in Bristol, where she was to be moored, they gave three cheers but so far were they from being answered in the same by the people on shore, who were collected in great numbers, and had heard the story from the custom-house officers, that they received nothing but curses for their treachery.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 660.

12 Apr.

LORD WEYMOUTH TO HORACE ST. PAUL¹

No 2

St James's 12th, April 1776

Sir, I inclose to you Copy of the Depositions of some Persons who have

brought a Vessell into Bristol, bound from Philadelphia to Nantz, where the Cargo was consigned, and where they were to load for the Use of the Congress with Arms and Ammunition. ² The Mate of this Vessell gives an Account of several other Ships that were going on the same Adventure, either to Nantz, or to some other Port of France, and has given a particular Description of them, which I inclose to you.

I am to signify His Majesty's Commands to you that you apply to M. de Vergennes and desire that no Warlike Stores may be permitted on board these Vessells.

You will endeavour by such Means as my be in your Power to find out what particular Ports these several Vessells shall arrive at, and renew your Application to M. de Vergennes respecting them. I am &c.

Weymouth

1. PRO, State Papers, 78/299, 9. St. Paul was chargé d'affaires in Paris.

2. The snow *Dickinson*.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 13

London, 12 April 1776

The nomination of several Commissioners having been agreed upon at the Council, Lord North had a conference with Lord Howe in which he announced to him that in spite of the confidence they had in him, they deemed necessary to give him an aide well versed in the knowledge of law and chosen from the civil service in order to negotiate with the Americans. The Admiral refused so peremptorily that Lord North had to tell him that the King deemed this measure to be appropriate. The Admiral answered that he hoped this term would no longer be used because it made it necessary for him either to accept a mission in which he ran the risk to lose his honor or to refuse to comply with the King's desire . . .

He was finally given other instructions which conformed better to his demands and by which he was the only commissioner.

Perhaps it is what Lord Germain himself wanted. You will be able to unravel this better than I can, My lord. In any case, the Admiral refused them again, adding his own observations in writing in order to show that it was impossible to negotiate successfully with the Americans if he was to follow the terms and means prescribed to him. There was some surprise at finding the Admiral so well informed of the state of affairs in America, the intentions of the Americans, and the details upon which he rested his refusal. He confessed that he had his intelligence from someone for whom he had the greatest gratitude, but whom he refused to name. . . .

I have the honor to send you an account which has just been published with regard to an American ship which had sailed for Nantes from Philadelphia with a cargo of flour, cask wood and other goods in return for which, according to this account, she was to take on arms and powder. The mate and the sailors of this ship mutinied, bound the Captain and brought the cargo to Bristol. ² According to the same relation, several other ships which

also received their cargoes in Philadelphia must have sailed at the same time for French Ports. One of the two Frenchmen who were the subject of so much talk was said to be on board one of these ships, and ill-intentioned persons are trying to show that it is a proof of our friendly relations with the Americans. Lord Germain affirms that it is an exaggeration and that this American ship was merely going to France, as many others do, in order to sell flour there and carried the instruction to bring back a cargo of saltpetre.

This incident, which is foreign to us and for which we cannot be held in any way accountable, may have unfortunate consequences for the other American ships because the seized papers have revealed the signals agreed upon for their return to Philadelphia. The mutiny of this crew, which will undoubtedly be well rewarded, is an example that will encourage the other crews on board the American Ships to do the same. Finally, I have not heard anything concerning the discovery of papers relating to any interesting correspondence.

You will see, My lord, that the 5 armed ships which sailed from Philadelphia with a secret mission are mentioned in the enclosed account. If the object of this expedition corresponds to what I have already told you, apparently it will not be long before we learn about the consequences.

[Enclosure]

Philadelphia, 26 February 1776

List of the ships fitted out by order of Congress during the month of January last, with the names of their commanding officers and their complements.

[Esek] Hopkins, Commander in Chief.

Ships	Captains	Guns	Men
<i>Alfred</i>	Tatterson [Dudley Saltonstall]	32	300
<i>Colombe</i> [<i>Columbus</i>]	[Abraham] Whipple	32	300
<i>Andrew Doria</i>	[Nicholas] Biddle	16	200
<i>Sebastien</i> [<i>Cabot</i>]	[John Burroughs] Hopkins	14	200
<i>Providence</i>	Hasard [John Hazard]	12	150

These ships sailed toward the middle of last February for a destination kept under great secret.

List of the galleys on the river Delaware with the names of their commanding officers

The *Washington* is mounted by Captain Doughty [Henry Dougherty], commander in chief: she is 104 feet in length by the keel

Galleys	Captains
<i>Dickenson</i>	Rice [John Rice]
<i>Chat[h]am</i>	Alexandre [Charles Alexander]
<i>Camden</i>	Earl [Richard Eyres]
<i>Burke</i>	Blair [James Blair]
<i>Effingham</i>	Moar [Allen Moore]
<i>Bulldog</i>	Henderson [Alexander Henderson]

<i>Franklin</i>	Boyce [Nathaniel Boyce]
<i>Congres[s]</i>	Hambelton [John Hamilton]
<i>Experience [Experiment]</i>	Thompson [Thomas Houston]
<i>Ranger</i>	Macgomery [James Montgomery]
<i>Hancock and Adams</i> ³	Moore [Thomas Moore]

and the *Guardian* ⁴ which had no captain when William Meston left.

Congress ordered that 13 frigates of 36 guns each be built with utmost haste in Maryland, Philadelphia and Rhodes island. There were 4 of them in the yards of Philadelphia at the time Captain Meston left. He ⁵ also commanded a floating train of ordnance, 105 feet in length by the keel, which must carry 18 guns of 18 pounds of shot, 300 men, and is propelled by 50 oars. Finally he ⁶ sank 50 chevaux de frise in the river in order to prevent the English ships to sail upstream.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. The *Dickinson*.

3. *Hancock*. The *Hancock and Adams* was a merchant vessel.

4. There was no *Guardian*. A galley unnamed in the above list was *Warren*.

5. Two floating batteries had been ordered to be built by the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety; one on December 28, 1775, and another later.

6. The "he" seems to have referred to the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety.

Public Advertiser, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1776

London [April 12].

Letters from Cadiz by the *Clementina*, Capt. Air, who is arrived at Dover, brings an Account that two American Vessels, of two hundred Tons each, arrived there on the 12th ult. loaded with Wheat, and other Things, the Produce of that Country, which they soon disposed of, but waited for an Order from Government to take on board Arms and Ammunition, &c. The Governor soon obtained Leave for their being supplied with what they wanted. Also, that the Captains of the above Ships have contracted for a large Quantity to be ready by the Beginning of July. The above Ships mounted each of them 32 Guns, and sailed together. The above Captains also reported, that the Philadelphia People had a large Fleet of Privateers at Sea, which carried from 20 to 36 Guns, well manned.¹

1. The information brought by Capt. Air is largely suspect as none of the vessels sent to ports on the European coast at that time bore any armament.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, APRIL 11 TO SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1776

Friday, April 12. London.

The ships going to America this Spring, are to sail in three fleets, viz. one from Corke, with three men of war, and four frigates; one from Plymouth, with two men of war and three frigates; and the other from Portsmouth, with two men of war and two frigates.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, APRIL 12." ¹

The *Camilla*, a new ship of 20 guns, to be launched here on Friday

next, is ordered to be sheathed and fitted with the greatest expedition for America.

The *Lark* and *Richmond* frigates, of 32 guns each, are taken into dock also to be sheathed and fitted for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 13 to April 16, 1776.

13 Apr.

GEORGE III TO LORD NORTH ¹

[Extract]

I wish You would without further delay see Lord G. Germain and put the finishing hand to the Commission Lord [Richard] Howe's idea of not being so tightly bound as to the change of Government in Connecticut and Rhode Island, I hope will not be consented to, as I think the alteration most material; indeed if Lord Howe would give up being a Commissioner I should think it better for himself as well as the Service.

Queens House April 13th 1776 ^m25 pt 6 P.M.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 351-52.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, APRIL 11 TO SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1776

London, April 13.

Yesterday Lord Sandwich laid before his Majesty in council, all the papers, letters, &c. brought to England on board the *Snow*, Capt. Dickenson.

14 Apr. (Sunday)

CAPTAIN JOHN BRISBANE, R.N., TO GEORGE JACKSON ¹

Sir

Flora, Greenock Road 14th April 1776

You will please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that his Majesty's Ship under my Command Anchored here this Evening, where I found their Lordships Orders of the 4th. Instant to take the Two Highland Regiments under Convoy as soon as they were Embarked, and proceed with them to Boston in New England; I have received from Lieutenant Henry the Agent for the Transports a List of the Ships, and find there are One Thousand and Two Hundred Embarked, and the remainder expected in a day or two, and as soon as they are on board, shall put their Lordships Orders in Execution, without a Moments loss of time.

I have likewise received your Letter Signifying their Lordships direction to proceed with the said Transports by the North of Ireland, as also the Private Signals, which shall be kept Secret, Inclosed is the State and Condition of the Ships. I am Sir [&c.]

J:Brigance

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1497, Section 14, 10.

15 Apr.

ARTHUR LEE TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CADWALLADER COLDEN ¹

[Extract]

Dear Sir

[London] April 15th. 1776

On the 7th ult. the Snow *Dickinson*, Capt. [William] Meston consigned to Messrs Montandouine & Frere at Nantes, was brought into Bristol by her crew & delivered up, with all her Papers. From these the Ministry are apprised of all the Ships which have been sent to the different Ports of France, & Cruisers are dispatchd into the Bay of Biscay to watch them. John Sands Mate of the *Dickinson*, had made me memorandums long before he left Philadelphia of every material transaction, which shows a premeditated plan of treachery. The proceedings of the Ministry, relative to this proof of the french interposition have not yet transpired. But France does not seem to be settled or spirited enough to enter into a war,; should England resent this business.

On the 5th of this month a fleet saild with 2000 brunswick troops & General Burgoyne, it is therefore understood they are gone to succour Quebec. Six Regiments, about 4000 effective men made up with german Recruits are now ready for sailing Orders at Cork. It is probable that they too are destined to Quebec. The first division of the Hessians are not yet arrived, so that it is not likely the whole of them will sail till the latter end of May. They are by stipulation to serve all together, & therefore will go to Boston or long Island. It is supposed the Provincials will possess the strong posts on Elizabeth River which if in the enemy's hands will give them the command of Jersey, Staten Island &c If the Provincials always have redoubts in the front & flank of their Army, it is the opinion of the ablest in the profession, that they will be better than Entrenchments or Lines, & will foil the Regulars by breaking their Line or forcing them to sacrifice a number of men, which they cannot afford.

1. Papers CC (Letters from Arthur Lee), 83, I, 17-18, NA. See footnote 3 following Lee's letter of April 7 to Governor Colden.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 13 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1776

London, April 15.

The *Dickinson* did not clear the Capes of Delaware river till the first of March. When she left Philadelphia, the Congress had received no account of the prohibitory act, nor of the hiring of foreign troops. It is said that she saw two French vessels go up Delaware river, laden with ammunition.

The *Dickinson* came into King-road on Sunday se'nnight, and was seized by the Lieutenant of the *Earl of Inchiquin* tender, now lying there.

16 Apr.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, Tuesday 16 April 1776 ²

While all England is gathered at Westminster Hall to watch the trial of the old, adulterous and bigamous Dutchess of Kinston, I am going to tell you about a rather serious conversation I had with Lord Rochford.

On Sunday, as he sent me some tickets for Westminster Hall, he asked me to his home. The conversation gradually came to life following the greetings and he said to me: – “Sir, since I am about to ask for a mark of friendship and confidence on your part, I will first give you one and let you see something which I have not shown to anyone.”

This something, M. le Comte, was a kind, amicable letter from the King of England, addressed to him and assuring him of the fondest attachment and in which this Prince requests him to accept the Vice-royalty of Ireland, which, he said, Lord North had been instructed to offer him on his behalf. The King added: I need a very reliable man in this island. In the present state of affairs it is to be feared that Ireland will follow the path of America. The only favor I ask of you is not to take your Secretary there, this infamous rascal Blaker who was in France with the Duke of Harcourt and has kept dangerous connections there. He caused the Duke [Earl] of Harcourt to be detested in Ireland, &c.&c.

“This is what the King wrote me yesterday,” Lord Rochford said. “I am sorry that he holds such feelings against Blaker of whom I am fond; but everything related to France is a worry at this time. (Therefore it is my conclusion, M. le Comte, that the English are much concerned about us.) I shall accept only on the condition that I be allowed to spend only 6 months of the year there. I am waiting for Lord North’s reply in this regard. But I must not omit to read you the last sentence in the King’s letter, M. de B***, because it concerns you only: ‘Do not forget, My lord, everything I have instructed you to do. You will report about it to be only.’

“It concerns, M. de B***, the news received from Bristol. A ship loaded by order of Congress with letters and goods for a merchant of Nantes, named Montaudoin, with the instructions to change these goods for war ammunition of all kind, was taken straight to Bristol by a Captain loyal to his King.³ The contents of these letters prove that this correspondence had started a long time ago and that it may well be taking place under the protection of your government. Our Council is particularly alarmed by this circumstance as well as that of two Frenchmen ⁴ who are secretly negotiating with Congress on behalf of your Ministers (London gives us more credit than we deserve, M. le Comte) and the said Gentlemen are said to have secret connections in London.

“Some poorly informed persons have tried to indicate that you should be suspected of this connivance. But the King is not impressed and it is with his consent that I discuss the matter with you. What do you think of all that? I know that you are here in order to be done with this D’eon; ⁵ I

want to believe you in this respect, and I have already answered for you to the King as you know"

"My lord, before I give you an answer with regard to my business," I said, "let me begin with the American ship, not that I have received any instructions from our Ministry, but on the basis of my own opinion.

"I had already heard, My lord, of the American ship's arrival in Bristol, and I would not have been more surprised, had her cargo been destined for a merchant of Amsterdam, Cadiz or Hamburg instead of a merchant of Nantes.

"The insurgents need ammunition and have no money to buy any in Europe; they must therefore take a chance and send their own goods there in order to exchange them. And all ports where ammunition can be found must be all the same to them."

"But, Sir, has France not issued orders in her ports in this respect? and do we not have the right to expect that the merchants of Nantes will be punished, as we intend to request it of your Ministers?"

"My Lord, you have allowed me to speak frankly; I will do so quite freely, especially since I have no official mission and my words will not compromise any one.

"My lord, why should you want our administration to deal severely with the people of Nantes? Are we at war with someone? In view of the peace upon which I rest my argument, are our Ports not open to all the merchants of the world?"

"Before demanding satisfaction from France, My lord, with respect to the merchants of Nantes, one should first consider the preliminary aspect of a rather strange question; and here it is.

"In the matter of a quarrel which is the private affair of England, and into which we do not enter, nor do we wish to enter, does England have the right to restrict our trade? And on the basis of what treaty must we open or close our ports to merchant vessels according to the desires of the British Nation?"

"Indeed, My lord, I can hardly believe that one should dare raise such an unbelievable question to which the answer might bring consequences that England should not provoke in her best interest! Especially when the neutrality in which the King of France confines himself establishes firmly his honorable principles; although our domestic difficulties are an open invitation for France to take advantage of this opportunity and recover everything which the English plundered from us during the last war!"

"But, Sir, the Americans are rebels and our declared enemy."

"My lord, they are not ours."

"Must France support them when we are at peace with her?"

"Support them! Why, My lord, you could say that only if we kept you from chasing all the Insurgent vessels on the high seas on pretext they were loaded with goods for our ports or from our ports. What stops you from taking measures against them? Cruise in all seas, seize them everywhere except under the guns of our ports however; this is not our concern. But to

require that we harass our merchants because they have trade relations with people with whom we are at peace, whether we consider them as your subjects or as a now free people against whom you are fighting, but whom your Ministry does not even dare to prosecute in front of your nation, indeed, that is too much! I do not know what our administration would think of such a request; as far as I am concerned, I would regard it as being far more than out of place."

"I can see that, Sir, because you are red with anger."

(As a matter of fact, M. le Comte, I was all fired up; and if you do not approve my display of passion, I will answer, while begging your pardon, that I was not expressing your opinion but my own.)

"My lord," I added gently and modestly, "you are an Englishman and a patriot; you will not take exception to my being a good Frenchman who is proud for his country."

"And for this reason, I do not take offense, Sir. But you will agree at least that your Ministry cannot but take measures against Frenchmen who go and negotiate with Congress in the name of your Government."

"I do not believe any part of this rumor, My lord. Some Frenchman may have negotiated on his own for private assistance such as merchants may supply by way of trade. Undoubtedly this is the case of the ship now in Bristol which was going to trade with the firm of Montaudoin in Nantes. However if you could find out the names of these so-called agents and obtain the smallest proof to the effect that they claimed to be agents of the government, I feel so sure of the position held by our Ministry in this matter, or even the King, that I would not go too far as I assure you that they would be disowned and even punished, provided they can be arrested."

(You see, M. le Comte, I can play a straight game, as they say, and those who will be caught in it, in London or elsewhere had better beware.

This statement reconciled me with the Lord.)...

"And now, My lord, I must pay you a sincere compliment with regard to the part of the King's letter which concerns you; and if you accept the Vice-royalty, I hope that you will recall your old friendship for M. Duflos, whom I recommend to you again. I hope that you will entrust him in Ireland with the details of all your household as you did in France. This he promised to me."

(This Duflos, M. le Comte, is a Frenchman whom I had once given to Lord Rochford, and who is completely devoted to me. He will always send you reliable intelligence from the very heart of the Vice-royalty. I am a little like Figaro, M. le Comte, a little noise does not make me lose my head.)

I must see the Lord again when he will have reported our conversation to the King. All I know is that tomorrow there will be a serious meeting of the Council at St. James on the subject of the ship which arrived in Bristol. But the King of England is warned now. I hope I said enough so that you will not receive any dishonest proposition in this matter.

I must not forget to tell you that the Dutch Merchants have threatened to bring the Ministry before the grand jury of the English Nation in the

matter of the three Dutch ships bound for America and which were seized and taken to Deal and Dover. Moreover, I know that the Ministry fears that the grand jury will rule in favor of the Dutch in this matter and that this would cause a more complex problem (of course, you understand that our friend [John] Wilkes is behind this Jesuitic detour). As I was saying, the Ministry has secretly agreed to pay secretly for the whole cargo of ammunition which these ships were carrying to America. It was also agreed that if others were captured, the ammunition would be kept in England but that the Dutch merchants would be faithfully paid; for in matters of trial they do not want to quarrel with our friend Wilkes (a word to the wise, M. le Comte). I have this from the best source, not my Lord, as you can imagine.

(Again, a word to the wise) One of the tricks employed by the Dutch Captains is to get two commissions: a patent one and a secret one. They use one or the other as need arises. . . .

The Americans presently have 12 ships of 22 to 44 guns, 12 of 15 to 20 guns, and more than 30 of 12 guns; this gives them an active navy almost as respectable as that of the English. Furthermore, the only vessel the English have captured from the Insurgents in the last 2 and a half months is the one that came into Bristol. This certainly deserves notice!

The Royal Guards whose orders had been countermanded had been waiting to embark for a month. New secret dispatches brought by a ship that lies hidden in an Irish port ordered them to embark immediately. They started yesterday and will be done tomorrow. And my bag is empty for today, M. le Comte.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy. See also Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1322.
2. See Beaumarchais to Vergennes, April 19.
3. The *Dickinson*.
4. Penet & Pliarne.
5. Eon de Beaumont (1728-1810), commonly called the Chevalier D'Eon, a French adventurer, who had undertaken numerous missions under Louis XV, and who possessed papers which Beaumarchais was purported to have come to England to secure. Through most of his life the Chevalier masqueraded as a woman.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 13 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1776

London, April 16.

Advice is received from Antigua, that his Majesty's sloop of war the *Lynx*, of ten guns, had taken up at sea, and brought into that port the ship *Ranger*, Matthew Walters, Commander, belonging to Philadelphia, in great distress, having met with bad weather and contrary winds, wherein she lost all her masts, had several of her hands washed overboard, and her boats staved to pieces. She came from Cape Nichola Mole, had been out 40 days, was laden with powder, ball, &c. and when she sailed left six American vessels at that place, which were blocked up by the *Ferret* sloop of war, from Jamaica, which was cruising off there.

Last Friday sailed from Plymouth his Majesty's ships *Romney* and *Cygnet*, for Newfoundland.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GRENNOCK, APRIL 16." ¹

On Friday last the 42d regiment, or Royal Highlanders, came down from Glasgow to this place and Port Glasgow. They embarked on Saturday on board the transports.

Sunday the *Flora* frigate of 36 guns, arrived at the Tail of the Bank, which is to take the transports under convoy.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 23 to April 25, 1776.

H. KATENKAMP TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

[Corunna] 16th April 1776.

The order for searching ships suspected of having warlike stores on board, would perhaps, never have been observed at this place, had I not applied for it; none have been examined, but at my earnest solicitation, hence, I humbly conceive there is at present no reason to fear its being made a precedent hereafter, in the case of other vessels. I never applied to have any of our own ships examined, having opportunities of knowing their cargoes without it; but now that I am honored with Your Lordships commands, ² I shall make no application for searching even vessels of other nations, unless I have very good reasons to believe that arms and ammunition are actually on board.

I am credibly informed that the *Polly*, Captain Abijah Boden after putting out to sea and returning to Santander a few days after, on pretence of bad weather, is at length departed from thence for Salem, with a large quantity of gunpowder. ³

1. Sparks Transcripts, Lord Grantham, HU.

2. See Lord Weymouth to H. Katenkamp, March 22, 1776.

3. As Boden, in November 1776, commanded the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Rover*, it can be assumed that he and his cargo of powder reached Salem in safety.

17 Apr.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admty Office 17th April 1776.

Having this day received from Capt. [Robert P.] Cooper, Commander of His Majesty's Sloop the *Hawke*, (which sailed from England on the 26th of November last, with the Dispatches mentioned in the annexed Schedule from Lord George Germain to the Governors of the Southern Provinces of North America) a Letter dated at Barbadoes the 10th Febr'y last, giving an Account of his Arrival there the Day before, having met with a Hurricane on the 22d of the Month preceding, which had made it immediately necessary for him to cut away some of his Masts, and to throw his Guns overboard, and that he was preparing to sail for English Harbour in Antigua, where he hoped in a short time to be put in a Condition to proceed agreeable to the Orders he was under; I am commanded by my Lords Commissrs of the Admiralty to acquaint you therewith, for the Information of Lord George Germain. I am &c

Philip Stephens

Schedule of Pacquets in the preceding Letter; Vizt

2 for Jos[iah] Martin Esqr	Governor of No Carolina
2 for Lord Wm Campbell	Do So Carolina
3 for Sir James Wright Bart	Do Georgia
3 for Patrick Tonyn,	Do East Florida

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 57.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN JOHN STOTT,
H.M.S. *Alarm*, PLYMOUTH ¹

Having order'd the Complement of the Ship you command to be increas'd to Two Hundred Men; You are hereby required & directed to enter as many more Men as may be sufficient for that purpose, and to bear such increas'd Complement until you receive further Order. Given &c. the 17th April 1776. —

Sandwich C. Spencer H. Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 33–34.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, APRIL 16 TO THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1776

London, April 17.

When the *Friendship*, Capt. Jann, lately arrived at Glasgow, sailed from Norfolk, Lord Dunmore ordered one of the ships of war lying there to convoy her until she should be out of any danger of being taken by the Provincial privateers, which swarm on the coast. They had not long proceeded on their voyage, when they fell in with a Dutch vessel, laden with military stores for the Provincials, which the convoy immediately took and returned with to Norfolk.

The *Flora* frigate is sailed to Scotland, to take under convoy the 42d and 71st regiments for America.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1776

London [April 17].

An Admiralty Court is appointed in Virginia, by authority of the Congress, and John Blair, Edmund Randolph, Esqrs. and another gentleman, are appointed Judges of it. They have condemned several English vessels which have been taken by the American privateers, as lawful prizes. This shews the Americans are proceeding to the establishment of a government.

HORACE ST. PAUL TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No 4./

Paris April 17. 1776

My Lord, When I communicated to M. de Vergennes Yesterday, the Contents of Your Lordship's Letter No 2. and gave him an Account of the American Ship carried into Bristol, observing, that several other Vessels

from the Congress. were sailed from that Continent to different Ports in France to take in Military Stores, he appeared a little disconcerted, But said that Strict Orders had already been given to prevent the embarkation of Powder. & arms for America – that they should be immediately renewed & that he would lose no time in speaking to M. de Sartine about it: He took Notice that in the Information of the Captain of the *Dickinson* it was not said to whom the Cargo was consigned at Nantz, & when I mentioned that a French Agent from Philadelphia was embarked for France to procure Arms & Ammunition for 8 Ships, he said, Nous verrons venir ce Monsieur, je serai bien aise de voir leur Ambassadeur, and requested me to endeavour to find out his name, adding that he would be bien [mené] when he arrived in France. He then observed, that they had a great many Idle Adventurers in all parts of the world, & that this was certainly one of them. You know he said the nature of Commercan[t]s & that it is impossible in a great Country to prevent things of this kind happening when money is to be got, But added that he would certainly do every thing in his power, & that Strict orders should again be sent to all the Intendants of the Sea Ports.

I proposed a total Prohibition of Powder & Arms, without a permit from Government, which I represented only as an inconvenience to Commerce for a short time, but he said that that was impossible & that no body would take the Government Contracts unless they had leave to export their Surplus, But he assured me that he would take every Step to prevent any being sent to America.

I shall make it my Business to find out, to what particular Ports the American Vessels arrive, & shall not fail to give Your Lordship every Intelligence I can obtain in regard to them & to every other essential Object.

[Endorsed] Paris 17 April 1776 Mr StPaul (No4) R 21st by an Express from Dover

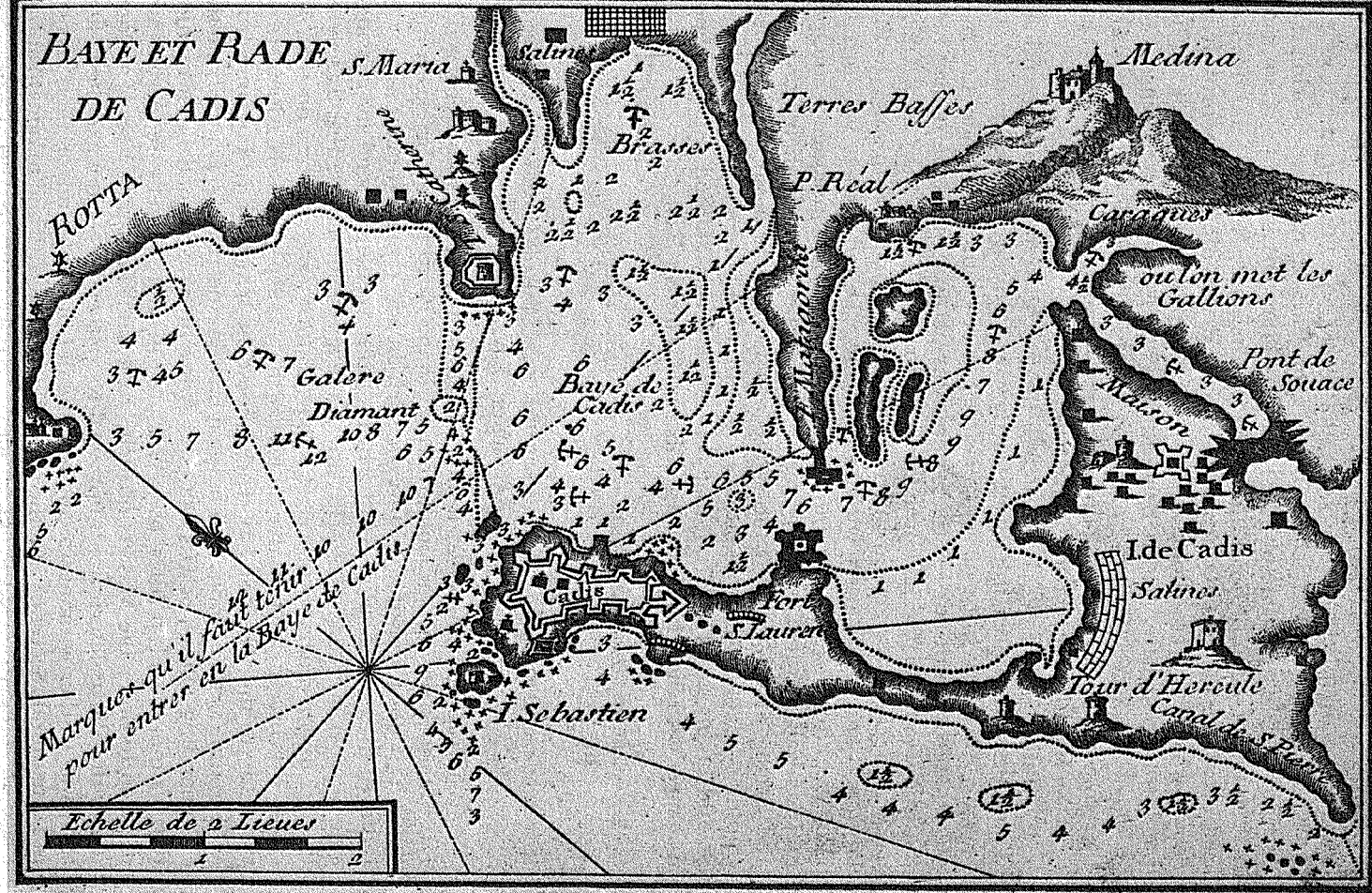
1. PRO, State Papers, 78/299. See also Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1324.

CAPTAIN THOMAS RICH, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

His Majesty's Ship *Enterprise*
off Cadiz 17th. April 1776.

Sir Having received directions from Vice Adml [Robert] Man to Cruize between Cape St. Maries and Cape Spartiel, for the Purpose of Intercepting any American Vessels bound into or out of Cadiz, or the Straights. And while on this Service being Informed by a Ship I spoke with that Several Sail of Men of War, of the line were Fitting out at Cadiz. And also that an American Brigg mounting Several Carriage Guns, was taking in Powder &ca. for America, I wrote to the Consul at said port Confirming [*sic* confining] my Enquiries Chiefly to the American Brigg in case of my letters being intercepted. And received from Consul Hardy an Account that the Story of the Brigg, was without Foundation, but a Spanish Squadron Consisting of Six Sail of the line two Frigates & Three Chavequins is fitting out there to be Command'd by Rear Admiral Bn: Moguel Gatson, who had hoisted his

BAYE ET RADE *s. Maria*
DE CADIS *de*



Flag in the Velasco of Seventy Guns, but that he was not Able to find out their Destination this Letter was dated from Cadiz 9th Instant.

Since this I received Secret Orders from Vice Adml. Man, bearing date 16th. March directing me to take the Navy Transport under the Command of Lieutenant Egan of the *Medway*, to my Assistance, and to send her into Cadiz with Letters to the Consul, which wou'd give him an Opportunity of Seeing what they were about, as the Adml. was informed 13 Sail of the line was Fitting out there, And if I should gain any Material Intelligence I was to Open my Seal'd Orders from Vice Adml Man; And proceed agreeable thereto Sending back the Sloop under the Command of Lieutenant Egan with the Intelligence he had pick[ed] up.

On the 13 Instant I dispatch'd Lieutt Egan in the aforementioned Transport with Letters to Consul Hardy, who rejoin'd me this day, with the Consuls Answer, a Copy of which, as well as of Lieutenant Egans Letter to me I herewith transmit for their Lordships perusal and hope it may meet the Conveyance of the *Alborough* from Gibraltar, if not the Naval Officer has my directions for Forwarding it by the first Merchant Ship going to England And any I may meet with in my Cruize bound thither will bring a Duplicate, for tho' I do not think the information of Consequence to Open the Admirals private Orders yet very Proper to be known to their Lordships, and having also consider'd the Noise and Confusion, a ship would make coming to England Express, at this Juncture of Affairs in America (If such Should be my Seald Orders) that this is the better Method, which I hope may meet with their Lordships approbation. I am Sir [&c.]

Thomas Rich

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2389, Section 7, 18.

18 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO THE NAVAL COMMANDER IN THE
ST. LAWRENCE RIVER ¹

Whereas from the great number of Transport Vessels now engaged in His Majesty's Service and employed in distant Parts, it may be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to procure such an additional Number as may be required in case it should hereafter be thought necessary to send any considerable number of Troops to North America in addition to those already serving in, and under orders to proceed to that Country; and whereas on that Account, it is become highly adviseable that the Transport Vessels, which are on their way to the River St Lawrence, should be sent back to England, from time to time as the Troops they have on board respectively are landed and the Commanding Officer of His Majestys Army in Canada shall be of opinion they cannot be of further use; You are therefore hereby requested and directed to order the Masters of such of the said Transport Vessels as come under the above description to proceed to Spithead, and to make the best of their way thither without waiting to come in Company, and, on their arrival, to acquaint our Secretary and the Navy Board therewith and to remain at that Place until they receive further Orders. Given &c the 18 April 1776.

To The Senior Captain of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels for the time being in the River St Lawrence

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

By &c. P:S: By the *Tartar*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 36-37.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO
VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Whereas we think fit that His Majestys Ship the *Fowey* shall proceed forthwith to Newfoundland to serve under the command of Vice Admiral [John] Montagu Commander in Chief of His Majestys Ships and Vessels upon that Station You are hereby required and directed to order her Commander to proceed thither accordingly, without a moments loss of time; and putting himself under the command of the said Vice Admiral, to follow his orders for his further proceedings.

And whereas you will receive herewith a Packet for the Commander of the said Ship inclosing a Copy of the Signals to be observed by the Ships upon the above Station, you are to cause it to be delivered to him with the orders you shall give him in consequence hereof. Given &c the 18t April 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

By &c P:S: By the *Canceaux*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 35-36.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 18th April 1776

Inclosed you will please to receive a Duplicate of a Letter of the 29th of Last Month wherein you are informed of every thing which at that time occur'd to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty necessary for your information, in addition to what were contained in other Letters & Orders forwarded by the same conveyance

In the aforesaid Letter mention is made of the *Ranger* being appointed to convoy the Stragglers from Sir Peter Parkers Fleet; I am now to acquaint you that the said sloop sailed from Plymouth, on the 28th of Last month, with the ships mentioned in the inclosed List marked A and that by Letters from Captn Dickson of the *Greyhound*, also mentioned in the aforesaid Letter, My Lords are informed she sail'd from Cork, on the 5th inst. having a Convoy consisting of four Ordnance Storeships, five Army Victuallers and the *Levant* with provisions for the use of the Seamen in the Fleet under your command, the Names of which are mentioned in the List B. This Last Ship was originally meant to have accompanied the Ships which sailed with Sir Peter Parker, but not arriving at Cork in time, and from other circumstances, their Lordships have found it most adviseable to send her to Boston, and they leave it to your discretion to send her or any other Victualler to join Sir Peter as you shall see fit, observing that from this deviation of the Orders to the Servant, the Ships under his command have no other supplies than the provisions each ship carried from England.

In addition to the Ships & Troops which you have been acquainted had sailed for the relief of Quebec; there have also sailed for the same place two convoy's One from Plymouth on the 7th inst consisting of the *Juno* & *Blonde* with Transports carrying a Body of Brunswick & Hanau Troops whose numbers are about 3,000 Men, and the 21st Regiment; & they likewise give Convoy to several Ordnance Storeships, the Names of all which Transports and Storeships, are in the List C. The other Convoy sail'd from Cork on the 8th instt & consists of the *Carysfort* & *Pearl* with Transports having on board seven Battalions of British Troops whose names are in the List D.

Some other Vessels which were intended, to have joined the Convoy from Plymouth, but could not be got ready in time, are now collecting & so soon as they are all at Plymouth will proceed to Quebec under Convoy of the *Tartar*, their Names you will find in the List E.

The Captains of the *Carysfort* & *Pearl*, *Juno* and *Blonde* have the same Orders as were given to the Captains of the *Isis* & *Triton*, which are to remain at Quebec til' they receive directions from you, & then to follow such Orders as you may think fit to give them for their further Proceedings: The *Tartar* will proceed under the like Orders.

There are two Highland Regiments consisting of 3,500 Men under Orders to be embark'd in the River Clyde & to join the Army under the Command of General Howe; The Transports appointed to carry them are now in the Clyde, ready to take Troops on board, and the *Flora* in on the Way thither to take them under Convoy, and proceed to join General Howe's Army accordingly; and having so done her Captain is directed to put himself under your Command.

Since the appointment of Lord Viscount [Richard] Howe to the Chief Command of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in North America, My Lords have thought it necessary to Order Capt'n [William] Hotham to proceed thither in the *Preston*, with a distinguishing Pendant & with a Capt'n. under him; And I am to inform you the *Eagle* in which Lord Howe will hoist his Flag as well as the *Preston* are now at Spithead & ready to put to Sea, But those ships with *Emerald Brune* & *Republic*, the *Jersey* Hospital Ship, *Strombolo* Fireship & *Carcass Bomb* are all unavoidably detained at Spithead waiting the arrival (which however is daily expected) of a body of about 9,100 Hessian Troops; but so soon as that happens, and the arrangement which always attends upon so great a number of Troops are made, they will sail with the Transports having the said Troops on board, together with those appointed to carry a Party of His Majestys Foot Guards somewhat exceeding 1,000 Men.

There will go under this last mentioned Convoy the several Navy Victualler's named in the Margin, (except the *Alborough* whose destination in [is] changed from Boston to Quebec) loaded with four months Provisions for 10,000 Seamen, the particulars of which will be transmitted to you by the Commissrs of the victualling, there will sail at the same time a Storeship with all kinds of Naval Stores to replenish the Magazines at Halifax, but she

will be ordered to call first at Boston to give opportunity for any part of the Cargo to be taken out that may be wanted for ships which may be there at the time, & in this you will please to govern yourself as you shall see fit.

There is in a Naval Storeship which sailed with Sir Peter Parker a Compleat Set of careening Geer; Another is put on board the Storeship aforementioned; And a third Set with a further assortment of Stores is providing & will be sent as soon as possible to be made use of at such Ports or Places as the same may be found applicable to.

Besides the provisions now sending out for the Fleet which are calculated to serve to the 4th of December next, a further supply for 4. Months for 13,000 Men is collecting, which their Lordships expect may sail in about Six Week; & by the end of August the like supply will be ready, which when arrived it is computed will serve to the beginning of August, 1777. And in the Orders for furnishing these Supplies, the Commissrs of the Victualling are directed to provide & send sufficient Quantities of Candles for the time, and for the Number of Men last mentioned.

My Lords have frequent accounts of the assiduity of the Rebels in sending out Vessels with Trade to foreign Parts to barter for Arms and Ammunition, which make their Lordships extremely solicitous it may be watched, and prevented as far as possible; and of which they have great hopes from the Number of Ships and small vessels employ'd under your Command, & the Orders given to the same purpose to the Admiral's commanding at Jamaica, Leeward Islands & in the Mediterranean, their Lordships cannot doubt of your vigilance, as you, and every other Officer in His Majesty's Service, must be sensible the putting a Stop to this intercourse is of the first importance, & cannot fail of producing the most desirable Effects. By a Vessel which came from Philadelphia with Flour &c for Nantz, where Arms & Ammunition were to be taken in exchange, but which was seized on the Passage by the Mate & Seamen & is now brought into Bristol, their Lordships have learnt several particulars proper for your Information, & the same are therefore transmitted for that purpose in a printed Paper accompanying this, which is found to correspond with the whole of what the Mate gave in upon examination in their presence; the Ship & Cargo are order'd to be proceeded against in the High Court of Admiralty, and in case of being condemned there, it is apprehended the Court will order a Considerable part, or perhaps the whole of the Value to be given to the Mate & Seamen as a Reward for their Loyalty in seizing the Vessel aforementioned, and which it is their Lordships directions you make known as fully as you have opportunities of doing in hopes it may prove an Encouragement to others to do the same Justice to their Country as has been done by those Men I am &c

P: S:

By the *Canceaux* 19 April

A Duplicate sent 26th April with all its Inclosures, by Commodore Hotham
A Copy also given to Lord Howe.

[Enclosure]

- A. A List of Ships & Vessels which sailed under Convoy of the *Ranger* Sloop from Plymouth.

<i>Thunder</i>	
<i>Thunder</i>	Bomb Vessels Tender
<i>Nancy</i>	Ordnance Storeship
<i>Content</i>	Transport
<i>Neva</i>	Do
<i>Adml Shuldham</i>	Do
<i>Adventure</i>	A Treasury Victualler.

- B. A List of Ships which sailed under Convoy of the *Greyhound*.

<i>Elizabeth</i>	}	Ordnance storeships
<i>Russian Merchant</i>		
<i>Charming Sally</i>		
<i>Hope</i>		
<i>Waters</i>	}	Army Victuallers
<i>Mars</i>		
<i>Sally</i>		
<i>Bell</i>		
<i>Howe</i>		
<i>Levant</i>		with Provisions.

- C. A List of Ships which sailed under Convoy of the *Juno & Blonde*.

<i>Pallas</i>	}	<i>Devonshire</i>	}	Ordnance Storeships
<i>Royal Britain</i>		<i>Fleetwood</i>		
<i>Lawrie</i>		<i>Charming Nancy</i>		
<i>Harmony</i>		<i>Helen</i>		
<i>James & John</i>		<i>Woodland</i>		
<i>Providence</i>		<i>Friendship</i>		
<i>Nancy</i>		<i>Hopewell</i>		
<i>Elizabeth</i>		<i>Prince George</i>		
<i>Martha</i>				
<i>Peggy</i>		}	Transports	
<i>Apollo</i>				
<i>Polly</i>				
<i>Prince of Wales</i>				
<i>Minerva</i>				
<i>Lord Sandwich</i>				
<i>Union</i>				
<i>Content</i>				
<i>Margaret & Martha</i>				
<i>Three Sisters</i>				
<i>Stag</i>				

D. A List of Ships which sailed under Convoy of the *Carysfort & Pearl*.

<i>Lucretia</i>	<i>Monimia</i>
<i>Rosseau</i>	<i>Myrtle</i>
<i>Fidelity</i>	<i>London</i>
<i>Caesar</i>	<i>Christie</i>
<i>Brittania</i> (1st)	<i>Charming Sally</i>
<i>Kitty</i>	<i>Grace</i>
<i>Britania</i> (2d)	<i>Amity's Succession</i>
<i>Favorite</i> (1st)	<i>Success's Increase</i>
<i>Henry</i>	<i>Garland</i>
<i>Adamant</i>	<i>Lively</i>
<i>Woodcock</i>	<i>Friendship</i>
<i>Sisters</i>	<i>Elizabeth</i>
<i>Ostenbotten</i>	<i>Kent</i>
<i>Speedwell</i>	<i>Providence</i>
<i>Favorite.</i> (2d)	<i>Patty</i>
<i>Gale.</i>	<i>Sarah</i>
<i>Champion</i>	<i>King George</i>
<i>John</i>	
<i>Lilly</i> (1st)	
<i>Mermaid</i>	
<i>Rainbow</i>	
<i>Hunter</i>	
<i>Thetis</i>	
<i>Lilly</i> (2d)	

E. A List of Ships which are to sail under the Convoy of the *Tartar*

<i>Speke</i>	Hospital Ship
<i>Elizabeth</i>	Treasury Victualler
<i>Albrough</i>	Navy Do
<i>Henry</i> }	With Stores for Sloops
<i>Boreas</i> }	& Batteaux in Canada
<i>Sally</i>	} Ordnance Storeships
* <i>Union's Success</i>	

*Did not arrive in time

See order & Ltr & answer 13 & 14 May

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 457-65.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT,
H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Canceaux*, SPITHEAD¹

Whereas you will receive herewith a Packet for Vice Admiral Shuldhham Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America; You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea, with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather, in the vessel you command, and make the best of your way with the said Packet to Boston in New England; where you



Admiralty.

are to deliver it to him, and then, putting yourself under his Command, follow his Orders for your further proceedings.

In case upon your arrival at Boston you shall not find the abovementioned Vice Admiral there, you are to proceed in quest of him to such other part of the Coast as you shall learn he is gone to; and, upon joining him, to act as above directed.

Given &c the 18th April 1776.

Sandwich J: Buller Palmerston

By &c P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 34.

"A LETTER FROM THE MATE OF THE SHIP *Dickenson*, LATELY BROUGHT INTO BRISTOL." ¹

As the news-papers in general have given accounts very different from the truth, of a transaction in which I have had a principal, and I trust a laudable part; I beg you will, in order to prevent any future misrepresentations of this affair, assure the Public, that the *Dickenson*, of which I was mate, sailed from Philadelphia for Nantz, and that she arrived in a distant latitude before the Captain was at liberty to open his instructions.

After he had read them, he informed me, that he was directed by the Congress to proceed to Nantz, and there to take in gunpowder and military stores for the use of their forces. The information alarmed me; but as it would have been imprudent, if not dangerous, in an individual, to have declared his objections to the service without sufficient support, I concealed my sentiments till I made myself acquainted with those of my shipmates; and finding them as averse to the cause of the rebels as myself, I immediately went down to the cabin, and acquainted the Captain that we had determined to proceed to England; and as he was no longer commander of the ship, he must deliver up his keys and papers. He readily complied; and to do him strict justice, he considered himself merely as a passenger, and behaved extremely well. Indeed, the unanimity which prevailed among us, prevented any opposition on his part; and this was so manifest, that it would have been madness or folly in the extreme to have contended against us.

This, Sir, I assure you, is the exact truth of the whole transaction, notwithstanding what has been asserted to the contrary.

I was ignorant of the destination of our ship, till our arrival in a particular latitude. The duty which I owe to my King and to my country would not, and I hope never will, suffer me to engage in so wicked a business; and under the influence of the same principle, I also thought it incumbent on me to prevent, as far as I was able, others from entering into it.

At all events, I have acted agreeably to my conscience; and it affords me infinite satisfaction, that I have had it in my power to shew my attachment to my native country, by setting an example of loyalty, in company with my

ship-mates, that may perhaps deter the Congress from pursuing this method of obtaining guns and ammunition for the future.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

John Sands.

Thursday morning, 18th April

1. *London Chronicle*, April 18 to April 20, 1776.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, APRIL 16 TO THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1776

London, April 18.

Letters from Cadiz, by the *Myrtilla*, Calon, arrived at Falmouth, bring advice that three American vessels were put in there, loaded with the produce of their country, which the Spaniards took off their hands, and paid them in dollars.

The *Atlantic* and *Weazel* sloops of war have taken two American vessels trading on the coast of Africa, and carried them into Sierraleone.

19 Apr.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO WILLIAM EDEN ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 19th April. 1776

My Lords Commissrs of the Admty having received a Letter from Lieut Walton of the *Wells* Cutter dated 16th inst at Newport [Nieuwpoort] relative to the Brigg *Charming Peggy*, Gustas Cunningham [Gustavus Conyngham] Master, which has been seized in that Port, I am commanded by their Lordships to send you inclosed a Copy thereof for Lord Suffolks information, And am &c

P S.

Wm Eden Esqr Secretary to the Earl of Suffolk.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 466.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM, BOSTON ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 19th April. 1776.

The West India Merchants have applied to my Lords Commissrs of the Admty for the protection of their Homeward bound Trade, and their Lordships having sent directions to Vice Adml Gayton Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels at Jamaica, to appoint Convoy to see the trade from eighty to one hundred Leagues Clear of that Island, to Vice Adml Young Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels at Barbadoes & the Leeward Islands, to appoint Convoy to see it, from eighty to one hundred & Twenty Leagues clear of Anguilla; And my Lords being desirous that the Trade, should have every Protection that can be given to it, they therefore command me to signify their direction to you (in addition to those aforementioned) that you order the Captns of such of His Majesty's Ships and Sloops under your Command as you shall think fit, to cruize occasionally off the Bermuda Islands, and in the Tract of the Homeward bound

West India Trade, with Instructions not only to use their best endeavours to secure the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects, but to take or destroy any Rebell Cruizers they may happen to meet with in those parts. I am &c

P.S.

By the *Canceaux*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 469.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

Monsieur le Comte

London 19th. April 1776

I owe you an apology for the stupid absence of mind with which I persisted, on Tuesday, the 16th., in dating all my letters Tuesday the 12th. This correction is important only as regards my long letter, because this date of the 12th contradicts several subsequent facts which are there announced. . . .

News by the last vessel.

South Carolina, who hitherto has done nothing but stammer, at last speaks as clearly as the other colonies. She has her little fleet of three vessels all equipped, six thousand men in good order, and above two hundred pieces of cannon, forming batteries all round Charlestown, which she does not want to have burnt like her sister of Massachusetts.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1325.M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

No. 15

London, 19 April 1776

Although the ship for Lord [Richard] Howe has arrived in Portsmouth and is ready to sail, this Admiral who was to leave last month is still here. People are beginning to wonder and I believe that the Ministry has been concerned about it for some time. Today, I was telling the Prince of Masseran, a student of physiognomy, that the faces of the Minister in general had been looking rather meditative and sad for some time. He replied that he had made the same observation.

Speaking of observations, My Lord, I have one concerning certain facts and which will be more positive if it turns out to be true. On the 17th of this month, we received intelligence from Portsmouth that an order had arrived there, by which ammunition and rigging for one year were to be put on board three guard ships: the *Marlborough*, the *Royal Oak*, each of 74 guns, and the *Worcester* of 64. We had also received information from this port on the 12th that the order had been given to fit out the *Centaur*, of 74 guns, for an eight months journey. This ship was found to be in such decayed a state that the builder advised the Admiralty of it and deferred carrying out the first orders. I had inquiries made at the Office of the Navy today in order to receive confirmation of such an extraordinary armament. It was found that they had no knowledge of it and that they did not believe

this fact to be true; consequently, I will not be able to confirm it for a few days. Assuming that it is true, it would seem more probable to me that, because of the shortage of transports, it had been decided to carry ammunition, victuals and other necessary articles on board warships. The season for warships to sail to India is passed and will not return before the month of October. Furthermore, if the Government had taken such a strange decision, even at this time of the year, the President of the Company would know something; and I can assure you, My Lord, that his information which he receives from the Government, is quite contrary to the notion of sending a new Squadron in that area.

One might conceive, perhaps, that this armament and the delay of the Hessian troops are deliberate moves in the speculation of events which the Portugal affair could bring about. I confess that I can hardly believe this; besides, why should these ships be fitted out for one year if they are to go on an expedition or a cruise in European waters? . . . There are presently in Portsmouth 40 transports on which the detachment of the Guards will embark, several frigates ready to sail for America, and the ship *Preston* of 50 guns destined for Quebec. Furthermore, fifteen transports arrived in Deptford from Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Hamburg; they will take on horses for America.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 19." ¹

Commodore Hotham is come down here from London; he is going out in the *Preston* to America, to command under Lord Howe.

We hear the Guards are to embark here on board the transports on Monday next.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 20 to April 23, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM F. B. BARNARD TO HIS BROTHER,
DATED MADEIRA, APRIL 19." ¹

The *Boreas* frigate, Capt. [Charles] Thompson, is here, and has seized a brig from London bound to St. Augustine, for having 100 barrels of gunpowder on board. She is called the *Aurora*, Capt. Craw.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 4 to June 6, 1776.

20 Apr.

Public Advertiser, SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1776

London [April 20].

The Lieutenant of the Tender on the Impress Service at Bristol, seized the *Dickenson* the instant she arrived, and claims her under the Act of Parliament for himself. The Mate also, as well for his Loyalty as his Trouble, expects her; and as he has no legal Right to her, the Navy Officer insists upon having her. This Matter has therefore been given to the Crown Law-

yers for their Opinion, and it is said they are divided; some think the Lieutenant entitled to the Ship, others the Mate, and some think neither are, but that she is the Property of the King.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

No. 12

Versailles, 20 April 1776

During the Conference we had on the 16th, M. de Paul spoke to me of the adventure that befell the American ship bound for Nantes and taken to Bristol.² Among the details you sent us and those found in the gazettes I see nothing that may incriminate us or even the French merchant to whom these expedition was destined. It appears that this was a mere commercial undertaking especially since the Capt. had been advised to bring back his cargo's worth in money if he could not obtain arms and powder. Without doubt, England could not fancy to require that we close our ports to the Americans and that we be deprived of the American goods we would like to have. The King has sent instructions to all ports in order to prevent the delivery of war ammunition to the Americans and that is all his friendship for the King of Great Britain will allow, because if arms and powder are an item of contraband with respect to the attitude of the English towards America, they are merely a trade item as far as we are concerned. However positive the King's orders may be in this respect, I could not guarantee that war ammunition is not exported any more than the British Ministers could disclaim such traffic between England and the Colonies. The attitude of merchants is the same everywhere pressed by their determination to make a profit, they are not impressed by law and they are skilfull in finding ways to avoid them. . .

M. de Paul claims that one of the two Frenchmen who appeared in Congress as the so-called deputies of our country is on his way back to France. I do not know who it is, probably some merchant's clerk who went and begged Congress for contracts, or some adventurer. We are not lacking men of his kind and we would not be sorry if they would go and live in some other country but France. I am curious to find out about the one whose return has been announced, as well as the purpose of his trip. You can imagine that if he showed himself in Philadelphia as an official representative, he will have no reason to be happy about this deceit of his.³

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. The *Dickinson*.

3. M. Penet, a member of the firm of Penet & Pliarne was on his way back to France.

22 Apr.

JOHN BODDINGTON TO GEORGE JACKSON ¹

Sir

Office of Ordnance 22d April 1776.

The Lieutenant General and Principal Officers of the Ordnance, direct me to acquaint you for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the

Admiralty that the undermentioned Ordnance Transports have agreed by Charter Parties to receive Naval Officers on board.

The *Rebecca* – Hugh Corphen Master – For Halifax –
ordered to Portsmouth to wait for Convoy

The *Sally* – Thompson Master – For Canada
ordered to take Stores and Men at Plymouth and proceed to Plymouth
to join the *Tartar* Captn. Ommany.

The *Union's Success* – Stephen Ingram Master – For Canada –
is to take a Detachment of Artillery on board at Portsmouth and then
join the *Tartar* at Plymouth

The *Cadiz Packet* – William Collins Master – For Boston –
will be Ordered to Portsmouth to wait for Convoy. I am Sir [&c.]

John Boddington

P.S. All the beforementioned Vessels will Sail this Week if the Provisions
from the Victualling Office are sent on board the *Union's Success* in time.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/4012.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 20 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1776

London, April 22.

The two fleets destined for America are to sail, one for New York, the
other for Boston. Those which sailed from Corke the 8th instant were
bound to Quebec.

The *Clarissa*, Capt. Bissell, is seized at Georgia by the Provincials.¹

The *Annileys*,² Capt. Wardwell, and the *Charming Nancy*, Capt. King,
both arrived at Savannah, are detained there by the Provincials.

1. This information is completely reversed. The *Clarissa*, Richard Bissell, master, and owned by
Roch and Lopez, merchants in Rhode Island, was seized by H.M. Sloop *Raven*, at Savan-
nah, January 20, 1776, Shulldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. The *Unity*, according to the *Public Advertiser*, London, April 17, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, APRIL 22." ¹

Friday the *Camilla*, a new ship of 20 guns, was launched from this
dock-yard. She is this day taken into dock to be sheathed, and is expected
to be commissioned for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 23 to April 25, 1776.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO MONTAUDOUIN BROTHERS & CO., NANTES ¹

Versailles, 22 April 1776

You have probably learned, Gentlemen, what happened to the snow
Dickenson which had left Philadelphia for Nantes and was taken to Bristol
by her own crew.

According to the papers found on board, it appears that this vessel was
addressed to you and that you were requested to assist her in selling her car-
go and supply in return several items among which a small quantity of war
ammunition or money if it should not be available

The reputation enjoyed by your firm is proof that you are unable to engage in any correspondence or traffic which might be suspect or contrary to the service of the King and the good intelligence that reigns between His M[ajesty] and the British Crown. But we learn from the public papers that two Frenchmen went to English America and that they were introduced or introduced themselves as agents, that one of them was supposed to come back to France and had been supposed to be on board the snow *Dickenson*. This mission which is absolutely known to us seems to be rather strange and I ask you to tell me if you have any knowledge of these two French men, the object of their journey, and finally to send me all the information you may have on this matter as soon as possible.

I do not think necessary to recommend that you keep secret the contents of this letter.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy. See also Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1327.

23 Apr.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 27 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1776

Edinburgh, April 23.

The 42d regiment, or Royal Highlanders, which embarked at Greenock on Friday se'nnight, are still lying there, as they got orders to wait for General Frazer's regiment, and to sail together, under convoy of the *Flora* frigate. It is thought Frazer's regiment will not be ready to embark for some days yet. Many of the transports that are to carry over these troops have mounted guns, ready to defend themselves in case of any attack from the American privateers.

Public Advertiser, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1776

London [April 23].

Letters from Lisbon bring Advice that a Ship called the *Hancock and Adams*.¹ Capt.—[Smith], was arrived there from Philadelphia, with a very valuable Cargo to the Portuguese, it being fine Wheat, &c. the Produce of that Country; the whole very acceptable at this Time at Lisbon, they being in Want of Corn. The same Letters mention, that the Captain declared that the Americans were determined to open a Trade with every Power in Europe, excepting England; with them they would never trade till they were left in quiet Possession of their full Rights and Liberties, according to the Charters granted and confirmed to them.

1. The *Hancock and Adams*, 100 tons burden, was the property of Blair McClenachan, a prominent Philadelphia merchant.

London Chronicle, SATURDAY, APRIL 20 TO TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1776

London, April 23.

Letters from Lisbon, dated the 7th of April, mention, that seven ships from Philadelphia had arrived there with corn and flour, and that they were to take loading and return to Philadelphia the first opportunity.

Among the above ships is one called the *Hancock and Adams*, Capt. —, with a cargo of wheat and other produce of that country.

The *Sampson*, Capt. Farquhar, from London, which sailed from Poole in August last, for America, is safe arrived at Philadelphia, after being out 18 weeks.¹

Letters by yesterday's Irish mail say, that a vessel, arrived at Belfast from Bourdeaux, brings advice, that three ships belonging to the Provincials were lying in that port when she sailed — two of them had delivered cargoes of tobacco, and the other flour, and they were then taking on board goods, but could not tell of what kind.

1. At the time this was written, the *Sampson*, Captain Farquhar, in the employ of Robert Morris, was bound to Europe with a cargo to be exchanged for gunpowder.

New York Packet, MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1776

London, April 23.

There is such a want of seamen, that the *Resolution*, sloop of war, Capt. [James] Hawker, which is sailed from the Downs for Haverfordwest, to take under convoy some transports bound to America, had no more than four sailors on board, besides the officers. They depend on getting men at Haverfordwest.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Canceaux* ¹

April 76

Single Anchor at Spithead

Tuesday 23d

A M/ loos'd F: To sail inclinable to clear at noon weighd; turning to windward—at 2 PM came too wth the Bt Br 10 Faths Gilhacker NbE inclin[able] to Calm at 6 PM weighd ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1637.

2. Upon the promise of a post captaincy at the first opening, and with a promotion to "Master & Commander" of a ship at Boston, Henry Mowat was returning in the refitted *Canceaux*. "On this foundation," he wrote, "he readily Sett out for America." *Collections and Proceedings of the Maine Historical Society*, 2nd series, II, 357–58.

25 Apr.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

[Admiralty Office] 25th April 1776

My Lords Commrs of the Admty having received the inclosed Petition from George & John Buchanan & Co representing that in Sept'r last they sent their Ship *Glasgow*, Soloman Townsend, Master, from Fort William in Glasgow with 260 Passengers to New York, in North America; That on her arrival there Captain Vandeput of the *Asia* prevented the Landing of the Passengers and sent them in the said Ship to Boston where they were landed on the 8th December and the Ship detain'd by your Order til the 6 Janry: and therefore praying for Redress; I am commanded by their Lordship to desire you will report to them a full state of the Case, that such direction may

be given thereupon as to them Shall seem proper, And with your Report you will please to return the same Petition to &ca

P. S

Vice Admiral Graves – Town

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 493.

DIARY OF THOMAS MOFFAT ¹

April 23 weighd (in the *Canceaux*) from SpitHead and anchord off Yarmouth.

Apr 25th passd the Needles with a fair Gale

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, APRIL 25." ¹

The following frigates, of 32 guns each, are now in commission at this port, and fitting with the greatest expedition for America, viz. *Amazon*, Capt. [Maximilian] Jacobs; *Diamond*, Capt. [Charles] Fielding; *Lark*, Capt. [Richard] Smith; *Richmond*, Capt. [John Lewis] Gidoin.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 25 to April 27, 1776.

THEODORE CANNON TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IRVING, GUERNSEY ¹

[Copy]

Painbeuf sur Loire
the 25th April 1776.

I arrived here only Saturday Night [April 20], where I found under Sailing Orders a Brig belonging to Philadelphia commanded by John Forrest. Her Burthen 180 Tons or upwards. She was chiefly loaded with Amunition & Fire Arms of all kinds. This I find to be the third has been here & sailed since Janry last – Vizt a large Sloop about 80 a 90 Tuns, a Schooner, same burthen, & this Brig who sailed, with the Wind at N W last Munday.

You may assure your friends at Londn that these Vessels will continue to come here & to Bourdeaux during the Summer on account these Ports give into the Bay of Biscay, they suppose they do not run the risk to come to them they do them in the Channel, where they can hardly escape our Men of War. I heartily wished to be invested with a power from Government & a Man of Warr or two near me to receive my Instructions, these Vessels would not get off I assure you – I wrote Mr Corbet from Grandville about this matter & mentioned to him that as I am a Person in the Mercantile business I could go from One to the other of these Sea Ports unnoticed, & having some Ships stationed to receive my Instructions or Orders in the manner I mentioned to you, I could by that means detain & cause to be taken every one of these Americans after they should have sailed. This I am willing & will be happy to do provided the Government will make it worth my while, otherwise I assure you the bad Encouragement I recd in 1770 damps my proceeding any more on my own private Expence. There never was such a Commerce carried on in this country before as there is now in the Articles of Fire Arms & Ammunition (i e) amongst the private Merchants for I am well assured that Governmt nor any under his command know not

any thing about the matter – I forgot to inform you that this last Brig Cap. Forrest has cleared out from this Place with part French Sailors on board & under French Colors pretending to be bound to St Domingo, so you see what a Scheme they have taken up for the Deception, and you may conceive that it requires a Person of some Penetration to enter into a certain knowledge of discovery of such Plans, & you may depend on it they'll make use of some such Machination to better convey their matters into a fair way of escaping suspicion.

I hope you'll judge it necessary & of use to Govt to convey this matter to the knowledge of your friends immediately, & I shall be glad to render any service in my Power to my King & Country.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 446.

26 Apr.

LIEUTENANT COLONELS WILLIAM ERSKINE AND ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL TO
CAPTAIN JOHN BRISBANE, H.M.S. *Flora*, GREENOCK ¹

Copy.

Sr

Greenock 26th April 1776

Knowing well that your sailing Orders are of too positive a nature to admit of any delay in the execution of them, it would be highly improper to solicit an Extraordinary extension at this Juncture, did not an absolute necessity require it.

By contrary Winds above one half of our Battalion Accoutrements all our Swords & Officers Fuzees, part of our Camp Equipage & the whole Ammunition of the Regiment did not arrive at the Carron from England before the 24th of this Month – An Officer with a Detachment is now employed in forwarding these Articles with the utmost Expedition to Greenock, and from the Accounts receiv'd from him late last Night, we have reason to believe the whole will arrive at Greenock upon the 28th at farthest. This being the Case we hope you will join in opinion that it is absolutely necessary for His Majesty's Service that the Fleet should remain for that time at Greenock than that the Troops who are destined for immediate Service, should proceed to North America without their Accoutrements & Ammunition. We have the honor to be &c.

Will^m Erskine Lt Coll of the 1st Battn 71st
Arch^d Campbell Lt Col. of the 2d Battn 71st ²

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 37c.

2. This letter and a similar one from Adjutant General Robert Skene were sent to Philip Stephens this date, *ibid.*, 37b. The Admiralty in turn forwarded them to Lord Germain "for His Majesty's Information," PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 60–61.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM, R.N.¹

Whereas Lord George Germain, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, hath by his Letter of this date, signified to Us His Majesty's Pleasure, that the Body of Hessians mentioned in the inclosed List, who are arrived at Spithead under the command of General [Leopold Philipp Frei-

herr von] Heister & also the detachment of British Foot Guards under the command of Brigr Genl [Edward] Matthew destined for North America, should proceed thither under proper Convoy as soon as possibly may be, without waiting for the other Hessians who are expected; And whereas we intend that His Majesty's Ship the *Preston* already put under your command, together with the other Ships & Vessels as named in the Margin² whose Commanders are directed to obey your Orders, shall proceed with the said Troops to the place of their destination; You are hereby required & directed to take all His Majesty's said Ships & Vessels under your command, and, as soon as the Embarkation of the abovementioned Hessians under the command of Genl Heister & the Guards abovementioned shall be compleated on board the Transport Vessels prepared for their reception (Lists of which you will receive from their respective Agents who are directed to follow your Orders) you are to take the said Vessels & any others having Hessians on board which may arrive at Spithead before you Sail, and also the Store-ships & Victuallers named in the inclosed List & such others as may be at Spithead bound to North America & ready to Sail, under your Convoy; And then, putting to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather proceed with them down Channel, and, when you get twenty Leagues to the Westward of the Lizard, you are to hoist your Broad Pendant on board the *Preston*; and opening the inclosed Sealed Pacquet, carry into execution the Instructions * you will find therein contained for your farther proceedings. Given &c 26th April 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

To Capt William Hotham

appointed to serve on board His Majesty's ship *Preston* at Spithead. By &c P.S.

*Secret.

By Express next day at 3/4 p 2.p.m.

A List of the Hessian Troops arrived at Spithead, under the command of General Heister.

Noms des Regiment		Totes
1.	Regiment du Corps	688.
2.	du Prince heriditaire	698.
3.	du Prince Charle	690.
4.	de Dittfourth	684.
5.	de Donop	696.
6.	de Losberg	687.
7.	de Knyphausen	525.
8.	de Trumbach	677.
Battaill des Grenadiers		
1.	du Lieut Colonel de Linsing	548.
2.	du Block	553.
3.	du de Minnigerode	555.
Une Compagnie des Chasseurs		138.
de l'Artillerie		242.

Memo 154 of the Regt de Knyphausen are left at Bremer hesse not having room for them in the Ships which brought the above.

A List of a Storeship & Victuallers intended to proceed to North America, under convoy of Commodore Hotham³ Vizt

<u>Ships Names</u>	<u>Master's Names</u>	
<i>Cadiz Pacquet</i>	*Wm Collins — Ordnance Store Ship	
<i>Success</i>	Chrisr Ouston	} Navy Victuallers at Spithead.
<i>Shipwright</i>	Thos Kay	
<i>Nancy</i>	Josh Clarke	
<i>Success's Increase</i>	Edwd Curtis	
<i>Integrity</i>	Jno Sanderson	
<i>Stanly</i>	Henry Holt	
<i>Britannia</i>	Thos Hayman	
<i>Providence</i>	Rph Richardson	
<i>Medway</i>	Rt Anderson	

*provided she arrives in time being on her way to Spithead.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 47-50.
2. Vessels named in the margin: "*Brune* [Captain James Ferguson], *Emerald* [Captain Benjamin Caldwell], *Jersey* Hos[pita]l Ship [Captain William A. Halsted], *Strombolo*, Fireship [Lieutenant Charles Phipps], *Carcass* B[om]b Vessel [Captain Robert Dring]."
3. *Ibid.*, 51, 67-68, Hotham came under Vice Admiral Shulldham's command upon arrival in North America. Captain Sir George Collier, H.M.S. *Rainbow*, received orders to place himself under Hotham's command May 1.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN CORNTHWAITE OMMANNEY;
H.M.S. *Tartar*, PLYMOUTH¹

You are hereby required & directed to make enquiry for the Hospital Ship, Victuallers & Storeships mentioned in the inclosed List, which are bound to Quebec, and have been ordered to Rendezvous at Plymouth, and, as soon as they shall be all assembled, you are to take them, and any others which may be at that place bound to Canada & ready to Sail, under your Convoy, and, putting to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather, make the best of your way with them into the River St Lawrence; taking all possible care for their protection & security during the passage; and, repairing to the Isle aux Coudres (which is the place of Rendezvous for the Ships & Troops destined to serve in Canada) you are to dispatch the several Pacquets you will receive herewith, from Lord George Germain, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to General Carlton; and, if you find any Officer of His Majesty's Ships in the said River Senior to yourself, to deliver to him the inclosed Pacquet, Addressed to such Senior Captain, and to follow his Orders for your further proceedings; But, if you shall not find any Officer there senior to yourself you are to open the last mentioned Pacquet & put in execution the Orders you will find therein contained; And, also in conjunction with the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Land Forces, to pursue such Steps as shall be judged necessary for the Establishment of His Majts Government within the Province of Quebec & for repel-

ling any hostile Invasion of it by His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects from the other Colonies; And, during your continuance on this Service, You are to consider yourself under the command of, and to follow such Orders as you shall receive from Vice Adml Shulldham, or the Commander in Chief for the time being, of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels in North America. Given & 26th April 1776

Sandwich J Buller H Palliser

By &c PS. By a Messenger at 4 p m.

A List of Ships ordered to Rendezvous at Plymouth & intended to Sail from thence under Convoy of His Majesty's Ship *Tartar*.

<i>Speke</i>	Hospital Ship
<i>Elizabeth</i>	Treasury Victualler
<i>Alborough</i>	Navy Do
<i>Henley</i>	} With Stores for Sloops & Batteaux
<i>Boreas</i>	
<i>Sally</i>	} Ordnance Storeships.
<i>Union's Success</i>	

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 53-54.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM, H.M.S. *Preston*, SPITHEAD ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty Office] 26th. April 1776.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty aware of the necessity there is for your being apprized of the place of your destination before you sail from Spithead in order that you may issue to the several Captains & Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under your command as well as to the Masters of the Transport Vessels & other Vessels under your Convoy, directions to what place they are to proceed in case of separation, command me to acquaint you that their only motive for sending to you their Instructions (which you will receive by this night's post) sealed up with Orders – not to open them til you get Twenty Leagues to the Westward of the Lizard, is merely that those Instructions may come to your hands unopened; And that, therefore, notwithstanding their directions to the contrary you are at liberty to open those Instructions immediately after you receive them, the better to enable you to fix a Rendezvous in case of separation, and to give such other Orders as shall appear necessary; taking care however to keep those Instructions a profound secret, and to issue the Orders you may give in consequence sealed up, with very positive and strict injunctions to the parties concerned not to open the same except in case of separation and being under a necessity for so doing. I am &ca.

Ph^p Stephens ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

2. *Ibid.*, the same letter, leaving out the underlined words, was sent to Captain Henry Davis, H.M.S. *Repulse*, on May 21.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

Monsieur le Comte

London, 26th April 1776.

I take advantage of a reliable opportunity to converse with you freely on the only really important affair of today – America, and everything connected with it.

I had a long conversation, the evening of the day before yesterday, with the man whom you have thought it your duty to prevent entering France. ²

In bringing us together, M. de Laur[aguais] faithfully recounted to me all that they had said to each other in my absence, and likewise informed him of all that had passed between himself and me, before taking me to him.

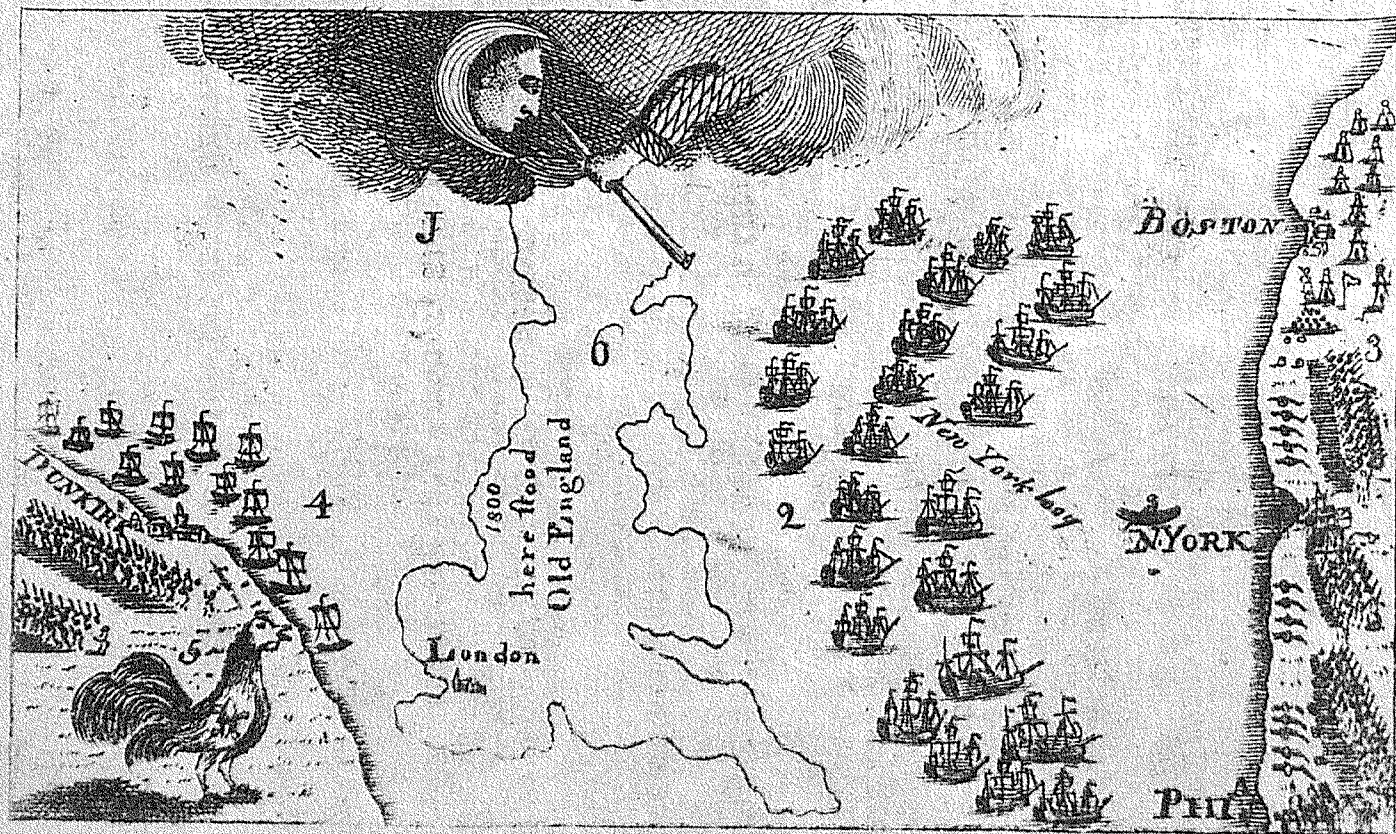
This man appeared to me to be rather stupified than astonished at the absolute contradiction of his news which your long despatches brought you from the South. He cannot imagine whence the error can come. But his informants have so much interest in not deceiving him, that he believes he is well-informed. Moreover, perhaps Congress sent those two Deputies to the Governors of the Spanish possessions in America, or else to the commanders of their squadrons, without having sent them as far as Madrid.

For the rest, he is expecting immediately very certain news of all these matters, and of their sequel. He is informed that they have arrived in Holland, whence they are to be sent to him by very safe means, and in twelve days I shall know what to tell you of them. ³ Meanwhile, he does not cease asking whether we will absolutely do nothing for them. And, without wasting time in repeating to me how important their success is to France, because he does us the honour to think us in accord with him on this point, he simply says to me: – “We want arms and powder, but above all we want engineers. There is nobody but you who can help us, and who have a great interest to do so. And what we most need is some good engineers.” I reply to him that this last matter is of extreme difficulty, because we cannot send men without giving them a commission: that these men talk, and it is that which compromises, whereas inanimate help is mute. “Well then, give us money,” he replies to me, “we will get engineers from Germany, Sweden, Italy &c. – and you will not be compromised.” This, Monsieur le Comte, is our position, what do you wish me to reply?

Since the arrival at Bristol of the vessel intended for Messrs. Montaudouin of Nantes, concerning which so many representations have been made to me, and which you have been informed of, our friend has asked me to forward secretly to them the enclosed letter. I have the honour to send it to you, you can post it without adding a single word thereto, simply recommending it secretly.

The Americans are in other respects in as good a condition as possible. The army, the fleet, provisions, courage, all are excellent. But without powder and engineers, how conquer, or even defend themselves? Shall we let them perish rather than lend them one or two millions? Are we afraid that this money will not come back to us, in one way or another, after the war is over?

*The present STATE of EUROPE & AMERICA
OR
The MAN in the MOON taking a View of the ENGLISH ARMADA.*



Note, Monsieur le Comte, the terror caused to England by the most absurd report which seems to come from France, and judge thereby of the real state of their affairs.

Colonel St. Pol [Horace St. Paul] brings to London a false and ridiculous report of a pretended new treaty between France and Spain; immediately all securities fall in price.

It is rumored here foolishly and secretly, that the French have taken Jamaica, and notwithstanding that everybody says it is impossible, and that the report is laughed at as well as they can, that does not prevent securities falling immediately in the market.

The least panic with regard to us, has this certain effect on all the public funds.

So, when Lord North said yesterday, in the Lower House, that the understanding between France and England was all the more perfect, that this understanding was much more necessary to the French than to the English, the whole Parliament had the common sense to laugh in his face.

And when he added that, in spite of Dr. [Richard] Price's dreams, the nation had never been so flourishing, the whole Parliament again had the good sense to laugh in his face. But they ceased laughing, when that transient impulse gave way to the indignation of the orators of the Opposition. And without entering into all that was said yesterday in this House of Commons, because it has doubtless been reported to you, I cannot help enlarging on all the debates which have taken place there.

Weakness and terror, that is all that is to be seen there; and the Minister continually closely questioned as to the intentions and proceedings of France, without a single word of reply being obtained from him.

Why have the French, says one, 7500 men in the Isle of Bourbon? To this, not a word.

Why, says another, have the Spaniards nine war vessels at Hispaniola, with which they no doubt protect the commerce of the continent? No answer.

Governor [George] Johnston[e] rises. Why have the Spaniards independently of the fleet in America, two fleets at Carthage and Cadiz ready to set sail. And why do you answer nothing, when I am certain of a coming war between France and England? Absolute silence.

Charles Fox supports this, saying: — what forces do you intend employing, then, against a fleet of 45 American privateers, good sailors, active, brave soldiers, protected by 20 roadsteads and ten seaports; protected by 20 foreign war vessels, always ready to help them with supplies, protected by two powerful nations, soon ready to help them openly and recognise them as allies? Still no answer.

Why, asks Mr. [Isaac] Barré, does Lord Howe, who ought to command the fleet, not do so? No answer.

The Speaker of the Commons, seeing the Minister without an answer, made reply, but without answering Mr. Barré's question, which was repeated by the latter with warmth.

Then Charles Fox, in an inspired tone, invokes, interrogates the honour of the Ministers, and replying to himself, he says; – “For a long time past, the honour of the Ministers has been a chimera, it is null, and has no voice in the unfortunate public affairs of England.”

It is clear, Monsieur le Comte, that he who answers nothing here, is silent, because he has nothing to answer: terror and anger on one side, weakness and embarrassment on the other, that is the true picture. And you will be still more convinced of this truth, if you recall the nature of all their treaties with the Germans, and especially if you examine the nature and the rate of the new loan.

For every £100 sterling lent to the Government, there will be given an acknowledgement for £78 sterling, and 3 lottery tickets, worth £10 sterling each, and £30 sterling together, which gives at the commencement £8 sterling profit to the lenders, and, through the fluctuations of the market they have already risen, although not issued, to £11 sterling. Add to this 3 per cent interest which the Government will pay for the £78 sterling, and it will be found that it is borrowing at more than 14 per cent. These proofs of their embarrassments appear to me unanswerable. But when it is proved that they cannot stand more than one campaign at this horrible price, is it then really true, Monsieur le Comte, that you will do nothing for the Americans, which may put them on a level with their enemies?

Will you not have the courage to once more show the King how much he can gain, without striking a blow, in that one campaign? And will you not try to convince His Majesty that this poor help which they ask, and upon which we have been debating for a year past, must enable us to gather all the fruits of a great victory, without having gone through the dangers of a battle: that this help may bring us, while we are asleep, all that the shameful Peace of 1762 made us lose: and that the success of the Americans, reducing our rivals to be nothing more than a second-rate power, replaces us in the first rank, and gives us, for a long time, preponderance over all Europe.

What greater object can occupy the King's Council? And what force your pleading will have, if you introduce there the contrary picture of all that the defeat of the Americans may cost us! 300 millions, our men, our vessels, our islands, &c. For after all, once united against us, their troops in good training, and their boldness increased by such a great success, it is but too certain that they will those very Frenchmen to sustain a fatal war, who could, with two millions, plunge them for ever into a peace equally shameful and ruinous.

In spite of the danger which I run, in writing such bold things to you from London, I feel myself twice as French here as in Paris. The patriotism of these people revives mine. It even seems that the precarious and dangerous state in which I find myself, through the suspicions and the severe inquisition to which all my doings are subjected, makes my zeal more ardent.

However, do not neglect, Monsieur le Comte, to urge M.de Sartine respecting my safety: it is the least thing due to me. The King and he have had the kindness to provide for it; but those same merchants, bankers, bro-

kers, goldsmiths, &c., who, secretly questioned by the Ministry, have testified that I was in treaty with them for money exchanges, will not fail to reply soon that this is but a lure – a trap, if they do not see me carry my proposals into effect, and proceed from the order to the purchase. Two suspected Irishmen have been arrested here. I have desired that I might be in a position to defend myself alone, and without committing the King, or you, in case the same thing should happen to me, until it may please His Majesty to acknowledge me, or it becomes absolutely indispensable. Till then, I am a dealer in Piastres or Moidores. In this character alone, well defined, I should, if necessary, be defended by the nation against the administration, and I should gain this case with costs. But another lawsuit! I am rather tired of them, I assure you. I hope (contrary to M. de Lauraguais' opinion) that they will not go so far as to arrest me when they see me carry out effectually a commercial affair acknowledged by the nation.

The public papers have no doubt informed you that Lord North has laid before Parliament the account of last year's expenses, amounting to £9,097,000 sterling, and how to meet present needs, he has in hand, he said, £9,118,444 sterling, counting in advance the three items – exchequer bills, creation of sinking funds, and the loan at 3 per cent which I mentioned above: which make together an item of £6,300,000 sterling, so that, striking a balance, there remains in the treasury, to subjugate America, £21,444 sterling. The rest will go as events may allow.

Such is, at the moment I write to you, Monsieur le Comte, – such is the state of England, America, Parliament, the public funds, and of the most devoted of all your servants – myself.

I have omitted to tell you that an answer was much pressed for in Parliament as to what had become of a frigate of observation sent off Brest to follow the fleet which should leave there, and that in this matter as in the others, Lord North remained silent.

Confer about it, I beg you, with M. de Sartine.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1328.

2. Arthur Lee.

3. A dispatch for Lee, from the Committee of Secret Correspondence, dated December 12, 1775, was entrusted for delivery to William Story, who was bound to England, via Holland. The letter was left by Story with M. Dumas, a friend of Franklin, who managed to get it to Lee through Rotterdam. Story was searched upon his arrival in England. Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence*, II, 63, 87.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

No. 17

London, 26 April 1776

The first division of Hessian troops, composed of eight thousand men arrived in Portsmouth day before yesterday. Some of them will be transferred onto new vessels because these troops are too crowded on those which brought them here. The troops gathered in Glasgow were to embark yesterday, and those that had been waiting in the area of Portsmouth for some time will board ship tomorrow. Before the end of next month Eng-

land and Ireland will be completely uncovered and at the mercy of the good faith of their neighbors.

I managed to obtain a copy of the letter from the purchaser of Congress in Philadelphia to Messrs. Montaudoin, merchants in Nantes, such as it was given to the Captain of the ship brought to Bristol by her own crew which was composed only of 4 Scotch sailors, 4 Irish and one English. There was not a single American on board, which was most careless in my opinion. The Frenchman who is the object of so much talk embarked early last February in Philadelphia on a ship in ballast which Congress had chartered for this purpose after changing her crew and giving command to a French Captain who speaks Dutch. I assume she has reached France by now. The Ministers here have not said a word about it and I do not believe that it was only to make conversation that M. de Paul spoke to you about it, My Lord.

The Office of the Navy has not confirmed in their entirety the news from Portsmouth relative to the three ships that I had the honor to mention to you in my last dispatch. But they gave us the information that the *Worcester* and *Non-Such* of 64 guns had received the order to go on cruise. One is a guard ship in Portsmouth and the other in Plymouth. The news concerning the *Worcester* were confirmed in Portsmouth from whence we received intelligence that this ship had taken 250 men in supplement from the other guard ships and was to sail day after tomorrow with two frigates, still unknown, in order to establish her cruise along the Coast of the Islands West of Great Britain. It is considered a favorable station to surprise the American ships bound for the French or Spanish Ports. We are waiting for the confirmation from Plymouth with respect to the orders given to *Non-Such*. As for *Marlborough* and *Royal Oak* of 74, our correspondent in Portsmouth told us on the 25th instant that these ships seemed to be destined to cruise in the Channel during the summer.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOSPORT, APRIL 26." ¹

Yesterday sailed from Spithead his Majesty's ship *Tartar*, Capt. Ommamey, with expresses for Boston.

1. *London Chronicle*, April 27 to April 30, 1776.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS ¹

[Extract]

M. de Beaumarchais

Versailles, 26 April 1776.

I received, Sir, on the 21st. and 23rd, your private letters of the 16th. and 19th. instant. My last courier having been despatched on the 20th., I have not had sufficiently safe opportunities to write to you, and I do not think the post is one of them. Not, however, that our letters might not be read there; it is not a question of a plot between us, but I begin to think that the Governments so extolled for liberty are much more suspicious than

ours. I cannot help laughing to myself at the stir that is made over the *Dickenson* affair; I see nothing in it more interesting than the profit which the capturing crew will draw from it, unless perhaps that Lord Rochford, your friend, who regretfully sees himself removed from public business, seizes on insignificant circumstances, and attaches great importance to them, to constitute himself a secret Ministry. The King approves, Sir, that you should not refuse the overtures which that ex-Minister may make to you. You are prudent and cautious, I should be without anxiety, even if you had a more important commission than that which M. de Sartine has given you. It was fortunate for you, however, that you had it, since it has served to avert all suspicion which they were disposed to conceive at your frequent journeys to London. It must be confessed that these English, whom we thought men, are much below women, if they are so easily frightened.

I have handed your letter to M. de Sartine; he read it before me, and he promised me that my courier should bring you his reply. I hope he will refuse nothing which you have requested; but if it should not suffice to strengthen your stays in order to cure Lord Rochford's distrust, what could he do to you? You are not in connection with proscribed people; and, moreover, you have no dealings which can compromise you. . . .

We have not yet a report from Germany of the departure of the first division of the Hessians; apparently there is a lack of vessels. If they are delayed ever so little, they may very likely not arrive at their destination until the end of the season fit for operations.

I have nothing but thanks to offer you for the news from America which you are kind enough to communicate to me. If South Carolina has joined the Colonies, it is a fresh incident which may bring a change in the plan of campaign. England is very powerful, but perhaps not sufficiently so for the engagement which she has entered into.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1329.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS ¹

[Extract]

M. de Beaumarchais.

Versailles, 26 April 1776.

I have laid before the King, Sir, the letter which you did me the honor of writing to me on Tuesday the 16th. and not the 12th. instant. I have the satisfaction of announcing to you that His Majesty has strongly approved of the noble and frank manner in which you repelled the attack made on you by Lord Rochford on the subject of the American vessel destined, it is said, for Nantes, and taken to Bristol. You said nothing but what His Majesty would have prescribed to you to say, if he could have foreseen that you would have been called upon to give an explanation on a matter so foreign to the concerns with which you are charged. If they have in London no other evidence than that which has been made public in the English papers, and which has been sent to me by M. de St. Paul, it must be acknowledged that they are hasty in their judgments. Far from finding therein any proof

of connivance on the part of the correspondent Montaudouin, the consigner feels so little able to count on this resource that, in his instructions to the captain, he recommends him to exchange his cargo for a certain quantity of arms and powder; if he could not procure the latter, to substitute saltpetre for it, and in default of that, to bring back the value in money.

By Lord Rochford's tone he would seem to argue from an agreement which obliged us to make England's interest our own. I do not know of this agreement, and it does not exist in the example which England gave us at the time when she thought she could injure us. Let only the conduct she observed towards us during the troubles in Corsica be recalled – the help of all sorts which she sent there without any sort of regard for us. I do not quote these examples to authorise us to follow them. The King, faithful to his principles of justice, does not seek to take advantage of the situation of the English to increase their embarrassments; but neither can he take away from his subjects the protection which he owes to their commerce. It is out of friendship for the King of Great Britain, and not at all from an obligation resulting from any engagement, that the King has been induced to forbid in his ports the shipment of munitions of war for North America; but this prohibition cannot be made more general. If these goods are contraband with regard to the English, who have the misfortune to be engaged in a war against their Colonies, they are objects of commerce for us, who do not participate therein, and nothing prevents the English from buying them themselves, if they fear the Americans will find means to procure them; but it would be against all reason and decorum to pretend that we must not sell any of these articles to any one soever, because it would be possible that they might pass through second hands to America. Moreover, the English have sufficient forces at sea to intercept the vessels which may attempt to introduce into that part merchandise called contraband; they have no reason to complain that we hinder and embarrass their cruisers; they may even be assured that we shall never reclaim any of the American vessels which they may seize, provided that they are careful not to capture them in sight of our fortresses, and under our guns.

Mr. St. Paul has spoken to me of the incident of the snow *Dickenson*, but with much less warmth than Lord Rochford to you. He was very careful not to suppose that the merchant Montaudouin ought to be punished; all his force was directed against the noble ambassador who had presented himself to Congress in our name. If we were disposed to enter into intercourse with the insurgents, we should not need to send anyone to America for that purpose, and if we did send someone, we should choose him judiciously enough to cause less notice. I do not know who the pretended French nobleman is, whose return is announced to us. Would it not be some ruined tradesman or some tradesman's clerk, who, seeing an opportunity of earning money, may have offered his services to Congress to establish a trading connexion? The English Ministry being much better informed than we of what goes on in our ports, I shall be obliged to them to make this pilgrim known to us; I should be very glad to have a conversation with him,

and if it is proved that he presented himself to Congress as an emissary of France, he will certainly be punished. The King is not disposed to allow such a criminal abuse, and whenever, Sir, you hear well-founded complaints, you will not compromise yourself in assuring that full justice will be done.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1330.

27 Apr.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

[Versailles] 27 April 1776

I have seen, Sir, the copy of the decision passed by the Committee which met with the King. His Majesty's intentions as far as they concern me will be scrupulously obeyed. The instructions I shall give the officers commanding the frigates which will cruise in America will conform to those of which you sent me a copy and which were given to you by the Spanish court. ² I will have the honor to show them to you before I send them.

1. AMAE, *Correspondance Politique*, Angleterre, vol. 515, LC Photocopy.

2. See Instructions of the Spanish Court, February 26, 1776.

MONTAUDOUIN BROTHERS & CO., NANTES, TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Monseigneur

The despatch with which you honoured us on the 22nd. has reached us by the ordinary post-courier today. We learnt on Tuesday of the adventure of the *Dickenson* through a bulletin of news from London which one of our friends sent us from Paris. The next day we received from Bristol copy of the letter which the captain had for us, and the *Bristol Gazette*, which has been copied successively by all the other newspapers. We judge that it is the captain who sent us the whole. We had not been informed of this consignment. We had, Monseigneur, three or four years ago, relations with those merchants of Philadelphia, and with others of that country, at the time when scarcity was causing anxiety in France, and we received from them flour and rice, which were of great help against the scarcity.

We have, Monseigneur, no knowledge of the two Frenchmen who are said to have gone to English America. ² If any vessel comes into our ports from that country, we will do our utmost, with due circumspection, to learn the details of this affair, or romance, and shall have the honour of communicating them to you. If the affair is true, we think that these travellers may have come from St. Domingo, because there are frequent connections between those two countries, to the great prejudice of the French commerce. These travellers must have endeavoured to give themselves importance, or perhaps the Continental Congress may have thought it advantageous to its interests to announce them as important, in order to excite the people more and more to persist in the plan which has been adopted.

We are grateful for, Monseigneur, as well as honoured by, the justice which you deign to do us. We never allow ourselves to undertake any operation which might not be in keeping with the beneficent views of the

pastoral and paternal Government under which we have the happiness to live, and in cases which might appear to be susceptible of different interpretations, we should not fail, in order to decide them, to apply to the wise depositaries of the authority of our divine Monarch.

Allow us, Monseigneur, to take advantage of this opportunity to render to your knowledge and to your virtues the homage due to them, and which our heart has long since rendered you.

We are, with most profound respect, Monseigneur, [&c.]

Montaudouin Brothers.

Nantes 27 April, 1776

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1331.

2. Penet & Pliarne.

29 Apr.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM ¹

Grafton street [London]

29th April 1776

D: Sir I am today favored with your two letters of the 27th & 28th; In which your attention to every part of the uncouth Service you are unexpectedly saddled with, gives me cause to regret the delays that detain me here, only because I might take some of the trouble off of Your Hands. Next Wednesday is appointed for me to receive my civil commission, & to kiss hands upon that occasion. I am promised that all my Orders shall be made ready for me by that time; To read them over, merely to see that I have been apprised of their Contents, will be the only remaining act which I shall have to do in Town. Hence, I reckon upon being at Portsmouth by Friday Evening at the latest. The Civil Branch of my appointment will however most probably detain me from Sailing, after you, if you should be previously departed for America, until about the Monday following. I shall in that case reckon, if we fail to cross upon each other in our voyage, that I shall have called off of Boston, and still be on the Spot to meet you by the time of your arrival at the Point of your secret destination.

Your own care about the State & preservation of the Flatt Boats, as well as the suggestions of the Builder, and assiduity of the Commissioner, cannot fail to engage the Approbation of the Admiralty & Navy Board; as fully as they certainly will every testimony dependant on me to impress a just sense of those merits and doubt not but that I shall have good opportunity to point them out, when we come to use the Boats on Service, as their condition for it, will be justly ascribable to those judicious precautions. Permit me to request, if you have leisure to do it, that you will assure the Commissioner of my grateful acknowledgements for those & other instances of his goodness: Particularly for the obliging offers of a retreat in his House; which however, my intention of embarking immediately after my arrival at Portsmouth will disable me from benefiting by as he has had the goodness to propose.

I much feared that the Genl [Leopold Philipp] Heister will find inconvenience from the unsuitable provision that was made for his Passage from the Weser. I was informed that a ship with particular good accomodations, had been provided for them to move into at Portsmouth.

It is reported here, that the General has pleaded to postpone his departure from Portsmouth, until the nine remaining transports shall be arrived. The Wind was to the Westward of the North this morning, and I am thence in hopes, I shall be in time to concert the arrangements with you, for the passage out & at the place of your destination, which may facilitate the principal service in view, and rendering me useful, furnish me an opportunity which I shall ever most ardently covet, to prove the particular esteem & regard with which I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Howe

Let me submit to your consideration whether it will not be of advantage to inquire of the Caps of the Frigates what Number of Men they can respectively furnish to employ in Flatt Boats, and I shall be glad to know the same of the *Preston*.

1. Collection of Lord Hotham, East Riding County, England.

JOHN BODDINGTON TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Dear Sir

I have just received a Letter from on board the *Earl of Derby* Ordnance Transport belonging to the Earl Cornwallis Expedition Dated Maidera [18] Mar: 1776 The *Acteon* Frigate and a Transport with part of the 33d Regiment were then at that Island, and had no doubt of reaching the place of Rendezvous in Time, The Men & Officers on board all well, I am Sr

J Boddington
Westmr 29 Apr. 1776

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 395.

30 Apr.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT MAN ¹

Whereas advices have been received that Ships and Vessels belonging to the associated Colonies in North America in open Rebellion against the King, are dispatched to the Ports of Spain and Portugal with Cargoes of Flour and other articles, in exchange for which they take in Arms and Ammunition for the use of the said Colonies; You are therefore hereby required and directed forthwith to send two of the Frigates, or a Frigate and a Sloop, of your Squadron to-cruise upon such Station (not to the Northward of the Rock of Lisbon) in this side of the Streights mouth, as, from the abovementioned advices or such other Intelligence as you may receive of the mode of carrying in [on] the aforesaid illicit Trade, you shall judge most likely for intercepting and seizing the Ships and Vessels employed therein; directing the Commanders of the said Frigates or Sloop to return to Gibraltar at such time as you shall judge proper to inquire for orders; and not finding any to the contrary, to return and cruise in like manner until further Order, or

til more important Service in the Mediterranean may make it necessary for you to call them off. Given &c the 30^t of April 1776

Sandwich J. Buller H. Penton

To Robert Man Esqr

Vice Admiral of the White, and Commander in Chief of His Majestys Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean

at Portmahon (Duplicate signed Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston sent same time to Gibralter)

By &c. P:S: (Sent by Post 3^d. May 1776)

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 62, 63.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN CORNTHWAITE OMMANNEY,
H.M.S. *Tartar*, PLYMOUTH¹

By &c

It being of importance that the *Speke* Hospital Ship now at Plymouth and destined for Quebec should be no longer delayed; You are hereby required and directed, in pursuance of the King's Pleasure signified to us by Lord George Germain, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in his Lettér of Yesterday's date, so soon as the *Sally* Ordnance Storeship, which is now got to Portsmouth, shall arrive at Plymouth, to put to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather, with the said Hospital Ship, Storeship, and such other Ships put under your Convoy as may be in readiness at Plymouth, and make the best of your way with them to the Isles aux Coudres, agreeable to our orders of the 26^t instant without waiting for the *Unions Success* ordnance Storeship if she should not arrive before you can put to Sea; But, if she should arrive before that time, you are to take her under your Convoy also and proceed as abovementioned.

Given &c the 30^t april 1776.

Sandwich H. Penton H. Palliser

By &c P:S: By Express at 4 o'Clock P:M

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 58-59.

1 May

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1776

London [May 1].

When the American Vessels which have lately traded with the Spaniards in the West Indies have had Cargoes of warlike Stores on board, they have hitherto sailed under Spanish Colours, and have even been accompanied with a Spanish Frigate, or other armed Vessel, till they arrived safe off their own Ports.

A Merchant in the City has received a Letter from Jamaica, wherein we are informed the Americans are now carrying on an amazing large Trade with the Spaniards at the Havannah, where there are at this Time between thirty and forty Vessels, which have all brought Cargoes from different Ports in America.¹

1. This item can be largely classed as propaganda.

HORACE ST. PAUL TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

No 7

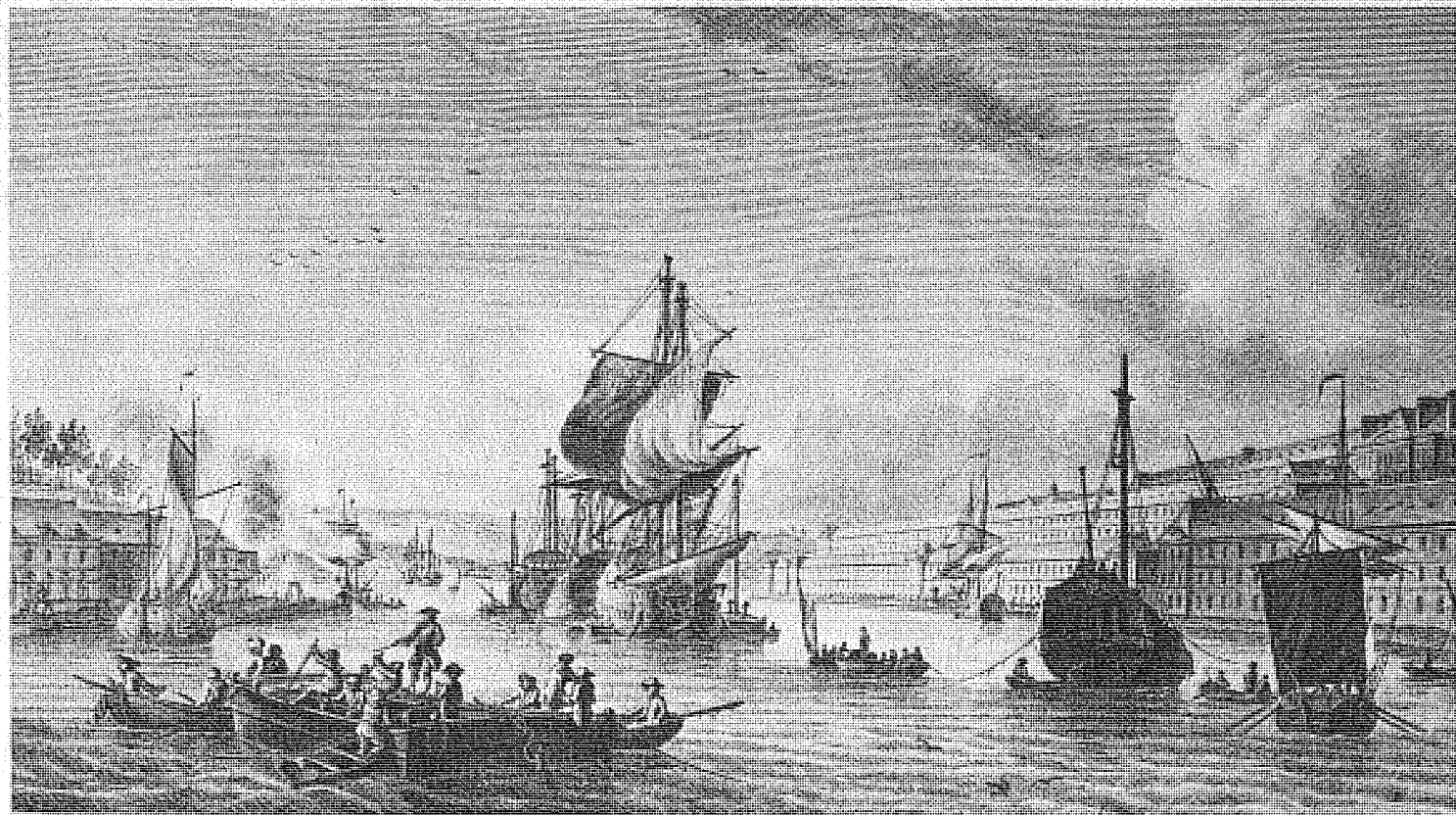
Paris May 1st 1776.

I was informed Yesterday that Orders were sent to arm a considerable Fleet in the French Ports, and I have every reason to give Credit to this Intelligence.

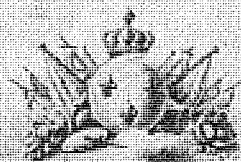
... M. D'aranda ² is said to have strongly represented the Necessity of this Courts remaining no longer in a state of Inaction, But of her making immediate Dispositions for the safety of her West India Islands; that If our American War ended successfully, our Strength and Power would be too much increased, & if on the Contrary we should not be able to reduce the Rebels to Obedience, that we shall probably then be tempted to fall upon some of their Colonies to repair Our Disgrace; And at all Events, that this Court should lose no time in putting her Islands in a state of Defence and Security, by immediately sending considerable Forces into that part of the World. This is the result of the different Informations which I have obtained. In consequence a Naval Armament is said to have been immediately ordered; and yesterday Evening in a Family whose Relations serve chiefly in the Navy, it was w[h]ispered that Orders had been certainly sent to Toulon & to Brest to arm 20. Ships, of which several of the [line] and the rest Frigates. No other Particulars were known, But You[r] Lordship may be persuaded, that I sha[ll] not rest, 'till I have sent you the detail of this Fleet. I have not be[en] able to learn that orders have been sent to any of their Troops to be in readiness. This morning I have been again assured that the Orders to prepare the Fleet were s[ent] and this comes from a quarter from which I have generally received very good Information, & it agreed in number with the account of Yesterday: this last Informer added, that his Opinion was, that this Court had been engaged by Spain to take this Step, pour Se mettre à L'abri de tout Evenement.

I must now mention, My Lord, I have good grounds to believe that for some Months past, there have been French Agents in England, Endeavouring to procure Sums of Money for the Rebels in America, from their Friends in England in order to convey them in French Ships to the French Islands, & from thence to the Congress. M. de Beaumarchais is I understand concern'd in this Business, but he is not alone, within these 18. months he has made 8 voyages to London & in the Space of 3 weeks he went twice. I have employed some Persons here, to follow up this Object & to let me know all the particulars they can learn about it.

I understand that some time ago Several reformed French Officers, tho' none of any Note went to Holland, and embarked from thence for America, where they have taken service in the Rebel Army. I know it partly from the French Officers, who frequently apply to me to obtain Service in the Kings Troops there, many of whom assure me they are certain of obtaining the Consent of this Court. . . .



LE PORT
Vu du Chenal devant le



DE BREST
nouveau quai aux canons

F. de la Roche

[Endorsed] Paris 1st May 1776 Mr St Paul (No 7) /Rd 6th by Express from Dover

1. PRO, State Papers, 78/299, 66-69.

2. Pedro Pablo Abarca de Bolea, Conde d'Aranda, Spanish ambassador to France.

2 May

GEORGE III TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, DESIRING A VOTE OF CREDIT ¹

[May 2, 1776]

Lord North presented the following Message from his Majesty:

GEORGE R.

His Majesty, relying on the experienced zeal and affection of his faithful Commons, and considering, that, during the present troubles in North America, emergencies may arise, which may be of the utmost importance, and be attended with the most dangerous consequences, if proper means should not be immediately applied to prevent or defeat them, is desirous that this House will enable him to defray any extraordinary expences incurred, or to be incurred, on account of military services, for the year 1776, and as the exigency of affairs may require. And his Majesty, having judged it expedient to issue his proclamation, in pursuance of an act of parliament, passed in the fourteenth year of his reign, for calling in the remainder of the deficient gold coin, doubts not but that his faithful Commons will enable him to make good the charges which shall be incurred in this service, and which cannot at this time be ascertained.

Referred to the Committee of Supply.

1. T. C. Hansard, ed., *The Parliamentary History of England from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803* . . . (London, 1813), XVIII, 1344. Hereafter cited as Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III ¹

Admiralty. May 2nd [1776].

half past 8 o'clock P.M.

Lord Sandwich has the honor to Transmit to Your Majesty the letters just received from Admiral Shuldham.

Lord Sandwich has a private letter from the Admiral which he will send to your Majesty to morrow morning, but presumes to keep it this evening that it may be shewn to the Committee of your Majesty's servants who are to meet at nine o'clock; as it appears in that letter, that the army allmost totally subsists on what Mr. Shuldham has been able to spare from the Naval stock of provisions.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 355.

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GEORGE III ¹

Lord George Germain received the enclosed papers from General Howe about half an hour after five. Your Majesty will see that he has been obliged to quit Boston for want of Provisions and from the position of the Enemy. He has executed his plan with great ability. Lord George has summoned the Cabinet to meet at nine o'clock this Evening, as the House of Commons is now up. Your Majesty will perceive that the General intends attacking New Yorke after he has established his army at Halifax. Lord George wishes to know the opinion of the Cabinet, to be submitted to your Majesty, whether any alteration should be made in the Destination of the Hessians. He at present is of opinion that no Post would so essentially assist General Howe in his intended operations, as the Possessing of Rhode Island by the Guards and the Hessians. Your Majesty will be pleased to return the papers as soon as conveniently may be, and if your Majesty has any particular Commands Lord George will remain at home to receive them till he goes to the meeting.

Pall Mall. 5 minutes past 6 P.M. May 2nd 1776.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 355-56.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMANDERS OF SHIPS AND VESSELS IN THE BRITISH NAVY ¹

GEORGE R.

(L.S.) Instructions for the Commanders of Our Ships and Vessels of War, In Consequence of an Act passed in this present Session of Parliament, prohibiting all Trade and Commerce with the Colonies of *New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, The Three Lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia*, during the Continuance of the present Rebellion within the said Colonies respectively; and enacting that all Ships and Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of the said Colonies, together with their Cargoes, Apparel, and Furniture, which shall be found trading in any Port or Place of the said Colonies, or going to trade, or coming from trading, in any such Place, shall be forfeited to Us, as if the same were the Ships and Effects of Open Enemies; and shall be so adjudged, deemed, and taken, in all Courts of Admiralty, and in all other Courts whatsoever; and by Virtue of Our Commission granted under Our Great Seal of *Great Britain*, bearing Date the Second Day of *May*, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-six. Given at Our Court at *St. James's*, the second Day of *May*, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, in the Sixteenth Year of Our Reign.

I. That by Virtue of the above-mentioned Act of this present Session of Parliament, and of Our Commission aforesaid, the Commanders of Our Ships and Vessels of War are authorised and required to set upon by Force of

Arms, and subdue, and take the Ships and Vessels of or belonging to the Inhabitants of the said rebellious Colonies, together with their Cargoes, Apparel, and Furniture, which shall be found trading in any Port or Place of the said Colonies, or going to trade, or coming from trading in any such Place, and all such other Ships, Vessels, and Goods as are or shall be liable to Confiscation by the several Statute-Laws of the Realm, or pursuant to the respective Treaties between Us and other Princes, States, and Potentates, or the Law and Usage of Nations; but so as that no Hostility be committed, nor Prize attacked, seized or taken, within the Harbours of Princes and States in Amity with us, or in their Rivers or Roads within Shot of their Cannon, unless by Permission of such Princes or States, or of their Commanders or Governors in Chief in such Places.

II. That all Ships carrying Soldiers, Arms, Powder, Ammunition, or any Naval or Warlike Stores or Provisions, or other Goods, Wares, Merchandizes, or Effects, to any of the said rebellious Colonies, for the Use, Benefit or Advantage, or on Account of the Inhabitants thereof, shall be seized as Prizes, except Ships and Vessels laden with Provisions or other Stores for the Use of Our Fleets, Armies, or Garrisons, or for the Use of the Inhabitants of any Town or Place garrisoned or possessed by any of Our Troops, or of any Colony or Province, County, Town, Port, District, or Place, which may or shall be proclaimed by lawful Authority to be at the Peace of His Majesty, or except as in the said Act of the present Parliament is excepted.

III. That our said Commanders of our Ships and Vessels of War shall bring such Ships, Vessels, and Goods, as they have seized, or shall seize, and take, to such Port of this Our Realm of *England*, or some other Port of Our Dominions as shall be most convenient for them, in order to have the same legally adjudged in Our High Court of Admiralty of *England*, or before the Judges of such other Admiralty Court as shall be lawfully authorised, within our Dominions, except as in the said Act is excepted.

IV. That, after such Ships, Vessels, and Goods, shall be taken and brought into any Port, the Taker, or one of his chief Officers, or some other Person present at the Capture, shall be obliged to bring or send, as soon as possibly may be, Three or Four of the principal of the Company (whereof the Master, Mate, or Pilot to be always Two) of every Ship or Vessel so brought into Port, before the Judge of Our High Court of Admiralty of *England*, or his Surrogate, or before the Judge of such other Admiralty-Court within Our Dominions, as shall be lawfully authorized as aforesaid, or such as shall be lawfully commissioned in that Behalf, to be sworn and examined upon such Interrogatories as shall tend to the Discovery of the Truth, touching the Interest or Property of such Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, and of the Goods, Merchandizes, or other Effects found therein; and the Taker shall be further obliged, at the Time he produceth the Company to be examined, to bring and deliver into the Hands of the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty of *England*, his Surrogate, or the Judge of such other Admiralty Court, within Our Dominions, as shall be lawfully authorized, or others commissioned as aforesaid, all such Papers, Sea-Briefs, Char-

ter-Parties, Bills of Lading, Cockets, Letters, and other Documents and Writings as shall be delivered up, or found on Board any such Ship. The said Taker, or one of his Chief Officers, or some other Person, who was present at the Capture, and saw the said Papers and Writings delivered up, or otherwise found on Board, at the Time of the Capture, making Oath that the said Papers and Writings are brought and delivered in as they were received or taken, without any Fraud, Addition, Subduction, or Embezzlement.

V. That such Ships or Vessels, Goods, Wares, Merchandizes, and Effects, taken by any of Our Ships or Vessels of War, shall be kept and preserved, and no Part of them shall be sold, spoiled, wasted, or diminished; and that the Bulk thereof shall not be broken before Judgment be given in Our High Court of Admiralty of *England*, or some other Court of Admiralty lawfully authorized in that Behalf, that the said Ships or Vessels, Goods, Wares, Merchandizes, and Effects, are lawful Prize.

VI. That no Commander or other Officer of any of Our Ships or Vessels of War shall, unless in Case of the greatest Necessity, ransom any Ship or Vessel, taken as Prize, when such Ship may be brought into some Port of Our Dominions (except the Ports of the said rebellious Colonies or Plantations); and in Case any Ship or Vessel, taken as Prize, shall be ransomed, the Reasons of ransoming any Ship or Vessel, and any Persons on Board the same, and the Conditions of such Ransom, shall be transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and to the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty; and preparatory Examinations upon the standing Interrogatories shall be taken as in Cases of Prize, and a Condemnation of such Ransom shall be had according to the ancient Course and Practice of the Admiralty.

VII. That no Commander or other Officer of any of Our Ships or Vessels of War do presume, upon any Pretence whatsoever, to ransom or release any Prisoners, unless such as may be necessary to navigate the Ship which shall be taken and ransomed.

By His Majesty's Command,
Geo. Germain.

1. Cornwallis Papers, NMM.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM SPITHEAD, MAY 2." ¹

It is expected we shall sail to-morrow morning for Boston, under the command of Commodore William Hotham, who is to hoist his broad pennant on board the *Preston*, a 50 gun ship. The ships which go under his command, are, the *Jersey* hospital ship, the *Emerald* of 32 guns, the *Brune*, of 32 guns, the *Strombolo* fire ship, the *Carcass* bomb, and all the transports which are ready. There are upwards of 100 sail of transports now here, all of which have foreign troops on board. We have on board five small casks and thirty small chests of Spanish dollars, amounting to 35,000 l for paying the marine troops at Boston.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 2 to May 4, 1776.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO LOUIS XVI¹

Sire,

[Versailles] May 2, 1776,

I have the honor of submitting to your majesty, the paper which is to authorize me to furnish a *million of livres for the use of the English colonies*, if you should deign to ratify it with your signature. I add to this, Sire, the draught of the reply which I mean to make to Mr. Beaumarchais; if your majesty should approve of it, I beg that it may be returned to me without delay. It shall not go forth in my hand-writing, nor in that of any of my clerks or secretaries: I will employ that of my son, which cannot be known; and, although he is only in his fifteenth year, I can answer positively for his discretion. As it is of consequence that this operation should not be detected, or at least imputed to the Government. I propose, if your majesty consents, to call hither the Sieur Montaudoin. The ostensible motive will be, to ask an account of his correspondence with the Americans, and the real one, to charge him with the transmission to them, of the funds which your majesty is pleased to grant them, *directing, at the same time, all the precautions to be taken, as if he advanced the funds on his own account*. On this head, also, I take the liberty of requesting the orders of your majesty. That being done, I will write to the Marquis Grimaldi. (Secretary of Foreign Affairs in Spain;) I will inform him in detail of our operation, and propose to him (*de la doubler*) to do the same.

1. U.S. Congress. House. *Caron de Beaumarchais*. Serial Set No. 178, House Reports 220. 20th Congress, 1st Session, 15-16.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 2 May 1776

Regardless of what certain people say with respect to the wealth of England, I would rather call it a case of swelling. I prefer the plumpness of France in spite of her limited regimen. Everything here is real: fertile land, precious goods, clinking cash; a lack of credit would not affect any of this.

This affair of the snow *Dickinson* is coming up again. There has never been so much noise about such an insignificant happening. However I want to go the bottom of this correspondence of the brothers Montaudoin. Even now I am convinced that they never had suspect dealings with anyone in the country whence they received mail: the letters that were published verify it. In general, I know that they are quite honest merchants with a good reputation, enjoying great credit and deserving all confidence.²

Many thanks, Sir, for the intelligence you sent us. It was considered and appreciated. I expect that we will soon receive very interesting news and that we will be enlightened as to the fate of Quebec.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. See *Bristol Journal Extraordinary*, April 8, 1776. While the cargo of the *Dickinson* was consigned to Montaudouin Brothers at Nantes, and letters found on board were addressed to the same firm, Vergennes' contention was that such proof did not indicate that the French merchants were previously aware that they were to be so addressed.

MARQUIS DE GRIMALDI TO PRINCE MASSERANO ¹

Your Excellency:

The Governor of Cadiz has just informed me that an English naval sloop called the *Transport*² arrived in the bay on the 13th of last month under Captain Charles Egan with some packets of letters for the British Consul. As soon as she had discharged her commission, the sloop made sail again, but, while going out the entrance to the Port, she met an English galley entering. After firing four cannon shots at the galley, she followed it until its sails were lowered, and she could confer with those aboard.

In view of the fact that two similar incidents occurred in the Canaries, as I wrote Your Excellency on the 2nd of last month, I spoke to the English Ambassador about it. From the reception given my comments, I can conclude that these incidents might be the result of some Admiralty orders that have not been well explained and which the officers of the Navy are interpreting from their own viewpoints. Hence, I feel it required that I make some appropriate reflections on the case to Your Excellency.

Any Sovereign is absolute master of his dominions, including his ports and does not permit hostile actions nor any detentions to be practiced in them. Surely England would not tolerate such excesses to be committed in her ports by the warships of other powers, regardless of pretext. Therefore, do not cease to make the Minister understand how disturbed the King is, because the ships of His Britannic Majesty overwhelm our sincerity and good relations with abuses, making it necessary for His Majesty to give strict orders to prevent such occurrences.

At the moment Lord Grantham gave us the order of his sovereign, which contained certain sections that can be referred to only as new insinuations of restriction, the most positive orders were given in order that the greatest caution be observed in this matter. American ships belonging to the rebel Colonies were not to be permitted to load munitions and weapons for offense against England in our ports. But, despite having seen the excellent results of our good will and relations, we experience each day on the part of many English persons only arbitrary and violent actions that have become insupportable. The repeated protests that we have based on so many details are until now totally useless.

His Majesty wishes that Your Excellency make the Court understand how sensitive he is to similar incidents and how much he will be mortified by new offenses of the English Navy, which can occasion disgust and disturb the peace that His Majesty desires to maintain and that is of such great interest to both monarchies. God grant to Your Excellency [&c.]

Marquis de Grimaldi

Aranjuez, 2 May 1776.

1. AHN, Estado, Legajo 4281, p. 39-41, LC Microfilm.

2. The name given the vessel is exact from the Spanish text.

3 May

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM EDINBURGH, MAY 3." ¹

Monday last the transports, with the 42d, or royal highlanders, together with General Fraser's new raised regiment of highlanders ² on board, set sail from Greenock for America under convoy of the *Flora* frigate. Several of the transports mounted from 10 to 16 guns.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 7 to May 9, 1776.

2. The 71st Highlanders.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office 3d May 1776.

Having laid before My Lords Commissrs of the Admiralty your Letter of the 30th past, signifying Lord George Germain's Desire, that the necessary Orders may be given, for Victualling 120 Persons on board the *Samuel & Elizabeth* Transport, taken up by the Board of Ordnance, for carrying to Boston what remains of the Stores for General Howe's Army, and also sundry Artificers & Drivers; Their Lordships directed the Navy Board to give the necessary Orders for that purpose; and they having in Return acquainted My Lords, that they find, upon Inquiry, the said Vessel is not above 190 Tons, and is only 4 feet 2 Inches high between Decks, which will not admit of above one Tier of Cabbins, so that, in case she is loaded with Stores, she cannot receive more than 30 Persons with Convenience, and moreover that she is under Repair, and probably will not be ready in less than a Fortnight; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for Lord George Germain's Information. I am &c

Ph^p Stephens.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 59-60.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, this Friday, the 3d of May 1776

There is nothing very important here except the news received three days ago concerning the evacuation of Boston. The evacuation took place on 17 March. The letters from the English general and the officers were dated 24 March on board the ships that sailed for Halifax. They left without destroying Boston and it is said that they did not remove the cannon from this city. The embarkation was not disturbed by the Provincials who undoubtedly gave them this opportunity to escape.

The Government passes on this news with an appearance of mystery and calculation, trying hard to make it look like a feint ordered by the ministers. But it won't do! It is too obvious that the English were chased from Boston because they could not hold any longer for lack of supplies.²...

This evacuation, the entry of general [Charles] Lee into New York with 22 thousand men, ³ all the suspects being chased from this city; these Hessians who are still at home from what you wrote me, although here they are said to have left a long time ago; all this confirms what I wrote you in my last

dispatch: the Americans are doing quite well in all respects, except for the lack of engineers and powder. Ah! Count! Powder and engineers, I beg you! I do not think I ever had a wish dearer to my heart.

1. AMAE, *Correspondance Politique*, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. For a more detailed account of the evacuation, see Garnier to Vergennes, May 8, 1776.

3. An exaggeration of 20,800; Lee had two Connecticut regiments of 600 men each.

PRINCE MASSERANO TO MARQUIS DE GRIMALDI ¹

[Extract]

No. 255.

London, 3 May 1776

. . . As regards the *Worcester* and the *Nonsuch*, I wished to find out details through Lord Sandwich. He told me that it was true that the ships were armed, but that it had nothing to do with the Portuguese. I asked him where they were going, and he told me it was a secret. Demonstrating that he did not wish me to speculate on it, he told me he had despatched orders yesterday morning to the captains, instructing them to examine all American shipping flying the English flag, trading with the islands and European ports, for the purpose of stopping them from taking materials of war and carrying them to the Rebels, . . . The coasts of Holland are being closely watched, because they are intuitively distrustful of them.

1. AHN, Estado, Legajo 4281, 79-80, LC Microfilm.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM, R.N.,
ST. HELENS ¹

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having directed Messrs Harley and Drummond Contractors for remitting Money for the use of His Majesty's Forces serving in North America, to put about £200,000, on board His Majesty's Ships preparing to sail thither; You are hereby required and directed to order the Captains of the Ships of your Squadron named in the Margin ² to receive & take Charge, of such part of the said Money as hath been, or may be, sent on board them respectively before they sail; and to deliver the same upon their arrival in North America agreeable to its consignment. Given &c. the 3d May 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

By &c. P.S. By Express 9. P.M.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 66.

2. Vessels named in the margin: "*Preston Rainbow Emerald Brune Jersey* Hosp^l Ship."

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM HOTHAM, R.N. ¹

Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, having this day, desired that 200 Barrels of Gunpowder for the Use of the Troops now ready to proceed from Portsmouth may be received on board His Majesty's Ships appointed to Convoy them to North America; You are therefore, hereby required and directed to cause the said Gunpow-

der to be immediately received on board such Ship or Ships of the Squadron under your command as you shall judge most proper, for the use of the said Troops accordingly. Given &c. the 3 May 1776.

Sandwich J. Buller Palmerston

By &c. P.S. By Express 9. P.M.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 66-67.

JOSEPH HARDY TO LORD WEYMOUTH ¹

Copy

My Lord,

Cadiz 3d May 1776.

In my last I acquainted your Lordship that a Ship was arrived in this Port from Philadelphia. Her Cargo consists of three thousand five hundred Barrells of Flour, which by the Papers signed by the Officers of the Customs, was cleared out for Falmouth, but the Cargo is consigned to a Spaniard here, who it is said is the Owner of it, which I do not believe. I am inclined to think he serves only for a Cover to the real Property – The Master of this Ship informs me that the Americans have been well supplied by the French, both from Europe and Martinique with Gun powder and other Commodities, and by the Spaniards from Porto Rico, and that he left a French Vessel at Philadelphia, which had brought from Martinique a considerable Quantity of Gunpowder, Sugar and Coffee. This Man has served for some Years as a Petty officer in His Majesty's Ships, and he assures me that it is next to an Impossibility for a Ship of War to approach the City, by reason of the extraordinary Preparations made in the River Delawar, both above and under Water. He seems strongly of Opinion that all the Colonies to the Southward of the Four New England Governments are far from wishing for Independency, but are rather desirous of a Reconciliation.

The Flota will certainly sail to-morrow Morning if the Wind and Weather permits, which at present promises favourably.

I am with the greatest Respect, My Lord &c.

Jos^h Hardy

P.S. His Majesty's Frigate *Enterprise* and *Zephyr* Sloop have been for several Days cruising off this Port, and have chased and searched some Vessels very near the Entrance of the Bay, which proceeding gives great Umbrage here, and I fear will cause Complaints from the Court of Spain.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/139. Hardy was British Consul at Cadiz.

4 May

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM KIRKWALL, IN ORKNEY, MAY 4." ¹

The Ship *Marlborough*, of Whitby, Capt. Walker, arrived at Stromness the 1st currt. after a Passage of Thirty-one Days from Savannah, in Georgia. She brings little New[s]. The Provincials, they say, have burnt five British Ships in that River, one of them valued at upwards of 20,000
1. His Excellency, Sir James Wright, Governor, had his Baggage on Board

that Vessel, besides a considerable Value belonging to his Secretary and Domestics. Sir James was then at Boston. They add, that the *Raven* Sloop and another Ship of War, had been there for some Days before they sailed, which put a Stop to the Career of the Provincials, and obliged them to retreat from that Part of the Coast.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, May 23, 1776.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO COMMODORE WILLIAM HOTHAM, H.M.S. *Preston*,
SPITHEAD ¹

Sir,

[Admiralty] 4th May 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received a Letter from Vice Adml Shuldham dated the 23d of March last, giving an Account of the Embarkation of His Majesty's Forces from Boston and of the Resolution taken to proceed with them to Halifax; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, and to send you by Express their additional Order of this date, for proceeding to the last mentioned place, or to such other as you shall learn the said Vice Admiral & General Howe shall be at, in case, upon your approach to the Coast of America, you shall find the Wind unfavorable for your proceeding to Rhode Island agreeable to their former Orders. I am &c

Ph^p Stephens.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333, LC Photocopy.

LIST OF BRITISH SHIPS OF WAR AT OR GOING TO AMERICA ¹

Admiralty Office [London] 4th May 1776.

A List of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America, and of such as are under Orders or intended, to proceed thither forthwith, vizt

Rate	Ships	Guns	Men	Commanders.
<u>In North America.</u>				
4	<i>Chatham</i>	50	370	{ Vice Admiral Shuldham Capt John Raynor
3	<i>Asia</i>	64	500	
4	<i>Renown</i>	50	350	Capt Geo. Vandeput
"	<i>Centurion</i>	50	350	" Frans Banks
5	<i>Phoenix</i>	44	280	" Richd Brathwaite
"	<i>Roebuck</i>	44	280	" Hyde Parker Junr
"	<i>Niger</i>	32	220	" A. S. Hamond
"	<i>Orpheus</i>	32	220	" Geo. Talbot
6	<i>Cerberus</i>	28	200	" Chas Hudson
"	<i>Lizard</i>	28	200	" John Symons
"	<i>Leverpoole</i>	28	200	" John Hamilton
"	<i>Fowey</i> *	24	160	" Henry Bellew
"	<i>Scarboroughh</i>	20	160	" Geo. Montagu
				" Andw. Barkley

Rate	Ships	Guns	Men	Commanders.
"	<i>Mercury</i>	20	160	" Jas Montagu
"	<i>Rose</i>	20	160	" Alexr Scott
"	<i>Glasgow</i>	20	160	" Tyrm Howe
"	<i>Lively</i>	20	160	" Thos Bishop
Slo.	<i>Tamar</i>	16	125	" Edwd Thornbrough
"	<i>Merlin</i>	16	125	" W. C. Burnaby
"	<i>Nautilus</i>	16	125	" John Collins
"	<i>Falcon</i>	16	125	" John Linzee
"	<i>Swan</i>	14	125	" Jas Ayscough
"	<i>Otter</i>	14	125	" Mattw Squire
"	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	14	125	" Alexr Graeme (acting)
"	<i>Raven</i>	14	125	" John Stanhope
"	<i>Scorpion</i>	14	125	" Hble Jno Tollemache
"	<i>Senegal</i>	14	125	" Wm Dudingstone
"	<i>Viper</i>	10	110	" Saml Graves (acting)
"	<i>Hunter</i>	10	110	" Thos Mackenzie
"	<i>Cruizer</i>	8	80	" Fras Parry
"	<i>Savage</i>	8	80	" Hugh Bromedge
"	<i>Hope</i>	14	50	Lieut Geo Dawson

Car Swi

Schor	<i>Hinchinbrook</i>	6.	10	30	" Alexr Ellis
"	<i>Halifax</i>	6.	10	40	" Wm Quarme
"	<i>St. Lawrence</i>	6.	10	30	" Jno Graves (1st)
"	<i>St. John</i>	6.	10	30	" Wm Grant
"	<i>Gaspee</i>	6.	10	30	" Wm Hunter
"	<i>Magdalen</i>	6.	10	30	" Joseph Nunn
Brig	<i>Bolton</i>	6.	10	30	" Edwd Sneyd
A. Vessl	<i>Cherokee</i>	6.	8	50	" John Fergusson
Storesp	<i>Adventure</i>	4.	8	40	" John Hallum

* Order'd to Newfoundland to be under the Command of V. A. Montagu.

Rate	Ships	Guns	Men	Commanders	Disposition
<u>Sailed from England</u>					
4	<i>Bristol</i>	50	365	{ Comdr Sr Peter Parker Capt. Jno Morris	Under the Command of Sir Peter Parker
6	<i>Solebay</i>	28	200	" Thos Symonds	
"	<i>Actaeon</i>	28	200	" [C]r Atkins	
"	<i>Active</i>	28	200	" Wm Williams	
"	<i>Syren</i>	28	200	" Tobias Furneaux	
"	<i>Sphynx</i>	20	160	" Anty Hunt	
Slo	<i>Hawke</i>	10	110	" R. P. Cooper	
Bom	<i>T[h]under</i>	8	80	" Jas Reid	

Rate	Ships	Guns	Men	Commanders		Disposition
Slo	<i>Ranger</i>	8	80	"	Roger Wills	} Gone as Convoy to the Stragling Ships of the above Squadron & to return immediately to England
4	<i>Experiment</i>	50	300	"	Jas Wallace	
6	<i>Milford</i>	28	200	"	Jno Burr	} to Boston
6	<i>Greyhound</i>	28	200	"	Archd Dickson	
A. Ves	<i>Canceaux</i>	8	55	Lt	Hy Mouat	} To Quebec, & to follow the Orders of Vice Admiral Shuldhham.
4	<i>Isis</i>	50	300	Capt	Chs Douglas	
6	<i>Triton</i>	28	200	"	Skefn. Lutwidge	} To Quebec, & then to Newfoundland to join Vice Adml Montagu
"	<i>Surprize</i>	28	180	"	Robt Linzee	
Slo	<i>Martin</i>	14	100	"	Heny Hervey	} To Quebec with Seven Battalions from Cork.
5	<i>Pearl</i>	32	220	"	Thos Wilkinson	
6	<i>Carysfort</i>	28	200	"	Robt Fanshaw	} To Quebec with Troops and Provisions.
A. Ves	<i>Lord Howe</i>	20	200	Lt	Thos Pringle	
"	<i>Bute</i>	20	200	"	Anty Parry	} To Quebec with the 1st Embarkation of Brunswickers.
5	<i>Juno</i>	32	220	Capt	Hugh Dalrymple	
"	<i>Blonde</i>	32	220	"	Phil Pownoll	} To Quebec with with an Hospl Ship, Storeship & some Victual- lers.
6	<i>Tartar</i>	28	200	"	Corn. Ommaney	

NB. These last Seven are afterwards to follow the Orders of Vice Adml Shuldhham, or the Commander in Chief for the time being, in North America.

Under Orders to proceed
forthwith, Vizt

3	<i>Eagle</i>	64	520	{ Right Honble Lord Howe Capt Hy Duncan	
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Rates	Ships	Guns	Men	Commanders.	
4	<i>Preston</i>	50	350	{ Comdre Hotham Capt Jno Robinson	} With such of the 1st Embarkation of Hessians as are arrivd and the De- tachment of British Foot Guards, to General Howe.
5	<i>Rainbow</i>	44	280	" Sr Geo Collier	
"	<i>Brune</i>	32	220	" Jas Fergusson	
"	<i>Emerald</i>	32	220	" Benj Caldwell	
Hos S.	<i>Jersey</i>	24	140	" W. A. Halsted	
Firesp	<i>Strombolo</i>	—	45	Lieut Phipps p Order	} With the 2d High- land Battalions from the Clyde, to Do
Bo	<i>Carcass</i>	8	70	Capt Robt Dring	
5	<i>Flora</i>	32	220	" Jno Brisbane	} Intended to convoy the remainder of the above- mentd Embarkation of Hessians when they arrive —
5	<i>Repulse</i>	32	220	" Hy Davis	

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/1333.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

Whereas by our Commission dated the 15 of February last, We have appointed your Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed and to be employed in the River St Lawrence and along the Coasts of Nova Scotia, the Islands of St John and Cape Breton, and thence to Cape Florida and the Bahama Islands; Your Lordship is hereby required and directed to repair forthwith to Portsmo where you are to take under your Command His Majesty's Ship the *Eagle*, whose Captain is directed to obey your orders; and hoisting your Flag on board her, put to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather and proceed down Channell; and, when you get Twenty Leagues to the Westward of the Lizard your Lordship is to open the inclosed sealed Packet, and put in execution the Instructions you will find therein contained for your further proceedings. Given &c the 4t May 1776

Sandwich Palmerston H Penton

To The Right Honbe Richard Lord Viscount Howe, Vice Admiral of the White, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed and to be employed in the River St Lawrence and along the Coasts of Nova Scotia, the Islands of St John and Cape Breton, and thence to Cape Florida and the Bahama Islands. By & P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 76-77.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

For the better maintaining a proper Government and strict discipline in the Squadron under your Lordships command We do hereby authorize and empower you to call and assemble Courts Martial in foreign Parts as often as you shall see occasion; And whereas Commanders in Chief of Squadrons of His Majesty's Ships employed in foreign parts have sometimes neglected to hold Courts Martial for enquiring into the occasion of the loss of His Majesty's Ships when such Misfortunes have happened whereby the Crown has been put to an unnecessary Expence and the officers and Company to great inconvenience by being kept out of their Wages; Your Lordship, is in case of such an accident to cause a Court Martial to be assembled as soon afterwards as possible, to try the officers and Company for the same and to transmit to our Secretary the proceedings and judgement thereupon by the first conveyance. Given &c the 4t of May 1776.

Sandwich Palmerston H. Penton

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 78.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

By Virtue of the Power and authority to us given, by an Act of Parliament made in the first Year of the Reign of King William and Queen Mary intituled "An Act for abrogating the oaths of supremacy and allegiance and appointing other oaths," We do hereby empower, direct and depute your Lordship to administer the Oaths and Tests, appointed by acts of Parliament, to such Officers as you may appoint to Vacancies; and your Lordship is to return to this Board their Subscriptions of the said Tests, together with Certificates under your hand of their having taken the said Oaths. Given &c, and the Seal of the Office &c the 4t. of May 1776.

Sandwich Palmerston H: Penton

By &c. P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 81-83.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

In case of the Death of any Officer of the Ships or Vessels under your command, or their dismissal by a Court Martial, Your Lordship is hereby empowered to appoint such other Persons, as, by the Quality of their employments ought to succeed to the Vacancy occasion'd thereby; particularly observing to appoint Commanders to be Captains of Post Ships in preference to Lieuts; And you are to take notice that we will not confirm any Officer appointed to Vacancies arising in any other manner. In cases of suspension, your Lordship is only to give Orders to Proper Persons to act until such suspension shall be removed, or we shall think fit to give directions therein; And you are constantly to transmit to Us, by the first Opportunity after appointing any Officer as aforesaid, an Account thereof with your reason for appointing him.

But whereas, notwithstanding Commanders in Chief of His Majesty's Ships employed abroad have been only empower'd to fill up Vacancies occa-

sion'd by the death of Officers or their dismissal by Courts Martial as above directed, it hath frequently happen'd that they have permitted Captains & Lieutenants to resign their employment on account of ill health, & have appointed Officers by Commission, to fill up the Vacancies which have arisen by such resignation, and sometimes removed Officers from one Ship to another, on such occasions, which has not only been attended with disappointment to the new made Officers as they could not be confirm'd but has subjected the King's Service to inconveniences and this Office to much perplexity; Your Lordship, is, therefore, hereby required and directed to be particularly careful never to allow of any such resignation, but when you shall find it absolutely necessary from a thorough conviction that the Parties applying to quit are really in such ill health as to be incapable of any longer continuing to execute properly their respective duties; And, whenever you shall give such permission to the Captain or Commander of any Ship or Vessel under your Command, your Lordship is to direct the Lieutenant of such Ship or Vessel to take upon him the Command, or, in case of giving such permission to a Lieutenant, to direct a Midshipman of the Ship or Vessel to which such Lieutenant belongs to act in his room (provided such Lieutenant or Midshipman be fitly qualified to take upon him such Charge) until our pleasure be known. Given &c. the 4th May 1776.

J.Buller C.Spencer H.Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 81-83.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

My Lord

[Admiralty Office] 4th May 1776

Lord Weymouth one of His Majesty's Principal Secretary's of State having transmitted to my Lords Commissioners of the Admty, a Letter which he had received from Sir John Dick His Majesty's Consul at Leghorne giving an account that an American Brig called the *Betsey* John Eastman Master had saild from that Port and was freighted there by Tuscan Vessels to carry Dollars to Alexandria as appears by the Copy of the Manifesto which accompanied the said Letter but that the Master instead of proceeding on his destined Voyage steered Westward and in the night forced the Supercargo and two other Tuscan Subjects into a little Boat with two Oars turning them adrift; and his Lordship having signified His Majesty's Pleasure that every proper St[ep] be taken for recovery of the effects & that the Master be brought to Justice for his infamous and wicked proceedings. In order to those ends, I have it in Command from their Lordships to send your Lordship a Copy of Lord Weymouth's Letter, together with a Copy of Sir John Dick's and the Manifesto aforementioned; and to signify their direction that your Lordship do comply therewith so far as in your power accordingly. I am &c

P.S:

Lord Viscount Howe &c &c &c – in Town

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/551, 540-41.

MEMORANDUM BY THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY ¹

40. Press Warrants for Captains & Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in No America
 20. Do for Lieutenants of Schooners, arm'd Vessels &c. in Do
 Given &c. the 4th May 1776.

Sandwich Palmerston H.Penton

By &c. P.S.

Sent to Vice Admiral Lord Howe to fill up (the directions being left Blank for that purpose) to such of the above Officers as he should see fit Vide Letter to him of same date – NB. The above Warrants were the same as those of the like kind dated the 19th. June 1775 and sent to Vice Admiral Graves, except that, instead of the date of the Order in Council being expressed the 16th instant, in [it] was on the above express'd the 16th June 1775.

I. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 80–81.

DANIEL HARSON AND F. HAMMOND TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF BRITISH CUSTOMS ¹

Custom House Bristol 4th May 1776

Honble Sirs This Afternoon Mr. Wright Assistant to the Surveyor at Pill, has brought Us the 54 inclosed Packets and Letters which he Seized on board the *Christian* — Alexander Master from Georgia mentioned in the Postscript of our Letter of this days date.² The Captain has brought his Vessel up to the Quay by this Evenings Tide, and has this Instant been with Us. He says that he left Georgia the 29th. of March and Arrived here this Morning, he also says that the *Scarborough* Man of War Captain Barkley in company with several other Armed Vessels in the King's Service and two Transports came to Savannah the beginning of March and took from the several Vessels in the Port about 900 or 1000 Barrels of Rice for the Service of General How's Army, 300 of which Barrels were taken from Captn. Alexanders Ship which was almost the whole of his Cargo, for he has brought home only about Twenty Barrels of Rice and a few Deer Skins – The Captain likewise informs Us that the *Raven* Sloop of War Captain Stanhope came to Savanna a few days before he left it and brought Advice from Cape Fear, that General Clinton was Arrived there with the Forces under his Command and 'twas expected he would be joined by some Thousand of the Inhabitants well Affected to Government, indeed the Captain Adds, that the Majority of the people of property, in the two Carolinas and in Georgia, had the same Loyal and Friendly disposition towards Government and were very Desirous of getting rid of their present Slavish Dependance on their New Tyrannical Masters –

And the Captain thinks that all the people in Arms in Georgia do not exceed 400 Men –

The Captain about three weeks since spoke with a Vessel from Plymouth bound to Newfoundland which a few days before had seen and spoke

with another Vessel from Philadelphia with Dispatches for Government from the Congress. We are Your Honours [&c.]

Dan: Harson
F. Hammond

[Endorsed] Bristol 4th May 1776 Collector and Comptroller Transmit several Packets and Letters seized on board the *Christian* — Alexander Master from Georgia.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/148, 57-60.

2. The postscript referred to reads: "We just now hear that a Vessel called the *Christian* is arrived in King Road from Georgia; but as we have received no Letters from the Officer at Pill, and the Captain is not yet come up to Town, we can say nothing particular concerning her, nor do we know what news she has brought—D.H. F.H.," *ibid.*, 61-64. The papers brought by the *Christian* were sent from the London custom house to Lord Germain, *ibid.*, 53-56 and 61-64.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 4 May 1776

The silence maintained towards you by the English Ministry with respect to the American vessel *Dickenson* confirms the feeling I already had that M. de Paul had mentioned it to me of his own accord and without instructions from his Court. I hope that this Minister will have transmitted to Ld. Weymouth the answer which I gave him on this subject; it conforms with the King's inclinations demonstrated on different occasions to His British Majesty. But, at the same time, I had to inform M. de Paul that we could not carry our accomodation to the point of ruining our merchants by intercepting an important branch of their trade because of a quarrel which is foreign to us. In spite of the watchfulness on the part of the Court of London, the English ports provide insurgents with as much and even more ammunition than the other ports of Europe. Assuredly they cannot expect us to meet with more success than they themselves can manage. If they wish to pull our merchants out of the market they need only purchase themselves the goods sold to the Americans. To my knowledge, this is the only way to close the favorable market which the Americans have found in Europe, and will always find there, in spite of the repeated cruises and uproar of Great Britain. Besides, Sir, you are to keep these reflections to yourself; you will not use them unless the English Ministers converse with you on this subject, in which case you would present them as your own and not our suggestions.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

5 May (Sunday)

THEODORE CANNON TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IRVING, GUERNSEY ¹

[Copy]

Sir,

Painbeuf the 5th May 1776.

I had the pleasure to write to you a few days back regarding Capt [John] Forrest who sailed from hence for America &c I have this day, to

beg you forward that matter here carried on in a very clandestine manner. The Irish Merchts of Nantz send to Ireland for Ships to come out here, under pretence, with Provisions, & then they load them with Ammunitions &c for the French Plantations, as they represent, such as St: Domingo Martinico &ca There is now in this Place, came in last Saturday Week the 27th April, a new fashioned Snow from Dublin, laded Provisions at Waterford, & is come here comanded by John Curry, burthen about 250 tuns, named the *Experiment* whose Cargoe is now geting in all readiness composed of Guns, Gunpowder, the Chief part the latter, & bound for America. I suppose he'll be ready to sail in about a Month's time. I leave the matter to your conduct & remain.

Signed Theodore Cannon.

Postscript of Lt Governour Irvings

One William Williams and Thos Cock of Helfort near Falmouth Informed me that they sailed from Havre de Grace on the 7th instant that they left two American Vessels in the Harbour one called the *Morris* — Bell, Master a Sloop from Philadelphia — that the Master had put three of them into Goal for saying they would not serve against their Countrymen and beg'd they would report it at home. that they might get their liberty — Said both Ships were loading with Saltpeter and powder — that one American Ship sailed with them — and hoisted English Colours 'till they passed Cape Havre — and then hoisted French Colours.

I have but a very superficial knowledge of Mr Canon — he was here for some days — in his way to France — not long ago — I am told he is a Merchant.

[Endorsed] Extracts from Lt Governour Irving's Letter Guernsey 20th May 1776 —

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/162, 447.

6 May

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

[London, May 6, 1776] ²

My lord, It is not a small task to transport to America in a short time 34 thousand troops, cavalry, ammunition, victuals, artillery, wagons, pack-horses and all the paraphernalia required for the operations of such a large army which will land far away on an enemy shore, among fanatic people determined to destroy everything they will not be able to defend. The surplus of ships used in the European Trade is hardly adequate to carry out such a vast undertaking hampered by increasing difficulties that arise from the lack of unanimity either in the Council or in the Nation. If we add to this the armament of 150 warships, the sailors, the victuals consumed by this fleet, it is not surprising that the combined progress of so many tasks is not as rapid as Lord Germain would wish, even if the first Commissioner of the Admiralty were as much inclined to favor the success of these operations as he appears prepared to hamper them.³ I believe, My lord, that we can at-

tribute to these reasons put together the delayed arrival of the foreign troops in the pay of Great Britain.

. . . Lord Howe was made a Commissioner with the most extensive powers as he had desired. He consented to share them with his brother as he was won over by the assumption that if he were to die so far away, provision should have been made for his successor and that the most natural way to ward off the inconvenience that would result from his death was to associate his brother with him. He leaves reluctantly, convinced that in this legislative dispute, the Congress will negotiate only with Deputies authorized by the legislative body, and that it will be possible to negotiate only with Congress. But he has accepted, and now the fate not only of the Ministry, but also of a great Empire, lies in the hands of two military men excessively proud of their name and their service and more accustomed to distinguish themselves through their valor than through their talent. All the Ministers have assured us that Lord Howe has received the most precise instructions to respect our Flag, our coast, our trade, our ships and everything that flies our colors. Lord Weymouth repeated this to me yesterday; Lord Sandwich told it to me again today. I am far from having any doubts about it.

In the present state of affairs, the Government received last night news dated 24 March to the effect that on the 17th of the same month General Howe had embarked with all his troops and that part of the population which had shown the most loyalty to the Government. They number fifteen hundred. Lord Sandwich told me today that this General had also embarked his artillery, that he had destroyed Castle William, that in his retreat he had not lost a single man, that he had sailed for Halifax; and furthermore that the fleet remained in control of the Port of Boston. But on the other hand I have been assured, and it seems more probable, that he has had to leave his artillery behind and that it was only after capitulation that he had left the city into which the Americans entered with drums beating. The Americans had found a way to establish themselves with guns on a small island called Nantasket located in the port and connected to the shore at low tide. This post had become so inconvenient for the city that General Howe had attempted everything to capture it, but to no avail: his attack had miscarried because of a storm and he had been repulsed with losses.⁴

I do not know whether it is this particular circumstance or a set of circumstances that determined General Howe to abandon Boston; but it is undoubtedly true that he was forced to leave against the wishes of the government which intended to make Boston a major point of support. Sir [Peter] Parker had even been ordered to reach this port with his squadron and his troops and one had counted upon the return of the transport ships presently in Boston in order to send part of the troops delayed by the lack of the said transports. Only a few days ago, the Comptroller of the Navy was saying that these vessels had not returned mostly because of the miscount of the number of transport ships. We can see today that General Howe sensing the

situation better than it was known in London thought it was his first duty to preserve his safety and to provide means of retreat in case of need.

One cannot yet guess the consequences that may stem from this event. The fear of losing control of Quebec has not affected the measures taken with regard to this problem; but the certainty that Boston is lost at the very moment when the Army was about to go there and run all the operations of the campaign from there, must cause some perplexity in the Council of His British Majesty. It seems that everything which had been planned has become impracticable and is sinking into an uncertainty all the more pernicious as the most precious moments of the campaign go by without producing anything but expenses in pure loss for the present but most embarrassing for the future, to say the least.

However a decision has to be made for one cannot let these Hessians fill the stage and become the laughing-stock in the road of Portsmouth in such an unfortunate war. In my opinion, the Ministry could not stand this shame. General Howe certainly moved a good distance away from New York, should they be sent there. I am inclined to believe, however, that it is their destination, if they are to leave. Furthermore, they will find there the army of General [Charles] Lee which could easily be reinforced by that of General Washington. Many people will undoubtedly consider this as a decisive advantage for the independance of America. Without carrying things so far, one may at least look at them as a major and unexpected reverse for the Government and which might prove a new source of courage for the Americans, if they needed it. . . .

The orders sent to the ships *Marlborough* and *Royal Oak* are less extensive than we had first been led to believe. These orders reveal only distant preparations for a summer cruise which will be preceded as in the years past by a visit of Lord Sandwich. The ships *Foudroyant* and *Raisonnable* have also received orders to perform exercises and drill their crews. *Worcester* of 64 guns sailed on the 30th of last month for a secret destination. Her crew numbers 500 and she carries victuals for six months. Our correspondent believes that she is destined to cruise off the Azores against American vessels that sail to Europe in order to obtain war ammunition. When she calls at Plymouth, she will be joined by *Nonsuch* carrying the same number of guns, victuals and crew.⁵ What surprises me most with respect to this cruise is the choice of ships of this strength since frigates or corvettes would have been better suited to cruise against merchant ships. This observation makes me suspect that the Government may have received some intelligence concerning the destination of that American squadron which sailed from Philadelphia last January, and which I had good reason to believe to be destined for Newfoundland. It seems to me, however, that if this had been their true destination we would have received some news by now, but since we have heard nothing we may assume that they have sailed on another course. If the Government has received any information, I would be in-

clined to believe that it is against this squadron that they have sent the two ships I have mentioned before.⁶

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol, 516, LC Photocopy.
2. Date established by the fact that Lord Howe, who left for Portsmouth on May 4, departed, according to Garnier, "the day before yesterday."
3. Lord Sandwich.
4. See Garnier's letter of May 8, 1776, when he had secured more accurate information of the evacuation of Boston.
5. H.M.S. *Nonsuch* sailed on May 1, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 8/52.
6. This was an erroneous impression voiced by Garnier; no vessels from England at any time pursued Esek Hopkins's first Continental fleet.

Public Advertiser, MONDAY, MAY 6, 1776

London [May 6].

Capt. Norman, of the *Dutton* Transport, who is arrived at Boston from London, writes, that some Days before he reached Boston, he was attacked by two American Privateers, but the *Dutton*, being a large Ship, and mounting 26 Guns, he beat them off after firing one Round at them.

The *Pacifick*, Dunn, an old East-Indiaman, from London, arrived at Boston, on her Passage met with an American Vessel laden with Flour, &c. which Capt. Dunn made up to, and finding that she was under American Colours, put some of his People on board her, and carried her safe into Boston.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE SECOND MATE OF THE *Georgia Packet*, DATED DOVER, MAY 6, TO A GENTLEMAN IN SHIELDS"¹

We arrived here yesterday in ballast from Savannah, in Goergia.² The day before we sailed, some of his Majesty's ships, and transports with troops on board, entered the harbour, when the rebels, guessing we were about to depart, demanded our sails and running rigging, with orders to send them immediately on shore. Fortunately for us, some of the King's troops came to our assistance privately in the night, and the rebels finding us not inclinable to comply with their demands, came on board to force us to obedience.

On this a skirmish ensued, in which four of them were taken prisoners, and seven killed and wounded. On this the rest retreated, but we had two more engagements with them ere we got out of the harbour, without any loss on our side, except our boats, which they made capture of. Before this happened we were chartered for rice, and had part of our cargo, which the men took and put on board the transports for Boston.

All the inhabitants of Savanna, who wished prosperity to Old England, had retired into the Country, and left the rebels possession of the town, to debate the matter with the British forces.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 18 to May 21, 1776.
2. The *Georgia Packet*, Thomas Glenders, master, had forty-five whole barrels of rice on board, according to the report made by Captain Andrew Barkley, H.M.S. *Scarborough*, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir,

Eagle at Spithead May the 6: 1776

Having received their Lordships orders of the 4th Inst: with several paper refered to therein, on the morning of the 5th, I set out immediately for this Port, and embarked on board the *Eagle* yesterday.

Commodore Hotham being then on the point of sailing from St Helens with the Transports &c under his conduct, I did not interrupt the execution of the orders he was under, to inform myself concerning the General [Leopold Philipp] Heister's Instructions & Intentions with respect to a suitable arrangement of the Naval Force to be hereafter employed under my command, in case he should see occasion to disembark the Troops in presence of an Enemy upon his arrival on the Coasts of America.

Being in other respects ready to proceed to Sea pursuant to their Lordships orders of the date before mentioned; It becomes requisite for me to represent to their Lordships, that the King having been most graciously pleased to appoint me One of His Majesty's Commissioners for restoring Peace to his Majesty's Colonies & Plantations in North America, and for granting pardons to such of His Majesty's Subjects there now in Rebellion as shall deserve the Royal Mercy: I am therefore to request their Lordships explanatory directions, whether I am at liberty to postpone my departure in consequence of their pressing order as aforesaid, now become necessary for the purpose of that Commission until His Majesty's further pleasure therein hath been duly signified to me.² I am Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

2. *Ibid.*, 2/552, 9-10, the Admiralty granted Howe permission to postpone his departure.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER IN THE GARRISON OF GIBRALTAR,
MAY 6." ¹

The *Enterprise*, a Frigate of 28 Guns, has brought in here an American Ship of 300 Tons, bound for some of the Spanish Ports. She is loaded with Wheat and Flour, and valued at 8000 l.² Several other American Ships are got into Lisbon and Cadiz, which the *Enterprise* is going to look after.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, June 5, 1776.

2. The ship *Aurora*, Captain Getsheus, was one of the seven vessels freighted by Willing, Morris & Co. under contract with the Secret Committee of the Continental Congress, to export provisions and invest the proceeds in arms and ammunition. Of her fate, Robert Morris wrote: "The Ship *Aurora* Capt Getshius was taken & Carried into Gibraltar by Sir Thos Rich in the *Enterprise* Man of War Willing Morris & Cos Friends there, got sight of their letters and defended the property, on Tryal the Cargo was acquitted & Vessell Condemned in Consequence of this the Nt Pceeds of her Cargo was remitted [&] ordered to Mess Wm Boynes & Co in Cadiz without Deducting the freight and on demand of the Owner Mr B. Gibbs Willing Morris & Co pd him the freight in Philada £857.5.11 Sterlg at the then Curr^t Exch[ang]e of 140 pC adv[anc]e 1200.4.3. Curry £2057.10.2, which is also charged to the Committee on WM & Cos. Contract Acct as mentioned above. sometime after this transaction WM & Co rec'd advice that [Sir] Thos Rich had Entered an Appeal from the Judgement of the Court at Gilbralter & that appeal not being decided the Nt Pceeds of the Cargo is hung up in London," Robert Morris Papers, HUL.

7 May

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL APPLEBY¹May [1776] Remarks &ca *Preston* at Saint Helens.

Tuesday 7 at 5 a m made the signal & weighed in Company with his Majestys Ships *Rainbow*, *Emerald*, *Brune Jersey*, *Carcass* and *Strombolo* Fireships and a large Fleet of Transports . . . at 6 a m fired a Gun and made the Signal for the Transports to make more Sail at Noon 88 sail in Company the Bill of Portland bearing NW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 8 Leagues.

Moderate and hazey weather with rain at 6 p m made the signal and wore Ship & brot too maintopsail to the Mast and took in the 3 reef at 7 got down Top Gallant Yards in doing which William Fletcher and Patrick Keif Seamen were thrown overboard the former was drowned the latter by the assistance of the boat was got in $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 fired 3 Guns and made the Signal to wear & bring too on the other Tack at 12 fired 8 Guns for the Convoy to make Sail unbent sheet Cable 89 Sail in sight

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPT. [JOHN HAMILTON] DEMPSTER, OF THE *Blue Mountain Valley* TRANSPORT, DATED NEWRY, IRELAND, MAY 7." ¹

I wrote you from America the misfortune which befell me in the loss of my ship, but as you probably never received it, I will inform you of the misfortunes that have befallen me from my leaving the Downs till my arrival in Ireland. I left the Downs towards the end of October last, when that dreadful gale of wind drove so many ships ashore on the coasts of England and Ireland. But I escaped from that tolerably well. The remainder of my passage was one continued gale of wind, until my arrival on the coast of America, where I found my ship disabled in every respect, being leaky, &c. having had a thirteen week passage. The moment I came off New York I sent my Chief Mate on shore for a pilot boat, in order to get on board the ships of war lying there, to demand assistance in carrying the ship into New York, where we might refit in Order to proceed to Boston, our intended port. But unluckily for me, as I afterwards learnt, my Mate was taken prisoner, and was obliged by threats to discover what the ship was, where bound, and of no force. Upon this intelligence, they fitted out four armed vessels, with about sixty men in each, in all upwards of 200 men, an overmatch (as you may easily believe) for a ship with four small guns and sixteen hands in all, after being 13 weeks at sea, and hardly able to keep the ship from sinking. When the vessels made their appearance I took them for vessels from the men of war, the officer who commanded the party being drest in the uniform of a Lieutenant of the Navy,² and I did not then know my Mate was taken prisoner. They boarded the ship in every part, and carried her about ten or twelve miles up the river where two of the King's ships

lay, to a place called Elizabeth-town, making a prize of the ship and cargo and myself a prisoner upon parole. After the Americans, by order of the Congress, had unloaded the ship, by an order from that same power I was set at liberty conditionally, that I should not go near either the army or the navy, but return to Britain the first opportunity, which I gladly embraced, by coming home in the *Catherine*, Capt. Moore, bound for Newry; and happy was I to get away, lest they had recalled this indulgence. I arrived here the fifth of May, after a pleasant passage of five weeks, and shall proceed with all speed.

(Signed) John Hamilton Dempster.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 18 to May 21, 1776.

2. The uniformed officer was Captain William Rogers, of New York, who in later years protested that he was never paid for his part in this capture. His protest, or rather, a fragment salvaged from the papers burned in the fire in the Albany State Capitol, read: "Capt Rogors tuck the Ship *Blew Mounton Valey* in the year 1776 Jany. She was Caried into Elizebeth town point he was promisd one 100 Guines by Lord Sterling for being the first that boarded her - her Cargo was Sold & he Receivd Nothing ther from the Agent Sued the purchaser of the Ship for the 100 Gunes and Never Refunded the Same to Capt Rogars altho he obtained it," CL.

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL LORD RICHARD HOWE ¹

[Extract]

[Admiralty Office] 7 May 1776

I have it in command to send your Lordship, at the same time for your information, Copies of the Instructions to the Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels named in the Inclosed Lists for proceeding to the River St Lawrence, the two first of which have winter'd at Quebec, and the remainder, (Except the *Tartar* now at Plymouth and under Orders to sail immediately) sailed from England on the Days against each express'd.

[Enclosure]

Rate	Ships Names	Commanders	When sail'd &c.
6	<i>Lizard</i>	Capt Jno Hamilton	16th Augst 1775
Schoor	<i>Magdalene</i>	Lt Joseph Nunn	24th April 1775
4	<i>Isis</i>	Capt. Chas Douglas	7th March
6	<i>Triton</i>	Skeft Lutridge	16th March
Transpt	<i>Lord Howe</i>	Lieut Thos Pringle	
"	<i>Bute</i>	Anty Parry	
6	<i>Surprize</i>	Capt. Robt. Linzee	20th do
Sloop	<i>Martin</i>	Henry Hervy	
5	<i>Juno</i>	Hugh Dalrymple	7th April
"	<i>Blonde</i>	Philp Pownall	
"	<i>Pearl</i>	Thos Wilkinson	8th do from Cork
6	<i>Carysfort</i>	Rob Fanshaw	
"	<i>Tartar</i>	C. Ommanney at Plymouth under orders to sail	

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 5-6.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN ¹

- May 1776 Moored at Spithead
- Monday 6th At 5 A M hoisted the Rt Honble Lord Viscount Howes Flag as Vice Adml of the White & Saluted Sir James Douglas with 13 Guns, returned equal Number, Sailed hence His Majesty's Ship *Brune* for St Hellens, loosed Sails to dry and furled them at Noon
- Tuesday 7th Variable Winds and Weather
- A M reced 30 Butts of Beer and returned Empty Cask At 6 Sailed from St Hellen's His Majesty's Ships *Preston*, *Brune* & *Jersey* with the *Str[o]mbolo* & *Carcass* Bombs and all the Transports with the Guards and Hessian Troops on board, Sailed hence his Majestys Ship *Rainbow* Fresh Breezes with some Squalls of Wind and rain
- P M received a Longboat load of Water

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/E/11, NMM Photocopy.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAY 7." ¹

Yesterday Afternoon, about Five o'Clock, sailed his Majesty's Ship *Preston*, Commodore Hotham; *Rainbow*, Sir George Collier; *Emerald*, Captain [Benjamin] Caldwell; *Brune*, Captain [James] Ferguson; *Jersey*, Captain Halstead; *Strombolo*, Captain [Charles] Phipps, and *Carcass* Bomb, Captain Read, with the Transports with the Hessian Troops, Foot Guards, Artillery, and many Victuallers, under their Convoy, for North America. It is expected Lord Howe will sail on Thursday.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, May 9, 1776.

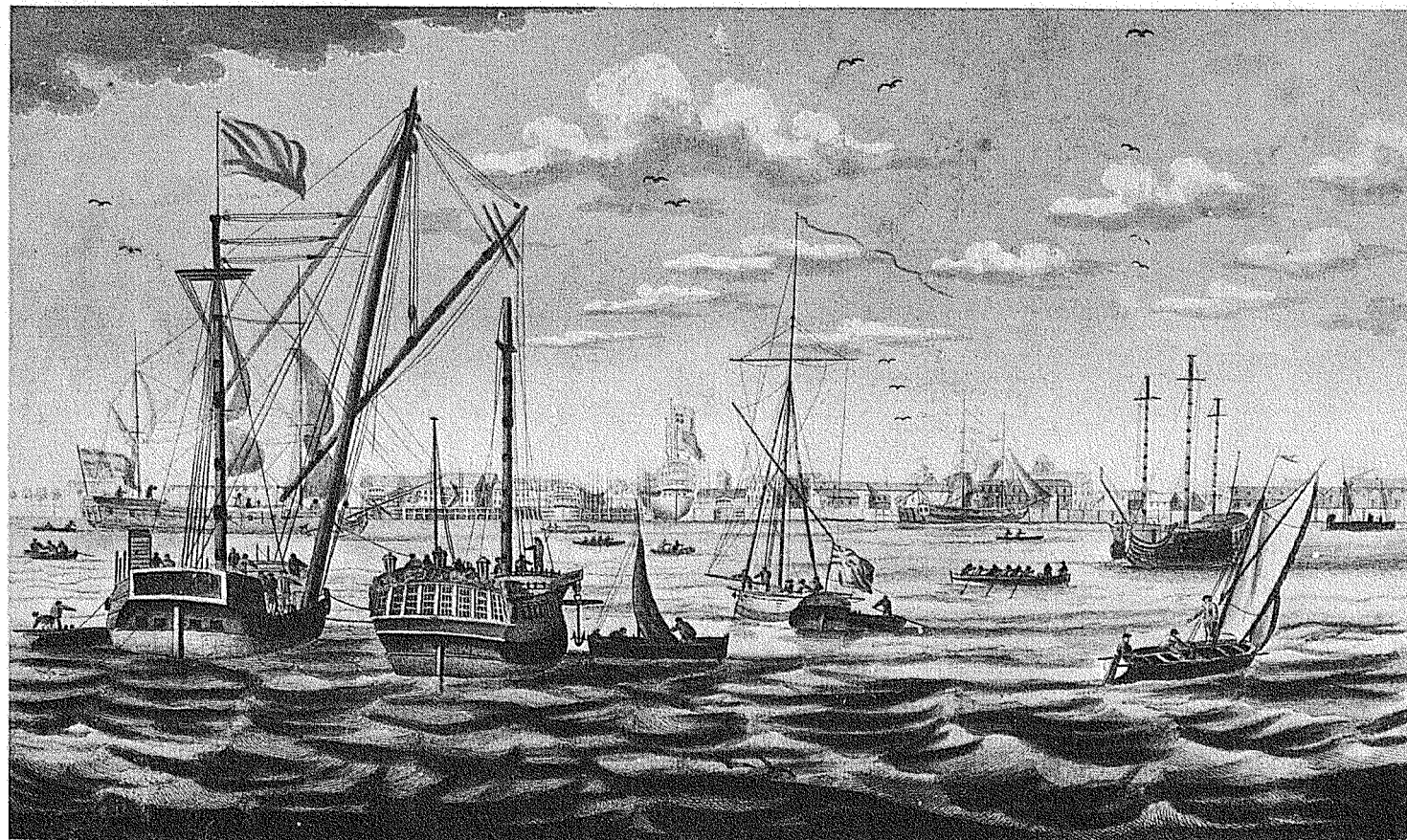
M. MONTAUDOUIN TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Nantes 7th May 1776.

Monseigneur My house has received the letter with which you have honoured it. I make it my duty to communicate to you its very humble thanks for all the marks of kindness which it contains, and for your kindness in sending us the letter from London, and also for your offers and your wise observation concerning the reply. The letter, Monseigneur, is anonymous, and from a friend of the Anglo-Americans. I have the honour to send you a translation of it. The information which it contains may not be unworthy of the attention of the Ministry. Besides, I am eager, in this way to give you a mark of the confidence which I owe you and which you are so fitted to inspire, independently of the eminent position which you occupy in the State.

We have heard that two American vessels, which were to come here, decided to go – one to Lisbon, the other to Cadiz, where they have arrived.

You would render, Monseigneur, a great service to French tanners if you could induce the Court of Madrid not to require, on French-tanned leathers, higher dues than on those of Great Britain and Ireland. It seems



*View of His Majesty's Dock Yard at PORTSMOUTH,
in the County of HAMPSHIRE, on the British Channel.*

*Vue du Chantier de Sa. Majesté à PORTSMOUTH, dans le
Comté de HAMPSHIRE, sur la Manche.*

that the celebrated treaty, which has, in a way, identified the two nations, gives us some claim to the preference, and, with strong reasons, to simple equality.

I shall always seize, with the greatest eagerness, every opportunity of proving to you the unlimited devotion, and the very profound respect, with which I am, Monseigneur, [&c.]

Montaudouin
Correspondent of the Royal
Academy of Sciences of Paris

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 863.

8 May

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, Wednesday 8 May, 1776

On the 17th of March, the English fleet, composed of 140 sails, that is to say many transport ships and very few Ships Royal, sailed [from Boston] for Halifax. The provincial fleet chased the rear and captured 10 or 12 of the worst-sailing ships.² Only God or the winds know where the others are now . . .

Five days ago 4 packet-boats left England: one for the fleet on its way to Halifax, the others for New York, Rhode Island and Quebec. The Ministry is really hard pressed, and although the papers relate that the 1st Hessian division left Portsmouth it was not certain yesterday still whether Lord Germain would not go to this port in order to urge or force the Hessian General to sail, which he will not do until all the troops have arrived.

Indeed I believe that the time is near when the Americans will be their own masters; and it is coming all the faster as General [Charles] Lee, after leaving 7000 men in fortified New York, departed with the 15 thousand men that remained in order to make straight for Quebec.³

If the Americans have the upper hand, as everything leads to believe, are we not going to regret deeply that we did not give in to their solicitations? Then, instead of having acquired, as we could have done it at little expense and without risk, certain rights on the gratitude of these neighbors of our islands, we shall have alienated them for ever. Since they will have won without us, they will make a good peace, but against us. They will avenge themselves of our harshness, at our expense.

Well! How important is a loan of two or three millions without compromising ourselves? Indeed, I can assure you on my sacred honor that I can get to them at second hand, even through Holland, all the assistance to which you will agree, without risk and without any other authorization but that which exists between us.

Even the appearance of an effort might be sufficient, because I know that the Virginians are now able to manufacture saltpetre in abundance, and that Congress, since its meeting in Southern Carolina, has decided that powder which was manufactured only in Philadelphia would be manufactured

in all the places where it is needed. Furthermore, the Virginians have 7000 regular troops and 70 thousand militia men, iron in abundance and manufacture almost as many weapons as all the rest of America put together.⁴ But engineers, engineers and powder! or the money to get them; this is the result of all my meetings.

1. AMAE, Correspondence Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. The pursuing American schooners captured only one vessel from the fleet, the brig *Elizabeth*, a straggler.

3. Beaumarchais persisted in estimating Lee's army as 22,000 men, instead of 1200; and, while Lee had been ordered to Canada, the order had been almost immediately countermanded.

4. Where Beaumarchais picked up this melange of misinformation is not evident.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 8 May 1776

My lord, Nothing is more true than the intelligence I had the honor to send you concerning the fact that General Howe had not received any letters from the Government since 26 October. I could not believe this circumstance, but it is generally known and accepted today. Since that period the vessels carrying the dispatches from the Court to Boston were forced by adverse winds to make for the island of Antigua instead of reaching their destination.

The operations which decided General Howe's retreat are also known. After advancing their positions, the Americans erected batteries in different places, one among others on a point called Phipp's farm from where they greatly inconvenienced the city. But the true attack was being prepared near Dorchester. After effecting a lodgment, they began to bombard Boston from this high position with such advantage that there remained no other alternative but to dislodge them from that position or else abandon the city. General Howe decided on the first course and made an attempt against their position at the head of 2400 elite troops. Meanwhile a storm had come up and the continuous fire of the Americans prevented the landing. Back in Boston, the General who had apparently recognised the difficulty to capture that position even in calm weather called for the Select Men, some sort of Magistrates appointed by the people and whom General [Thomas] Gage had forbidden to leave the city. He entrusted them with the mission of finding General Washington in order to inform him that he wanted to leave Boston and embark; that he would not harm the city if the Americans would cease fire, but that he would destroy everything if they continued. The American General requested a letter from General Howe and promised to give it a suitable answer but the latter refused to submit and write to a rebel General.

The shelling started again: the Select Men were summoned again and enjoined to write General Washington and present to him that he should be satisfied with becoming master of the city, and that, far from gaining its destruction, it was to his advantage to preserve it. The American General sent this letter to the Provincial Congress gathered in Concord located a few

miles from the camp. It was unanimously agreed to let the troops embark peacefully, which was done on the 17th and the following days.

It appears to be an established fact that the General abandoned all the iron guns located on the lines, as well as the artillery horses. During the session on the day before yesterday, some members of the Lower House assessed the loss of the items which the General could not take with him to two hundred thousand pounds sterling; but this count may be exaggerated.

As for the article in the Gazette of the Court, it stirred up nothing but jeers, especially when in such circumstances it is followed by the pardons who are carried by Lord [Richard] Howe and M. [Henry] Strachey, the Secretary. The latter was secretary to the late Lord Clive during his last expedition to India. He is said to be a worthy man.² They do not speak so well of his superior's brains which are commonly thought to be rather confused. He left for Portsmouth from whence the English and Hessian troops sailed night before last.

The fleet which transports them consists of 135 transport ships. It is convoyed by a ship of 50 guns called *Preston*, a hospital ship also of 50 guns called *Jersey*, the Frigate *Rainbow* of 44 guns and the *Emerald* of 32, and two fire-ships. Lord Germain has just told me that he gave yesterday to Mr. Strachey the Commission and the instructions for Lord Howe, and that he expects this Admiral to put to sea today or tomorrow. He has been invested with the most extensive powers with this restriction, nevertheless, that he will not negotiate with Congress, but confer only with Deputies.

It was felt that His British Majesty could not promise in writing to have the Acts of the Legislative Body revoked. They would like the submission of the Americans by force, and they are rather embarrassed as to how to accomplish it while they do not know how to go about making peace. Lord Sandwich was telling me the other day that England would end this affair, but not as advantageously as we would do it in such a case because we would be satisfied with a complete and absolute submission, whereas the English Government is embarrassed with this word liberty; he talked further with sound reasoning on the drawbacks of the English Constitution with respect to the administration of the Colonies.

On the day before yesterday, the Lower House debated whether to vote an extraordinary million for the disposal of His British Majesty. This is the request which had been announced previously by Lord North. Before giving his consent, Colonel Barre³ deemed necessary to require that the House be informed of the situation in America. He requested to this effect that, as of the first of March last, the correspondence of the General in command of the Army and that of the Admiral in command of the fleet in Northern America be brought to the attention of the House. But this motion was rejected by a majority of 171 votes against 54.

You can see, My lord, that it is easier for the Insurgents to acquire cities in America than to obtain votes in the English Parliament. But at this point of the quarrel, the victories of the Ministry in Parliament will be useful only as far they will be followed by more real advantages in America. . . .

P.S. According to this evening's papers, it appears that the small American Squadron commanded by M. Hopkins sailed on a course quite opposite to the one which had first been suspected. They are claimed to have sailed for Florida and to have captured the Island of [New] Providence. If this information is correct the Navy will be in a better position to judge the degree of usefulness of such an undertaking.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.
2. Sir Henry Strachey, Secretary of the Howe Peace Commission, 1776-1778.
3. Colonel Isaac Barre, a defender of American rights in Parliament.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1776

London [May 8].

The Cause of the Ships being burnt at Georgia arose from General Howe's sending some Transports for Provisions, the Officers of which seized several Vessels in the Harbour for the Use of the King's Troops, which so irritated the Inhabitants, that they rose and destroyed some of them, which obliged the Captains of the others to throw their Cargoes overboard and run for it, in order to avoid a like Fate.¹

The Fleet of American Privateers under the Command of Commodore Hopkins, which were sent out some Months since, and supposed to be gone to intercept the homeward bound Indiamen that touch at St. Helena, it now appears have made their first Attempt at New Providence, which they have the Possession of. This Island is so situated as to command the Jamaica and other West India Trade.

1. A badly garbled report of the rice ships at Savannah.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHATHAM, MAY 8." ¹

This day orders were received for the Scavermen and Labourers of the dock-yard, to work one tide a day extra.

Friday last sailed from hence for America, the *Diamond* frigate, of 32 guns, commanded by Charles Fielding, Esq.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 9 to May 11, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAY 8." ¹

Sailed out of the harbour to Spithead, the *Egmont*, having been docked and refitted.

Lord Howe still continues here, and it is said will not sail till further orders.

The *Repulse*, Capt. [Henry] Davis, waits at Spithead, to convoy out the second division of Hessian Troops.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 9 to May 11, 1776.

CAPTAIN THOMAS RICH, H.M.S. *Enterprize*, TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

[Gibraltar, May 8, 1776] ²

... by the Order of Vice Admiral Robert Man, I have continued Cruiz-

ing from Cape Spartiel to Cadiz . . . On the 28. Ulto. I took the Ship *Aurora* of and from Philadelphia Own'd by Ben Gibbs of said place Freight'd with Eleven Thousand Seven hundred & Twenty Six Bushells of wheat & Six Hundred & Thirty Barrels of Flour, on account of Willing & Morris (the Delegates to the Congress for Philadelphia) & Consign'd to Gregory & Guille of Barcelona to be sold there both Ship & Cargo the ship & Freight to be remitted to Messrs. P: Thellusson & Co the Produce of the Cargo to Messrs. Wm Baynes & Co. both in London the Latter on a Seperate account. . . . off Cape Trafalgar examined ten or Eleven sail out of Seventeen but was unfortunate enough to Pitch upon the wrong and a large ship from America with wheat & Flour past by us, in sight and got into Cadiz. . . .

Herewith I transmit exact Copys of three Letters found on board the *Aurora*, being all I have got sight of excepting the Ship papers that are customary. The Master of whom since he has been tutored by the Friends of the Americans here Pretends to say the Cargo of said Vessel was Intend'd for the Payment of Debts in England as she sail'd the 17th March last or thereabouts. I have been thus Particular with a view of defeating such measures as may be made use of to destroy the real Intentions of Government, begging leave to Observe the snow *Dickerson* [*sic Dickinson*] which I've an account of being carried into Bristol by the Mate and crew give a Particular acct of the ship *Aurora* which I have taken (agreeable to my Orders received from Vice Adml. Man, in Obedience to their Lordships Orders to him the 2nd. September 1775.[]) being amongst the Ships and Vessels mention'd in the Publick Prints, to have sail'd with him or near about the time by Special Liscence of the Congress, for the Purpose of Lodging Sufficient Fund in the hands of Disaffected people in England for the Purchase & Payment of Gun powder & war like Stores, to be had and Transported to the rebellious Colonies in America I therefore pray their Lordships influence and Assistance in Proceeding against the said Ship *Aurora* her Cargo and all persons aiding and assisting therein, and am Sir [&c.]

Thomas Rich

[Endorsed] Recd. 12 July 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2389, Section 7, 15.

2. The date is approximated from the contents of the letter, and contemporary documents and letters relating to the capture of the *Aurora*.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GIBRALTAR, MAY 8." ¹

Three American vessels were brought in here yesterday by two of our cruizers, which they took just before they reached the Bay of Cadiz. They are laden with corn, flour, &c.

The Admiral, in consequence of some intelligence he has received from the seamen taken in the American vessels, who have entered on board his ship, sent to England for a reinforcement of light cruizers.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 4 to June 6, 1776.

9 May

EDWARD STANLEY TO WILLIAM KNOX ¹

Sir,

Custom:House London 9th May 1776.

The Commissioners having by this day's Post received another Letter from the Collector and Comptroller of Bristol transmitting a Paper delivered to them on the 7th Instant by the Master of the Brig *Christian*, lately arrived from Georgia, containing several particulars relative to the Situation of Affairs in Georgia; – I am directed to send You herewith a Copy of the said Paper, which You will be pleased to lay before His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, for his Lordships Information. I am, Sir,

Edw^d Stanley

[Enclosure]

Advices received by the Brig *Christian* Captn Jno Alexander arrived at Bristol in five Weeks from Georgia Vizt –

That the said Brig with several other Vessels, being nearly laden and ready to sail in the Months of December and January last; but were Stopp'd by orders from the Committee of Safety and Provincial Congress, – untill the 1st of March, when upon Application to the Commanding Officer of the Provincials they had permission to proceed on their respective Voyages which they were preparing to do, when Captn Barkley of the *Scarborough* Man of War, who had Arrived at Cockspur about 3 or 4 Weeks before the said 1st March with two Transports having Troops on board in order to procure Rice for his Majestys Garrisons at Boston, being seen coming up to Savannah, with the *Cherokee*, *Hichinbrook*, and two Transports Alarmed the Provincials who Expected the Town would be Destroyed, and therefore again stopped the Vessels that were laden, at the Town, and on Saturday Night the 2d March, the Troops from on board the Transports went privately on board several of the Merchant Ships then laying opposite the Town of Savannah, and remaining on board, on Sunday the 3d of March; when a Boat from the Town with orders for the Vessels to unreef their Rigging and send it a shore came along side the Vessels, some of the Troops being Disguised presented their pieces to the people in the Boat and ordered them on board, whereupon some little time after another Boat from the Shore, with 2 or 3 Members of the Provincial Congress on board, came to know the reason why their Officer in the first Boat was Detained? when they were likewise ordered on board on this the People on Shore having a Suspicion of Troops being on board; Hailed the Vessels to send the Prisoners on shore, or they would Fire and no answer being made, they began to Fire from the Battery Erected that Day, on shore; Sometime after which a general Fire ensued, and in the mean time a Boat from the Shore came onboard the *Christian* which lay along side the *Inverness*, and informed the Captain they were come to set the Vessels on Fire, desiring them to save what they could and go immediately on Shore, which they found it impossible to do, having no Boats, on board either Vessel, Wherefore after some Consultation among themselves, the Provincials determined to Fire the *Inverness* only,

whose Cargo was Valued at £20,000 Stg and to take their People on board the *Christian*, which being put in Execution the Ship was on Fire in several places before the said Brig could get clear of her; which was at last with difficulty effected, and luckily the *Inverness* got a ground, or would have set all the other Vessels on Fire, in the meantime the Troops Expecting the Ship on Fire, would be aboard them they left the Merchant Ships and landed on the Marsh opposite the Town – the Provincials on Shore seeing the *Inverness* a ground, then set a schooner on Fire and sent her under Sail among the Ships which unluckily burn't the Brig *Nelly*, belonging to Liverpool and a schooner belonging to Georgia, whereupon all the Vessels got up the River, out of reach of the Battery and the next Morning had orders from Captn Barkley of the *Scarborough* Man of War to bring the vessels to 9 feet drau't of water, in order to proceed by the back River on their intended Voyages, (the proper Channel having been stopped by the Provincials) which obliged the Vessels to throw over board, great Quantities of Rice before they could proceed to Cockspur, soon after they arrived there, Captn Alexander applied to Captn Barkley for leave to proceed on his intended Voyage which was not permitted, but the Commanding officers of the Troops, ordered the Vessels along side the Transports to discharge the Rice they had on board, for the Use of His Majesty's Troops, at Boston &c. soon after which the following Men of War and Transports sailed for Cape Fear and Boston at the same time with the *Christian*, and other Merchant Ships who received Instructions from Captn Barkley to sail in the following order

The Men of War &c – Vizt

The *Scarborough* Captn Barkley 20 Guns

The *Tamer* Sloop Captn Thornbury [Edward Thornbrough] 16 Guns

The *Symettry* Transport Captn. — 16 Guns

The *Whit[b]y* Transport

Merchantmen Vizt

To lead	<i>Marlborough</i>	for	Whitby
2	<i>Adventure</i>		Jamaica
3	<i>Georgia Packet</i>		Scarborough
4	<i>Christian</i>		Bristol
5	<i>Fair Lady</i>	(N.B. This Vessel did not Sail)	
6	<i>Live Oak</i>	for	Glasgow
7	<i>Charming Nancy</i>	belonging to	London for Tobago
8	<i>Samuel & Charles</i>		Barbadoes
9	<i>Christie</i>	Craig belongg to	North Britain }
			for Jamaica }
10	<i>Christie</i>		Lee – Glasgow
11.	<i>Maria</i>	—	

To bring up the Rear the *St John* Sloop a Tender 4 Guns

There were besides left at Savannah

The *Raven* Sloop Captn [John] Stanhope

Cherokee Armed Vessel Captn Ferguson [John Fergusson]

Merchant Ships Vizt

<i>Georgia Planter</i> , Captn Inglis	} with Some others Names Unknown
<i>Unity</i> Captn Wardell	
a Brig Captn Ash	
<i>Beaufort</i> Captn —	
Capt Steel —	

The *Raven* Sloop of War which Arrived at Cockspur from North Carolina about Ten days before Captain Alexander Sailed brought an Account that Governor [Josiah] Martin had a Number of Inhabitants in Arms at Cape Fear in favr of Government and it was expected that many more would join them from the back Settlements as soon as the Troops arrived and had forced one of the Provincial Camps the *Raven* had taken a Ship belonging to Philadelphia with 2000 half Johannes on board, a Brig and a schooner belonging to Georgia with Flour and Gun Powder.²

[Endorsed] A Paper from Captn Jno Alexander containing several Particulars relative to affairs in Georgia —

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/148, 33-36. Stanley was secretary to the Commissioners of the Customs.
2. The ship *Rittenhouse*, *Georgia Packet*, and Sloop *St. John*, Shulldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

Public Advertiser, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1776

London [May 9].

A Vessel is arrived at Bristol from Savannah in Georgia, which she left about the Middle of March last, and brings Advices, of which the following is the Substance: "That the Transports with Marines on board, which General Howe sent there for Rice, and other Provisions, arrived; that the People would not permit them to be furnished with a single Article; in Consequence the Marines attempted to land in their Boats, with a Design to carry off some Vessels that were lying in the Harbour loaded; but meeting with a very smart Attack, were compelled to make a precipitate Retreat to their Transports, upon which the loaded Ships (which belonged to suspicious Persons) were instantly destroyed by Fire. One was called the *Inverness*, and valued at 60,000 l. Sterling. The Vessel which brought this Intelligence to Bristol, has brought only twenty Barrels of Rice. She unexpectedly got out of the Harbour in the Night."

The Ships which were burnt at Georgia had been loaded for England some Time, and their Cargoes were supposed to be worth about 15,000 l. each Ship. The letting such valuable Ships go home to Great Britain, at this Time, was an Object of very serious Consideration, and could not be easily settled; but it is generally believed the News of the late Act, prohibiting all Commerce with America, served to fix the Georgians in their Opinion on this important Point, and it was resolved that they should not go. While Matters were thus agitated on Shore, the King's Ships in the Road had begun to take Rice and other Stores out of the Ship *Christian*,

Capt. [John] Alexander, which had just set sail for England, and had threatened to send their Boats and unmoor the other Ships that were loaded for Great Britain, if the Provincial Congress, or Committees, still detained them. This so exasperated the Populace, that they set Fire to the *Inverness*. The People on board, to save themselves, ran the Ship on Shore, and by that Means set Fire to the *Neddy* and *Polly*, of Liverpool, and two Schooners, which lay adjoining. There are other Accounts which say, that the Ship was actually set on Fire by an Order from the Committee, as the best Means of adjusting all Differences, and quieting the Populace without Bloodshed.

The Ministry have this Week received certain Advice, that the Congress had ordered out twenty Sail of Privateers, which carry from twenty to thirty-six Guns each, to cruize in and about the River St. Lawrence, in order to intercept some of the Transports from England: Notice of which was on Tuesday sent to Lord Howe at Portsmouth, that his Lordship may deliver out Orders to the Commanders of the Transports not to run from their Convoy, lest they fall into the Hands of the Americans.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAY 9.”¹

This morning Lord Howe went on board the *Eagle* man of war at Spit-head, which saluted him by firing three rounds as soon as he got on board; several other ships that lay off this place likewise fired their guns, and in the afternoon they weighed anchor, were under sail till about six o'clock this evening, and are now out of sight. It is imagined they will join the fleet about Scilly.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 9 to May 11, 1776.

10 May

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A SHIP CARPENTER, NOW AT BELFAST, IN IRELAND, TO HIS FATHER, IN NEWCASTLE, MAY 10.”¹

You must 'ere now have heard of our Misfortune; the *Blue Mountain Valley*, which I sailed in from London with Provisions, in October last, was in January taken in Sight of New-York, by four American Vessels, commanded by one called Lord Sterling, who carried us into Elizabeth Town, about 18 Miles off New-York, where we were all kept Prisoners for two Months, but to the Credit of the Americans I must say, we lived very well, and were well treated: After that Time we were set at Liberty, by an Order from the Congress, to shift for ourselves, and had Passes given us to protect us from being impressed by the American Sea Officers. This was more than we expected. We most of us made for New-York, where all was in Confusion. I offered myself to a Vessel just going for Belfast, and luckily such a Hand being wanted, I was taken on board. . . . The Mate was detained at Elizabeth-Town, on account of the Information it was expected he could give the Americans.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, May 29, 1776.

London Chronicle, THURSDAY, MAY 9 TO SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1776

London, May 10.

Arrived the *Elizabeth*, Capt. Campbell, from Philadelphia at Dover, loaded with flour and corn; she sailed the 12th of March; letters by her mention that they expected Commissioners there to treat with Congress; but as they had just received the restraining act before this vessel sailed, all thoughts of a reconciliation vanished.

On Wednesday orders were sent down to Deal for the *Winchelsea* man of war to come up to Chatham, to get ready for sea with all expedition; she is to go to America.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Eagle at Spithead May the 10th 1776.

Having received the King's final directions respecting the particular Commission with which I have the Honor to be by His Majesty intrusted; and the several Papers referred to in their Lordships secret Instructions of the 4th instant; I am preparing to put forthwith to Sea.

In respect to that part of their Lordships secret Instructions aforesaid which regards the employment of the Ships under my Command, for preventing all Trade and Intercourse with the Rebellious Colonies, according to the purport of the Act of the last Sessions referred to therein: their Lordships I flatter myself will pardon me, if in my anxiety to render the most exact Obedience to their Orders, I take the liberty to submit, that until His Majesty's Troops can repossess some Ports upon the Coasts of America, great Difficulties will attend the execution of their Orders in that particular; and that it will become impracticable in most part of the Winter-Season. I am Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE ¹

[Portsmouth] Friday, 10th. May.

This Day between 11 & 12, I embarked on board the *Eagle* Man of War of 64 Guns, which immediately fell down to St Helen's; where we came to Anchor, the Wind being foul, and some Arrangements being necessary to be made respecting our Apartments for Sleeping, &c.

Saturday, 11th.

Early this Morning we weighed Anchor, and sailed round the Easternmost Point of the Isle of Wight, called Dunnose. Observed a Merchant Vessel cast away upon the Strand. Proceeded with a slight Gale in a SW Course for Guernsey, in order to accommodate the Ship with Wine. Very pleasant Weather, affording a delightful View of the Southern Cliffs of the Isle of Wight, and a distant Prospect of the high Land about Peverell Point in Dorsetshire.

Sunday, 12th

Had a faint View of the French Coast about Cape Barfleur, this Morning. By our Course in the Night, had almost lost Sight of the Isle of Wight. I was much pleased with the Performance of divine Service this morning, and the order and Behaviour of the officers and Ship's Company upon the Occasion. The Deportment of a Chief inspires the Conduct of all his Subordinates; and it is remarkably the Case on board the *Eagle*. No Noise, Disorder, Swearing, or Immoralities; but an easy; manly Carriage seems to animate our whole Company. The French Coast became more distinguishable about Noon. We could see Towers & Trees through the Glass. Obligated to traverse, the Wind being contrary all the afternoon. Towards Evening came in Sight of I. of Wight. Tacked about a S.W. Course down the Channel.

1. Edward H. Tatum, Jr., ed., *The American Journal of Ambrose Serle, 1776-1778* (San Marino, Calif., 1940), 1, 2.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH, DATED MAY 10." ¹

Yesterday passed by this place all the fleet, amounting to upwards of 120 sail, with the Hessian troops and guards, and train of artillery on board, bound to America, and the *Tartar* man of war, Capt. Ommaney, that was here, joined them.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 11 to May 14, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL APPLEBY ¹

May [1776] Lizard E 27:00 N 43 $\frac{1}{3}$ Leagues
 Friday 10 AM out all reefs and hoisted Commodore William Hothams broad Pendant which was by the *Brune & Emerald* saluted with 13 Guns each returned the same number at 9 the *Jersey Rainbow & Strombolo* returned the same number $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 the *Carcass* saluted with 13 Guns returned 11 made the *Rainbow & Strombolos* signal for a Lieut worked the Ventilator washed and cleaned between decks all the Convoy in sight. Light airs inclinable to calm pm fired 2 Guns and made the signal for the Convoy to come under our Stern

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 10 May 1776

You are hard to please if you do not consider the evacuation as important news, although I still do not know why and how it took place. I refuse to believe that General Howe abandoned this fortified town needlessly just for the fun of it. I will not ask you what the Ministers think or say about it. Most certainly they will try to put on a good appearance in the face of adversity; it is their role with regard to the public. But I shall remain unconvinced that they are very happy within themselves. It was to Boston

that the major part of their forces was to go, and it was from there that they were to make their most important strikes. Undoubtedly the Insurgents will not be so generous and leave the doors open to them. And now a new plan of campaign must be drawn precisely at the time when the operations were to begin. The result of this event which you consider with such indifference may well be that if the campaign is not a total failure it will be carried with very little vigor and it will be quite an accomplishment if they manage to secure a few positions from which they can attack the Insurgents more successfully another year. I do not know if the latter are lacking anything for their defense, but I have knowledge that they are quite skillful in obtaining all sorts of ammunition in great quantity from a neighbor of ours.² Regardless of the precautions taken in order to intercept this assistance, they will continue receiving it as long as they pay as quickly as they have been doing until now according to what I have heard. If you ask me what is the source of their money, I will answer you very simply, Sir, that I do not know. However, they must have plenty of resources since the merchants are so anxious to serve them.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. Referring to Holland.

11 May

GEORGE JACKSON TO NAVY BOARD ¹

Gentn

[Admiralty Office] 11 May 1776

Lieut Edward Thornbrough late of His Majestys Sloop *Falcon* having represented to my Lords Commrs of the Admty that he was shot through the thigh by a Musket Ball in endeavouring to take an American Schooner off Cape Ann at which time the Master & Gunner & 35 Men were taken Prisoners ² And having transmitted An Account of Money which he paid for lodgings, Nurses Travelling charges &ca for the time he was under Cure Amounting to £ 73. 16.6 I am Commanded by their Lordships to send you his Letter & Account inclosed & to signify their Direction to you to sign a Bill on the Treasurer of His Majestys Navy for repaying him the Amount thereof if you think it is reasonable & to recommend it to you to make him such farther Allowances on Account of his said Wound as the General Printed Instructions under the head of Gratuity to Officers Wounded in fight direct I am &c

G.J.: DS -

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 28-29.

2. For account of incident see Volume 1, 1110-11.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO M. GARNIER ¹

[Extract]

Versailles, 11 May 1776

You have already received instructions to express the King's intentions concerning the preservation of the peace and the good intelligence with England and I have repeated them on many occasions. I confirmed them

again recently to M. de Pol.² There have been rumors that we were about to arm a large Squadron. This Minister deemed necessary to speak to me about it without, however, giving the impression that he was questioning me. I answered him quite frankly that these rumors were unfounded and that even if they were, I would say so with the same frankness because we do not conceal from ourselves that it would alarm the Court of London and it would be against the King's principles or intentions to give them such cause for worry. I took this opportunity to renew our assurances given on so many occasions and I assured him that we trusted fully those received from the King of Great Britain. I added that we realized that the ministry was not the master of the nation, or even controlled the behavior of individuals, and that there might happen at the least expected moment against the express wish of both Courts an action which would not be within the powers of the British Ministry to stop or repress suitably. The memory of years past is reason enough to make precautions with respect to the future and one must not look for more complicated reasons behind the activity which may be noticed in our ports. Indeed, there is no other reason, and this is what you will explain to the Ministers, Sir, if they place you in a position to do it. You may even assure them that, as far as we are concerned, the preservation of peace is in their hands, and that their conduct will determine ours. We are just and honest, but we expect the same attitude from others.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. Horace St. Paul.

12 May (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN ¹

May 1776	Moored at Spithead
Friday 10th	A M Unmoored and hove Short on the B:Br washed the Lower Deck. At 1 P M Weigh'd & came to Sail At 3 Calm Anchord with the BtBr in 13 fm Veered to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable, At 6 Weighed & ran down to St Hellens and Anchord in 10 fm water with the B:Br South Sea Castle N N E, Buoy of the Eggar W N W St Hellens Point So
Saturday 11th	At 5 A M Weighd & came to Sail Light airs and hazey sometimes Calm At 6 P M Dunnose NNE $\frac{1}{4}$ E 6 Leags
Sunday 12th	At 9 A M Tacked & at 11 Tacked The first & Middle parts light airs & Clear Latter light Breezes and fair At 8 P M Dunnose NE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 5 Leags

1. PRO, Admiralty I/E/11, NMM Photocopy.

GABRIEL DE SARTINE TO COUNT LOUIS CHARLES DU CHAFFAULT ¹

Versailles, 12 May 1776

For you only.

I am sending you, Sir, new orders from the King concerning the operations of your campaign. Since the Intentions of the King are clearly explained in the instructions enclosed herewith I shall add nothing to them and I am convinced that you will execute these orders with all the care and precision required by the mark of trust which H[is] M[ajesty] has shown you in this occasion. I warn you, Sir, that you are not to disclose these news Instructions to the General Officers and Commanders of your Squadron; and you will take care to place under two envelopes, the first one marked for you only, all the reports which you will send me as often as circumstances will permit and by means indicated in these instructions.

I have the honor &c.

P.S. I enclose a code which you will use in the event that you should write to me by way of Portugal.

Other P.S. You will find, Sir, on the head of the book explaining the use of the code the watchword which you will use when you will write to me. This watchword is a combination of 36 characters. You will please mark your letters No.6 which is the number of your watchword.

1. AN, Marine, B4, 134, 158, 159, LC Photocopy. Count Du Chaffault was in command of the French squadron operating off the French coast in 1776 and 1777. In 1779, he took command of a combined French and Spanish fleet as successor to the Count d'Orvilliers and became an admiral in 1792.

LOUIS XVI TO COUNT LOUIS CHARLES DU CHAFFAULT ¹

Instructions from the King to M. Du Chaffault, Squadron Commander of the Navy

Versailles, 12 May 1776

His Majesty has deemed proper to make a few changes in the Instructions which he gave to M. Duchaffault on the 29th of March, 1776,² and he will explain again his intentions with regard to the line of conduct which this officer will maintain during his campaign.

Immediately after the three divisions which will compose M. Duchaffault's Squadron have joined off Cape St. Vincent where the general rendezvous was ordered to take place on 10 May according to the first instruction and which the division from Toulon will probably not be able to reach before a period between the 15th and 20th or the 25th of the same month, M. Duchaffault will leave the vicinity of the Spanish coast and set sail for Ouessant going as far as the opening of the Channel.

When he will have reached this point, he will detach from his Squadron a frigate and a corvette which he will direct to cruise along the Northern coast of Brittany, Normandy and Picardy, as far as Dunkerque.

Before reaching Ouessant he will also detach a frigate and a corvette whose mission it will be to cruise along the Southern coast of Brittany, Belle

Isle, Isle d'Yeu, the coast of Poitou, Saintonge, Guyenne and Gascony as far as Bayonne.

In compliance with this Instruction he will give particular orders to the Commanding officers of these frigates. He will add to these recognition signals and he will assign a rendezvous where the detached ships will rejoin the Squadron after fulfilling their respecting missions. Such rendezvous might be Ouessant being at the junction of both coasts to be covered by the said ships.

He will particularly recommend to the Commanding officers of the frigate and corvette sent into the Channel that they observe if the English have established cruises in the vicinity of French ports and question all vessels which they might meet, with the exception of English vessels, and thereby try to obtain intelligence as to which parts of the Channel are watched by English ships and frigates.

The Commanding officers of the two ships detached into the Gulf of Biscay will do likewise and will find out if the English have established cruises in the waters off the coast along which they will be sailing.

While the frigates and corvettes sent into the Channel and the Gulf of Biscay will be about their missions, M. Duchaffault will cruise with the rest of his Squadron between Ouessant and Cape Finisterre and he will return to Ouessant at the time when, according to his judgment, the ships detached into the Gulf will come back from their cruise; undoubtedly these ships will return sooner than those sent into the Channel. He will maintain the same cruise during the rest of his campaign, making sure to approach the coast of Brittany more often than the coast of Galicia.

M. Duchaffault will hail all vessels, except the English, which will come within range of his Squadron and will attempt to obtain intelligence with regard to the position of the ships of H[is] B[ritannic] M[ajesty] which might be cruising in these waters as well as their number and their strength. However, he will avoid interfering with the trade, noting that he need only maintain his cruise in such a way that the English will fear getting caught between land and the French Squadron and therefore will not sail in the vicinity of the Ports and Roads on the French coast in order to intercept the vessels from New England which might try to reach the said Ports and Roads.

He will not seek to meet the ships of H.B.M. but if such an encounter cannot be avoided he will use much courtesy towards them, and if he has cause to approach them he will do so only with the utmost reserve.

In the event that a Vessel from New England, belonging to the Insurgents, would be pursued by a ship of H.B.M. and would ask for the protection of the French Flag, M. Duchaffault will grant it to her, and if in spite of the declaration made to this effect the English ship still attempts to seize her, M. Duchaffault will oppose such an action and use the forces entrusted to him by His Majesty.

He will act likewise with regard to neutral Vessels having left European Ports and laden with ammunition or other kinds of assistance for the Insur-

gents in New England; and in the event that one of these Vessels should be pursued by English ships and would ask for the protection of the King's Squadron, M. Duchaffault would not allow that she be visited while under the protection of His Majesty's Flag.

It is possible that M. Duchaffault will meet cruising ships belonging to His Catholic Majesty while in the vicinity of Cape Finisterre; in which case he will show suitable courtesy and trust towards the Commanding officers of these ships and they will exchange any intelligence they may obtain with regard to the cruises established by the English or anything which may be useful to the Service of both Monarchs.

If His Majesty wants to communicate some urgent order to M. Duchaffault, he will address to him letters in duplicate to Brest, L'Orient or Rochefort, as well as Le Havre or Dunkerque. M. Duchaffault will order the Commanding officers of the frigates and corvettes that he will have detached to anchor in each of these Ports in order to pick up the packets that might have been addressed there and to send themselves to His Majesty from the ports where they will have anchored any information which they will deem interesting. He will expressly recommend that they do not stay in these Ports and even that they merely send their boat there while keeping under sail out at sea if the weather, the circumstance and the locality allow it.

M. Duchaffault will heedfully and exactly communicate to His Majesty any intelligence he may receive, and to this effect, he will send his packets by means of a cutter to the nearest Port.

He will not disclose the present Instruction to the General Officers and Commanders in his Squadron, and he will order the Commanding Officers of the frigates and corvettes that will be detached to keep secret the orders and instructions which they will have received from him.

He will make sure that the ships and other vessels of His Squadron beat to general quarters frequently by day and even by night, and he will recommend to the Captains and other Commanding Officers that they see to it that these calls to quarters be answered with the same care and precision as if they were about to give battle.

He will make evolutions as often as circumstances will permit either with the remaining ships once the others have been detached, or with the whole Squadron when all the ships will be gathered; furthermore he will act in accordance with the orders given to him in the Instructions of 29 March with respect to all matters which are not contrary to the present orders or which are not covered.

At Versailles, 12 may 1776

[signed] Louis

[countersigned] de Sartine

1. AN, Marine, B⁴, 134, 152-57, LC Photocopy.

2. The March 29, 1776 orders have not been located.

13 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO JOHN POWNALL ¹

Sir,

Admiralty Office, 13th May 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received a Letter from Vice Admiral [John] Amherst, commander in Chief at Plymouth, dated the 10th instant, giving an Account that the *Sally* Ordnance Storeship arrived at that Port in the Night of the 7th and the next day about Noon His Majesty's Ship the *Tartar* sailed from thence with her and the five Vessels named in the Margin under Convoy;² And that since their Sailing the *Union's Success*, Ordnance Storeship bound to Quebec, is arrived at Plymouth to wait for Convoy, as also a Sloop from Portsmouth with 51 Artificers belonging to the Quarter Master General in America, and 5 Men belonging to the 31st Regiment, who were intended to have been put onboard the *Speke* Hospital Ship. I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you therewith, for Lord George Germain's Information. And am &c

Ph^p Stephens –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/259, 65.

2. *Speke*, Hospital Ship; *Elizabeth*, Treasury Victualler; *Alborough*, Navy Victualler; *Henly* and *Boreas*, "with Stores for Sloops and Batteaux in Canada," *ibid*.

14 May

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HENRY DAVIS,
H.M.S. *Repulse*, PORTSMOUTH ¹

You are hereby required and directed to receive on board the Ship you command, the Bearer, Joseph Govier, a branch Pilot for the Delaware River, and bear him as Pilot Extra for Wages and Victuals until he shall be otherwise disposed of by order of Lord Viscount Howe, or the Commanding Officer of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels for the time being in North America. Given &c the 14t May 1776

Sandwich Palmerston C. Spencer

By &ca P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 88.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT RICHARD PICKERSGILL,
H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Lyon*, DEPTFORD ¹

Whereas we intend that His Majesty's Armed Vessel the *Lyon* shall proceed to Davis's Streights for the protection of the British Whale Fishers who may be employed in those parts during the approaching fishing Season, and that she shall afterwards proceed into Baffin's Bay for the purpose of making Discoveries; You are, therefore hereby required & directed to use the utmost dispatch in falling down in her to Longreach, and in taking in her Guns & Gunner's Stores at that place agreeable to former Orders, and then proceed to the Nore; and, so soon as her Complement shall be completed from the *Conquistador*, for which we have given Orders to Commodore [George] Macken-

zie, you are to put to sea with the very first Opportunity of Wind and Weather, and make the best of your way to the South End of Disco Island, in the abovemention'd Streights, where the Whale Fishers usually resort at the beginning of the Season, and there make enquiry amongst them if they have heard of any arm'd, or other, American Ships in those parts belonging to the Inhabitants of His Majesty's Colonies now in Rebellion, and, if they have, you are to proceed in quest of them, and use your best endeavours to take or destroy them; You are afterwards to proceed to the North West part of the said Island, where the abovemention'd Fishers usually resort during the latter part of the Season, and make enquiry, and proceed in like manner; And, having so done, or not hearing of any American Vessels in those parts, you are at liberty, and are hereby required & directed to proceed up Baffin's Bay and explore the Coasts thereof, as far as in your judgement the same can be done without apparent Risque; taking care to leave the abovemention'd Bay so timely as to secure your return to England in the fall of the Year; and to return accordingly to the Nore, from whence you are to send Us an Account of your arrival and proceedings.

You are carefully to observe the true situation of such parts of the abovemention'd Coasts as you may discover, both in Latitude & Longitude, the Variation of the Needle; bearings of the Headlands; Height, Direction & Course of the Tides & Currents; Depths & Soundings of the Sea, Shoals, Rocks &c.; And to employ Mr Lane, Master of the Vessel you command (who has an Allowance for that purpose) in surveying, making Charts and taking Views of, the several Bays, Harbours, and different parts of the Coast which you may visit, and in making such notations thereon as may be useful to Geography and Navigation.

Given &c. the 14th May 1776. —

By &c. P.S.

Sandwich

Palmerston

C. Spencer

I. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 88-90.

M. MONTAUDOUIN TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

Monseigneur I have neglected nothing, as I have had the honour of promising you, in order to discover what could have given rise to what has been reported in the public papers, that one or two French officers had passed over to the Anglo-Americans. I conferred the day before yesterday with a captain of the merchant service here who has arrived from St. Domingo, and who is an intelligent man, without letting him know the object of my curiosity. He informed me, Monseigneur, that a German baron, whose name he cannot remember, and who, he thinks, was formerly in the service of Prussia, and wore the red ribbon [Order of St. Louis], had passed over to St. Domingo on a vessel from Havre. He says he saw him two or three times. This officer embarked at St. Nicolas Mole, a free port of St. Domingo, on an Anglo-American vessel, which safely carried him to Philadelphia, where he was received with acclamation, because he has served in the Cav-

alry, and they very much wanted to have some officer experienced in this direction, which is very little known to them.² This appears to me, Monseigneur, to explain what you desired to know. Moreover I think the Count d'Ennery will have informed M. de Sartine about it, or the Count de St. Germain. If he has not done so, the name of the officer might be found out at Havre, as he embarked there.

Nantes, 14th May 1776.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 867.

2. Baron Frederick Wilhelm de Woedtke, who arrived in New England, not Philadelphia.

15 May

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON,
JAMAICA ¹

Vice Admiral Lord Howe Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America being directed to send such of the Ships and Vessels of his Squadron from time to time to Jamaica and Antigua as he shall judge necessary, to careen; And the Navy Board being directed to send our supplies of the proper necessities for that purpose; You are, therefore, upon the arrival of any of the said Ships and Vessels at Jamaica under orders from the said Vice Admiral to careen there as aforesaid, to cause them to be careened and refitted with all the dispatch that possibly may be; and, on no account to detain them longer than may be absolutely necessary for that purpose, or to divert their Commanders from following afterwards, such orders as they may be under from his Lordship.

Given &c the 15th May 1776.

C. Spencer Lisburne H. Palliser

by the *Winchelsea*

The like to

James Young Esqr Vice Admiral of the Red

&c &c – at Antigua – By the *Shark* Sloop

By &c. P:S:

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 92.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 15 May 1776

I believe, My lord, that it is essential for England to defend with force the Portuguese possessions in Europe.

However, if the die is cast, and in spite of our combined efforts we find it impossible either to bring M.de Pombal to the terms requested by Spain, or to stop our ally and prevent the invasion of Portugal, it seems to me, My lord, that we should not waste a single moment and enter into secret negotiations with the Americans. Because England, compelled in such case to make peace at all costs with her Colonies, would throw herself at their feet in order to obtain from them the means that they alone can bring her to

wage an offensive war in America. I shall never believe possible the conquests of England in that part of the world without the help in men, victuals, ships, everything finally that the English drew from their colonies on the continent during the last war. Today, they have to exhaust Europe in order to supply their army in America. You can see, My lord, from the facts how fruitless is such an operation. You will conceive better than myself how much this difficulty would increase if these ships carrying supplies were to avoid on their way the the French and Spanish naval forces, their privateers, as well as the American privateers, if we had them on our side. And this will happen if we wish to ensure their independence, a price that they cannot expect on the part of Great Britain in reward for the services that they would render to her.

The supporters of this independence begin to complain bitterly of what they call our apathy at this time. The manner in which the Americans regard our interest had caused them to consider our secret or public assistance as infallible. The resentment against our indifference joined to the cruel inconvenience to which this People must submit in a struggle hand to hand against England and all her Navy, when they have none to oppose, may bring them to agree to a peace with the mother country all the more easily since we may expect that in such case they themselves would dictate the terms. America joined to England in order to take vengeance for our total inaction when she needed us presents a new scene in Europe; that of a powerful nation that knows her forces and which keeps them all active under the protection and conduct of the English flag.

I am most inclined to believe, My lord, that all the expenses which we might incur in preventing this union would be money well invested.²

It is true that the small American squadron made a raid on the Island of [New] Providence and the governor escaped to St. Augustine. They removed a few hundred barrels of powder and were rumored to have sailed from there to Cape François. This is what this famous expedition which was to astonish Europe amounted to.³

A packet-boat dispatched from Virginia by Ld Dunmore ran aground on the Sorlingues [Scilly] Islands off Cape Lizard. One assures that all the packets which it carried were lost although the crew escaped. This report aroused strong suspicions on the part of the opposition that the news was very bad, especially since Ld Sandwich confessed publicly that he expected nothing more of the expedition against Virginia after the complete scattering of Sir [Peter] Parker's fleet.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. Garnier's fears of a reconciliation between the American colonies and Great Britain closely parallels similar arguments used later in the year by Silas Deane, first American agent in France.

3. The facts were not as Garnier presented them. The Governor did not escape; the gunpowder did.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1776

London [May 15].

A Gentleman just arrived from [St.] Augustine, says, he was present when Hopkins's Squadron took possession of [New] Providence; that they landed Six Hundred Marines, who marched as regular and made as fine an Appearance as any Troops he ever saw.

London Chronicle, TUESDAY, MAY 14 TO THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1776

London, Wednesday, May 15.

His Majesty's ships *Daphne*, Capt. [John] Chinnery, *Unicorn*, [John] Ford; and *Hornet*, [Robert] Haswell, are all fitting out at Woolwich for the North America Station, and the artificers work double tides.

17 May

ORDER IN PRIVY COUNCIL RENEWING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE EXPORTATION OF GUNPOWDER, ARMS AND AMMUNITION ¹

At the Court of St. James's the 17 Day of May, 1776,
Present,

Whereas the Time limited by his Majesty's Order in Council of the 21st of February last, for prohibiting the Exporting out of this Kingdom, or Carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, will expire on the 23d of this Instant May; and whereas it is judged expedient that the said Prohibition should be continued for some Time longer, except in those Cases where (for the benefit and Advantage of Trade, and for the Use and Defence of Ships trading to Foreign Parts, and of the Transports and Victualling Vessels employed in His Majesty's Service) His Majesty, by His several Orders in Council, of the 13th and 27th of October, and of the 6th and 22d of November, 1775, and of the 5th and 19th of February last, has thought proper to permit and allow the Exportation of, and Carrying Coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, Arms and Ammunition under certain conditions and Restrictions mentioned in the said Orders – His Majesty doth therefore, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, hereby order, require, prohibit, and command, That no Person or Persons whomsoever (except the Master-General, Lieutenant General, or Principal Officers of the Ordnance for His Majesty's Service, do) at any Time during the Space of Three Months, to commence from the said 23d Day of this Instant May, presume to transport into any Parts out of this Kingdom, or carry Coastwise, any Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition, on Board any Ship or Vessel, in order to transporting the same beyond the Seas, or carrying the same Coastwise, except in the Cases comprized within the aforementioned Orders in Council of the 13th and 27th of October, and the 6th and 22d of November, 1775; and of the 5th and 19th of February last, without Leave or Permission in that Behalf first obtained from His Majesty

or His Privy Council, upon Pain of incurring and suffering the respective Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by an Act passed in the 29th Year of His late Majesty's Reign, entituled, "An Act to empower His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Saltpetre, and to enforce the Law for empowering His Majesty to prohibit the Exportation of Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms and Ammunition; and also to empower His Majesty to restrain the Carrying Coastwise of Saltpetre, Gunpowder, or any Sort of Arms or Ammunition." And the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Master General of the Ordnance, and His Majesty's Secretary at War, are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

Steph. Cottrell.

1. *London Gazette*, May 14 to May 18, 1776.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London, 17 May 1776

A week ago, a packet boat from Virginia sent by Lord Dunmore brought news to the government. But it was found to be so bad that it was decided to say that the trunk had fallen into sea during bad weather. Wonderful stratagem! Manifestation of a superior form of genius!

Another ship arrived from Canada yesterday. She was under order to fire one shot without entering the port. A boat left the harbor and made for the ship. A man jumped into the boat and the ship sailed away. This man ran to London without stopping. The subject of his dispatch could not be learned, hence the refrain: the news must be most inauspicious since they are wrapped in such mystery! ²

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. A Beaumarchais flight of fancy in both cases.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

[Extract]

London 17 May 1776

No news has yet been received concerning the arrival of General Howe in Halifax. According to public opinion; this city is also the rendezvous point for the fleet that sailed recently from Portsmouth. Indeed, with the exception of Florida where the unhealthy climate is harmful for the soldiers, Halifax is the only base of operations that remains to England on the American Continent. From there she will be able to turn her efforts to Canada, either to regain Quebec if this city fell to the Americans, or preserve it if there is still time, then chase the enemy from the rest of the Province and make a breakthrough while opening a road to reach New England from the rear. This will be a rather difficult venture because the Americans sent a rather large number of troops to Canada, which the liberation of Boston enables them to reinforce easily. You must know also, My lord, that Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin left for this Province accompanied by a Catholic priest from Canada. ² The deputation of this man who can be considered as the

best head in the Continental Congress shows us that the Americans attach the greatest importance to bringing the Canadians to their side and make common cause with them.

After leaving a sufficient garrison in Boston under the command of General [Artemas] Ward, General Washington went to New York where he took command of General [Charles] Lee's army. This almost central position presents great advantages should he have to come to the assistance of the neighboring provinces. A body of troops was detached towards Virginia. Some say that Mr. Lee is in command, while others assure that he left for Canada on the 10th of March.

The complete scattering of Sir [Peter] Parker's fleet caused the failure of the expedition planned against Virginia, the season seems far too advanced now in order to make another attempt. It is all the more regrettable for the Government that this expedition miscarried since the inhabitants of this Province, which has an abundance of supplies of all kinds, are essentially in lack of Engineers, arms, war ammunition and clothing. This is also the case of the inhabitants of South Carolina. We can imagine the shortage of ammunition experienced by the Americans from the dangers they face each day in order to obtain them. They sacrifice ten ships loaded with produce of their country in the hope of having one return with a cargo of war ammunition.

You will recall, My lord, that the Continental Congress had posed to each Province the important question of complete separation from Great Britain without coming back. Of the thirteen united provinces, five declared themselves against independence, to wit: Georgia, South Carolina Maryland, Jersey and Pennsylvania. Virginia has not moved yet. You will observe My lord, that these provinces nevertheless agree to resist to the end all the laws to which the whole Continent objects and which started the present war.

The session of the 13th, of which I enclose an extract herewith,³ did little credit to the members. It showed clearly all the trouble taken by the Government to favor secretly the American trade, although it is prohibited by a formal Act. The development of its various maneuvers show how much it wishes to delay as long as possible an outcry on the part of the manufacturers by providing them under hand with an outlet through a clandestine Monopoly.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. Garnier had picked up an incomplete account of the mission to Canada undertaken by Franklin, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Samuel Chase, accompanied by Carroll's brother, Rev. John Carroll, of Maryland.

3. *Ibid.*, "Extract of Debate in the House of Lords, 13 May, 1776."

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PORTSMOUTH, MAY 17."¹

Yesterday arrived at Spithead his Majesty's frigate *Ambuscade*, Capt. M'Cartney, and *Diamond* frigate, Capt. Fielding from the Downs, which are to convoy the rest of the Hessians for America.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 16 to May 18, 1776.

18 May

AMERICAN VESSELS CARRIED INTO GIBRALTAR ¹

Gibraltar, May 18.

Three American vessels were brought in here yesterday by two of the cruisers, which they took just before they reached the bay of Cadiz. They are laden with corn, flour, &c. and are valued at about 20,000 l. On board of one of these vessels, which had eight carriage guns mounted, were two American merchants, said to be men of property; the nature of the business they were going upon we cannot tell; however, just before she was taken, they put a small packet of letters into a canvas bag, with some shot of six pounders, which they threw overboard, and sunk it immediately; we understand there are numbers of vessels, from 150 to upwards of 300 tons, now on their voyage from different ports in America to Cadiz, which in all probability will be taken, the admiral having stationed all the vessels he can spare to cruise for them. One of the frigates on this station is constantly cruising off[f] the entrance of Cadiz bay, so that it will be very difficult if not impossible for them to escape.

1. *Maryland Gazette*, October 3, 1776.

20 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

Sir

20th May 1776

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admty to send you herewith, Duplicates of the Orders and Letters sent to you from this Office since the beginning of December last, mentioned on the other side hereof, and to acquaint you that the *Shark* by which you will receive them is sent out to reinforce your Squadron the better to enable you to intercept the Ships and Vessels belonging to the North American Colonies in Rebellion which may be found within the limits of your Command and also to give proper protection to the Homeward bound Trade from the Leeward Island pursuant to the orders you have received for that purpose, to which Objects you are to give your particular attention and at the same time I am directed by their Lordships to recommend it to you to give Strict Orders to the Commanders of the Cruizers which you may Station, from time to time for the first mentioned purpose, carefully to avoid cruising off[f] the Ports, or approaching so near the Coasts of the French and other Nations Possessions within the abovementioned Limits as to give any unnecessary Umbrage or Interruption to the Subjects or Trade of those Nations or any just cause of Complaint. I am.

P S. ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 56-57.

2. *Ibid.*, 54-55, a similar letter sent this date to Vice Admiral Gayton via H.M.S. *Winchelsea* sent out to reinforce his squadron.

HORACE ST. PAUL TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Note

Paris, 20 May 1776

M. de St. Paul has the honor to inform H[is] E[xc]ellency the Count de Vergennes that the English Ministry received intelligence that the following ships left Amsterdam a short time ago: the *Stadt Bourdeaux*, Claes de Heer Captain, carrying 400 barrels of gunpowder of 100 pounds each destined for Nantes, the *Vromo Ester Cornelia*, Hans Momse Captain, carrying 300 barrels also of 100 pounds each and the *Concordia*, Ysbrand Pieter Prevoort Captain, carrying 150 barrels of 100 pounds each; these last two ships are bound for Bordeaux. Since there can be no doubt that this gunpowder is destined for the English Colonies in America, M.de St.Paul received instruction from His British Majesty to inform the Count de Vergennes so that, following his promise to do all in his power, he will turn back from France any assistance to the Rebels and will make use of this opportunity to take the measures he will deem necessary and most adequate in order to prevent the Exportation of the said gunpowder.

This request conforms to the harmony and the good Intelligence that reigns fortunately between the two Crowns, and M.de St. Paul cannot doubt and H.E. will have the kindness to write at once to the Intendants of Bordeaux and Nantes.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

21 May

LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

My Lord,

Whitehall, 21st May 1776

I take the opportunity of the Reverend Mr Maddison, who is going back to Virginia, to acquaint your Lordship that the *Duke of Cumberland* packet Boat, on her return home, had the misfortune to strike upon a Rock off Scilly, and went down so suddenly that the Crew had only time to save themselves, and the three Frenchmen who your Lordship had put onboard, in their Boat, but all the Dispatches were lost with the Vessel.

This Misfortune is the more to be lamented as we are so long without any authentic Advices from the southern Provinces, and the Master reports that he had received Letters from all the Governors, as well, as from your Lordship and General Clinton; I trust, however, some safe opportunity will soon present itself of sending Duplicates, and that they will be accompanied with the agreeable Information of Lord Cornwallis's arrival, & of the happy Effects of the landing the Troops under his command. I am &ca

Geo: Germain.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 749.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN HENRY DAVIS,
H.M.S. *Repulse*, SPITHEAD ¹

Whereas the Transport Vessels, having on board the Two Hessian Regi-

ments named in the Margin ² with 154 Men belonging to the Regiment de Knyphausen and some other Persons under the Orders of Major General [Werner von] Mirbach, may be hourly expected at Spithead, being the remainder of those Troops which were intended to have composed the 1st Embarkation under the command of Lieutenant General Heister And whereas we intend that the Ship you command shall convoy the said Troops to the Place of their destination You are therefore hereby required and directed to hold yourself in constant readiness for sailing, and, the Moment they shall arrive at Spithead, and be in readiness to proceed, you are to take the Transport Vessels having them on board (a List of which will be delivered to you by the agent who has the care of them, and who will be directed to follow your orders) together with any Storeships, Victuallers or other Ships or Vessels bound to North America and ready to sail, which may be at Spithead, and then putting to Sea with the very first opportunity of Wind and Weather, proceed with them down Channel, and when you get twenty Leagues to the Westward of the Lizard, you are to open the inclosed sealed [*] Packet and put in execution the Orders you will find therein contained for your further proceedings. Given &c the 21st May 1776.

J: Buller Lisburne H. Palliser

*vide Secret Order Book

By &c P:S:

By a Messenger next day at ½ p. 10. pm.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 100-01.

2. In the margin: "Regiment de Mirbach Do de Rall."

22 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

My Lord

22nd May 1776

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having received a Letter from Sir Stanier Porter Secretary to Lord Weymouth. enclosing an Extract of one which his Lordship received from Sir John Dick dated at Leghorn the 3rd May. 1776 giving an account that he had received Advice from Mr Hardy His Majesty's Consul at Cadiz that the Brigantine *Betsey* (mentioned to your Lordship in my Letter of the 4th inst) had been conducted thither by four Seamen, who disapproving of the Masters Conduct had on his going on shore at Teneriffe, put to Sea with the Vessel and proceeded to Cadiz as abovementioned. I am commanded to acquaint your Lorship, therewith, and have the honor to be [&c.]

P: S.

By the *Repulse*

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 62.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD
LORD HOWE ¹

Lord George Germain, one of His Majts principal Secretaries of State, having transmitted to Us a Copy of a Letter which his Lordship had received from Governor Tonyn, dated at St Augustine the 18th of March last, inclosing a Copy of one which His Excellency had receiv'd from Governor Brown, dated at Fort Nassau in New Providence the 4th of that Month, giving an Account, that the 8. armed Vessels therein described, laden with Troops from Philadelphia, had appeared off that Island, that Morning, for the purpose of carrying away by force His Majesty's Powder & Stores; that they had landed 500 Men and were in possession of Fort Montagu; that he expected a Visit from them at Fort Nassau before the next Morning and that finding the disposition of the Inhabitants such as could not be depended upon he had thought proper, with the advice of His Majesty's Council, to ship and send away the Powder to St Augustine, where it arrived on the day of the date of Governor Tonyn's abovemention'd Letter, and we having, since that, received a Letter from Lieut. [William] Grant commanding the *St John* Schooner, dated at St Augustine on the 18th March last, upon the same Subject & inclosing a Copy of a Letter which he had written to Vice Admiral Shulldham upon the occasion; ² We send your Lordship Copies of all the said Letters for your more particular information and do hereby require & direct you, in case, from the Intelligence your Lordship may have received, it shall appear that the Rebels are in possession of the Bahama Islands, to take such measures as your Lordship shall judge proper to dispossess them; provided the other Services your Lordship may be employed upon will admit of your doing so.

Given &c. 22d May 1776.

J. Buller Palmerston H. Palliser

By &c. PS. By the *Repulse*.

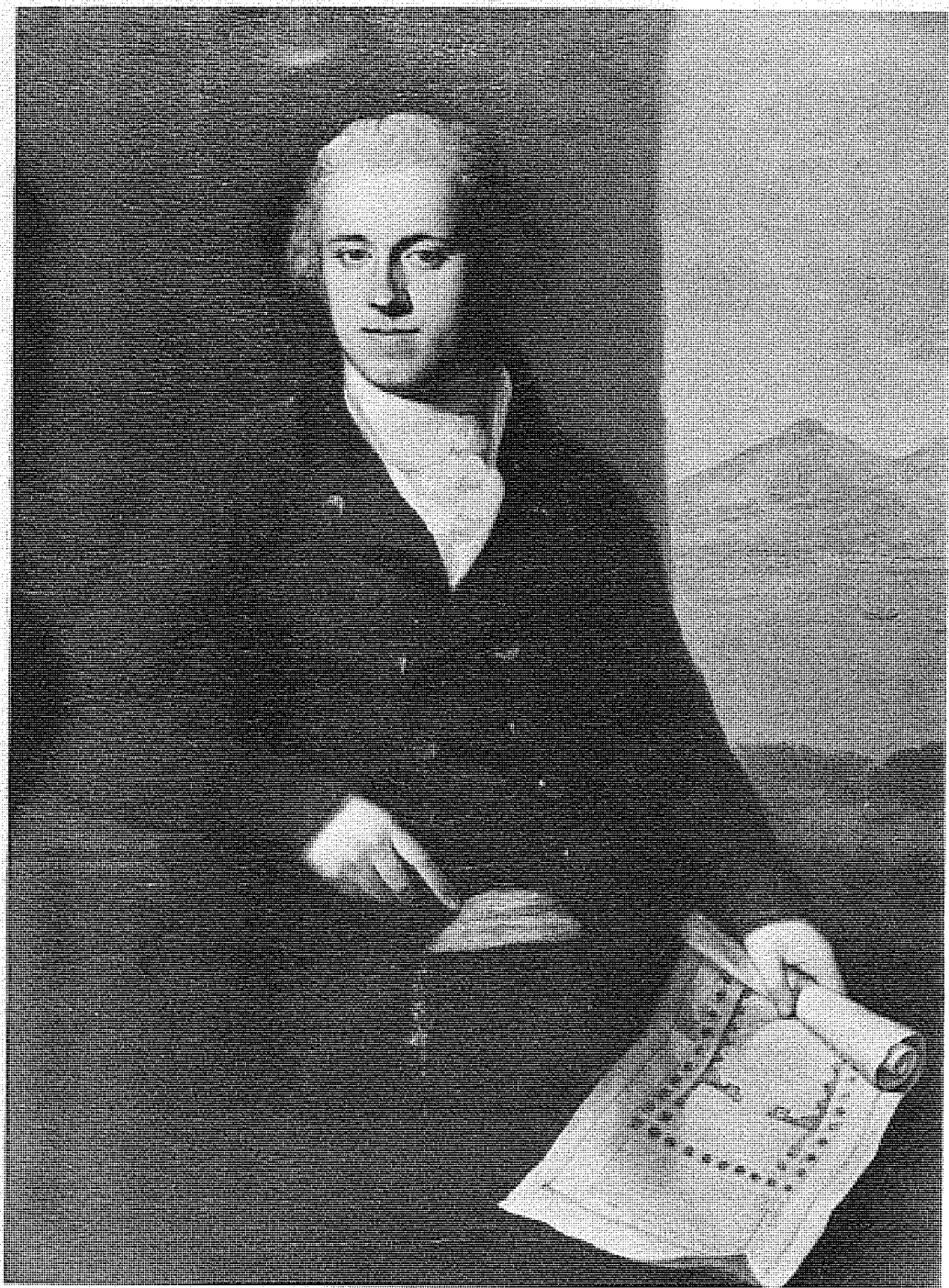
1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 102-03. Similar letter sent to Vice Admiral Gayton on May 23. *Ibid.*, 2/552, 73, 74.
2. The Admiralty also sent copies of Grant's letters to Lord George Germain. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/529, 68.

Public Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1776

London [May 22].

Letters from Lisbon, by Monday's Mail, dated the 26th of April, mention, that the *Neptune*, Collins, from Philadelphia, with Flour, &c. was safe arrived there, and brings an Account of several other Ships loaded at the same Place for foreign Markets.¹

1. The *Neptune* was one of seven vessels freighted by Willing, Morris & Co., under contract with the Secret Committee of Congress, to export provisions and invest the proceeds in arms and ammunition. She was consigned to James Burn, Lisbon merchant.



Henry Temple, Second Viscount Palmerston.

ACCOUNT OF THE SHIP *Clementina* AT LISBON ¹

Dr The Owners of Ship *Clementina* Capt Patrick Brown in Account Currant with Parsley & Compy. Cr

1776.

May 18. To Cash paid Warners fees # 480.--
 Bellern port Charges 14# 620.--
 Consolage 9# 000.--
 Lisbon Port Charges 57# 418.--
 Pilot in 4400. Pilot acct 8# 4--.--

89#918.--

To Ship Chandlersstores Pr Bill 14#885.--
 To Cost & Charges of 170 M Salt Pr Invoice 266#582.--
 To Cash paid Capt Brown Pr Receipt 86#500.--

22. To Ballance hereof remitted to Battier 1389#961.--

 Forselin & Compy of London R. 1847#846.--

 30 days a 66¼

1776.

May 18. By Neat proceeds of Freight
 made by her from Philadelphia
 Pr Manifest 1847#846.--

R. 1847#846.--

Lisbon the 22 May 1776.

1. John Ross Invoice Book, 1776-1779, 21, 22, HSP.

23 May

THE ADDRESS OF GEORGE III IN PROROGUING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN ¹

[House of Peers May 23, 1776]

My Lords and Gentlemen;

The conclusion of the public business, and the advanced season of the year, make it proper for me to give you some recess; but I cannot put an end to this session without assuring you, that the fresh instances of your affectionate attachment to me, and of your steady attention and adherence to the true interests of your country, which you have shewn throughout the whole course of your important deliberations, afford me the highest satisfaction.

No alteration has happened in the state of foreign affairs since your meeting; and it is with pleasure I inform you, that the assurances which I have received of the dispositions of the several powers in Europe, promise a continuance of the general tranquillity.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It is with real regret and concern that I found myself under the necessity of asking of my faithful Commons any extraordinary supplies: I thank you for the readiness and dispatch with which they have been granted; and they are the more acceptable to me, as you have shewn, in the manner of raising them, an equal regard to the exigencies of the service, and the ease of my people; and you may be assured, that the confidence you repose in me shall be used with proper frugality, and applied only to the purposes for which it was intended.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

We are engaged in a great national cause, the prosecution of which must inevitably be attended with many difficulties, and much expence: but when we consider the essential rights and interests of the whole empire are deeply concerned in the issue of it, and can have no safety or security but in that constitutional subordination for which we are contending, I am convinced that you will not think any price too high for the preservation of such objects.

I will still entertain a hope that my rebellious subjects may be awakened to a sense of their errors, and that, by a voluntary return to their duty, they will justify me in bringing about the favourite wish of my heart, the restoration of harmony and the re-establishment of order and happiness in every part of my dominions. But if a due submission should not be obtained from such motives and such dispositions on their part, I trust that I shall be able, under the blessings of Providence, to effectuate it by a full exertion of the great force with which you have entrusted me.

1. Hansard, ed., *Parliamentary History*, XVIII, 1365–66. The Parliament was prorogued to August 1, 1776, and was afterwards further prorogued to October 31.

LORD SANDWICH TO GEORGE III ¹

[Extract]

Admiralty May 23, 1776

Lord Sandwich has the pleasure to send to your Majesty the letter just received from Sir James Douglas by which it appears that in all probability the *Repulse* with the two Hessian Regiments will sail tomorrow . . .

The Comptroller of the Navy has just been here, and says that they have advices that ten thousand ton of transports are allready arrived in the Weser, so that it is to be hoped that the second embarkation of Hessians is in great forwardness.

The Navy Board have now 4000 tons of Transports unappropriated, and they are directed allways to keep that stock in hand to answer occasional demands.

It is with particular satisfaction that Lord Sandwich can now observe to your Majesty that this great work of compleating the transports is now brought to a conclusion with less delay and difficulty than might have been apprehended, and that it is to be hoped that whatever more may be wanted in this branch will for the future be easily supplied.

1. Fortescue, ed., *Correspondence of George III*, III, 361-62.

ARTHUR LEE TO CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS ¹

No. 1 [Copy]

London May 23d. 1776

Mr. Hortalez

Be persuaded that Count de — cannot in any manner embarrass you. I pray you to consider in your arrangements at the Cape, "that the want of Tobacco ought not to hinder you from sending out your supplies to the Americans, for Tobacco is so weighty an article that it will greatly impede the sailing of the Ships," and the essential object is to maintain the War.

1. Letters to Secret Committee, &c., 1776, SCHS. These are copies of five letters exchanged between Arthur Lee, using the name Mary Johnstone, and Beaumarchais, addressed as Hortalez, between May 23 and June 26, 1776. Apparently they were prepared for the Secret Committee of Congress in connection with Lee's contention that the supplies from France were to require no payment. The quotation marks seem merely to indicate the pertinent part of the letter.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO CAPTAIN NATHANIEL BATEMAN,
H.M.S. *Winchelsea*, SPITHEAD ¹

You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea, with the very first opportunity of Wind & Weather in the Ship you command, and make the best of your way to the Island of Fayal, where you are to take in with all possible dispatch, a sufficient Quantity of Wine for the use of her Company; and then proceed without loss of time, to Jamaica, where you are to deliver the inclosed Pacquet to Vice Admiral Gayton or the Commanding Officer for the time being of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at & about that Island

&c.&c. and follow his Orders for your further proceedings. Given &c. 23d. May 1776.

J. Buller Lisburne H Palliser

By &c. P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 104.

24 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE
ORDNANCE ¹

Gentn

24th May. 1776

Having communicated to my Lords Commrs of the Admty Mr Bodington's Letter of the 14th Instant representing that you have receiv'd His Majesty's Commands for sending Artillery and Stores to Virginia, and that Lord Dunmore having desired to have a very large proportion of Grape and Round Shot for 3 and 4 Pounders for use of the Tenders without Specifying any Numbers, you desire to be informed what number of Tenders may be employed at Virginia; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that the Vessels employed there under that description must have been taken up by Lord Dunmore of which their Lordships have not received any Account, or indeed if they had, cou'd take any Cognizance –

With respect to the Ships and Vessels employed upon the Halifax Station, Their Lordships direct me to acquaint you, that there are no precise Numbers allotted to that Station; but that as Halifax is the Port where all the Ships employed under the Command of Lord Howe must be refitted (except such as he may send to Jamaica and Antigua) they command me to send you the Inclosed Abstract of the Number and Classes of the Ships and Vessels employed under his Lordships Command for your Guidance in sending out Supplies of Ordnance Stores for their Use. I am &c

P. S

An Abstract of the Number and Classes of Ships under the Command of the Rt Hble Lord Visct Howe Vice Adml of the White and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America.

Rate	Guns	Number
3 -----	64 -----	1
4 -----	50 -----	7
5 -----	44 -----	3
	32 -----	15
6 -----	28 -----	14
	24 & 20 -----	12
Sloops -----		20
Schooners and other small Vessels -----		18
Bombs -----		2
Fireship -----		1

Hospital Ship -----	1
Storeship -----	1

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 80-82.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON,
JAMAICA ¹

The King having been pleased under his Signet & Sign Manual to establish Instructions (bearing date the 2d Day of this Month) for the Commanders of His Ships & Vessels of War in regard to such Captures as shall be made by them, in consequence of an Act lately passed prohibiting all Trade & Commerce with the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensilvania, the three lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia, during the continuance of the present Rebellion with the said Colonies respectively; We send you herewith thirty Printed Copies of His Majesty's said Instructions and do hereby require & direct you to issue the same to the respective Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under your Command, and to direct them to pay the strictest regard & attention thereto.

Given &c. 24th May 1776.²

Sandwich C. Spencer H. Palliser

By &c P.S. by the *Winchelsea*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 106-07.

2. *Ibid.*, 113-14, the same was sent to Vice Admiral James Young on May 25.

LORDS COMMISSIONERS, ADMIRALTY, TO LIEUTENANT THOMAS DOD,
H.M. TENDER *Sandwich*, RIVER THAMES.¹

In case, upon your arrival at Shetland, you shall find that there is a greater likelihood of raising Voluntier Seamen & Landmen on shore than on board the Tender you command, You are hereby required & directed, in addition to former Orders, to open a Rendezvous at such Place as you shall think most proper; hiring a convenient Room for that purpose & applying yourself with the utmost diligence to that Service; causing Bills to be printed & stuck up inviting such Voluntiers to repair thereto, and subsisting such as may enter at the rate of nine pence a day each 'til you have an opportunity of putting them on board the Tender; which is to be in full for their Lodging also.

The better to enable you to carry on the Service, you are to take on shore with you one of your Petty Officers & four of the Ten Seamen whom you have been directed to employ; allowing the Petty Officer one Shilling & nine pence a day for his, and the Seamen one Shilling & three pence a day each for their Subsistence; And you are at liberty to charge two Shillings & Nine pence a day for your own subsistence during the time you & they shall be respectively employed on shore as abovementioned; taking care however, not to open a Rendezvous unless you have a good expectation of raising

more Men by so doing than by remaining on board the Tender, and not to continue on shore any longer than you shall find the Success answerable to such expectation; in order that all unnecessary Expence may be avoided.

As the nature of this Service may require some other Disbursements you are to use all possible frugality & good husbandry therein, as no unreasonable or unnecessary Expence will be allowed; And for your better guidance in the matter, you are to observe that your charges for the following Articles must not exceed the Rates against each exprest Vizt

	£.	s.	d.
Rendevous & Lodging rooms P Week	1..	11..	6
Entry Money to each Voluntier		1..	0
Beat of Drum, Fife Playing & all other Petty Charges P Week			10..0

Stationary Wares, printing, fixing up & dispensing invitation Bills not to exceed £1.10..0 upon coming on Service for the first Month, nor to be more than 7s/6d P Month afterwards.

You are to draw upon the Navy Board for such Money as you shall have occasion for to carry on this Service, And to be very particular in keeping a regular Account of your Disbursements which you are to transmit to that Board Monthly; And, after you are recalled from this Service, you are as soon as possible, to deliver them a full Account of your Disbursements for the time you have been employed making Affidavit in the following form. Vizt

“This Deponent maketh Oath that the Sum charged against each particular Article in the beforegoing Account was expended for the purpose mention’d in such Article & no other.”

You are to transmit to the Navy Board, as well with your Monthly as also with your final Accounts, complete Lists of the Men you raise; shewing the times of their respective entries, as also when, and how, they are disposed of.²

Given &c 24th May 1776.

Sandwich C. Spencer H Palliser

By &c P.S.

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 107-10.

2. *Ibid.*, 96-98, this assignment of Lieutenant Dod is given in detail as an example of the extent to which the British Admiralty sought sufficient volunteers to man its expanding Navy. The efforts in and around London were indicated in the April 1, 1776 instructions to Lieutenant Cuthbert Collingwood. In addition, beginning also in April a half dozen lieutenants had been commissioned to tenders with orders to seek “voluntier” seamen and landmen amidst the shipping in and around the harbors of Bristol, Whitehaven, Cork, Waterford, Dublin and Belfast.

M. GARNIER TO COUNT DE VERGENNES¹

[Extract]

London, 24 May 1776

The two Battalions of Grenadiers belonging to the first Hessian division and which had remained behind arrived in Portsmouth on the 21st instant. Everything had been ready for a few days in order to provide them

with water and all they might need as soon as they arrived. It will not be long before they sail: ² the North-Easterly winds which have been blowing for the past few weeks are most favorable to leave the Channel. It is believed also that they will hasten the crossing of the troops that left recently with Lord [Richard] Howe.

The Baron of Schliessen told me that the second division was in full march toward Stade. Horses and wagons are continually being loaded in Portsmouth. More transport ships are being chartered, and all the military preparations continue with the greatest activity. We are impatiently awaiting news from Canada which, in all appearance, will become the major theater of the war during this campaign. The uncertainty concerning the fate of Quebec became a matter of bets at the Stock Exchange where they gave up to 50 guineas to one hundred that Quebec fell into the hands of the Americans.

The frigate *Aldborough* coming from the Mediterranean ran aground in Plymouth road on the 19th instant and was almost entirely destroyed.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. See instructions to Captain Henry Davis, of H.M.S. *Repulse*, May 21, 1776, to take the Hessians under convoy, PRO, Admiralty 2/101, 100, 101.

CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Paris – Friday 24 May 1776

I have arrived, very tired, very harassed.² My first care is to ask your orders, and at what hour you will be good enough to give me an audience. It is three o'clock in the morning. My black servant will be at Versailles at your hour of rising. He will be back in time for mine, and I hope that he will bring me the news which I await with the greatest impatience; that is, permission to come and assure you of the very respectful devotion with which I am, Monsieur le Comte [&c.]

Beaumarchais

I sign, for I am so tired that perhaps you will not recognize my writing.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 871.

2. Beaumarchais had been in London discussing the arrangements with Arthur Lee for secret assistance to America through the grant of one million livres from the French Court. Out of these conferences came the still unanswered question. Was it a gift or was reimbursement expected? See Samuel Flagg Bemis, *The Diplomacy of the American Revolution* (New York, 1935), 35.

25 May

PHILIP STEPHENS TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG, ANTIGUA ¹

Sir

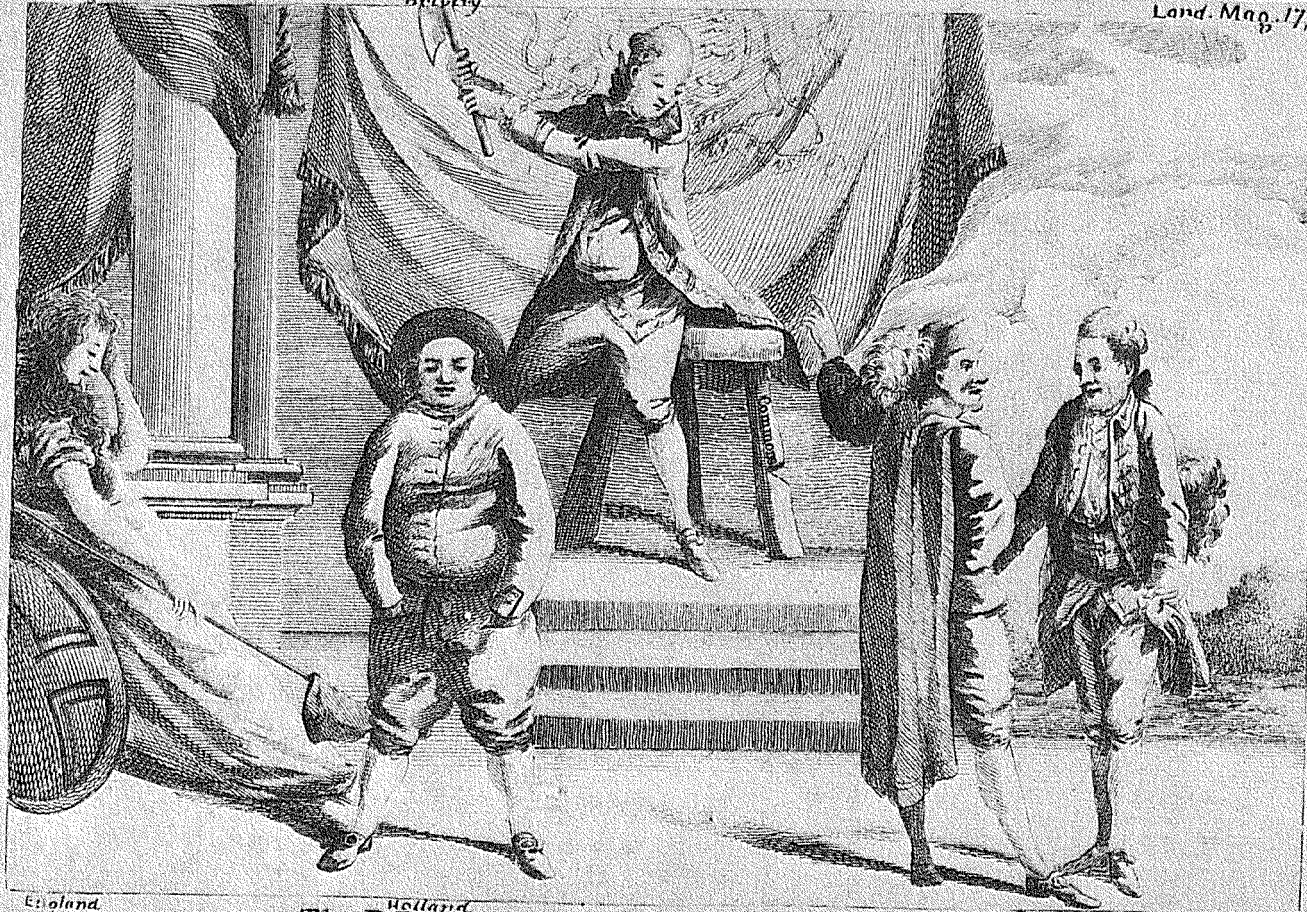
25th May 1776

Captn Chapman of His Majesty's Sloop *The Shark* (by whom you will receive this) being directed to deliver to you the several Packets from Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, for the Governors & Commanders in Chief of His Majesty's-Islands within the Limits of your Command, against their Names Expressed on the otherside

Lon. Mag

Bribery

Land. Mag. 1776.



England

^{Holland}
The BLESSED Effects of VENALITY. *Pub. as by Act disvoted May 1. 1776*
Spain France

hereof; I am commanded by my Lords Commrs of the Admty to signify their directions to you to forward the said Packets agreeable to their respective addresses by the first Opportunities that may offer after you receive them. I am &c

P. S.

By the *Shark* at Plymouth

Honble Edwd Hay	_____ at Barbadoes	_____ 2 Packets
Craister Greathead Esqr	_____ Leeward Islands	_____ 1
Valentine Morris Esqr	_____ St Vincent	_____ 2
Rt Honble. Sr Geo: Macartney	_____ Grenades	_____ 1
Tomas Shirley Esqr	_____ Dominica	_____ 1

1. PRO, Admiralty 2/552, 82.

COUNT DE VERGENNES TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE ¹

Versailles, 25 May 1776

I have the honor, Sir, to send you a copy of the note in which M.de St Paul, Minister plenipotentiary of His British Majesty, denounces the expedition of several ships loaded with gunpowder suspected to be destined for the English Colonies; ² since you know as well as I do the King's intentions with respect to the subject matter of the protest from the Court of London, I can only rely upon the orders which you will deem proper to give accordingly.

1. AMAE, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre, vol. 516, LC Photocopy.

2. See note from Horace St. Paul, May 20, 1776.

BARBEU DUBOURG TO COUNT DE VERGENNES ¹

Monseigneur

[Paris, May 25] 1776 ²

The absolute impossibility of procuring, by any other means, good arms for the defence of our friends, compels me to implore your powerful protection. I most urgently beg you to intercede on their behalf with the Count de St Germain, in order to obtain the favour which the Sire de la Tuillerie requests, ³ – to come to their assistance in so critical and so pressing a conjuncture. I have the honour to send his memoire herewith.

If I was not afraid of abusing your goodness, I would beg you also to ask the same minister for a licence to travel, for 3 or 4 years, for the Sire de Boisbertrand, ⁴ whose courage and zeal will ever lead him in the path of honour.

I am, with the most profound respect, Monseigneur [&c.]

Barbeau Dubourg

These fifteen thousand muskets will be drawn from the magazines of Lyons, or others equally far from the sea, and will come down the Loire well packed. At Nantes they will be stored in magazines outside the town and finally embarked without making the slightest extraordinary sensation.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 567.

2. The letter was endorsed by Vergennes "without date as to month." Stevens cited Doniol's *Histoire de la Participation de la France à l'établissement des États Unis d'Amérique*, I,

508, as dating it the end of June. The May 25 date is more likely. The contract of sale for the fifteen thousand muskets between de la Tuillerie and Penet & Pliarne is dated June 1, 1776, and could only have been negotiated after the former's memoir to Vergennes had been approved. And on June 12, 1776, Dubourg wrote Franklin that "The first part of those muskets is already on the route to Nantes."

3. M. de la Tuillerie, a manufacturer of arms, whose memoir promised to replace the fifteen thousand within a year.
4. In his letter to Franklin of June 12, Dubourg states that he was providing passage only to Boisbertrand, "a youth full of honour, courage & zeal." This statement also eliminates the end of June as the date of the letter.

