

# **Naval Documents of The American Revolution**

**Volume 5**

**AMERICAN THEATRE: May 9, 1776–July 31, 1776**

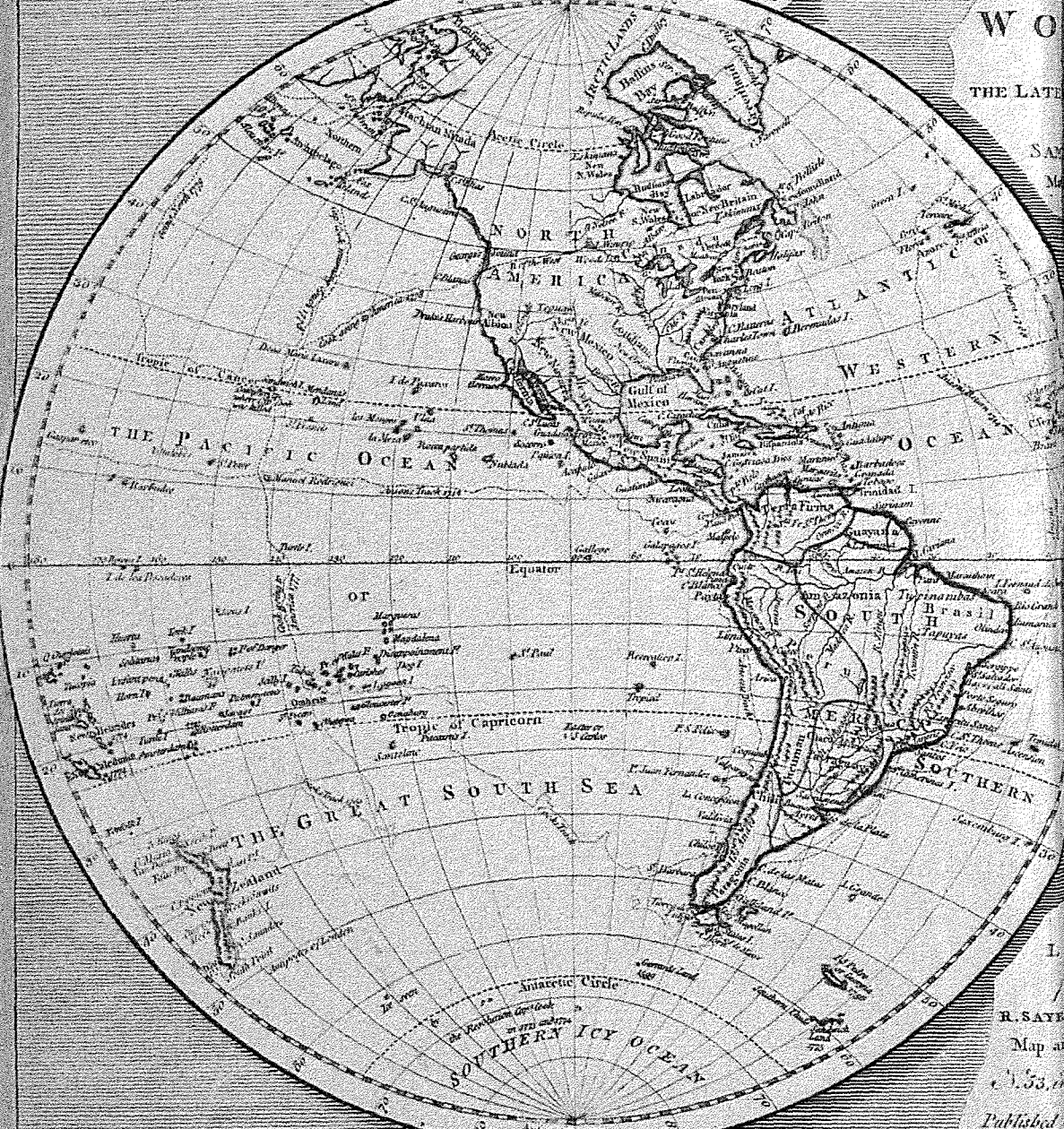
**Part 1 of 8**

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NAVAL DOCUMENTS  
OF  
The American Revolution



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NAVAL DOCUMENTS OF  
The American Revolution

VOLUME 5

AMERICAN THEATRE: May 9, 1776–July 31, 1776

WILLIAM JAMES MORGAN, Editor

With a Foreword by  
PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON  
And an Introduction by  
REAR ADMIRAL F. KENT LOOMIS, U.S.N. (Ret.)  
Director of Naval History

WASHINGTON: 1970

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*The Dexterity of our People in Sea Matters must  
produce great Things . . .*

John Adams  
1776

*. . . now we go by that pleasing name of Independant  
States, I am perfectly easey about the Consequences  
of the Warr . . .*

John Langdon  
1776

# THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 20, 1970

## FOREWORD

It is highly gratifying for me to be able to contribute a foreword to Volume V of Naval Documents of the American Revolution. As a one-time naval officer and a life-long reader of history, I find this book doubly enjoyable.

Midway through the book the reader comes upon an entry from the Journal of the Continental Congress. At first glance, it looks very much like any other such entry, but the date -- "Thursday, July 4, 1776" -- discloses its importance. It is the Declaration of Independence entry, as agreed to by the members of the Congress on that date.

Appearing as it does amid letters, excerpts from private and public journals, autobiographical excerpts and public papers, the Declaration of Independence can be seen from a unique historical perspective.

We are used to seeing the Declaration of Independence as a document that stands apart, a revered and timeless document of liberty. So it is; but it is also a part of the time when it was composed. Volume V of the Naval Documents of the Revolution reminds the readers of the reality of that time: on the same day Congress agreed to the wording of the Declaration of Independence, "One Cask of Grape Shot" was directed to be delivered to the Marine Committee of Congress. Other sources on or near that date tell of twelve Americans killed and twenty-three wounded in an attack on Charleston and of the parole granted to "Captain Samuel Evans, master of the Friendship, taken as prize by Captain R'd Barron."

The men who signed the Declaration of Independence knew that they were not engaging in a textbook exercise. The phrase "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor"

takes on new meaning when we discover, through these first-hand accounts, that the patriots were in very grave danger of losing all.

This primary source material can be enjoyed by amateur historians or employed by students of history and professional historians. It is history without embellishment taken directly from words of the men who were in the process of making history. Throughout these pages, the courage and daring of American seamen can be seen again and again.

Volume V of Naval Documents of the American Revolution is a fitting tribute to these men and to the Navy. It is an invaluable work of scholarship in which the editors and the United States Navy can take great pride.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Kipron". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.



# INTRODUCTION

The turbulent vast oceans of the world—ever moving, ever changing—are in themselves the very embodiment of freedom and liberty defined so clearly almost two hundred years ago in the Declaration of Independence. Men who take to the sea to trade, to fish, to guard the peace or make war when necessary, share, feel and absorb an independence which is uniquely their own. There dwells in sailors a burning spirit which will not accept the shackles of tyranny just as the waters on which they serve cannot be stilled. This is true today, and the documents presented in the current volume, and previous ones of the series, demonstrate that this spirit was not wanting in the American seafaring patriots who carried the conflict to the enemy against overwhelming odds.

While the Declaration of Independence must be the central great occurrence in the time span of Volume 5, other events, as outlined in President Nixon's Foreword and in the Summary on pages one and two, were unfolding to test by fire America's search for independence. Would it remain only an inspired declaration or become a reality?

We cannot stress too strongly or too often that this work is made possible by the complete cooperation and priceless assistance received from libraries, historical societies, museums, other depositories, and private collectors in this country and abroad. Unpublished Crown copyright material in the Public Record Office, London, is reproduced by permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Special appreciation must be accorded to Mr. John F. Leavitt, Associate Curator of The Marine Historical Association Incorporated, Mystic, Connecticut, who giving freely of his own time and knowledge prepared the fine pictorial article, "Shipwrights' Tools during the Revolution," for this volume.

As a perceptive commentator noted, the death of Mr. William Bell Clark, while Volume 4 was under preparation, deprived this project of "one of the keenest, albeit vicarious, observers of the American Revolutionary scene the twentieth century has yet produced." Through Mr. Clark's industry and foresight, and the gracious understanding of his widow, he has left a legacy of building blocks for Volume 5 and beyond. The work

he had compiled for subsequent volumes, his library, and large collection of manuscript transcripts tirelessly amassed have come to the Naval History Division as an extremely valuable part of our holdings.

William James Morgan of the Naval History Division, author and Revolutionary War student, is now editor of the series. Those who are familiar with the undertaking since publication of Volume I, and particularly the distinguished members of the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Committee, know that Dr. Morgan has been intimately and essentially associated with the work since its inception. He comes, therefore, qualified and certainly no stranger to the awesome task.

Dr. Morgan is backed by a small crew of experienced, dedicated and highly capable colleagues in our Historical Research Section—Mr. Robert L. Scheina, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Scheffenacker, Mr. Robert I. Campbell, Mrs. Anne C. Ruggieri, Lieutenant (junior grade) Robert Munson, Ensign Kristin G. Tryon, Mr. E. Gordon Bowen-Hassell, Yeoman First Class Lenzie D. Crosby, Miss Jacquelyn L. Schmok, and during summer Naval Reserve duty, Chief Personnelman George K. McCuistion. We mourn the death during the past year of Commander William B. Rowbotham, RN (Ret), who did outstanding research for us in the Public Record Office and other United Kingdom repositories.

Maps and charts are the province of Mr. W. Bart Greenwood, Navy Department Librarian, assisted by Miss Mary Pickens. The excellent selections found in this volume bear testimony to Mr. Greenwood's intense personal interest and knowledge of eighteenth century cartography. Mr. Charles R. Haberlein, Jr., of our Curator's Branch has done a fine job collecting, selecting, and describing illustrations.

On January 23, 1970, after a distinguished career crowned by his thirteen years as Director of Naval History, Rear Admiral Ernest McNeill Eller, USN, retired from the naval service. The outstanding achievements of the Naval History Division during Admiral Eller's tenure give full testimony to his total dedication, his keen intelligence, and boundless energies. This monumental *Naval Documents* work was started by him. He guided and nurtured the project which must now stand as the high-water mark among a legion of lasting and meaningful accomplishments. Admiral Eller has charted the difficult seas, and has set us a true course to follow.

F. Kent Loomis

## EDITOR'S PREFACE

As may be expected, an expanding war at sea and preparations for future operations, clearly evident in this volume, are accompanied by commensurate density of documentary coverage. The choice of what to include in a volume and what to place aside becomes increasingly difficult and of paramount importance. A large element of subjective judgment, by necessity, comes into play during the process.

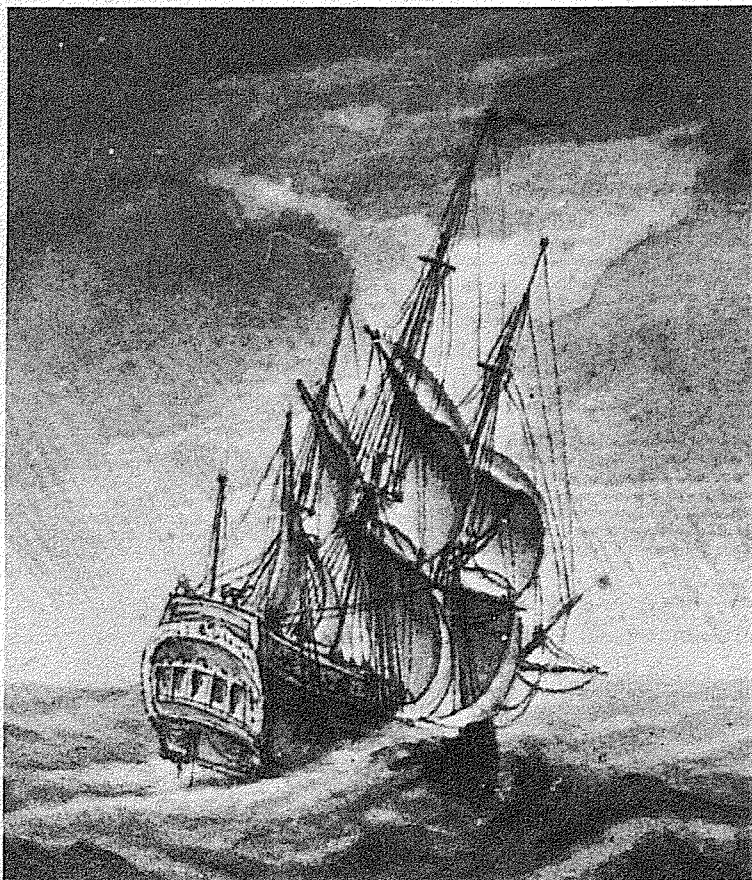
A prime criterion for arriving at a decision to print is an item's contribution to broad coverage of major events during the period spanned by a particular volume. For example, in Volume 5 the build-up at New York and on Lake Champlain, the attack on Charleston, the new Continental frigates, and of course, the Declaration of Independence are center stage.

In the present volume more extensive use has been made of footnotes to call attention to items which have had to be omitted. To illustrate, several depositories hold considerable collections of privateer bonds. Bonds are largely repetitious; we have included only representative examples from several states, but have directed any user with specialized interests in this subject to major collection sources.

The bibliography found herein is cumulative for all printed sources referenced in the five volumes published to date. Maps and charts, previously included in the general "Descriptive List of Illustrations," have been arranged in a separate category for more ready reference.

The watch has been changed in Volume 5. Mr. Clark is no longer with us. Those of us who worked with him from the outset of the *Naval Documents* project, as well as the newer members of our editorial group, will strive to see that William Bell Clark's rich endowment to all students of the American Revolution will continue to find embodiment in these volumes.





This drawing and others of similar nature throughout the Volume are from journals kept on board ships *Lloyd* and *Betsey*, Nicholas Pocock, Master. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.)

# DEPOSITORY LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS<sup>1</sup>

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| AAS        | American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts                          |
| AGI        | Biblioteca del Archivo General de Indias, Sevilla                               |
| AHN        | Archivo Histórico Nacional, Madrid  |
| AMAE       | Archives Du Ministère Des Affaires Étrangères, Paris                            |
| AN         | Archives Nationales, Paris  |
| APL        | Service historique de la Marine Archives du Port de<br>Lorient, Lorient, France |
| APS        | American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia                                    |
| Bda. Arch. | Bermuda Archives, Hamilton, Bermuda   |
| BHS        | Beverly Historical Society, Beverly, Massachusetts                              |
| BM         | British Museum, London  |
| BPL        | Boston Public Library, Boston   |
| ChHs       | Chicago Historical Society, Chicago   |
| CL         | William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan,<br>Ann Arbor               |
| ConnHS     | Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford  |
| ConnSL     | Connecticut State Library, Hartford   |
| CUL        | Columbia University Library, New York   |
| CWM        | College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia                             |
| CW         | Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg Virginia                                    |
| DAC        | Dominion (Public) Archives of Canada, Ottawa                                    |
| DARL       | Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Wash-<br>ington, D.C.             |
| DCL        | Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, New Hampshire                               |
| DUL        | Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina                                 |
| EI         | Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts   |
| FDRL       | Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York                              |
| HCL        | Haverford College Library, Haverford, Pennsylvania                              |
| HH         | Hempstead House, New London, Connecticut  |
| HL         | Hayes Library, Edenton, North Carolina  |
| HSD        | Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington                                      |
| HSP        | Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia                                |
| HU         | Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts                            |
| HUL        | Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California                             |
| JCBL       | John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island                             |
| LC         | Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.   |
| MarbHS     | Marblehead Historical Society, Marblehead, Massachu-<br>setts                   |

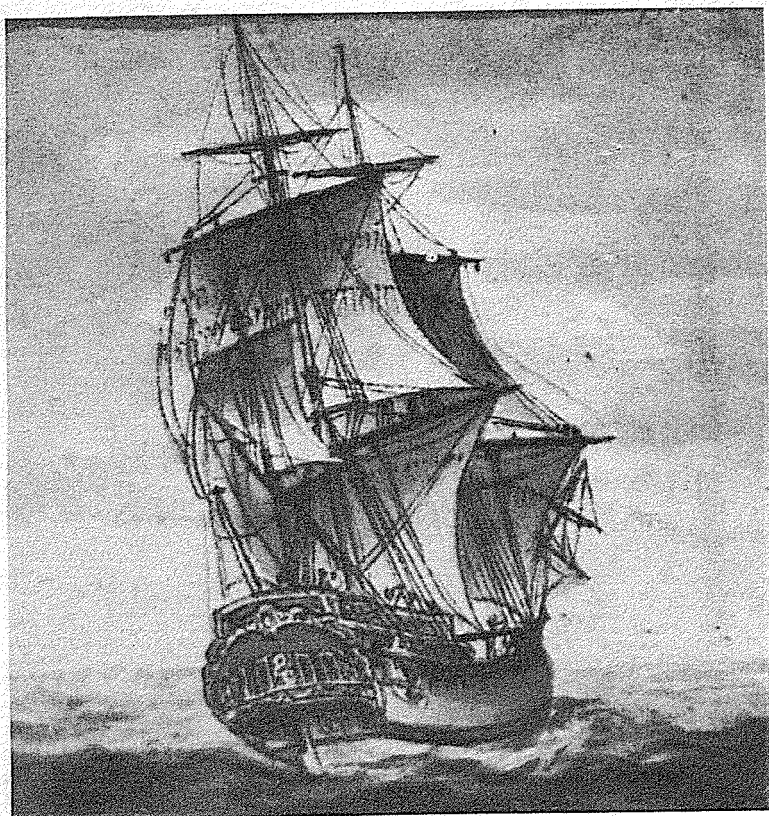
1. The list includes depositories from which manuscripts have been used in this and previous volumes. The Descriptive List of Illustrations includes additional sources from which graphic material has been used in Volume 5.

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Mass. Arch. | Massachusetts Archives, Boston  |
| MassHS      | Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston  |
| MCL         | Marietta College Library, Marietta, Ohio  |
| Md. Arch.   | Maryland Archives (Hall of Records), Annapolis  |
| MdHS        | Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore  |
| MeHS        | Maine Historical Society, Portland  |
| MHA         | Marine Historical Association, Mystic, Connecticut  |
| MNHP        | Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown, New Jersey                               |
| Mor. Arch   | Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, North Carolina  |
| NA          | National Archives, Washington, D.C.   |
| NCDAH       | North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh                                |
| NHA         | Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket, Massachusetts                                |
| NHCHS       | New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven, Connecticut                               |
| NHHS        | New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord   |
| NHS         | Newport Historical Society, Newport, Rhode Island   |
| NLCHS       | New London County Historical Society, New London, Connecticut                             |
| NMM         | National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England  |
| N.S. Arch   | Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax   |
| NYHS        | New-York Historical Society, New York   |
| NYPL        | New York Public Library, New York   |
| NYSL        | New York State Library, Albany  |
| Pa. Arch.   | Pennsylvania Archives, Harrisburg   |
| PM          | Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts  |
| PML         | Pierpont Morgan Library, New York   |
| PRO         | Public Record Office, London  |
| PS          | Pilgrim Society, Plymouth, Massachusetts  |
| PUL         | Princeton University Library, Princeton, New Jersey                                       |
| R.I. Arch.  | Rhode Island Archives, Providence   |
| RIHS        | Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence   |
| SCHS        | South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston   |
| SI          | Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.   |
| UNBL        | University of New Brunswick Library, Fredericton, New Brunswick                           |
| UNCL        | University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill   |
| USNAM       | US Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Maryland  |
| UFL         | P. K. Yonge Library, University of Florida, Gainesville                                   |
| UVL         | University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville   |
| VHS         | Virginia Historical Society, Richmond   |
| VSL         | Virginia State Library, Richmond  |
| WCLAR       | Washington Crossing Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania |

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| WPL | Public Library, Whitehaven, England             |
| WSL | William Salt Library, Stafford, England         |
| YUL | Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut |

The following private collectors have kindly allowed use of their manuscripts in this volume:

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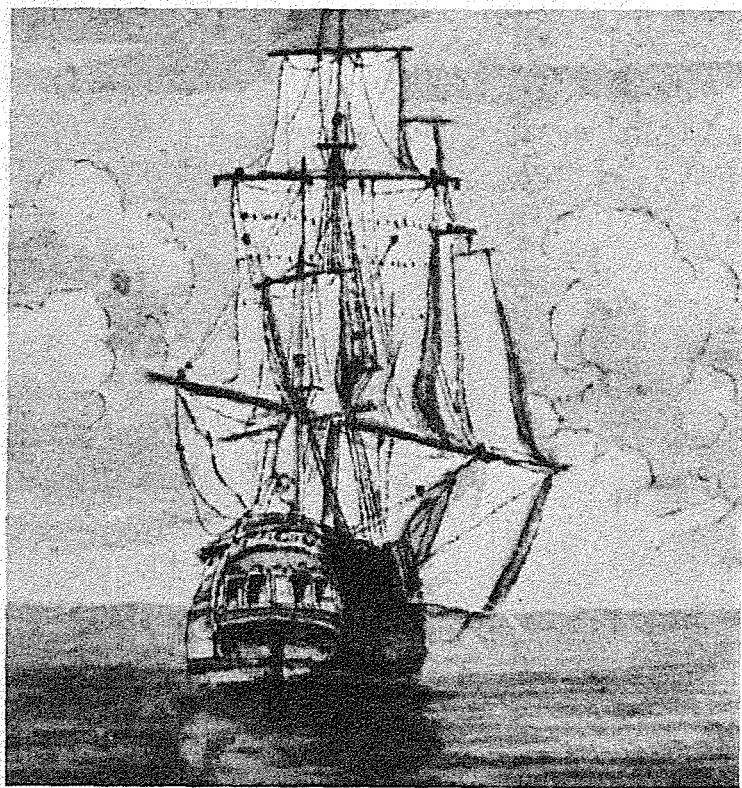
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# AMERICAN THEATRE

*From May 9, 1776 to July 31, 1776*



## AMERICAN THEATRE

From May 9, 1776, to July 31, 1776

### SUMMARY

"We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right, ought to be Free and Independent States."

Thus, on July 4, 1776, the historic step was taken. There could be no turning back. No longer was the battle against "ministerial hirelings." Allegiance to the British Crown was irrevocably abolished. Long years of desperate struggle on land and sea, years for hanging on and bitter frustrations, lie ahead before the Declaration would become reality.

As spring turned to summer in 1776, major British offensive operations were directed against New York and South Carolina.

After being forced out of Boston the enemy needed another large port and base of operations in the rebellious colonies. Strategically located New York was the logical choice. General William Howe's army from Halifax sailed into New York Harbor at the end of June. Howe encamped on Staten Island to await reinforcements from Europe in the form of a powerful fleet commanded by his brother, Vice Admiral Richard Lord Howe, and a sizeable contingent of Hessian troops.

Washington moved his forces from New England to New York, where frantic defense preparations got underway. The General, ever conscious of the advantage given the British by their sea strength, took what limited steps were open to him to counter this superiority. Obstructions were placed in the rivers, fire ships were readied, and row galleys were borrowed from Connecticut and Rhode Island.

While the stage was being set for a major clash of arms at New York, American troops to the northward, numbed by the disastrous Canadian campaign, fell back on Crown Point. Now in this wilderness, and with all haste, a naval squadron had to be built, outfitted, and manned to contest the vital Lake Champlain route. Benedict Arnold was given command of the Lake fleet, and the critical nature of his mission is best expressed in Major General Horatio Gates' orders—"preventing the enemys invasion of our country is the ultimate end of the important command with which you are now entrusted. . . A resolute

but judicious defence of the northern entrance into this side of the Continent, is the momentous part which is committed to your courage and abilities."

Some of the thirteen Continental frigates, authorized in December 1775, were launched and others remained on the building ways. None was ready for sea, and the most critical shortage was cannon. The idleness of Commodore Hopkins' fleet, following the New Providence expedition, caused official unrest as well as discontent among the crews. Several of the vessels went off on independent cruises, but the fleet as such was idle. Hopkins and two of his captains, Saltonstall and Whipple, were summoned to Philadelphia to explain their conduct to Congress.

State cruisers, privateers, Washington's schooners, and Continental vessels enjoyed increasing success against British merchantmen, particularly those engaged in the West Indian trade. Sugar, rum and coffee taken from prizes crowded the wharves in American ports. Conversely, of course, the Halifax Vice Admiralty Court did not lack captured American ships to condemn.

The huge amphibious force under Major General Henry Clinton and Commodore Sir Peter Parker, intended for the capture of Charleston, squandered precious time. While the British commanders exchanged plans and counterplans, Major General Charles Lee and the American defenders dug in.

The joint assault was finally launched on June 28, and was soundly repulsed after the attackers took what Washington aptly termed "a severe drubbing." One disappointed British sympathizer saw the "great Armament fitted out by Lord Germain to subdue the Rebels in So. Carolina" as being "intirely conquered by few men and a palmetto Cabbage Stalk and land battery."

Contrary winds and "various other impediments" held Clinton and Parker off South Carolina until July 21. Ten days later their battered ships made Sandy Hook and joined with the Howe brothers for the grand blow against New York.

9 May 1776

"EXTRACTS OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER IN THE ARMY AT DESCHAMBAULT  
FORTY-EIGHT MILES ABOVE QUEBECK, DATED  
MAY 9, 1776"<sup>1</sup>

When I arrived within nine miles of Quebec, with the six companies of our regiment, I was hailed by an officer on board of a vessel belonging to us, and informed that our whole Army was retreating with the utmost precipitation, and advised to retreat with the regiment as fast as possible . . . They had determined not to make a stand till they got to the mouth of the Sorel; but a letter coming from General [Benedict] Arnold, promising a reinforcement of men and cannon, they determined to wait here until an officer could return, who was sent to Montreal by General [John] Thomas. The fleet is arrived at Quebec. A frigate of thirty-six guns, a ship of twenty guns or upwards, and a schooner taken from us, have sailed up the river as far as this place, and remained here two days. They landed eight boat loads of men about four miles off, who were obliged to embark by a party of the rear, before a party of one hundred and fifty men, that we marched from hence, could get up with them.

1. Peter Force, comp., *American Archives*, Fourth Series (Washington, 1837-1843), VI, 398-99. Hereafter cited as Force, comp., *American Archives*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Surprise*, CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE<sup>1</sup>

May 1776

[In the weir above Quebec]

Thursday 9th at 6 AM Weigh'd & drop'd further down the River. at 11 Exercised the People, supposing Ourselves to be boarded. Open'd a Cask of Pork Contents 308 Pieces. First & Middle parts moderate with Thunder Lightning & Rain. latter light Airs and Cloudy. PM. Sent a Messenger down to Quebec. Got Bags of Hay along the Gangways for a Barracade.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

LIEUTENANT H. CHADS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

*Hartfield* Transport Halifax

Nova Scotia—May the 9th 1776.

Sir Please to Acquaint their Lordships, that I Sailed from St. Kitts the 20th of March in Company with the *Royal George* Transport, and Arrived here the 18th of April. The *Hartfield* is Cleared of her Guns & Stores and fitted as a Transport.

*Hartfield* You will also please to Acquaint their Lordships that  
*Royal George* the *Henry & Esther* Transpt was taken by the Rebels in the  
*Resolution* Month of January last, on her Passage from Halifax to Boston,  
*William* loaded with Wood for the use of the Army, and Carried  
*Spy* into Beverly in New England The Master & Crew are

*Good Intent* Prisoners,<sup>2</sup> The *Success* Transport is gone to Quebec with  
*Three Sisters* part of the 47th Regt., the *Isabella & Dorothy* and *Hope*  
*Argo* have been there since August last. the *William & Mary*  
*Savill* is at Annapolis Royal, and the Transports named in the  
 Margin are at this Port. I am Sir [&c.]

H: Chads

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1611, 9, 2.

2. Taken January 29, 1776 by Washington's schooners *Franklin*, Samuel Tucker, and *Lee*, Daniel Waters.

INTERROGATION RELATIVE TO THE CAPTURE OF THE SHIP *Rittenhouse*<sup>1</sup>

|               |   |       |
|---------------|---|-------|
| Nova Scotia   | } | Cause |
| Court of Vice |   |       |
| Admiralty     |   |       |

John Stanhope Esqr Commander of his Majestys Sloop  
 of War the *Raven* - VS - A Sum of money found on board the ship  
*Ritten House*—Ambrose Ballet [*sic* Bartlett] whereof was Master  
 Wednesday May 2 } Libel filed and entred and Order made therein as on  
 1776 } file

9 May 1776 } Interrogatories fil'd by Daniel Leonard Proctor in behalf of  
 } the said John Stanhope the Captor  
 Richard Willis Mate of his Majestys Ship *Raven* being sworn answers  
 as follows—

1 Q do you know the Ship [*Rittenhouse*] now in the Harbour of Halifax.  
 No. 1 Ans. yes he does

2 By whom, when and where was she taken

2. That she was taken the 27 December 1775, 6 oClock A.M. in the Lat-  
 titude 36°45". North and Longitude 76°7" West off Cape Henry  
 Bearing N.40°W. distant 7 Leagues by Capt John Stanhope

3 To whom did She belong and what Voyage was she upon when taken.

3. She belongs to Thomas York and John Potts of Philadelphia as ap-  
 pears by the Register she was bound from Lisbon to Philadelphia.

4. What Papers were found on board and where are they?

4. the Papers now produc'd were taken out of her, and are all the Pa-  
 pers found on Board her

5. What effects were on board the Ship when taken?

5. about £2000 in money<sup>2</sup> and 2 Qr Casks of Wine  
 Paul Nickerais being duly sworn and Interrogated as above answers  
 to

N 2 That she was taken off of the Capes of Virginia bound from Lisbon to  
 Philadelphia

3 York and Potts of Philadelphia

5 Money and two Qr Casks of Wine belonging to the sailors

[Q] 6 Is the money Libeled in this Court the same that was found on  
 board the *Rittenhouse* at the time she was taken?

6 he does not know —

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N. S. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, the money was condemned as a "Lawfull Prize" on May 22, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON <sup>1</sup>

May 1776 Sequin Isld NNE Dist 8 Lgs  
 Wednesday 8 Modt Wr at 6 Sequin N $\frac{1}{2}$ E 8 Mile at 7 Chaced a Schooner, fired 6 guns & 6 swivels to bring the Chace to, Left off Chace, at 12 Lost a Deep sea Led & 2 Lines  
 Thursday 9 at 1 A M anchored in 15 fam C: Elizabeth SWbW 4 Lgs at 6 weighed, Lost a Cat Block found the Buoy & rope gone Little wind & foggy.  
 Do Wr at 6 P M C. Elizabeth NbW 3 Lgs gave Chace at 8 Came up with the Chace fired 6 Guns Shoted at her hove too took every thing out of the Prize and Set her on fire - <sup>2</sup> Made Sail -

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

2. There is no mention of this in British prize lists.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford* <sup>1</sup>

May 1776 Do [Cape Ann] NWN 4 Leagues  
 Thursday 9 at 4 Saw a Sail in the S W made Sail & gave Chace at 5 Fir'd 4 Guns at her she Shorten'd Sail Proved to be a Sloop from Belfast bound to Nantucket sent a Midshipman & 3 Men to take Charge of her  
 Fresh Gales & Hazey Tak'd Occasionally  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 lost Sight of the Prize. <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. There is no mention of this vessel in British prize lists.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Thursday May 9th, 1776.

Resolved that the said Committee for fortifying the Harbour of Boston be hereby impower'd and directed immediately to procure and prepare, with every thing Necessary, such a Number of Fire Ships, and Rafts, as they may judge proper to annoy the Enemy's Ships, if they should again return to Boston Harbour. - And the said Committee are also directed without delay to sink the Hulks, before order'd by this Court, in such Place, and in such Manner, as the said Committee shall think best. - Whereas it has been usual in time of War to keep one or more Vessels to curise as Spies, and give Intelligence of the approach of an Enemy, and great advantages have accrued from the same; -

And Whereas the great Dependance which this Colony has on the Militia thereof for Defence, renders it absolutely necessary, that timely advice should be given of the advance of the enemy, it is therefore

Resolved that Mr Speaker <sup>2</sup> Capt [Josiah] Batchelder, & Mr [Benjamin] Hall, be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to hire or purchase, and fit out at the Expence of this Colony two swift Sailing Vessels, not exceeding Forty Tons each, [to] cruize on the Coast of America, and give Intelligence of the Movements of the Enemy, and lay their Accounts for fix-



ing out said Vessells before the General Court for allowance and when the said Vessells shall be ready to sail, the Committee of War is hereby impowered and directed to man, arm, victual, and give Orders for their Proceeding, which Orders the said Masters of said Vessells shall be obliged to observe and obey. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 865, 867, 868–69.

2. James Warren.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston 9 May 1776

I have the pleasure to inform your Excellency that on the seventh Instant, Capt [Samuel] Tucker commander of the armed Schooner *Hancock* took two Brigs in the Bay, (within sight of the Men of War) and carried them into Lynn. One of them was from Cork, ninety tons burthen, laden with Beef, Pork, Butter, and Coal; — the other was from the Western Islands laden with Wine and fruit, about an hundred tons burthen.<sup>2</sup> Neither of them give any important intelligence they brought no papers or letters that had any relation to public affairs. The Master of the Irish Vessel says he sailed from Cork the first of April, that five Regiments lay there ready to embark for America, that he heard that Hessians and Hanoverians were coming to America, but had not heard of any Troops having sailed from Great Britain or Ireland for America this Spring. I am Your Excellency's [&c.]

Artemas Ward

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The brig *Jane*, James Fulton, from Cork, and the brig *William*, Richard Price, from Fayal. "The *Jane*, Fulton, taken by the Provincials, had a cargo on board, worth upwards of 6000 £. which is mostly insured in Glasgow." *Public Advertiser*, London, July 3, 1776.

*New-England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1776

Boston, May 9.

Last Tuesday, in the forenoon, two brigs were seen standing in for this harbour, on which Capt. [Samuel] Tucker, in the Privateer <sup>1</sup> late commanded by Capt. Manly, then off in the Bay, gave them chace, and following them near up to the Light-House, very fortunately took them both, in sight of two or three of the British ships of war lying in King Road. Capt. [George] Dawson, in one of the enemy's armed vessels, came to sail, and endeavoured to get out to the assistance of the brigs, but was prevented by the wind being Easterly. The two prizes, accompanied by the privateer, were [the same day safely carried into Lynn, and properly secured. —] The largest is from Cork, James Fulton, master, upwards of 100 tons burthen, and has on board 50 tons of coal, 256 whole barrels and 130 half barrels of beef, 300 firkins of butter, 200 boxes of candles, 40 barrels of flour, 49 barrels of barley, a qu[an]tity of hams, 100 boxes of soap, &c. The other is from St. Michael's, about 90 tons burthen, Richard Pine [*sic* Price], Master, loaded with wines and fruit.<sup>2</sup> The masters of these vessels, not knowing

that the British army had been obliged to evacuate this place, were bound hither, in order to dispose of their cargoes, for the benefit of our unnatural and cruel enemies.

1. Washington's schooner *Hancock*.
2. The *Jane* and the *William*.

#### ADVERTISEMENT OF THE RHODE ISLAND NAVAL COMMITTEE <sup>1</sup>

The Naval Committee having received Orders to appoint the Officers for the two Ships of War building here, take this Method to request all Gentlemen, who are desirous to engage in that Service, to send in their Names, with their Recommendations, to some of the Committee, as soon as may be.

All able-bodied Seamen, that are willing to serve on board said Ship, may apply as above; and they shall be entered into immediate Pay.

Providence, May 9, 1776

1. *Providence Gazette*, May 11, 1776.

#### JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>

[Hartford] second Thursday of May, 1776  
(being the ninth day of said Month,)

An Act for establishing Naval Officers in this Colony.

*Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Governor for the time being shall be Naval Officer in this Colony.*

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be kept at the port of New London one naval office, at the port of New Haven one other naval office, at the port of Middletown one other naval office, and at the port of Norwalk one other naval office; and that the Governor for the time being depute some proper person at each of said ports as naval officers, and take bond with sufficient surety in the sum of one thousand pounds for the faithful discharge of their duty therein, to enter and clear out vessels and their cargoes, and to do and act therein in such way and manner and according to such rules and orders as to such their offices respectively appertain.*

Whereas it is recommended by the Honorable Continental Congress to the several legislatures in the United Colonies, as soon as possible, to erect courts of justice or give jurisdiction to the courts now in being, for the purpose of determining concerning captures &c., and to provide that all tryals in such case be had by a jury, under such qualifications as to the respective legislatures shall seem expedient,

*Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the respective county courts in the Colony be and they are hereby authorized, empowered, constituted and appointed, to try, judge and determine, by jury or*

otherwise, as in other cases, concerning all captures that have or shall be taken and brought into said respective counties. And that the civil law, the laws of nations, and the resolutions of Congress, be the rule of their adjudications, determinations and proceedings therein. And said respective county courts are hereby authorized and impowered, to constitute and appoint such proper officers under them as they shall find necessary and expedient for the purposes aforesaid.

*Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That appeals be allowed to the Continental Congress, under the restrictions and agreeable to the directions and resolves of said Congress. And that the fees for said court and the respective officers thereof be reasonable and such as are customary in the neighbouring Colonies, or may be established by said Congress or by this Assembly. And the judge of said respective county courts is hereby authorized to call said court for said purpose at any place within the respective counties, as shall be most convenient and expedient.

This Assembly do appoint, impower and desire his Honor the Governor, during the present session of this Assembly, to fill up the blank Commissions for Private Ships of War and Letters of Marque and Reprisal sent, or that shall be sent from time to time, by the President of the Congress to this Assembly, and the same deliver to the person or persons intending to fit out such private ships of war who shall apply for the same, and also to see the proper bonds executed, sent with such Commissions, and see the same duly returned agreeable to the resolutions of the Honble Continental Congress.

1. Charles J. Hoadly, *et al.*, eds., *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776* (Hartford, 1850-1890), XV, 280, 281, 318. Hereafter cited as Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*.

#### GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

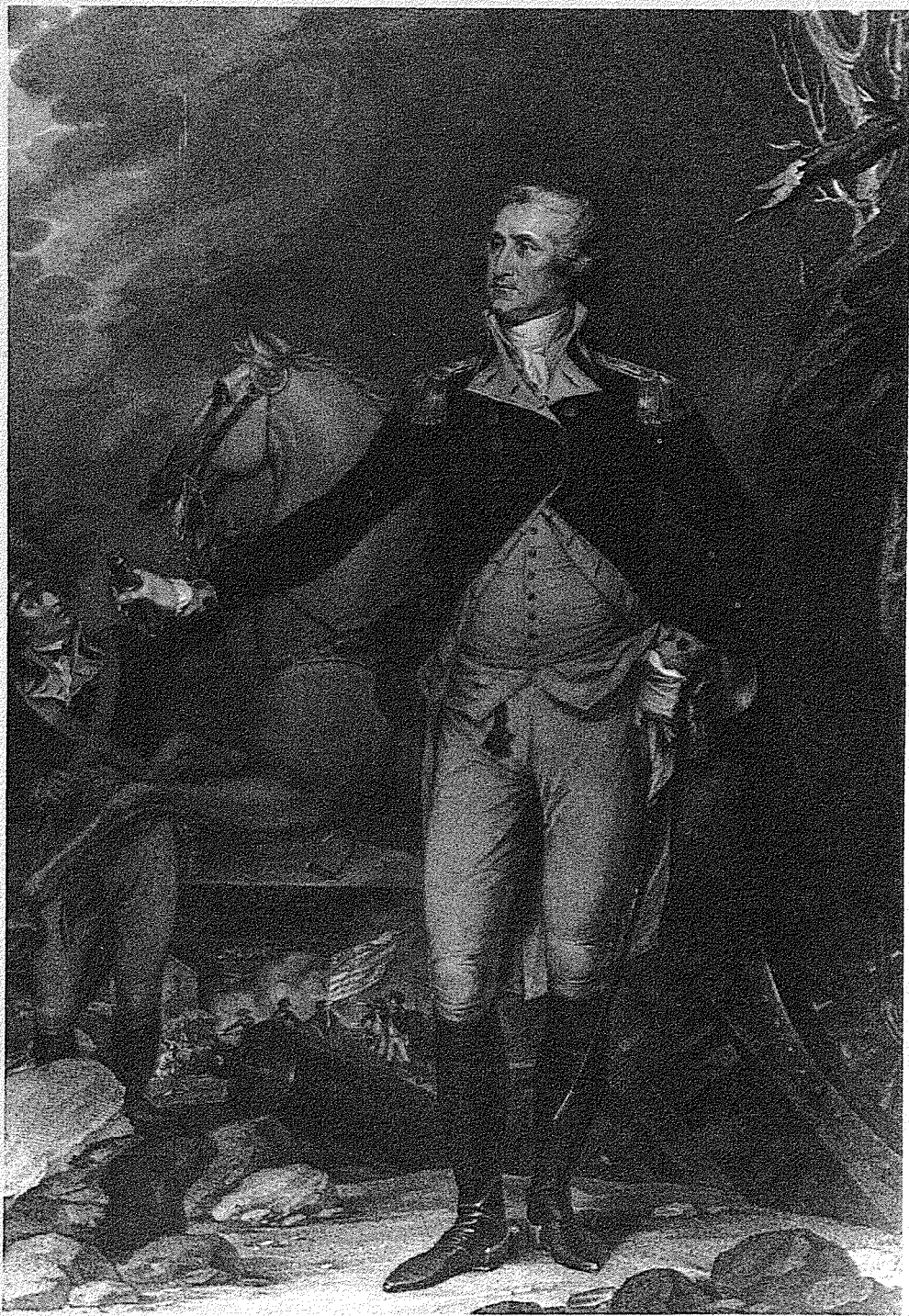
Sir,

New York. May 9th 1776.

When I was on the Road from Cambri[d]ge to this Place, I received a Letter from a Gentleman who subscribed it, Le Baron de Colliac. He therein mentions that he was a Captain of Dragoons in the French Service, that he comes to offer his Service to the United Colonies, that he attempted to come about the latter End of November, was taken by an English Frigate commanded by Capt. Young with 160 Fusees & 20 Barrels of Powder, that he got his Liberty thro the Friendship of Captn Young, got to Dominique, from thence to Guadaloupe, took passage again on Board of a Vessel bound to Philadelphia or New London, which by contrary Winds was obliged to put into Bedford Harbour to the Eastward. He has a Pass from the Governor of Guadaloupe, which gives him his Title. He desires a Line to you from Me, & what I have mentioned is all I know of the Bearer. I am [&c.]

G<sup>o</sup> Washington.

1. John Hancock Papers, V, LC.



*George Washington.*

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York, May 9, 1776.

The Account you give of the Vessels at Beverley, being unfit for Service, surprizes me prodigiously; I was taught to believe very differently of the Ship *Jenny*, by Commodore [John] Manley, and Captain [William] Bartlett, who you mention to have given you their Opinion of them. The Brigantine from Antigua <sup>2</sup> was also thought very fit to arm.

A Letter is just come to my Hands from Winthrop Sargent Esqr. Agent for the Navy at Gloucester; He says there are some Women and Children whom he is obliged to maintain at the Continl. Expense; also a Number of Men taken in some of the last Prizes. You will please to examine into their Situation; If Prisoners of War they should be sent into some Inland Place and confined; If Tories, the General Court are the proper Persons to take Cognizance of them.

I see by the public Prints, that the Prizes at Beverly are to be sold the 20th Inst: As by the Obstructions put on Commerce in General, there may appear but few Purchasers for the Vessels; of Course, they may be sold vastly under their Value, I think you had best have some Persons in whom you can confide, present at the Sale, with Power to purchase the large Ship, and the Brig from Antigua, if he finds them going very much under their Value. It is not above two or three Years since the Ship cost £ 3,000 Sterlg. She is to be sure something worse for the Wear, & I believe is not Remarkably well found at present, as she has been pillaged for the Use of our armed Vessels, which must make a considerable Abatement of her Value. The Brigantine is, I suppose, in the same Predicament; but a good Judge will easily know their Value.

Wm. Watson Esqr, of Plymouth, advises that the Prizes *Norfolk* and *happy Return*, are condemn'd; and desires I would appoint a Day for Sale of them, and their Cargoes: This you will please to do, letting them be advertised in the Papers, at least a Fortnight before the Sale.

1. John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington* (Washington, 1931-1944), V, 25, 26. Hereafter cited as Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*.

2. Brig *Little Hannah*.

PETITION OF FORMER OWNERS OF THE SLOOP *Joseph* TO THE NEW YORK  
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

To the Honourable President and other members of the Provincial Congress of the Province of New-York, met in Congress, at the City of New-York. The Petition of Samuel Massey, Charles Massey, and Joseph Wood, the younger, of the City of Philadelphia, merchants, humbly sheweth:

That your Petitioners, in the beginning of the month of January last past, purchased a sloop or vessel called the *Joseph*, whereof William Raddon was late master, and loaded on board the said vessel a cargo of provisions to proceed with the same from the city of Philadelphia to Savannah in the Province of Georgia, as appears by an invoice and bill of lading herewith exhibited.

That the said sloop *Joseph* proceeded on her intended Voyage, and on the 13th day of February last past, was taken by an armed vessel, called the *General Gage*, whereof one George Sibles was commander, and carried into Cape-Fear, in the province of North-Carolina, where the said sloop *Joseph* was detained, and the cargo on board of her embezzled, particularly by Josiah Martin, late Governour and Commander-in-Chief of that province as fully appears by the protest of the aforesaid William Raddon, herewith also exhibited.<sup>2</sup>

That the said sloop *Joseph*, with her cargo, were illegally confiscated by the said George Sibles and the said Josiah Martin, without libel or condemnation, whereby your Petitioners are sufferers to near the amount of fifteen hundred Pounds, current money of the province of Pennsylvania.

That your Petitioners, immediately after the capture of the said sloop *Joseph*, made application to the Provincial Congress of the said province of North-Carolina, who appointed a committee to consider the facts as stated by your Petitioners, which said Committee reported thereon, as appears by the copy of the same likewise exhibited.<sup>3</sup>

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your honourable House will take their unhappy case into particular consideration, and grant them an order to seize the effects of the aforesaid Josiah Martin within the province of New-York, to reimburse the loss your Petitioners have sustained by the capture and detention of the said sloop *Joseph* and her cargo, or such other relief as your honourable House shall seem meet.

Joseph Wood, for self and copartners

[New York, May 9, 1776]

[Enclosure]

An estimate of the loss sustained by the capture of the sloop *Joseph*, William Raddon, late master

|   |       |   |   |
|---|-------|---|---|
| The sloop <i>Joseph</i> , with her furniture, tackle, and apparel, and outfits, cost January 5, 1776, | £625  | 0 | 0 |
| The cargo on board of her cost as per invoice,  | 670   | 3 | 7 |
|   | <hr/> |   |   |
| Pennsylvania currency   | £1295 | 3 | 7 |

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1495.

2. Protest of William Raddon, March 25, 1776. See Volume 4, 513-14.

3. Journal of the North Carolina Provincial Congress, April 12, 1776. See Volume 4, 793.

# JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Jovis, 4 ho. P.M. May 9th, 1776.

The Committee of Safety reported to this Congress, that Brigadier-General [Horatio] Gates, attended yesterday with a message from His Excellency General Washington; that he delivered a letter from Thomas R. Harris, late master's mate, and Wm. Metcalfe, late midshipman of the Ministerial armed vessel the *Savage*, now prisoners of war, in the jail, requesting some relaxation of their confinement.

Mr. Gates mentioned that many such prisoners have been enlarged, and are prisoners on their parol. That His Excellency General Washington thinks it necessary that some inland town or village in this Colony, should be fixed on, where the above mentioned prisoners, and such others as may from time to time be thought proper to be enlarged, may be sent to and lodged.

*Resolved*, That the township of Goshen, in Orange county, is the most proper inland town or village in this Colony for the placing of prisoners on parol, as well on account of the unanimity of the inhabitants in the cause of their country, as of its distance from any navigable river. And it is hereby earnestly recommended to the committee of Goshen precinct in particular, and to every other friend to American liberty in this Colony, to apprehend any such prisoner as may be sent to Goshen, if such prisoner or person shall be found out of the limits assigned him.

1. *Journals of the Provincial Congress, Provincial Convention, Committee of Safety and Council of Safety of the State of New-York, 1775-1776-1777* (Albany, 1842), I, 436. Hereafter cited as *New York Provincial Congress*.

BILL OF WILLIAM SMITH AGAINST THE NEW YORK ARMED SCHOONER  
*General Putnam*<sup>1</sup>

New York May 9th 1776.

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Schooner <i>Putnam</i> Capt Cogier [Thomas Cregier] to Willm Smith | Dr.     |
| To 8 Cartridge Boxes & painting                                    | £ 3- 6  |
| To 18 Pike Stoves [staves]   | 2- 5    |
| To 12 Rammerstaves   | 0-18    |
| To 12 Linstockes and Iron Work                                     | 1- 8    |
| To 3 Formers   | 0- 3- 6 |
| To 2 Do  | 0- 1    |
| To 8 Rammer Staves   | 0-12    |
| To 24 Tomkins  | 0-12    |
| To 7 Lignumveity Mallets   | 1-11    |
| To 2 Large Sheves  | 0- 5    |
| To 16 Tompkins for Lope holes                                      | 0-12    |
| To 3 Formers for Corohorns   | 0- 3    |
| To 8 Tomkins for Do  | 0- 4    |
| To 2 pins  | 0- 1    |
| To 32 parrell Trucks   | 0- 9- 4 |
| To 3 Staves for Bote hooks   | 0- 9    |
| To 2 Blocks of 7 Insh  | 0- 3    |
| To 2 Sarvering Mallets   | 0- 4    |
| To 2 Han[d] pumps  | 0-10    |
| To 1 Uper Box  | 0- 4- 6 |
| To Sheving Topmast & Truck   | 0- 3- 6 |
| To Sheving a fliing jib boom                                       | 0- 2- 0 |

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£ 13 16 10

Received May 13th 1776 of Thomas Randall the above Contents in full  
£ 13-16-10

Willm Smith

1. Record Group 45, NA, from original destroyed in the State Library fire, Albany, N.Y.

# JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Thursday, May 9, 1776

Captain [William] Budden having been taken by the *Liverpool* Man of War, and permitted, on his parole, to come to Philadelphia, in order to procure a prisoner to be given in exchange for him,

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to consider the propriety of exchanging seamen:

The members chosen, Mr.R[obert] Morris, Mr.[Joseph] Hewes, and Mr. [Samuel] Huntington.

1. Worthington C. Ford, *et al.*, eds., *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* (Washington, 1904-1937), IV, 338, 340. Hereafter cited as Ford, ed., JCC.

## ACCOUNT BOOK OF JAMES WOOD<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia, May 8 and 9]

the 8 day of May 1776 was the day that the Great Battle in our Rever against Wilmington was fought, bet[w]een the *Roebuck* Man of War, & sloop *hornot*<sup>2</sup> & Roegaleys Which lasted very hot for three ours, and a half or there a bout, and no damage done, Except one man kiled by one of the Roe gale Gun being twoo hot Set fire to the Cartridg and Blew him a way,— and the Next day they be Gan to fire at four a Clock and it lasted tell after dark: one our or two in which time they made three holes in the *Roebuck* and seven in the *liverpool* man of war<sup>3</sup> the Roe Gales lost 12 men: the last day the first days fight the Roegaleys Capt between three and four Miels distance of bold fellers Be sure:

1. From the private collection of J. F. Reed, King of Prussia, Pa.

2. Wood mistook the schooner *Wasp* for the sloop *Hornet*.

3. William Bradford, Jr. noted: "About Sunset the firing was very heavy: we counted distinctly, 60 in seven minutes." Memorandum Book and Register of William Bradford, Jr., HSP.

## "EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED THURSDAY MORNING 10 O'CLOCK, MAY 9."<sup>1</sup>

My last of Tuesday informed you, that the two men of war had appeared off Reedy Island. That day orders were sent for all the galleys to go down and attack them. The galleys accordingly, 13 in number left Fort Island, where they are stationed, about 9 miles below this city, yesterday morning. The two men of war were then got up as high as Christeen creek, and they were the *Roebuck* of 44 guns, and the *Liverpool* of 28. The boats got down about two o'clock, and began the attack. The guns were soon distinctly heard in town. The engagement lasted till five o'clock, when the *Roebuck* run ashore on the Jersey side. The *Liverpool* came too,



near her. In the evening we had several expresses one after another from Wilmington and the banks of Christeen, with variety of accounts. After the *Roebuck* went on shore the fire ceased on both sides, it was then top high water. The following letter is the only account we have from on board the galleys, which may be depended on.

Off High Lands of Christeen, Wednesday 5 o'clock.

About two o'clock an engagement began, which continued upwards of two hours, and believe successful on our side. In the course of the engagement the *Roebuck* ran ashore, and is now fast on the Jersey shore, at Kearney's Point, a little above Deep Water Point. Our fleet has suffered no injury but by a single shot which struck the *Camden*, but has done her little damage. We expect in a hour's time she will be on the careen, when a second attac[k] will be made upon her, and hope it will be crowned with success. The other ship has come too under the *Roebuck's* stern within musket shot.

Thus stands the accounts we have received. No express this morning. About one o'clock this morning several guns were heard. We are impatiently waiting for further accounts. The province ship of 10 eighteen pounders, the ship *Reprisal* of 16 six pounders, and the *Hornet* sloop of 10 guns, are ordered down to the assistance of the galleys. While the men of war were engaged, the *Wasp* armed schooner came out of Christeen creek, and retook a brig which the pirates had taken.

1. *Constitutional Gazette*, May 11, 1776.

#### DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] May 9th

... after dinner went to coffee house, where various reports were Circulated, how the *Roebuck* ran aground &c but upon the whole it appeared that little Damage has been sustained on our Side, but as no express has arrived this day we are in Suspence, Near 5 I went & drank coffee at James Cannon's, afterwards he & I took a walk to State house Yard. there we heard the fight was renewed by the Constant discharge of heavy Cannon.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

#### MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety,

[Philadelphia] 9th May, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Capt. William Richards, be appointed Ship's Husband to the Naval armaments of this Province, and that he be allow'd ——— p annum for his services.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records* (Philadelphia and Harrisburg, 1851-1852), X, 561. Hereafter cited as *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*.

CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

Mr. Morris,

[Off Fort Mifflin] May 9, 1776.

Sir, – I think if the *Lexington* Was fited out to Come Down she might be of service, for the More thare is the Better. We shall Keep them in Play, if you think I shall be of More service heare than up, I think she Might be fited by some boddy up, than some of the Carpenters ought to be up than.

I Remain, Sir, [&amp;c.]

John Barry.

P.S. – I think if Mr. [John] Wharton Was up he wood soon Get her Ready. Directed, Robert Morris, Esqr, Philadelphia.

1. Samuel Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives* (Philadelphia 1852–1856 and Harrisburg, 1874– ), 1st series, IV, 750. Hereafter cited as Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND <sup>1</sup>

[May 5 to May 9, 1776]

5th May As I now began to grow short of water, and had lighten'd the Ship to as easy a draught of water as I could, which was abt 18 F. 6 I. I took the *Liverpool* with me & sailed up the River in order to fill my empty casks, and reconnoitre the Enemy's force of the River. We arrived off of Wilmington the 7th where we drove a Vessel ashore, and not being able to get her off proceeded to Unload her of her cargoe which was Bread & Flour.

8 May The next day about 1 in the afternoon, I percieved the Arm'd craft of the River coming down, before the wind, with an appearance of attacking us. Their Fleet consisted of 13 Row Gallies, each carrying one Gun from 32 Poundrs to 18 pdrs a Floating Battery of 10 Eighteen pdrs and a Sloop fitted as a fire ship. We met them under sail (as the Tide ran too rapid to ride with a Spring upon the Cable) and lay under the disadvantage of being obliged to engage them at the distance they chose to fix on, which was scarecely within point blank Shot: and being such low objects on the water, it was with some difficulty that we could strike them, so that we fired upon them near two hours before they thought proper to retire, and row off. Unfortunately, at this Juncture the *Roebuck* grounded, and being high water, could not be got off 'till 4 the next mornng but as it was soft mud the Ship did not recieve the least damage.

9th May It was then so thick a fogg that nothing could be discerned 'till about 8 oclock when it cleard, and we percievd the Gallies at Anchor about 3 Miles above us. The Wind had changed and now blew up the River, so that we persued them imediately with all our Sail, and they as industriously plyed their oars & sails to avoid us. This chace lasted only for abt two hours, when it fell so little wind that we were not able to stem the ebb tide, and not having 6 Inches water more than the Ship drew in the best of the Channel (which was not a quarter of a mile wide) I was under the necessity of Anchoring.

The Gallies rowed to a point of land on the Western shore abt 4 Miles above us, and anchor'd also.

When I found there was no prospect of being able to get near them, and that they intended to retire up the River as I advanced, and not having a force with me sufficient to authorize me to attempt to force the fortified pass of the River, I consulted with Captain Bellew, who agreed with me in opinion, that it would answer no good purpose to go further up the River, which every mile made more intricate, but that it was best to try if we could draw the Galleys down to a wider part of the river, where we should be in less danger of getting a ground, and where we could run near them, and have a better chance of destroying them. Accordingly when the ebb tide made, about 5 in the afternoon, we got under way and turned down under an easy sail. The Galleys, with their former attendants, encreased by several large launches, with each a cannon mounted in the Bow, immediately followed us, and kept up a smart fire, but cautiously remained at their usual distance. This gave me great hopes, I should be able to draw them into a wide part of the River, but about 10 at Night they thought proper to Stop near New Castle; upon which I immediately dropped Anchor, flattering Myself they remained there, either on Account of the darkness of the night, or that some of them were disabled, the latter of which appeared to be the case, as the next morning we saw only 11 Sail one of which had lost his Mast.

1. Hamond Papers, No. 4 and No. 5, UVL.

CAPTAIN THOMAS READ TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Ship *Montgomery* May 9 1776

This morning Reced Afew Lines from the Committee on Board the province Shallop off the High Lands Christeen at 1/2 past Seven Last Night which Arrived here at two oClock this Morning for a Demand of Powder & Shot which I have Dispatch'd 141 Rounds Powder & Shot from the fort, Capt Davidson <sup>2</sup> has Sent the Greatest part of his also which I hope will come to them in time we are now Laying Short waiting for the Weather to Clear to go throo the Cheveax De frize we have Number of men in great Confusion for Want of Provisison, what to do with Them I dont Know without a Supply of that comes Shortly, when this order Came to me the Ship was aground & the *Liverpool* Laying by her – I am Gentlemen yours

Tho<sup>s</sup> Read

P.S. the Sloop *Hornet* is here but as you gave no orders for her moving she [illegible] for it TR had Just Seald this to Send by Capt Hazelton [John Hazelwood] when your[s] Came to hand by Capt [James] Garrigues Shall Comply with your orders

Tho<sup>s</sup> Read

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

2. Captain Samuel Davison of the floating battery *Arnold*.

CAPTAIN THOMAS READ TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

Ship *Montgomery*, May 9th, 1776, 9 o'clock.

Yours came to hand of 1/2 past five, according to yours of the 8th half af-

ter nine have Dispatch'd the Powder out of your Ship, before I got your Last, we have had no boat from below since Last Night, by your Last Determination, it distresses me much the want of Powder in the Ship, having but Six Rounds for Each Gun on Board, will take the first opportunity to get throo the Cheavex De frize, as the Wind is, I Expect some boats up every Hour, I think it not Prudent to go far down till I can Know how the[y] are situated, I will endeavour to act with every Precaution, & give every assistance Possible, our situation will admit of, we are getting our People Quartered, the[y] Keep so continual going and Coming that we hardly [k]now Whether we have them or not. I shall observe your Instructions as Near as Possible. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Thos. Read.

Directed, To the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 751.

#### CAPTAIN THOMAS READ TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Ship *Mongomery*, May 9, 1776. 3 o'clock.

Just below the Chevaux De frize.

Mr. [Arthur] Donaldson & Mr. [Thomas] Penrose came on Board and gave me the following account, the Ships are afloat and the galleys Playing about them, the situation we are in for want of Seamen is Terrible, that the Pilot got us a shore and the *Reprisal* Run on Board we Carried away his Jibb Boom. I do think and I believe that our Best station is above, to guard the pass and to get their as soon as the tide will admit, abreast of the Battery. I have Reced some Powder, but in such manner without measure to fill the Empty Cartridges, for which their has been an Indent some time, I shall send for Capt. Weeks [Lambert Wickes] to consult him, it is the opinion of all the Gentlemen on Board. From Gentlemen, [&c.]

We have not a Pike or Pole ax on Board, and no Medicins, no Amunition on Board the Battery, it being sent to the Gundolors.

Directed, To the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 750.

#### AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSHUA BARNEY <sup>1</sup>

[May 9, 1776]

The next morning the weather being thick & thinking the *Roebuck* still aground, we attempted to pass by where she lay, under cover of the fog, but at the moment we were abreast of her the fog cleared away, we discovered the *Roebuck* at anchor, they immediately got under way & commenced firing at us, we received a heavy fire from her for near one hour at half a miles distance, but she did us little or no damage; we by rowing, sailing & towing got past the enemy & Joined the Gallies, which had for some time been engaged; the action continued all day, the ships were much cut up, some of the Gallies could not come into action for want of men, I volunteered with a number of our men & went on board one of them, when she

was rowed up to the Enemy the action became warm & the enemy were drove down before us as low at New Castle. Much might be said respecting this action, it was generally believed that the *Roebuck* might have been destroyed, whilst aground in the night by our fire vessels, but no attempt was made; the blame laid between the Commodore & the Committee of Safety, but I am of an opinion that the latter were in fault; <sup>2</sup> all the honour that was acquired in these two days was given to our little Schooner.

1. Manuscript Autobiography, DARL.

2. Barney was indulging in retrospect. The dispute between the galley captains and the Committee of Safety broke out some days after the engagement.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Thursday 9th

[4 A.M.]

At a single Anchor off Weilmington Creek River  
Delaware

it was then so thick a fog that nothing could be discern'd till about 8 OClock when it cleared, and we perceived the Galleys at Anchor about 2 miles above us, we gave them chase immediately with all our Sail, and they as industriously plied their Oars and Sails to avoid us: it falling little wind we were not able to stem the ebb tide, and not having 6 inches water more than the ship drew in the best ship channel (which was not a quarter of a mile wide) I was under the necessity of anchoring: The Galleys rowed to a point of Land on the Western Shore and Anchored also When I found there was no prospect of being able to get near them, and that they intended to retire up the River, as I advanced, and not having a force with me sufficient to authorize me to attempt to force the fortified pass of the River, I concluded with Captain Bellew, who agreed with me in opinion, that it would answer no good purpose to go futher up the River which every mile made more intricate, but that it would be best to try if we could draw the Galleys down to a wider part of the River, where we Should be in less danger, of getting aground, and where we could run near them and have a better chance of destroying them accordingly

The first part moderate and hazy, latter fresh gales and cloudy.

at 2 in the Afternoon perceived the enemy in motion and their Number encreased to 22 Sail, at [5] weighed and turned down under an easey Sail, the Galleys immediately followed and kept up a smart fire, but cautiously remained at their usual distance; and at 10 they thought proper to stop near Newcastle, contrary to my expectation I was in hopes to draw them down the River; upon which I immediately droped Anchor, flattering my self they remained there, either on account of the darkness of Night, or that

some of them were disabled; The latter of which appeared to be the Case.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW <sup>1</sup>

May 1776 In Delaware River

Thursday 9 got the *Roebuck* off at 2 AM at 9 saw the Row-gallies the *Roebuck* made the signal to weigh weighed and gave Chace, it being calm, and the Tide against us – the *Roebuck* made the signal & we anchored –

First part Light airs and cloudy, middle modr and cloudy.

at 4 PM the *Roebuck* made the signal to weigh Do weigh'd and gave Chace to the Enemy at 1/2 past began to fire upon them which they returned, and continued till 8 PM keeping in shoal Water – and mostly out of Reach of our Guns. at 8 the Rebels left off firing, and we turned down the river having received several Shot through our Sails, some few in our Hull, and one in our bowsprit at 11. the *Roebuck* made the signal to anchor. Do anchored in 5 fm with the Best Bower, and veer'd to half a Cable.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

LONDON CARTER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Sabine Hall, May 9, 1776

As to news, you must be nearer to its fountain head than I am, if America can be said to have such a place at this time. I can only say A few Gentlemen from Richmond & Essex, have retaken a Prize that a Dunmore Tender impudently came, and took at Hobbs hole (a mere Nest of Tories). As soon as it was known they pursued her in Open boats amidst showers of Swivel balls & bullets; & had well nigh taken the Tender as well as the prize; but she was so well provided aga[inst] boarding, that it was impossible for low sided boats to get on board. An attempt was made to grapple at her stern, in which the only man, a poor slave was wounded & lost. We have heard since that we killd her 7 Men, some attempted to Peep at our boats through her netting; and they it is imagined were instantly shot. A brisk gail carryed her away; but it is said An armed Vessel from Maryland took her in the bay, after killing 17 men more; and from that report we have heard of the 7 we killed but I know not the truth of it <sup>2</sup>

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. An erroneous report.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Halifax] Thursday, May 9th 1776.

Resolved That Allen Jones, and Thomas Jones Esquires two of the delegates of this Congress be appointed to attend the Convention of the Colony

of Virginia for the purpose of recommending to them the Expediency of fitting out two Armed Vessels at the expence of that Colony, to act in Conjunction with the Armed Vessels already fitted out by this Colony, for the protection of the Trade at Occacock [Ocracoke]; and that they be allowed thirty shillings per day while on that Service, and that the Treasurers, or either of them advance Forty pounds to each to be afterwards accounted for

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congress/Councils 1774-1776), NCDAH.

## 10 May

### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE <sup>1</sup>

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| May 1776      | Isle Coudre WbS, 3 Leagues  |
| Tuesday 7th   | <p>at 1/2 past 3 A M, weigh'd &amp; came to Sail – at Kamarouska Islands SSW. Dist, 3 Miles – 2 Sail in Sight, run up against the Ebb all the Forenoon with a fresh Breeze – Light Airs &amp; Cloudy – Latr. Light Breezes &amp; Clear</p> <p>at 4 P M a Boat come on Bd from Coudre with 2 Pilots from Captn [Thomas] Pringle, inform'd me he had gone up to Quebec, as the Town was beseiged, I found from the Pilots that the <i>Isis</i>, <i>Surprise</i> &amp; <i>Martin</i> were also gone up &amp; the <i>Niger</i> – I order'd the Pilots to look out for the Ships coming up &amp; gave them Letters for the Commanders of the <i>Bute</i> &amp; <i>Brittish Queen</i> – at 1/2 past 7 anchor'd between Isle au Coudre &amp; the No Shore with the B.Br in 8 fms &amp; veer'd to 2/3 of a Cable Isle au Coudrew SSE, 1 Mile – <i>Agnes</i> &amp; <i>Beaver</i> in Company</p>  |
| Wednesday 8th | <p>at 1/2 past 12, an arm'd Sloop came down the River from Quebec with Pilots and the Captain of her brought me a Letter from Captain [John] Hamilton of the <i>Lizard</i> informing me &amp; any other Ships that might arrive at Coudre “that the Town was besieged &amp; they were apprehensive of being stormed again as there was a Number of scaling Ladders in Sight, desiring me to get up to the Town as soon as possible but not in the Night, without sending a Boat on Shore, &amp; in Case of being hail'd from the Batteries to answer Sandwich” – Captn Rouchette inform'd me the Rebels were encamp'd on [St.] Charles River &amp; had also a few Guns on Point Levi opposite Cul de Sac – the <i>Isis</i> <i>Surprise</i>, and <i>Martin</i> at anchor before the Town – at 4 A M weigh'd &amp; came to sail with the <i>Beaver</i> &amp; <i>Agnes</i>, saw a great many Fires on the So Shore, which the Pilots said were Houses, set on Fire by the Rebels belonging to the Canadians who refused Joining them – at 11 Anchor'd with B.Br in 7 fms veer'd to 1/3 of a Cable – Read the Articles of War to the Ship's Company</p> |

1st part fresh Breezes & Cloudy mid & latr mod with rain –

at 5 P M weigh'd & came to Sail with the Flood & at 8 anchor'd with the B.Br in 7 fms opposite the Point of St. Francis on the Island of Orleans 1/2 a Mile from the Shores –

Thursday 9th

at 5 A M weigh'd again & at 11 anchor'd with B.Br in 10 fms veer'd to 1/2 a Cable – a Boat came on Bd at Noon with Pilots who inform'd that the Siege was rais'd on the 6th Inst the *Isis*, *Surprize* & *Martin* came before Quebec & landed their Marines, the Garrison sallied out at Noon when the Rebels fled and rais'd the Siege, leaving behind them all their Baggage, Artillery &c

Fresh Breezes with rain – Mid light Airs with Thunder, Lightning and heavy rain –

at 7 P.M, weigh'd & dropp'd up the River with the Flood – 1/2 past 10, anchor'd with B.Br in 14 fms, St Patrick's Hole –

Friday 10th

at 7 A M weigh'd again & at Noon anchor'd a little Below Quebec with B.Br in 22 fms the Flood Tide being done got [*sic* could] not get up into a good Birth – found here his Majesty's Ships, *Isis*, *Niger* & *Lord Howe* armed Ship – the *Beaver* & *Agnes* anchor'd with me.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Surprize*, CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

[In the river above Quebec]

Friday 10th AM Employ'd occasionally. Got down the Top Chains & Clapt hem on the Cables. No Rebels to be seen these 24 Hours. –

First part fresh Breezes & Squally. Middle and latter Moderate. at 2 PM the Ship drove, veer'd away to a whole Cable exercis'd Small Arms, Got a Spring on the Cable.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Quebec] May the 10th

Capt [Skeffington] Lutwidge in the *Triton* is just come up with all Speed, having with the *Lord Howe* and *Bute* Transports under his Convoy (now armed Ships Commanded by the Captains [Thomas] Pringle & [Anthony] Parry) made such Struggles to get thro' the Ice, To the relief of their Besieged Friends as never were made in the Gulph of St Lawrence in any former Period.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 76b. A postscript; continuation of letter of May 8.



CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Montreal May 10th 1776

Sir By Col: [Donald] Campbell, who arrived here early this morning from Quebeck, we are informed that two men of war, two Frigates, & one Tender arrived there early on monday the 6th instt about eleven o'clock the enemy sallied out, to the number, as is supposed, of one thousand men. Our forces were so dispersed at different posts, that not more than two hundred could be collected together at Head Qrs; this small force could not resist the enemy: all our cannon, five hundred muskets, & about two hundred sick unable to come off have fallen into their hands. The retreat, or rather flight was made with the utmost precipitation and confusion . . . one batteau loaded with powder, supposed to contain thirty barrels, and an armed vessel, which the Crew were obliged to abandon, were intercepted by one of the enemy's frigates. . . .

B Franklin

Samuel Chase

Charles Carroll of Carrollton

1. Papers CC (Letters and Papers Relating to Canadian Affairs . . .), 166, 41, NA. See also Benedict Arnold to Philip Schuyler, May 10, 1776. Washington Papers, LC.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

*Chatham* in Halifax Harbour 10th May 1776.

I am to acquaint you that General Howe and the Army under his Command, still continue in this place waiting for the Arrival of a supply of Provisions; and having informed you in my Letter of the 19th past which with my other Dispatches I sent you by the *Princess Augusta* Victualling Sloop, (Duplicates of which you will now receive) of the Accident that had happened to the *Glasgow*, and my intention to send her to England to be fitted; I have therefore Ordered Captain [Tyringham] Howe to take under his Convoy Such Vessels as are ready to accompany him, (among which is the *Harriot* Packet having on board Mr. Legge Governor of this Province) and proceed to Plymouth.

I need not represent to their Lordships of how much greater importance the King's Yard and Harbor of Halifax, as well as the whole Province of Nova Scotia is now become, than formerly; and of consequence they will please to consider the great necessity of keeping the Bay of Fundy well Guarded to prevent any Hostile attempts being made upon this Province from thence by the Rebels; this will require an additional Number of Ships, and their Lordships will please to Observe by the Disposition of the Squadron, how very inadequate even the great number I have under my Command is to the various Services I am Ordered to Execute, and the different Posts I have to defend, especially as the Rebels are indefatigably employed in Equipping a Naval Force in all their Sea Port Towns in the several Provinces.

The *Orpheus* being refitted sailed the 5th Instant under Orders to

Cruise between the West End of Long Island and Cape Henlopen, calling in occasionally at New York and the Delaware; and having intended to have put the *Glasgow* under the Command of Captain Hamond in the Delaware, I have sent the *King's fisher* Sloop to supply her place.

I have Ordered on board the *Glasgow* Such Seamen and Marines, belonging to the Ships under my Command, as from Accidents and Disorders have been on examination found unfit for His Majesty's Service. I am, Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir *Chatham* in Halifax Harbour 10th May 1776.

Mr [Alexander] Brymer Agent to the Contractor for supplying Rum to His Majesty's Ships upon this Station, having by Letter (Copy of which I herewith inclose you) furnished me with his reasons why he could not comply with the Contract, and the Ships being in immediate want, I have been under the Necessity of making application to General Howe and borrowing Ten Thousand Gallons from the Store belonging to the Army, of which I have acquainted the Victualling Board, that the necessary Measures may be taken for a future Supply.

I profit likewise of this Opportunity to inform you that there is a great Scarcity of Ordnance Small Stores, particularly Match, at this place, of which the Storekeeper tells me he has repeatedly acquainted the Ordnance Board some Months ago. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MAJOR GENERAL NATHANIEL FOLSOM TO COLONEL JOSHUA WENTWORTH <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Exeter, May 10, 1776]

By several authenticated Accounts lately received, Twelve Thousand or upwards of German Troops are on their passage from England, said to be bound for Boston, But as the place they are design'd for is not certainly known it is of great importance that each Colony be prepared to oppose them. Therefore you are required immediately to give Orders to all the Captains under your command to direct their several Companies to hold themselves in readiness to march on the shortest notice . . . You are to give Orders to your several Companies to muster and march as many men as can possibly be raised out of them properly Officer'd by Field Officers Captains & Subalterns according to the number of Men, to the place where said Troops are Landed to assist in repelling them. . . .

[Endorsed] Recd May 10th 1776 7 o'clock P.M. P Mr Richd Champney

1. MNHP. Folsom was an officer in the New Hampshire militia.

JOHN COFFIN JONES TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

The Memorial of John Coffin Jones humbly represents that his Father Ichabod Jones being confined within the limits of the prison Yard at Northampton – for supplying the Enemy at Boston with Lumber & his conduct therein being occasioned not from a design against the liberties of America but with a view of supplying the Inhabitants of Machias with provisions apprehending they cou'd not be otherways obtain'd <sup>2</sup> however his said Father having long since been convinc'd of his Error & desirous of making all reparation for his offence, in his Power – Your Memorialist Therefore humbly prays your Honors wou'd discharge him from his confinement, subjecting him to such Bonds & restrictions as will put it out of his power to do further injury & give him an opportunity to manifest his contrition & the attachment to the public Good or to give him such other relief, as your honors in your great Wisdom shall judge fit & your Memorialist as in duty bound shall ever pray.

John Coffin Jones

Watertown 10th May 1776

[Endorsed] In Council May 10th 1776 Read & ordered, that the said Ichabod [Jones] be enlarged from his present confinement, and have the Liberty of the Town of Northampton on condition, the said Jno Coffin Jones give his Bonds to the Colony Treasurer, in the sum of one thousand pounds – that the said Ichabod [Jones] shall not pass beyond the Limits of the said Town

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 350–51.

2. "There was however in Boston a Mr Ichabod Jones who, having some property about Machias, imagined from his acquaintance and influence with the People there that he could furnish the Army with a considerable quantity of Firewood, he accordingly entered into a Contract for that purpose, and the General applied to the Admiral for an armed Vessel to go with and protect such Vessels as should be sent with Mr. Jones on this Service; The *Margueritta* armed Schooner was appointed and had orders accordingly . . . but the event proved how totally mistaken Mr. Jones was in the temper of his Countrymen, and also shewed what we had generally to expect," Graves's Conduct, 102, BM. See also previous volumes in this series.

FORM OF COMMISSION AND BOND ADOPTED FOR MASSACHUSETTS  
ARMED VESSELS <sup>1</sup>

Colony of the  
Massachusetts Bay }

The Major Part of the Council of the  
Massachusetts Bay in New England,

To Greeting

You being appointed to take the command of the armed Sloop called  
the                      of the burthen of                      Tons or thereabouts, mounting  
carriage Guns, and navigated by                      men, Fitted out at the expence  
and for the service of this Colony,

By virtue of the power vested in us, We do by these Presents (reposing  
special trust and confidence in your ability, courage and good conduct) com-

mission you accordingly, and give you the said full power, with such persons as you shall engage to your assistance, by force of arms to attack, seize and take the ships and other vessels belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, or any of them, with their Tackle, Apparel, Furniture and Ladings, on the high seas, or between high water and low water marks, and to bring the same to some convenient Port in this Colony in order that the Courts, which have been or shall be hereafter appointed to hear and determine maritime causes, may proceed in due form to condemn the said Captures, if they be adjudged lawful Prize; the said having given Bond, to the Treasurer of this Colony, with sufficient Sureties, that nothing be done by the said or any of the officers, Mariners or Company of the said Vessel contrary to, or inconsistent with the usages & customs of Nations, and the instructions that are or may be given to him by order of the Great and General Court, And we will and require all our officers to give succour and assistance to the said in the Premises. this Commission to continue in force until farther orders. —

Given under our Hands and the Seal of the said Colony at  
the day of in the year of our Lord one  
thousand seven hundred and seventy [—]

[Endorsed] In Council May 9th 1776

Ordered, that the foregoing be the form of the Commission to be issued to the Commanders of the armed Vessells to be fixed out by this Colony —

Perez Morton D Secy

[Bond]

Know all Men by these presents that we Stand  
firmly bound to Henry Gardner Esqr Treasurer and Receiver Genl of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in the Sum of Two thousand Pounds lawful Money to be paid to the Said Treasurer or his Su[c]cessor in said office to the True payment whereof we bind ourselves our heirs Executors and Administrators Jointly and Severally firmly by these presents Sealed with our Seals the Day of

The Condition of this Obligation is such that if the above bounden who is Commander of the  
Called belonging to the said Colony of the Massachusetts Bay and fitted out by order of the Great and Genl Court to Cruise on the Sea Coasts of America for the defence of American Liberties and to make Captures of such Vessells as shall be Supplying the Enemies thereof with provisions and other Stores or otherwise infesting the Sea Coasts and for making Captures of British Vessells & Cargoes.

Now if the said Shall in all things observe and Conduct himself and govern his Crew attending to the Resolves of the Genl

American Congress and according to the Acts & orders of the Great & Genl Court of this Colony Relative to armed Vessells fitted out for the purpose aforesaid and follow such instructions as he may Receive in pursuance of his Commission the foregoing obligation shall be void or Else remain in force – [Endorsed] In Council May 10th Ordered that the above be the form of the Bonds to be given by the Commanders of the Colony armed Vessells, previous to their being Commissionated –

Perez Morton D Secry

I. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 345–46, 347.

#### ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] May 10, 1776

Resolved That the Committee Appointed this day to hire or purchase and fit out at the expence of this Colony two swift sailing Vessells not exceeding forty tuns each to Cruize on the Coast of America and give Intelligence of the movements of the enemy be and they hereby are fully Authorized and empower'd to Man Arm and Victual the said two Vessells fit for the Sea and that when they are ready the Committee of War give such orders to the Several Masters for their proceedings as they shall judge proper Anything in the resolve Appointing the Committee aforesaid to the Contrary notwithstanding And That the said Committee receive out of the Treasury of the Colony the sum of £ 300 for the purposes aforesaid each of the said Committee to be Accountable to the General Court for the Sum they shall respectively receive. –

Resolved That Colonel [Azor] Orne and others who are a Committee appointed to purchase a Quantity of Powder lately imported into Newbury Port, be and they hereby are empowered to impress said powder and Secure it for the use of this Colony provided that the Importers of said Powder or others who have or may have the disposal thereof have not Sold it, and refuse to sell it on the Terms on which said Committee are authorised to purchase the same.

And the said Committee are directed to assure the Owners of the said Powder that the General Court will be ready to hear any reasons that may be offered, why they should have a higher price for the same than has been offered by this Court.

Resolved That the Commissary General be and he is hereby directed to deliver out of the public Stores of this Colony one hundred barrels of Flour, and fifty barrels Pork to the Honble Richard Derby Esqr and Capt Josiah Bachelor, junr or either of their Orders to be applied for the use of the Armed Vessells which they are to build and Equipt, for the Service of this Colony. they to be Accountable to the General Court for the same.

I. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 873, 874, 877.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO LIEUTENANT JOHN PAUL JONES <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence, May 10th 1776 –

You are to take Command of the Sloop *Providence* and put her in the best Condition you can – and you are to take the Soldiers onboard that belong to General Washington's Army and carry them to New York as soon as you can and then return here with the Sloop for further Instructions – If you should be in want of any Supplys further than what Money you have will answer you may draw on me for so much as will be necessary to furnish the Sloop with any thing you cant well do without and if you have an Opportunity to Ship any Seamen, you are to get what Number you can or Landsmen – When you come back you may call at New London and take Onboard what of the Men is fitt in the Hospital there belonging to the Fleet

Esek Hopkins Comr in Chief

1. Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock, and Miscellaneous Papers), 58, 149, NA.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO JAMES BIDDLE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Providence Sat: Night May 10th

My Dear Brother

On our Arrival on this Coast we took a few Vessels the Masters of which informd us of a fleet being in Newport which we thought much stronger than ourselves. And we Began to look Round for a safe port to Shelter in. When at 1 Oclock on the Morning of the 7th of April we saw a Ship to leeward dogging of us as we steerd off Shore. As it was well known that the Enemy seldom separated we had all the Reason in the world to Believe the Rest of them were not far off.

If it was thought the Conquest would be easy there was Courage shewn in the Attack. If it was judgd otherwise there was no Conduct in Making it before the Prizes had some orders given them – And as it was I think there was neither. there was no order in the Matter. Away we all went Helter Skelter one flying here another there to cut off[e] the Retreat of a fellow that did not fear us. I kept close to the Admiral that I might the sooner Receive his order. But he had none to give. And the *Cabots* Running off Obliged Me in order to Clear her to go a little out of my way. And before I could Regain My ground the *Alfred* had sheerd off. Had I behaved as Capt [John Burroughs] Hopkins did. had I run on without Orders and brought on the Action in the Night. I think I should have lost my Commission before now.

The day we arrived at New London I Askd to go out for a few days and the sixth day Returnd with a Schooner prize.<sup>2</sup> From that we were kept under sailing Orders But were afraid to go out for fear of some Ships we heard was on the Coast till Aprill the 22nd (though I often Askd to go out to discover their force) when I was orderd up to the town of New London to



Clean and the Rest of the Vessels saild for this Place. I was unlucky in heaving down and got My Vessel twice full of water but was attended with no other ill consequence than detaining me a day or two Longer. When I was Ready I Run out a head of a Number of Merchant Vessels to no Whether the Coast was Clear. I se the *Cerberus* and gave them timely Notice But as We were far to windward and the time of day favorable they thought they might with safety stand on. I thought so too. And if I had not I had no Right to stop them. When I parted with them I had to Run so near to her that had She Chased me She could easily have come within gun shot of Me. I have been here this week Ready for Sea and waiting Only for orders The *Cabot* is to go with Me And I expect to sail in a day or too on a Cruise. I wish with all my Soul I was not Obligated to be tagging after these Dam'd Ships I ask Nothing more of the Congress than the Vessel I have. Good God of Heaven I am out of all patience with being kept so much in port. Do Get Me a Cruizing Commission if it is possible to obtain it. And then You may expect to hear from me. Before you Cannot. . .

1. Captain Nicholas Biddle Letters 1771–1778, on deposit at HSP.

2. The schooner *John and Joseph*, a recapture.

"A LIST OF PEOPLE ON BOARD THE *Andrew Doria* 10TH MAY" <sup>1</sup>

| Number | Names               | Station           | Names | Station                               |                   |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1      | Nicholas Biddle.... | Com-<br>mander    | 15    | Joseph Sheels..... Boatswain          |                   |
| 2      | James Josiah .....  | 1st<br>Lieutenant | 16    | John Nowland..... Dittos<br>Mate      |                   |
| 3      | Elishar Warner .... | 2...Ditto         | 17    | David Edmiston ... Carpenter          |                   |
| 4      | John McDougal....   | 3rd..Ditto        | 18    | Willm Kenedy..... Cooper              |                   |
| 5      | Benjamin Dunn ...   | Master            | 19    | William Green .... Carpenters<br>Mate |                   |
| 6      | William Moran....   | First Mate        | 20    | John Mackee..... Cooks<br>Mate        |                   |
| 7      | John Dent .....     | 2nd Ditto.        | 21    | Bartholomew Moore Gunners<br>Yoeman   |                   |
| 8      | Dennis Leary.....   | Midship-<br>man   | 22    | George Swenney ... Able<br>Seaman     |                   |
| 9      | William Reynolds..  | ...Ditto          | 23    | Alexr Liviston..... Quarter<br>Master |                   |
| 10     | William Lamb.....   | ...Ditto          | 24    | Edward Kirk .....                     | Quarter<br>Gunner |
| 11     | Evan Bevan .....    | ...Ditto          | 25    | Jacob Cook .....                      | Seaman            |
| 12     | John Young.....     | Captains<br>Clerk |       |                                       |                   |
| 13     | Elias Rohl .....    | Steward           |       |                                       |                   |
| 14     | Alexr McKenzie ...  | Gunner            |       |                                       |                   |



| Number |                     |         |       |                             |
|--------|---------------------|---------|-------|-----------------------------|
|        | Names               | Station | Names | Station                     |
| 26     | John Christian..... | Do      | 4     | Henery Savett..... Do       |
| 27     | Michael Smith.....  | Able    | 5     | Samuel Johnson... Armourer  |
|        |                     | Seaman  | 6     | Davd Clark..... Private     |
| 28     | Michael Bready....  | Do..Do  | 7     | John Treasey..... Ditto     |
| 29     | Samuel Dobbins...   | Do..Do  | 8     | Andw Campbell... Ditto      |
| 30     | George McEadoms..   | Do..Do  | 9     | Willm Hasclip..... Ditto    |
| 31     | Nicholas Cooney...  | Do..Do  | 10    | Francis Dowie..... Ditto    |
| 32     | John Cook.....      | Negroe  | 11    | Robert Kearns..... Sergeant |
| 33     | James Angus.....    | Able    | 12    | John Ponsett..... Private   |
|        |                     | Seaman  | 13    | Cornelius Grimes.. Ditto    |
| 34     | James Evans.....    | Do..Do  |       | Prisoners                   |
| 35     | Thomas Warren...    | Do..Do  |       | Henery Hemak                |
| 36     | James Heath.....    | Do..Do  |       | Jasper Chamberlain          |
| 37     | Barnett Garland...  | Seaman  |       | Peter Dumus                 |
| 38     | George McCane....   | Do      |       | Dick—Negroe                 |
| 39     | George Kelly.....   | Able    |       | New Marines <sup>2</sup>    |
|        |                     | Seaman  | 1     | Lieut Wadsworth             |
| 40     | John Moize.....     | Do..Do  | 2     | Joshuah Whyley              |
| 41     | John Chisnell.....  | Do..Do  | 3     | James Cook                  |
| 42     | James Crosby.....   | Do..Do  | 4     | Jonathan Barrett            |
| 43     | Joseph Elding.....  | Do..Do  | 5     | James Hall                  |
| 44     | Jeremh Mahaney...   | Seaman  | 6     | Charles Liebreth            |
| 45     | Willm Willding...   | Able Do | 7     | Ekilat Cumstöck             |
|        | Marines             |         | 8     | Francis Lyon                |
| 1      | Isaac Craig.....    | Captain | 9     | James Lepthorn              |
| 2      | Patrick Kenney....  | Private | 10    | Samuel Eldred               |
| 3      | Andw Scott.....     | Do      | 11    | Edward Benett               |

1. Captain Nicholas Biddle Letters 1771–1778, on deposit at HSP.

2. *Andrew Doria* Journal, April 19, 1776, Volume 4, 1163. The “New Marines” were from the army. Lieutenant Wadsworth probably was Joseph Wadsworth, an ensign in the 23d Continental Infantry, see *Andrew Doria* Journal, May 12, 1776.

*Connecticut Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1776

New London, May 10.

By Capt. Stephen Tinker, arrived here in 12 Days from Newbern, in North-Carolina, we learn, that the People of that Province, and of South-Carolina, are very generally for the INDEPENDENCE of the Colonies; and that they would scarcely be willing to continue the War with the Court of Great-Britain on any other Principle.

Capt. Tinker informs, that a large Schooner from Bermuda, arrived at Newbern just before he sailed, and brought in between 20 and 30 Guns, from 4 to 9 Pounders, a Number of Small-Arms, and a Quantity of Shot, which were taken from a Fort at Bermuda, in order to sell for Provisions, (which at that Island had become exceeding scarce). They took on board 43 Guns, some of which they mounted in the Vessel, with a View of securing themselves against the King's Cutters on this Coast; but being chased by a Frigate near the Land, they were obliged to throw over the Guns they had mounted in order to lighten their Vessel so as to run over a Bar, after being chased 12 hours.

Last Monday [May 6], a New-York Privateer which was bound out from this Port, was chased for several Hours, by the *Cerberus* Frigate and a Brig her Consort, from Montauk Point to the Westward, but the Privateer by making short Tacks close in Shore, kept out of reach of their Shot and got clear; mean while sundry Vessels which had been some Weeks waiting an Opportunity to get to Sea, run by Montauk-Point, and got out.<sup>1</sup>

1. This seems to be a garbled account of the *Andrew Doria's* departure from New London.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Albany Friday May 10th 1776 –

Dear Sir I had the Honor to receive Your Excellency's Favor of the 3d instant, by Mr Bennet; which was delivered on Wednesday Evening, General [John] Sullivan arrived here at six that Afternoon, half an Hour before that I returned from Fort George, having embarked General [William] Thompson with the last of his Brigade, on the Morning of the preceeding Day. –

Immediately on the Receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 29th, I ordered up an Additional Number of Carpenters, some of which have already left this Place, and others are going off this Day, so that I hope on Sunday and on Every succeeding Day to build Eight Boats, But as I had Not one left when General Thompson was Moved and could build no more than six a Day, I shall on Saturday Night have only thirty Compleated, So that I fear It will be the 21st instant before the last of General Sullivan's Brigade will embark, When I expect to have finished 110 Batteaus Carrying thirty Men Each, Besides the Baggage, Ammunition & Intrenching Tools and about ten Barrels of Pork . . .

. . . The Chain is to go on to day, which I shall forward to General Arnold with Directions to fix It, I suppose It was intended for the Rapids of Richlieu.

Capt: [Jacobus] Wynkoop and his Company of Sailors are at Tyonderoga. –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

“A LIST OF THE OFFICERS, SEAMEN AND MARINES, WITH THEIR TIMES  
OF ENTRANCE ON BOARD THE [NEW YORK ARMED] SCHOONER  
[*General*] *Putnam*”<sup>1</sup>

| Names              | Officers    | Time of<br>Entrance | Dollars pr<br>Month            |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
|                    |             | 1776                |                                |
| Thomas Cregier     | Captain     | March 24th          | 32 Dollars                     |
| Thomas Quigly      | First Lieut |                     | 20 Do.                         |
| David Walker       | 2d Lieut    | May 1st             | 20 Do                          |
| Eliakim Littell    | Master      | April 24            | 20 Do.                         |
| Cornelius French   | Mate        |                     | 15 Do                          |
| Jno James Boyd     | Doctor      |                     | 21 2/3 Do                      |
| George Shells      | Gunner      |                     | 15 Do                          |
| John Thomas        | Carpenter   | 29                  | 15 Do                          |
| John Trail         | Boatswain   | 26                  | 15 Do                          |
| Josiah Davis       | Steward     | May 1st             | 13 1/3 Do                      |
| William Radly      | Cook        | April 24            | 12 Do                          |
| Benjamin Woodruff  |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| Timothy Burns      |             | April 24            | 8 Do                           |
| William Willasey   |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| William Bell       |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| John Griffith      |             |                     | 5 Do                           |
| Nathaniel Laurance |             | May 1st             | 8 Do                           |
| Elias May          |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| Morgan Lahy        |             | 6                   | 8 Do                           |
| John Pricket       |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| Ezekiel Hayzen     |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| Ebenezer Davis     |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| Samuel Turner      |             | 9                   | 8 Do                           |
| John Thayer        |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| Thomas Stelle      |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| Ebenazar Allen     |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| Alexander McDonald |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| John Taylor        |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| Henry Basset       |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
| John Hardy         |             |                     | 8 Do                           |
|                    |             |                     | 348 Do. The Advance<br>Money 8 |
|                    |             |                     | 278-4                          |
|                    |             | Months Advance      | 139-4                          |
|                    |             | Wages Due           | 67-8-1                         |
|                    |             |                     | £206:12:1                      |

Received New York May 10th 1776 of Thomas Randall Two Hundred and six Pounds Twelve Shillings & 1d for the Wages due and One Month's Pay Advance on Board the Schooner *Genl Putnam* myself Commd  
£ 206.12.1 pr me Thomas Cregier

1. Record Group 45, NA, from original lost in the State Library fire, Albany, N.Y.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[New York] Die Veneris, 4 ho.P.M. May 10th, 1776.

Directions for Capt. Thomas Cregier of the armed schooner *General Putnam*, were read and approved, and are in the words following, vizt:

Capt. Thomas Cregier:

Sir –

You are hereby directed to inform his Excellency General Washington, that the armed schooner named the *General Putnam* under your command, is fitted and ready to proceed to sea.

You are diligently to observe and follow such orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from General Washington, until the further order of the Provincial Congress, or Committee of Safety of this Colony.

A copy of the said instructions signed by the President, were delivered to the said Thomas Cregier, and he was directed to show them to Genl. Washington.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 438.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO  
CAPTAIN THOMAS CREGIER <sup>1</sup>

To Thos Cregier Esq, Commander of the Armed Schooner *General Putnam*

I have it in command from his Excellency Genl Washington to inform you, that It is his pleasure & order that you immediately proceed with your Vessell & Join those under the Command of Colo [Benjamin] Tupper lately gone from Hence, and having Joined them, you are to put yourself under his Command & faithfully & diligently to Obey & Execute such Orders as he may give you from Time to time.

Head Quarters New York the 10th  
day of May Anno Domin 1776  
Rob H Harison A D C

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON GENERAL WASHINGTON'S LETTER  
OF APRIL 25 AND 26, 1776 <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Resolved

R. 13. That all Vessels which sailed from the Port or Harbour of Boston whilst the Port of Boston was in Possession of the Enemy, having of board Effects belonging to the Enemies of American Liberty, be liable (together with the said Effects) to seizure & confiscation. And that if any of the said Vessels have been already taken they together with their said Cargo be decreed forfeited & be confiscated in the same Manner in the same Proportions as have been heretofore [resolved] by Congress

R. 14. That it is essential to the Interest of these Colonies that the Con-

tinental Agent in the respective Provinces where no Courts [of Admiralty] have been established for the Trial of Captures have Power & be dir[ec]ted to dispose at Public Sale of such Articles being of a perishable Nature as shall be taken from the Enemies of America & that the Money to arise from such Sale be liable to the Decree of the Court when the said Court shall be established.

That the Inventory of the Ordinance Stores taken by Captain Manly be sent down to Genl Washington & that he be requested to appoint a Person on the part of the Colonies to join one on the Part of Captain Manly & his Crew who shall having first taken an Oath for that Purpose proceed to Value the sd Stores so taken & that if they cannot agree as to the Value they call in a third [Party] to determine the cause – that the Report of such [Party] be made to Congress so soon as may be & that the Value of the Shares that shall appear to belong to Captain Manly & his Crew be transmitted to them –

1. Papers CC (Reports of Committees on Applications of Individuals), 19, VI, 201–04, NA. The Committee submitted report on May 10.

#### JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Friday, May 10, 1776

The committee appointed to consider the propriety of exchanging seamen, brought in their report, which was agreed to: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That Lieutenant [George] Ball, of the *Roebuck*, and the three seamen that were taken with him, and are now prisoners in the lower counties on Delaware, be exchanged for Captain [William] Budden and his son, Seth Davis, and Samuel Conyers:

That six of the seamen now prisoners in the city of Philadelphia, to be named by the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, may be given up in exchange for the following persons, viz. Mr. Lightbody, James Hage, — Fortescue, a pilot boy; William Martin, Jacob Wilson, and John Durry:

That the said exchange of prisoners be conducted by such proper person as the committee of safety of Pennsylvania may appoint for that purpose. <sup>2</sup>

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee to whom was referred the case of Alexander Ross; Whereupon,

*Resolved* that he be discharged from confinement.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 341, 345–46, 347.

2. On May 11 the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety resolved that "Capt. James Craig, be and he is hereby appointed to conduct the Exchange of Prisoners there proposed, and this Committee name James Spencer, Thomas Phillips, James Ogelvie, John Shad & Owen Humphreys, as the five persons to be exchange'd. . . ." *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 563–65.

#### JOHN HANCOCK TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia May 10th 1776

The Particulars of the Engagement in the River below this City, tho at present it is over, are so variously reported, that it is impossible to give any

consistent Representation of it. It is certain however that the King's Ships have quitted their Stations, and have fallen down the River as low as Reedy Island. When the Gondolas began the Attck, they were almost as high up as Chester.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MARINE COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO  
COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS <sup>1</sup>

In Marine Committee

Sir

Philada 10th May 1776

You will perceive by the foregoing that Congress have order'd Twenty of the Cannon you brought from Providence to be improv'd in Philadelphia, and in order that the Benefit of that order may be Realiz'd as soon as possible; we direct that you order the said Twenty Cannon to be put on board the *Fly* or any one other of your Vessells & Carried to New York & direct the Commander of the Vessell to Call on General Washington for his further proceedings to whom we shall write on the Subject – This to be Effectuated in the best manner you can, but by no means to be done to the Prejudice of more essential Service – The Cannon however must be sent as speedy as possible by some Conveyance that shall be Judg'd best. We are [&c.]

John Hancock    Joseph Hewes  
Robt Morris      Saml Huntington  
R, Alexander

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 10th May, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Thomas Cuthbert & Mr. John Britton be desired to purchase four Old Flatts for Hulks for covering the Gondolas at the Chevaux de Frize, and that they draw on this Board for the cost.

*Resolved*, That 14 Barrels of 18s. Beer be sent down to the Gondolas, at the Expence of this Board, and that Mr. Sam'l Morris order the same to be put on board some Boat or Vessel for that purpose.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 562.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL DAVISON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlmn –

Fort Island May 10th 1776

Yours I Recd late last night & Sent down the night Before 120 Rounds with out orders which I hope will meet your approbations, with Consent of Captn Reed took Wm Roden with a Sloop which had aqunty of ammonition in & put all My powder 27 dubl head Shot 6 dozn Wads on Bord found the wind likely to fail loaded one of My Boats & procdd down on My getting

into the fleet found them well Supplyd all But the 24 poundrs & was under difficulty of Getting the Boat [illegible] after which went on Board the provence Shallop to advise the honorbl Gentlman there of what I had done the[y] Imedally ordered Me to Repair on Board with the Shallop & powder that was not wanted, have Recd p Return of Shallop 80 Rounds in place of 120 Remainder Shall apply for agreebl to Yours of last night have but 4 Men Quartrd to agun there Being 74 of My Batt[ery] in the Galleys, not More perticular to advise you of at this Juncture hope our arms wi[ll] Be Crownd with Success & Remains Gentmn [&c.]

Sam<sup>l</sup> Davis[on]<sup>2</sup>

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

2. Captain of the floating battery *Arnold*.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK TO THE MARINE COMMITTEE OF THE  
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

On bd the *Hornet*, 10th May, 1776.

Capt [Thomas] Proctor's Company of Artillery served on board the *Hornet* as Vollenteers, with a great deal of Freedom, upon my request, and at our return they were called into the Garrison, which leaves me with only Twenty-five men, including officers, and they having been hurried from Town, had not Time to get their cloths and bedding on board, therefore, if you think proper that we shall come up part of Way, that we may get those & other necessarys that we greatly Want, If you should not approve of this request, we are willing to stay your pleasure. I am, Gent. [&c.]

Willm. Hallock.

P.S. – The powder taken on the *Hornet* is in Very bad order, Casks without Hoopes, & Cartridges damp and broke to pieces.

Directed, To the Hon'ble Marine Committee.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 751–52.

GEORGE READ TO CAESAR RODNEY AND THOMAS MCKEAN<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Wilmington Friday May 10th 1776

The Committee of safety have thought it highly necessary that you should be acquainted with the situation of the magazine at Lewestown, to exert your influence for an immediate supply of powder and lead; which, I suppose, must be by land, as the *Roebuck* and *Liverpool* will probably continue as high up the river as Reedy Island; this morning they are in the bite below New Castle, and though the row-gallies have proceeded down, from the Christiana Creek's mouth about two hours ago, I am apprehensive the high wind now blowing will not permit their acting to advantage in that cove.

We have had warm cannonading between the ships and gallies these two days past, all within our view. Great intrepidity was shown on the part of our people, who compelled the two ships to retire, not much to their cred-

it; but it appeared to me the ships were afraid the gallies would get below them. Young Captain [Thomas] Houston led the van. . . .

I suppose it will be thought that too much powder and shot have been expended by the gallies in these attacks, but I am well satisfied they have produced a very happy effect upon the multitudes of spectators on each side of the river; and in that part of the Colonies where the relation shall be known, British ships of war will not be thought so formidable. A few long boats drove, and apparently injured, those sized ships that seemed best calculated to distress us. The committee of safety are going this morning to New Castle, and downwards, to see what may be necessary to advise for the protections of the shore below. Truly the people at large have shown great alacrity and willingness on this occasion. I know not when I shall be with you, as I may be of some little use here. I shall stay till there is some alteration in the appearance of things.

1. George Herbert Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney 1756-1784* (Philadelphia, 1933), 76. Hereafter cited as Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney*. Rodney and McKean represented Delaware in Congress.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND <sup>1</sup>

May 1776                      At Single Anchor off of Reedy Island, River, Delaware  
 Friday 10th                The next morning we Saw only eleven Sail, and one of which had lost her mast. We had but one Man killed during both days' Action (Jno Murray) but received many Shott through the Sails and cut the Rigging, and a few in the Hull: at 9 weighed and made Sail: During the Action, a Brig that was in Company, on board of which I had Sent a few Empty Casks by way of clearing the Ship, took an opportunity of deserting to the enemy, she was quite light and of little value (Vide, my certificate for the Loss of Staves and Casks to the Purser, in Clearing Ship) <sup>2</sup>  
                                     At Noon Anch. off the upper end of Reedy Island in 5½ fathoms water.  
                                     The first part fresh gales and cloudy, latter light airs and hazy. P M employed filling and completing the water, Splicing the Rigging and mending the Sails damaged in the Action with the Rebels, cut the Mizzen Yard off 2 feet before the Slings, being shot thro' in Several places.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.
2. The brig *Betsey*, Thomas Slater, master, which did not desert to the enemy but was taken May 8 by the Continental schooner *Wasp*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW <sup>1</sup>

May 1776                      In Delaware River  
 Friday 10                weigh'd and came to sail anchd off Redie Isld in company as above -  
                                     First and middle parts fresh Gales and cloudy with showers of



Rain – Latter Light airs and cloudy, at 4 P M unbent the mainsl and Mn Topsl and bent others in lieu, till they are repaired – empd repairing the sails

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1776

Williamsburg, May 10.

His majesty's sloop *Nautilus*, of 18 guns, is arrived in Hampton road.

The Printer presents his compliments to capt. Bellew, of his majesty's ship *Liverpool*, and congratulates him upon his *sumptuous fare* in this plentiful country; but would be glad to ask him one plain question, and it is this, *Whether he pays for his good eating? And if he does not look upon his new trade to be downright piracy? – For which freedom many a brave, but not honest man, has mounted, part-way, to the skies.*

"REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS  
UPON THE CONDUCT OF INSURGENTS AND SUSPECTED PERSONS NOW  
PRISONER IN GAOL" <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Halifax 10th May 1776

That George Blair a Captain appointed by Lord Dunmore to command a Company in a Regiment of new Levies called the Queens Royal Regiment did by Order of his Lordship go on Board a Tender for the avowed Purpose of seizing as prizes of War all vessels comeing to or going from America that they came within Occacock Bar in search of Provisions and were there taken by pilots belonging to that place

That Charles Robb Mate of the Ship *William* belonging to Lewiston in Maryland and seized by Lord Dunmore (was Ordered on Board said Tender by his Lordship for the Purpose aforesaid and was taken in said Tender by the Pilots at Occacock

That Thomas Douglass a Midshipman of said Tender was on Board for the Purpose aforesaid and was taken in the said Tender by the Pilots as aforesaid

That Thomas Mander a Soldier belonging to the 14th Regiment was Ordered on Board the said Tender by Lord Dunmore for the purpose aforesd and was taken as aforesaid

That John Goodrich late of Portsmouth in Virginia was in the Actual service of Lord Dunmore for the avowed Purpose of annoying the Sea Coa[s]ts and seizing the Ships Bound to and from America that in the said Service he Commanded a certain Tender called the *Lilly* under the Superior Conduct of a certain Lieut John Wright of the British Navy who commanded an Armed Sloop called the *Fincastle* That during his Command of the *Lilly* and under the Conduct aforesaid he seized as prizes of War, divers Vessels outward Bound from this Colony – It also appears to your Committee that the said John Goodrich was superintending Pilot on Board the *Otter Man* of War, when she sailed up Cheseapeak Bay for the

MAY 10, 1776.

THE

NUMBER 67.

# VIRGINIA GAZETTE.



ALWAYS FOR LIBERTY.

AND THE PUBLICK GOOD.

ALEXANDER PURDIE, PRINTER.

parish, in King and Queen county, and chaplain to the 6th regiment.

••• The Printer presents his compliments to capt. Bellew, of his majesty's ship Liverpool, and congratulates him upon his *sumptuous fare* in this plentiful country; but would be glad to ask him one plain question, and it is this, *Whether he pays for his good eating?* And if he does not look upon his new trade to be downright piracy? -- For which freedom in any a brave, but not *h-w.* man, has mounted, part-way, to the skies.

••• The publick are reminded, that Friday the 17th instant is the day appointed

Purpose of Burning the vessels at Baltimore and if resisted the Town of Baltimore That from his Knowledge of the Sea Coasts and various Inlets into the different maritime Colonies he is Capable of being made a dangerous Instrument in the hands of our Enemies and He thinks himself bound to serve and obey them implicitly because he has some considerable property under their power –

That John Hunter Lieutenant to a Company Commanded by Captain Hunter who was appointed by Lord Dunmore in a new Regiment of Levies did go on Board a Tender called the *Lilly* commanded by Capt Goodrich who went a Cruize for the Avowed Purpose of Seizing as Prizes of War Vessels belonging to America, that they came within Occacock Bar and seized a Vessel belonging to Mr Jones of this Province on Board which the said Hunter was taken by the Pilots belonging to that place.

[Endorsed] The foregoing reports of enquiry were read in Open Congress & Concurred therewith. By order Ja<sup>s</sup> Green jun Secy<sup>2</sup>

1. NCDAH.

2. Committee report on all except John Hunter was read and concurred with by the Provincial Congress on May 1.

#### MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER <sup>1</sup>

On board the *Palliser* Transport Cape Fear River 10th May 1776

I am honored with your Letter upon the subject of your application for a supply of provisions for the use of His Majestys Squadron under your Command, and as there appears to have been a misapprehension of some parts of the Conversation that passed between us upon this business I must beg leave to repeat to you what I then said, and nearly I believe in the same words, That I understood from Genl Howe that all Transports were at my direction.

I have read all the instructions given to the Agents by the Navy Board, and it appears to me by them that in all cases respecting the Military, they are to pay attention to such orders as they shall receive from the Commander in Chief. – By the directions you have given for the delivery of provisions from the Transports dated the [blank] you seem to be of a different opinion –

In all Conversations we have had together I have been desirous for the good of the Service of submitting every thing to you reserving to myself only a right of protesting in cases that might not appear to me to be strictly regular – I have represented that in my opinion it would be for the good of the Service that every arrangement respecting the Troops should be left to me, and as you appeared to acquiesce in that opinion all matters of form may be settled at some future day. I am &ca

H Clinton

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

May 1776                      in Willmington River Cape Fear No Caroline  
Wednesday 8   at 8 A M came on Bd a pilot weigh'd and Run up the

River at 11 came to anchor below the upper Flatt the old town House SBE and the drem Tree NBE 2 miles & ½ Do the pilot went away

Modt and fair kept all hand[s] at Quarters all night got Intelligence of a privateer and boats Intending to Attack us

Thursday 9 At Noon Recd orders to fall down to new town Ferry Do weighd and came to sail turning to Windwrđ  
Do wr at 1 P M Came too in 2 fm water there not being water over the Lower flatts Barnets creek NBE old Town House WSW one mile

Friday 10 at 1 A M Weigh'd and warp'd over the flatts at 6 Came too in 3 fm the old town House NNW½W and Newtons Ferry SE½S at 8 Came on Bd 2 Refugees

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS, R.N., TO GOVERNOR ABRAHAM HEYLIGER <sup>1</sup>

(No 1) *Seaford*, St Eustatia Road May the 10th 1776.

Sir I have just now received information that there's lying in your Road a Sloop lately arrived from Philadelphia – as I wou'd not wish to do any thing, which might be deemed an Infringement of the treaties, & good Harmony, Subsisting between their high mightinesses, and the King of Great Britain my Master, I therefore request your Excellencys Sanction, for Seizing the aforementioned Vessel. I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Signed Jn<sup>o</sup> Colpoys.

His Excellency The Governor of St Eustatia.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

GOVERNOR ABRAHAM HEYLIGER TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS,  
*H.M.S. Seaford* <sup>1</sup>

(No 2) St Eustatius May 10th: 1776.

Sir I have just received a Letter dated on board his Britannic Majesty's Ship the *Seaford* with the Honour of your Signature.

The demand, or if it may be so qualified, request therein made is of so Extraordinary, so unprecedented a kind, that its author must Certainly rather have supposed me totally unacquainted with the just rights and franchises of my Masters; or wicked enough to betray the trust by them in me reposed.

I have every kind of respect for his Britannic Majesty's flag; but as my duty dictates, do hereby forbid [*sic* forbid] the Commander of his Ship the *Seaford*, to visit, arrest, or by any other means whatsoever molest any Vessel under the protection of this friendly port, on pain of his being answerable for any disagreeable Consequences that may Casually ensue. I am with due Consideration Sir [&c.]

Signed Abraham Heyliger

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS, R. N., TO GOVERNOR ABRAHAM HEYLIGER <sup>1</sup>

(No 3)

Seaford, St Eustatia Road May 10th 1776.

Sir Till I had the honour of receiving your Excellencys Letter, I did not know that their High Mightinesses Governors had Orders to protect the Vessels, belonging to the King of Great Britain's Rebellious Colonies. I have the honor to be Sir [&c.]

Signed Jn<sup>o</sup> Colpoys.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

## 11 May

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Surprize*, CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Running up the River above Quebec

Saturday 11th at 11 AM Sent away the Barge mann'd and Arm'd with the Generals Aide de Camp to observe the Motions of the Enemy. Dry'd Sails. –

First and latter parts fresh Breezes and Cloudy. Middle Mode & Clear. At 2 PM the Barge Return'd with an Account of their having rowed close in with Port Neuf, where about 200 of the Rebels came down to the Waterside and fir'd at them, they likewise Observ'd that the Enemy was Intrenching themselves on Point de Shambeau.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir:

Montreal, May 11, 1776

The enclosed intelligence came to hand at two o'clock this morning. It is impossible to procure any pork in this Colony; there is none but what came over the Lakes. A schooner sails this afternoon for Deschambault with three hundred and fifty barrels of flour and about ten barrels of pork, which is the whole to be procured here. After the arrival of the brigade under General [William] Thompson, we compute there will be about five thousand troops in Canada. We understand this brigade brings only ten days' provisions with them.

Mr. [James] Price thinks he can procure a sufficient quantity of wheat with the bills of exchange (three thousand pounds sterling) lodged with him by Congress; and Mr. [John] Bondfield, with the specie lent us by that company, will endeavour to purchase some beef, but the quantity is very uncertain, and the quality will be very indifferent. Some peas may be bought, but no other vegetables of any kind can be expected.

General Arnold leaves us this afternoon to go down to Deschambault; we cannot flatter ourselves with the keeping possession of that post. The cannon which you sent, and our powder (about five tons) are at the mouth of the Sorel. We think it impracticable, indeed, without maintaining our

ground at Jacques Cartier, we believe it impossible. If the enemy's frigates should pass the fall of Richelieu, and a fair wind alone is necessary, our Army will be cut off from provisions and a retreat by water. Retreat by land will not only be very difficult, but very dangerous, if pursued by the enemy. We are unable to express our apprehensions of the distress our Army must soon be reduced to from the want of provisions, and the small-pox. If further reinforcements are sent without pork to victual the whole Army, our soldiers must perish or feed on each other. Even plunder, the last resource of strong necessity, will not relieve their wants. We do not see the propriety of sending more troops before you hear from us. We have undoubtedly a sufficient number to maintain St. Johns and the Isle aux Noix. You will be pleased to communicate the present state of affairs, and forward the enclosed papers, to Congress.

We wish you a speedy restoration of your health, and every blessing of this life; and remain, with the most perfect esteem and regard, dear sir [&c.]

Samuel Chase

Charles Carroll of Carrollton

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, VI, 481.

#### PETITION OF STEPHEN PARKER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

May it please your Honours –

With the profoundest respect and submission I beg leave to acquaint your Honors that the fifth of July last I took passage from this place for Philadelphia in hope of obtaining a supply of provisions for the Inhabitants here, as I had not cash to purchase the Reverend Mr James Lyon furnishd me with a letter of recommendation to his friend Jonathan Smith Esq of Philadelphia, but after the most earnest application to that gentleman & others during a months stay in the City with offers of mortgaging a considerable interest till Payment for one hundred barrels of flour, finding no probability of success & having nearly expended the trifle of money I carried with me I took passage with Captain Edward Bacon of Barnstable in a sloop loaded with flour, belonging to Colonel Doane of Welfleet, bound for said place, arriving at Barnstable, I made pressing suit to Colonel Doane offering him the same, but was here unsuccessful, I then try'd Captain Solomon Davis, Melatiah Brown Esq, and Colonel Joseph Otis of Barnstable for assistance but these gentlemen not being disposed to risque or Credit their interest and my money being gone I was obliged to sell two of three barrels of flour which I brought from Philadelphia for my family, I then met Mr Shubael Lovel of Barnstable who gave me encouragement of sending a small Schooner with some provisions to Mechias, but failing of obtaining the provisions, or fearing to risque his vessel this also fell thro', my solicitude was now turn'd to get home with all speed and going from Highannas to Nantucket with Mr Lovell he mentioned my case to Mr Timothy Fitch there, who told me if I could obtain permission for exporting Lumber to the West Indies he would supply me with provisions, in consequence of which I prosecuted a journey

to Watertown, waiting on Colonel Joseph Otis and the Honourable James Bowdoin, who furnished me with recommendatory letters to the Honourable James Warren, but Collonel Warren presuming the matter would not be acceptable to the Honourable House, I returned full of anxiety & distress to Nantucket, being reduced so low as to fear I should either suffer or be obliged to solicit the hand of Charity, On arrival at Nantucket I let Mr Fitch know my Circumstances with the scituation of Mechias and inform'd him I thought I could serve that place effectually if I could go to Nova Scotia & send or carry hay from thence which we always supplyd ourselves with from said government for the support of our Cattle, Mr Fitch coincided in sentiments with me & we purchased of Captain Dunham of the Vineyard Three hundred thirteen bushels of Indian & fifteen bushels of rye Corn which was increased by a trifle of said articles & some rye flour & bread Mr Fitch had by him & we were preparing to sail when five or six people at Nantucket appeared dissatisfied on which I was advised by the Inhabitants to make application to the Committee at Falmouth, This I did & informing them what pains I had taken and at what expense I had been to serve Mechias with my earnest desire of getting home with what I could procure I obtained their consent to sail, on which we left Nantucket in a Brigantine commanded by Captain Thomas Fossey and meeting with one vessel only which appeared to chase us, arrived at East passage, from which Place we immediately proceeded to Cape Forschue in the bay of Fundy & directly oposite Mechias, here I disposed of what was on board save a small matter sold Mr William Pitt at East passage (exclusive of what I was intitled to from a Commission allowd me & which I strictly reserved in provision to Carry to Mechias) to New england people only, who appeared real friends to the welfare of America On arrival I engaged a Schooner of one Mr Tinkham & seven Load of salt hay (no english being to be had) intending immediately on the Brig's sailing to proceed therewith for Mechias, but the Hay proving very bad & none else to be got, I faild in this but embras'd the first oportunity I could meet of getting to Mechias with my Provisions, at the expense of ten dollars.

May it please your Honours Ignorance, inadvertance & absolute necessity were the sole cause of my setting foot in the government of Nova Scotia & during my continuance there which was at Cape Forschue, I neither corresponded counteranced or associated with any of the enemies of America, but most warmly espoused the cause of Liberty & bore unfeigned testimony against the iniquitous tyranical ministerial measures & acts of Brittish parliament, nor was this confined to my tongue alone but my hand witnessed the same as leisure & oportunity gave me leave, Copies of which I humbly crave leave to lay at the feet of your Honours most solemnly declaring them to be authentic –

May it please [your] Honours, from the first of my leaving Mechias last july to my arrival a few days since I have not ceased endeavours to serve the place to the utmost of my ability and I do most solemnly declare that nothing has, is, or can be remoter from my heart than an inclination to aid or

abet the enemies of America, Liberty & Freedom and in this necessary contest am willing to risque my interest in Life and for this purpose did strictly recommend to Captain Fossay to bring a quantity of powder for the use of the Colony Therefore throwing myself at the feet of your Honours I most humbly crave for myself and distressed family your Honours Pardon and protection, and as in duty bound shall ever pray for your Honours consummate Happiness & prosperity –

Stephen Parker <sup>2</sup>

Mechias 11th May 1776 –

1. Mass. Arch., vol 194, 391–94.

2. Parker sent a copy of his petition to James Bowdoin on May 13, *ibid.*, 389.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF THE CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS OF H.M.S. *Milford* <sup>1</sup>

No. 4 Know all Men by these Presents that we the Captn and Officers of his Majestys Ship *Milford* have constituted and appointed and in their stead and place put Alexander Brymer of Halifax in Nova Scotia Gentleman our lawfull Attorney for us and in our Names to ask Claim Demand and recover all Prize Money, Share or Shares of Prize money which by any ways or means is or may become due to us and to take care of such prizes or seizures as we shall make and to prosecute the same in the Court or Courts of Vice Admiralty and generally to do act and Transact in all things respecting the premisses as fully amply and Effectually to all intents and purposes as we might or could Do if personally present hereby ratifying allowing and Confirming all & whatsoever our said Agent may lawfully do or cause to be done in & about the premises, with full power to make Substitute one or more Attornies under our said Attorney, and the same again at pleasure to revoke. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and Seals the 11th day of May one thousand seven hundred & seventy six on board his Majestys Ship *Milford* [off Cape Ann] <sup>2</sup> and in the sixteenth year of his Majestys Reign

Sign'd Seal'd & Deliverd }  
in Presence of

Jn. Turnbull

Wm Collis

Jn Burr

W Governor

Robert Dunkin

Joseph Sowell

Henry Penny

John Searly

Will<sup>m</sup> Bell

Andrew Forbes

Andrew Burn

Joseph Duffin

[Endorsed] Recd 2d Octr 1776 & Registered

1. Register of Letters of Agency, 1776–1781, Vice Admiralty Records, N. S. Arch.

2. Master's log of the *Milford*, May 11, reads: "[Cape Ann] NWBN 5 Leagues At 10 [A.M.] Saw a Sail to the W. ward which bore down to us Hove too Maintopsl to the Mast & Clear'd Ship for Action, Prov'd to be a Sloop from Martinico with Wine for Genl Gage." PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.



JONATHAN GLOVER TO TIMOTHY PICKERING, JR. <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Marblehead May 11. 1776

I have Sent you By the Barer two Libels which the masters are very Desirous May Come to tryal as soon as posable. Shall Esteem it a favour if youl please to advertize them in the Next weeks paper <sup>2</sup> and youl much Oblige [&c.]

Jonathan Glover

1. Pickering Mss. vol. 56, 82, MassHS.

2. The libels against the brig *Jane* and brig *William* appeared in the *Boston Gazette*, May 20, 1776.NICHOLAS BROWN, ABNER THAYER AND BENJAMIN COMSTOCK TO  
JOSEPH COMSTOCK <sup>1</sup>

Capt Joseph Comstock

Providence May 11, 1776

You being Master & part Owner of the Sloop *Polley* bound To Surinam Our Orders Are that you proceed & make your passage as Soon as possible and Dispose of the Cargo to the best Advantage and layout the neet proceeds in Good Melass[es] Sugar, Cotton Powder Small arms, Nutmegs, Silk & Linnen HenkerChiefs Rousia Drab Ravens duck Ticklinbourg Ozenbrigs (but no Heavey Duck ) Course Linnens and such other things as you may Think Will best Answer Making all the Dispach you Can & to keep a Good look out with all possible Care to keep Clear of the Enemie, your Commissn is to be 5 pCt for sails & 2½ pCt for Returns, and Three hhds Priveledge & to see that no more Priveledge go on bord than is Agreed for

Wishing A Good Voyage we are your friends & owners You are to bring no English Manufactures or Tea

N Brown      Abner Thayer      Benj<sup>a</sup> Comstock

[Endorsed] Recd a Copy of the forgoing or order to be Observd. to the best of my Judgment p me –

Joseph Comstock <sup>2</sup>

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL. A "Price Curt of Goods at Providence" was included in the letter.

2. Owners' bond for *Polly* and another bond executed the same day by Nicholas Cooke, owner of sloop *Sea Flower*, in behalf of his son Nicholas Cooke, Jr., for a voyage to New York, are in the collection Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R. I. Arch.JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Block Island N15. 19W 12 Leagues

Saturday 11 at 5 A M saw a Sail, out all reefs & sett Top Gallt sl at 7 Brot too & spoke the Schooner *Fleuril Le Mer* from Cape Francois bound to St peter wt Molasses & Sugar sent a Mid & 4 Men on bd her to Carry her to Halifax. <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

2. This vessel is not found in any British prize list.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>[Hartford] May [11] 1776 <sup>2</sup>

In the upper House

Jabez Huntington Esqr is appointed to confer with such Gentlemen as the lower House shall appoint on the expediency of giving Instructions to Cpts Harden [Seth Harding] & [Robert] Niles, of the Colonys arm'd Vessels, relative to any Course to be undertaken by Them or either of Them, at this Time, & what Instructions may be proper to give, & make Report as soon as may be

Test George Wylls Secry

In the lower House

Mr Burr, Colo Waterbury & Capt Seymour are joined a Comittee for the purposes in this Bill expressed

Test Titus Hosmer Clerk

We your Honors Comtee upon Consideration of this Bill take the Liberty to Report it as our opinion that his Honor the Governor be desired to give such Orders & Instructions to Cpts Harding & Niles to proceed in a Cruise to the Eastward with the Colonys Armd Vessels as far & in Such manner & [as] he shall Judge best – Signed P order

Jz Huntington

In the lower House

This report is accepted &amp; approved

Test Titus Hosmer Clerk

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IV, 88a, 88b, ConnSL.

2. The date is approximated. The Assembly met on May 9, 1776, and adjourned on May 11.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Albany May 11. 1776 2 OClock P. M.

Dear General I found It impossible to leave Town to Day as I had intended, It is lucky That I did not, for I just now received an Express from Fort George advising me that amongst the Nails I had ordered from Canada there were very few of those wanted for the Bottoms of the Boats, This Account has plunged me into almost Inextricable Difficultys as I can procure only four hundred Weight in this Town, I have set Every Blacksmith at Work to make what they can, I shall still fall greatly short, and beg the Favor of You to order up fifteen Cask of 24d Nails as Many of 10d and a like Quantity of 8d – A New York Carpenter must be employed in Chusing them, as they go by different Names in different Colonies, – I could wish that they were sent up in a Pettiauger fitted with as Many Oars as possible, and under the Care of an Officer and a Party of Good Oarsmen. –

The Troops are so slow in getting from here, Altho' General [John] Sullivan does all in his Power to move them. That I shall be under the Ne-

cessity of sending on Provisions from Fort George, before they arrive there, Which will necessarily detain some of them until a Number of Boats are built equal to those which Carry the Provisions.

Read's which moved Yesterday took Eight Batteaus, Starks, which has been Embarking their Baggage all Day with the Activity of Snails, will carry Something more, Nor can I prevail on them to leave any Part of It behind. – I shall leave this in the Morning and hope to reach Lake George to Morrow Night, where I am much wanted . . .

1. Washington Papers, LC.

"PRACTICE OF NATIONS WITH REGARD TO PRISONERS." <sup>1</sup>

It is the Custom in England & France to send every Person Soldier or Sailor under the Degree of a Commissioned Officer to some inland Place, where there is an old Castle, commonly surrounded with a high Stone Wall and oftentimes with a Moat comprehending a pretty large Space of Ground where they are confined as in a Debtor's Goal with a strong Guard of Militia without Side surrounded with Sentries where they are maintained by a Commissary who contracts for their Support. The Officers are sent upon their Parole to some Inland Town as far distant as possible from their Men, where they are allowed to negotiate their Bills of Exchange, but are confined in Goal upon Non Payment. Cartels for Exchange of Prisoners are always settled between State & State at War; but in the last War between England & France, each Cartel was not settled until the latter End of it, England having seized so many Prisoners before a Declaration of War, that France had no Equivalent to exchange, or considered it as an Act contrary to the Law of Nations, and would not until obliged by Necessity submit to a Cartel, which at Length was settled by Genl [Henry Seymour] Conway. An Account is kept in Europe of the Expences of maintaining Prisoners of War by both States, which is settled & the Ballance paid at the Peace. England ought to be obliged to acknowledge us an independent State, at least as far as respects Prisoners of War, otherwise the Treatment She shews to our Soldiers and Seamen in her Hands ought to be exactly observed upon our Part, to those we take Prisoners from them. –

1. John Hancock Papers, LC. Enclosed in Washington to Hancock, May 11, 1776.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO ANDREW HUNTINGTON,  
NORWICH MERCHANT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Camp, New York 11 May 1776

Dear Sir An Insurance Office is lately opened at Philadelphia, I have sent to know the Price of Premiums to the West Indies – Col: [Joseph] Trumbull, Col: [Thomas] Mifflin & Lady are going down this Day – It is said Congress have taken off all Restraints on the Prices of Goods that by their consequent Rise, Adventurers here & abroad may be induced to bring us Supplies

upon which I am told great Numbers at Philadelphia are fitting out Vessels – Salt sells there @ 2 Dollars P Bushell – Sugar is between five & Six Pounds P hundred. – it is expected that by Fall we shall have most Articles in much greater Plenty – my Landlady tells me she has just given a Dollar for a ps Dutch Lace whh she used to buy for  $\frac{2}{6}$ —by last Accounts from Philadelphia the *Roebuck* of 44 Guns & *Liverpool* of 28 were warmly attacked by 3 armed Vessells & all the Gallies in Delaware & tws expected the former would be made Prizes . . .

Jed Huntington

I. Huntington Papers, ConnHS.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE <sup>1</sup>

My Dear Friend,

Philadelphia 11th May 1776

Since I wrote you last nothing of consequence hath happened, unless it be, that the *Roebuck* & *Liverpoole* coming up the river Delaware, were met about Christeen, some miles above Newcastle, by the 13 Gondolas of this City, and after a cannonade of 3 hours each day for 2 successive days, the Ships returned down the river, and the Gallies to their old station, without much hurt, I believe, on either side. My friendship for you is so strong, and the sense I have of the obligations America is under to you so high, that I will ever pray the liberty of being full and free on every subject that may materially concern you. I find a spirit prevailing here, which leads its possessors to regard with a jealous eye, every instance of deviation (in a Military or Naval Commander) from the line of instructions, and also every undertaking productive of expence which is not warranted by express order of Congress. Thus animated, I find some Gentlemen expressing dissatisfaction at your having promised forage to such Cavalry as might be assembled in Virginia, and likewise, because of the Boats you had ordered to be built for the security of the rivers. You know my friend, that the Spirit of Liberty is a jealous spirit, and that those appointed to guard it, are not always wise and candid Counsellors. Upon this consideration, will it not be prudent to put it out of the power of any person to complain with justice, by a timely representation of such things as are necessary, and unless in great and most urgent cases, not to let the adoption precede the Congressional order of any measure. I am very sufficiently conscious of the thousand occasions in which the service must suffer immensely if Commanders at a distance are not to accomodate conduct to circumstances—But I know also that all men are not candid, not wise; and that some are governed frequently by envy, by enmity, and by evil designs. I would therefore carefully avoid furnishing such men with the opportunity of cavil, by obtaining the proper sanction for all such things as were extraneous to the immediate line of duty, unless, as I have before mentioned, in cases where the Distance, time and public good would not admit of delay.

I. R. H. Lee Papers, VHS.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] May 11th

Little further accots from below, but agreed that no persons was killd or wounded by the enemy, that our officers of Six of the Gondolas have done their duty with Credit, both officers and men having distinguished themselves nobly & gained great reputation. they others not Shewing the same bravery & resolution I hope will be enquired strictly into . . . great numbers of familys have movd out of town this last week.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a 11th May, 1776.

Thomas Slater, Master, & John Peckham, Mate of the Brig't *Betsy*, who came from Virginia with said Vessel to the *Roebuck* Man-of-War, and taken by Capt. Charles Alexander, Commander of the Continental Schooner *Wasp*, near New Castle, was by order of the Board Committed to Gaol there, to be kept in safe custody 'till the further orders of this Committee.

*Resolved*, That Robert Towers, Commissary, send to Wilmington by one of the Stage Boats, Capt's Bush or Taylor, three quire of Canon Cartridge Paper, & three hundred weight of Gunpowder, to replace that quantity lent to the Gondolas by the Committee of that County.

This Committee having made application to Congress for twenty pieces of heavy Canon, out of those taken at New Providence, for the defence of this Province, Robert Morris, Esq'r, deliver'd to the Board the following Resolves & Letter to Commodore Hopkins, Vizt:

In Congress, 7th May, 1776.

*Resolved*, That twenty of the heaviest Canon taken by Commodore Hopkins at New Providence, and brought from thence to New London, and since carried to Newport, be brought to the City of Philad'a and deliver'd to the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, for the defence and protection of the said City, to remain there during the pleasure of Congress.

Extract from the Minutes,

Signed Cha's Thomson, Sec'y.

Sir:

The Congress having by the foregoing Resolve, agreed to lend twenty of the heaviest Canon taken at [New] Providence & carried to Rhode Island, to the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania for the defence of this City, I have to desire you will immediately deliver the same to the person or Persons whom the said Committee send to receive and bring them hither. I am, Sir, [&c.]

Sign'd, John Hancock, Pres'dt.

To Commodore Ek. Hopkins,  
Or in his absence,  
To Dan'l Tillinghast.

In Marine Committee.  
Philad'a, 10th May, 1776.

Sir:

You will perceive by the foregoing, that Congress have ordered Twenty of the Canon you brought from [New] Providence to be improv'd in Philad'a; And in order that the Benefit of that order may be realized as soon as possible, we direct that you order the said twenty Canon to be put on board the *Fly*, or any one other of your Vessels, and carried to New York, & direct the Commander of the Vessel to call on General Washington for his further proceeding, to whom we shall write on the subject; this to be effected in the best manner you can, but by no means to be done to the prejudice of more essential service. The Canon, however, must be sent as speedy as possible, by some conveyance that shall be Judged best.

We are &ca.

Signed Jno Hancock,  
Robert Morris,  
R. Alexander,  
Joseph Hewes,  
Sam'l. Huntington

To Commodore E. Hopkins.

In Consequence of the above Resolves & Letters of Congress, this Board came to the following Resolutions:

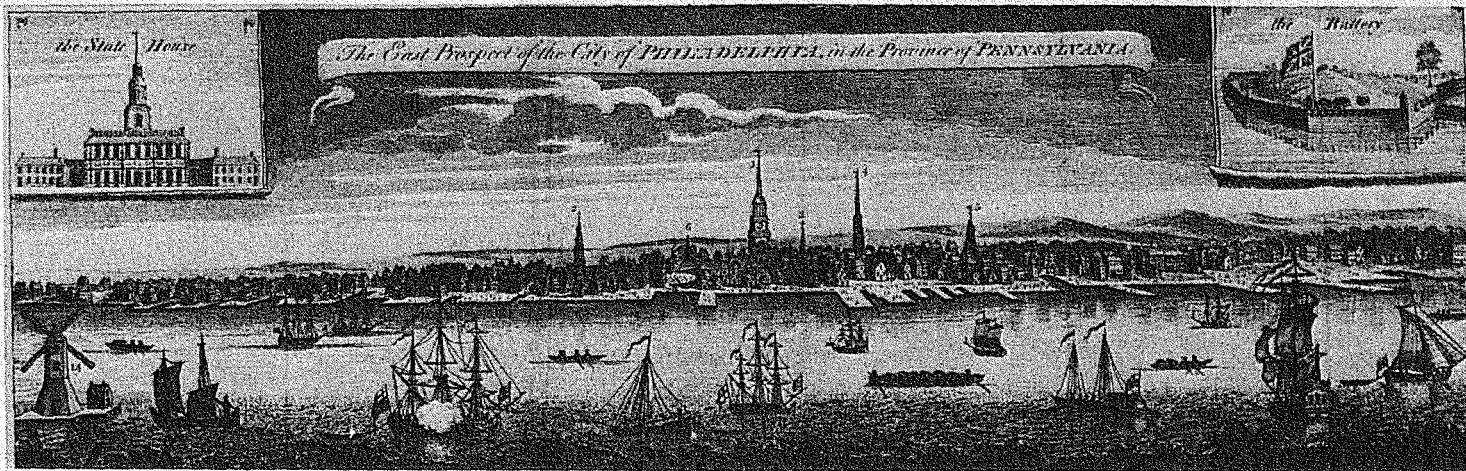
*Resolved*, That Mr. Thomas Richardson & Mr. Levi Hollingsworth do, as soon as possible, proceed to New London & there apply for the Canon, should they be at that place; If not, That they then go to Newport & procure them, and apply for the *Fly* or any other armed Vessel to Transport them to New York or Brunswick, by the Sound; or if the Navigation should be interrupted by the Enemy's Vessels, that they are then to procure the Canon to be conveyed by Land to some Harbour in Connecticut, & from thence to be conveyed in any proper Vessel. Upon the whole, they are to procure the Canon to be brought to this place at all events.

That any sums that may be wanted to effect this service they are to draw on this Committee

At a Special Meeting of the Committee of Safety, 1th May, 1776.

By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver the following ammunition, to be sent down to the Gondolas immediately, Vizt:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Shot – 18 pounders, | 500 |
| 24 do.              | 240 |
| 32 do.              | 60  |
| Cartridges – 18 do. | 320 |
| 32 do.              | 25  |



Capt. [William] Greenway was ordered to receive the following Powder, Shott & Wadds, & carry them down in the Pilot Boats to the Gondolas, and deliver them to the Senior Officer, Vizt:

|                           |                 |            |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| From Rob't Towers,        | 500 shot,       | 18 pounds, |
|                           | 240 do.         | 24 do.     |
|                           | 60 do.          | 32 do.     |
|                           | 320 Cartridges, | 18 do.     |
|                           | 25 do.          | 32 do.     |
| From Capt. [Thomas] Read, | 25 do.          | 32 do.     |
|                           | 164 do.         | 24 do.     |

And all the 24 & 32 pound shott on board his Ship or at Fort Island, Viz:

|                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| From Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer, | a quantity of Wadds. |
| Capt. [Lambert] Wickes,          | ditto                |
| Capt. Reed,                      | ditto                |
| The Batterys,                    | ditto                |

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 563-66.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1776

Philadelphia, May 11.

Last Thursday evening the engagement between the gondolas and men of war was renewed, and continued some hours, when the ships retired below Newcastle, having, it is thought, received a good deal of damage. Both the *Roebuck* and *Liverpool* were hulled several times. During the time the *Roebuck* was aground, the *Wasp* schooner, which had been chased into Christeen by the *Liverpool*, came out, and retook a brig that the *Liverpool* had taken the preceding day.<sup>1</sup> By the best accounts, too much praise cannot be given to the officers and men on board the gondolas, who behaved with the greatest courage and prudence. They have received very little if any damage.

This engagement, a correspondent says, sufficiently establishes the reputation of Row-Gallies, as being the best mode of defence practicable in a river; especially, if we consider, that although the whole thirteen were employed, yet not more than one half can be said to have been engaged at any one time: And this circumstance, though it shews a want of judgment somewhere, in stationing them *properly* and at *proper distances*, is, at the same time, an additional argument in favor of the real service of boats. The officers and men have done their duty with credit, and many of them have distinguished themselves nobly. The proper distance to engage at is now known, which is, the nearest distance you can approach a ship without coming within the reach of grape shot; and beyond that, is a waste of powder. But if it should at any time be necessary to approach within grape shot, then in that case, the nearest you are, so as to be out of the reach of the musketry, is the best shot both for service and safety; because, grape shot.



like small shot, does the most execution at the greatest killing distance, and the least execution at the least distance.

1. Memorandum Book of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety reads: "11th May - Brig't *Betsey*, Thos. Slater, Master, Jno. Peckham, Mate; taken by Capt. Alexander," Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 513.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, MAY 11." <sup>1</sup>

In my last I informed you that the *Roebuck* was on shore on Wednesday evening. Soon after the post went out on Thursday, we had an account that she was off, not having laid long aground, and that no attack was made that night. On this news, the Province ship, &c. was ordered back to their former station. Thursday afternoon about five o'clock the firing was heard again all round the town, at which time the galleys began the attack again. Some of the galleys were now close with the men of war, and an incessant fire from both sides carried on. The men of war finding it too hot, went down the river as fast as they could, firing as they went along. The galleys carried on the attack till nine o'clock. Their ammunition being then expended, they left off, and the men of war came to an anchor about three miles below Newcastle. Friday morning they were seen on the career, and stages over the sides. At ten o'clock they weighed anchor and stood down, and at 12 o'clock were seen as low as Reedy-Island. I believe they are heartily sick of the galleys. I have not since heard any thing from them. The galleys yesterday at noon were preparing to go to Reedy-Island to see if they were there. We had but one man killed on both attacks. The brig mentioned in my last, taken by the *Wasp* armed schooner, is a brig belonging to the men of war, being a store ship for them; what she has on board we have not yet learned.

Just now we have heard the galleys have got to Reedy-Is[a]nd, and that the men of war had weighed, and gone farther down.

1. *New York Packet*, May 16, 1776.

CAPTAIN THOMAS READ TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen:

Ship *Montgomery*, May 11, 1776

I should be extremely glad that you would furnish us with the stores you have Indent of, as we can do nothing without, the Carpenter has no kind of Plank on Board. Mr. [John] Nixon has a Memorandum of Several things that he is convinced we greatly want, the Chains and Anchors for Mooring, as I am sure our Bowers will not hold us athwart the tide when the wind blows up or down; the powder sent down comes in such a manner that a number of the Cartridges broke in such a condition that it will scarce bare touching without falling to pieces and the waste considerable, we have Room for no more; the paper that the Cartridges are made of is too thin, they should double it, and that some method should be taken to get us Man'd, you may depend on it we can make no

defence in the situation we are in. As for Volunteer, I will not be in the Ship with them, they know nothing, and will do nothing they are ordered, which several of the Gentlemen has been witness of. I have dispatch'd the Boat with Beer and a quantity of wads, which, with those on the way I think they will have a pretty good Stock. I have wrote to Capt Dougherty [Henry Dougherty] to send a Return of the Ammunition the Boats have now on Board; the quantity we have on Board, inclosed you have an account of what Remains From Your [&c.]

Thos. Read.

Directed. To the Gentlemen of the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 753.

CAPTAIN HENRY DOUGHERTY TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

New Castle, 11th May, 1776

The Enemy's Ships are still in sight, at Anchor & Moor'd abreast of the upper End of Ready Island, the *Roebuck* close in with the Jersey shore, and the *Liverpool* with the Pennsylvania.

A Council of War has this day been held on our present situation, with Twenty rounds of Powder each, (including a Supply this day Wills' Pilot Boat, and but a few 24 pd Shott; Sundry of the Boats,) with Eighteen pounders have Not a Single One. The result of the Council of Wars is to remain here untill we Can be Amply furnished with Amunition of Every Kind, & if it may be thought proper, to send down the Ships that we may make a general Attack upon the Enemy, as we think it unadvisable to risk the Galleys down in that part of the River, without being Sustain'd by the Province Ship, &c. Yesterday it Blew Fresh at N.W. with the Ebb Tide, which made a Swell in the River, Just at the time the Enemy's Ships were getting under Way, which Obliged us to put Our Fleet in Motion, & Spread across the River, Not knowing but their intention was to run up; & during the time we Lay in this Suspence, three or four of the Galleys had Very Near been founder'd. I remain [&c.]

(By Order of the Council of War,)

H. Dougherty, Presdt

Directed. Robert Morris, Esqr, President of the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 754.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

In Delaware River

Saturday 11 Carpenters emped Fishing the Bowsprit. First and midle parts light airs and Cloudy, latter calm and cloudy – empd as above fix'd a new Bobstay the old being cut with a Shot – at 8 PM sent the Boats to row Guard

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

HUGH YOUNG TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Baltimore 11th Ma[y] 1776

Immediately on the Alarm of Captn Squires being at the head of our Bay; I Ordered Captn Wise, of the *Nancy* (who had not got far down the River) up to our Bason, where she now waits your further Orders, & have also Stop'd loading out the Schooner *Ninety two*, which has got about three fourths the Cargo on board, & the rem[ainin]g one in Store ready to put on board. – I shall be glad to know immediately what in your Opinion is best to be done with those Vessells & Cargoes, Whether I am to finish loading the latter; leaving her as She is: or discharging both of them. I am waiting your Orders. Gentn your most [&c.]

Hugh Young

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM THE VIRGINIA NAVY <sup>1</sup>

May 11th, 1776.

Eight Dollars Reward.

Deserted from the Naval Force now in Alexandria, James Wall, born in Ireland, Twenty-six years of age, five feet eight inches high, brown hair, fresh complexion, a likely well made fellow; served his time with one Shaw near Bladensburgh; he carried with him sundry cloaths so that his dress cannot be described. Whoever apprehends the said Deserter and returns him to his Company now in Alexandria, shall receive the above reward paid by me

John Allison,  
Captain of Marines.

1. *Dunlap's Maryland Gazette*, May 28, 1776.DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1776

[Williamsburg, May 11]

The colours of the American Fleet to have a snake with thirteen rattles, the fourteenth budding, described in the attitude of going to strike, with this motto, "Don't Tread On Me!"

It is a rule in Heraldry, that the *worthy properties* of the animal in the crest borne shall be considered, and that the *base ones* cannot be intended. The ancients considered the snake, or serpent, as an emblem of wisdom, and (in certain attitudes) of endless duration. The rattle snake is properly a representative of America, as this animal is found in no other part of the world. The eye of this creature excels in brightness that of any other animal; she has no eyelids, and is therefore an emblem of vigilance; she never begins an attack, nor ever surrenders; she is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage. When injured, or in danger of being injured, she never wounds until she has given notice to her enemies of their

danger; no other of her kind shews such generosity. When she is undisturbed, and in peace, she does not appear to be furnished with weapons of any kind; they are latent in the roof of her mouth, and even when extended for her defence, appear to those who are unacquainted with them, to be weak and contemptible; yet their wounds, however small, are decisive and fatal. She is solitary, and associates with her kind only when it is necessary for their preservation. Her poison is alone the necessary means of digesting her food, and certain destruction to her enemies. The power of fascination attributed to her (by a generous construction) resembles America. Those who look steadily on her are delighted, and involuntarily advance towards her; and having once approached her, never leave her. She is frequently found with thirteen rattles, and they increase yearly. She is beautiful in youth, and her beauty increases with her age; her tongue is blue, and forked as the lightning.

#### REPORT TO LORD DUNMORE <sup>1</sup>

Information of another Spy given 11th of May 1776

My Lord

Since I had the honour of waiting on your Excellency upon Friday evening last [May 3], I have received the following interesting Intelligence – That the Shirt Men are and have been busie some time past in Constructing Boats every ways fitt and proper to Attack and destroy the Fleet lying off Norfolk – That the whole or greatest part of said Boats are ready and only wait for favourable Weather to be Conducted to the Shipping – That they are to be fully Manned with desperadoes, and have a proper proportion of Combustibles for burning the vessels, – That their horred plan is to Operate in various ways and Conducted with the greatest Secrecy at dead of Night – That some of the Ships they are to Board, some they are to Burn, and cutt the Cables of the rest so as they may drive on Shore – That the Landing on each side of the Shipping are to be covered with their Infernal demons who are to put to death all that Attempt to put their feet on Shore and lastly, that a very strong party are destined to your Excellency's Ship in Order that She may be with Certainty destroyed – Such, My Lord, is the bloody Plan intended to be perpetrated by those Sons of Murder and devastation and Your Excellency has had Sufficient and repeated proofs of their Barbarous Inhumanity, to convince you that no Crime is too Black and dismal for them to perform, and that they are well provided with desperate Villains who will undertake to Execute the most dreadfull and horrid Butchery – When I deliver my weak Sentiments upon this very interesting and Momentious Affair it proceeds from no presumption, but a real and great Solicitude for the Safety and preservation of your Excellency's Person, which believe me my Lord, in the present Situation of Affairs cannot be out of danger – Your Lordship ought to have a much greater Number of hands on Board your Ship and their Characters if possible well known, for be assured, My Lord the Fleet have too many Villains on Board who give in-

telligence to the Shirt Men of every thing that passes in the Fleet, and they have the information almost as soon as it reaches your Own ears, and I sincerely wish that your Ship may be clear of such Vermin – The most Strict Watch and Outlook is Necessary and every implement of defence and destruction ready and prepared to repel those Blood hounds of Murder and Rapine, – Upon a Subject of such Consequence, I do think I cannot, especially, if I omitt any that ought to [be] mentioned, exceed, – Your Excellency will please to know, that the three fellows that came lately on Board your Ship had no meaning in their Application but were intended as Spies under the protection of a Flag of Truce, and to observe the Situation, Condition, and Strength of your Excellency's Ship, and I think the Names of two of [the] three were Campbell and Fleming. –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 781, enclosed in Dunmore to Germain, June 26, 1776.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Halifax] Saturday May 11th 1776.

Resolved That the Commissary of Stores deliver out to the Commissioners of the Armed Vessels belonging to this Province, in the districts of Edenton, New Bern, and Wilmington, such Stores as the said Commissioners shall apply for, necessary for fitting the said Vessels; and also six Bolts of Osna-brigs, and thirty six peices of Checks or Striped Linen, for cloathing the Seamen belonging to the Said vessels

Resolved That the Council of Safety have full power and Authority to establish Courts of Admiralty at the ports of Edenton, Bath, New Bern and Wilmington, and to appoint a judge at each of the said Ports, to sit, hear and determine, all maritime matters Cognizable in Courts of Admiralty, and to Authorize and Impower the Judges so to be appointed to Nominate and Appoint one Register and one Martial at each of the said ports, and all other Officers necessary for the Purpose of carrying into Execution the determinations and Decrees of the said Courts; and all the proceedings, Determinations and decrees of the said Courts of Admiralty, shall be consonant and agreeable to the rules and Regulations, laid down by the Continental Congress; and that the Judges and other Officers of the said Courts shall take such Fees only as are directed to be taken by the Laws of this province and that each and every Juryman attending the said Courts, shall be intitled to the same Allowances as directed by the last Jury Law.

Resolved, That the Council of Safety have full power and authority to Nominate and Appoint Commissioners at each of the ports of Currituck, Roanoke, Bath, Beaufort, and Brunswick for the purpose of taking Bonds and granting Certificates to Masters of Vessels about to depart the said Ports in order that the rules and Regulations prescribed by the Continental and this Congress may be fully observed and carried into execution.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774–1776), NCDAH.

12 May (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Surprize*, CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776                      Running up the River above Quebec  
 Sunday 12    at 4 AM the *Triton's* Boat came on board with dispatches from  
                  the Commodore.<sup>2</sup> People Employ'd occasionally, making  
                  Wads &ca  
                  Fresh Breezes and Clear weather. PM. Saw about 200 of the  
                  Rebels, fir'd several Guns at them, at 4 Lost a 5 Inch Cablet in  
                  warping a large Raft of Wood (which was floating down the  
                  River) Clear of the Ship. People Employ'd occasionally.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. Captain Charles Douglas of H.M.S. *Isis*.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA TO MAJOR GENERAL  
 JOHN THOMAS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear Sir We are informed by Mr [James] Price <sup>2</sup> that there is not water  
 enough in Lake St Pierre for a frigate to pass over with her Gunns & Stores:  
 he says that there is not, even at this season of the Year when the water is  
 highest, more than between 14 & 15 feet in the channel, which is very  
 narrow. If this representation be just, our Gondaloe now at the Mouth of  
 the Sorrell may perhaps prevent the enemies ships of War from coming  
 higher up the River St Lawrence than Lake St Pierre. . . .

La Prairie May 12th 1776

6 oClock P.M.

P S the Depth of water in Lake St Pierre may be ascertained by Sounding.

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

2. Price, a Canadian, had been appointed by Congress on March 29, 1776 as a deputy commis-  
 sary of stores and provisions for the army in Canada, and had been supplied with a large  
 quantity of specie. Ford, ed., JCC, IV, April 3, 15 and 19, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Martin*, CAPTAIN HENRY HARVEY <sup>1</sup>

May 1776                      At Anchor off Point Plator River St Laurence  
 Sunday 12    Moderate & fair Weather fir'd several Shot at the Rebels  
                  sent a Midshipman, & some Men in the Arm'd Schooner to  
                  Point au Tremble: to get the *Gaspe* Brig off left there by the  
                  Rebels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/581.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO GEORGE JACKSON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Chatham Halifax 12 May 1776.

I am to acquaint you that last night His Majesty's Sloop *Swan* arrived at  
 this place having a few days ago fallen in with the *Dispencer* Packet, bound  
 to Boston, and taken out of her the Dispatches for General Howe and me;  
 all which I have received and caused to be delivered; and am particularly to  
 acknowledge the receipt of their Lordships Order of the 29th March, where-

in they are pleased to inform me that "it is intended Lord Viscount [Richard] Howe should proceed to the Course of last Month to take upon him the Chief Command of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed and to be employed in North America, and on his Lordships arrival to put myself under his Command and follow his Orders for my further proceedings," in answer to which I beg leave to acquaint you for their Lordships information that I shall with great Chearfulness resign that Command to his Lordship in the consciousness of having discharged my Duty with Fidelity to His Majesty, and with the Diligence and attention the importance of the Service required during the short Period in which I had the honor of being entrusted with it.

The Evacuation of the Town and Harbour of Boston by the Fleet and Army I find was not known to their Lordships at the time their Orders were dated, and I presume they will see by my Letters that all proper measures were taken on that event taking place; I shall now consult with the General what further steps are necessary to be taken previous to, and respecting the Arrival of Lord Howe with the great reinforcement of British and Foreign Troops proceeding with His Lordship to America, and act comformable thereto, and I hope to their Lordships approbation. I am Sir, [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Chatham, Halifax Harbour 12th May 1776.

I have received from Mr Jackson the following Letters to which I shall pay a proper attention;

Duplicate 7th Feby 1776 Informing me that Mr Peacock was appointed to take charge of the *Elizabeth* Storeship, and after delivering his Cargo to put himself under my Command.

Duplicate 13th Feby, Acquainting me that Mr Roberts was appointed to the Charge of the *Elizabeth*, in the room of Mr Peacock.

Duplicate 23d Feby To acquaint me it was His Majesty's pleasure that for the future the Transports were to be under the directions of the Commander in Chief of the Fleet.

Triplicate 29th Feby Acknowledging the receipt of my Letters of the 19th 27th and 28th January last with their Lordships replies thereto, and their pleasure respecting a Ship at Boston, recommended by Lieutenant Mowat to be purchased for His Majesty's service

Triplicate 29th Feby To acknowledge the receipt of my Letter of the 15th January acquainting their Lordships of my Arrival at Boston.

Duplicate 1st March Signifying their Lordships approbation of Mr White the Surgeon of the Hospital at Boston, his returning to England, and my appointing a Surgeon of One of His Majesty's Ships to Succeed him.

Duplicate 4th Mar. Enclosing an Extract of a Memorial from the Persons concerned in the Chaleur and Gaspee Fisheries, and their Lordships pleasure upon that head.

- Duplicate 14th Mar. Enclosing an Article of Intelligence that an American Vessel was at Nantz, and that several were at other Ports in France in search of Ammunition.
- Duplicate 14 Mar. With intelligence of two Vessels having sailed from Bourdeaux to some Port in America with Gunpowder &ca
- Duplicate 16. Mar. Enclosing a particular Account of the *Alfred* and other Rebel Privateers.
- Duplicate 16. With Intelligence of there being at Bourdeaux Several Vessels laden with Gunpowder &ca supposed to be bound for America.
- Duplicate 16th Giving information of some American Vessels taking in Gunpowder at Corunna, and others having sailed to America with the like Commodity.
- Duplicate 16th Relative to sending Transports to St Vincents for the 6th Regiment, also to carry the 48th Regiment from Grenada and the ceded Islands to England.
- Duplicate 19th To Acquaint me their Lordships had Ordered an Assortment of Stores for the Ships in America, as also that Careening Geer would be sent, and that the *Levant* Victualler, was to come out under Convoy of the *Greyhound*.
- Duplicate 27th Informing me that Ordnance Stores had been sent to Halifax, and that a further Supply was getting ready for that purpose.
- Duplicate 27 March Signifying His Majesty's pleasure that the 48th Regiment should continue some time longer at the Ceded Islands, revoking their Lordships directions in your Letter of the 16th Instant, respecting that Regiment, and further instructions relative to the 6th Regiment.
- Duplicate 28th With Extract of a Letter from Sir Joseph Yorke to the Earl of Suffolk, a Letter from Sir Joseph Yorke to Mr [William] Eden, One from Mr Irvine to the Earl of Suffolk, and an Article of Intelligence from Amsterdam, all which relate to the Exportation of Gunpowder &ca from Holland.
- Duplicate 29th Relative to the sailing of Sir Peter Parker; of the *Greyhound* being sailed for Cork where she will take a Convoy of Victuallers and others; the *Isis* and *Triton* being sailed for Quebec with the *Bute* and *Lord Howe* two large Ships, Commanded by Lieutenants, and that they were to be put on the Establishment of Sloops, for which their Commanders have Commissions. I am, Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MAJOR FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Halifax May 12th 1776

... The want of Provisions still keeps us here nor do I see any prospect of leaving this place these three or four Weeks as not one [of] the Victualers from Europe, or those drove off[f] the Cost last Winter to the West Indias are arrived. ...



By what we can here of the Rebel Army the greatest part have left Boston, and are Collecting at New York which they are fortifying, Expecting we will bend our Course there. – As I send you our last news paper I refer you to that for particulars – their Admiral Hopkins with four sail (the ships he had when he attacked the *Glasgow*) were seen a few days ago off Cape Sable, its said he is looking out for the Ships we Expect dayly from Europe, We have Several Men of War at Sea, but we are unlucky, they cant meet with him – <sup>2</sup> A number of the friends of Government who left Boston with us go home at this time in two transports that is sent with them under Convoy of the *Glasgow* Man of War, there are numbers of them to be pittied, their Situation is realy distressing, a few will remain in this Province till they see how this Campaign will end, in hopes of returning to their once happy & Comfortable habitations

Our Quitting Boston has raised the Spirits of the Rebell Party beyond description they look upon themselves invincible.

No accounts from the Southward the *Centurion* Man of War sailed for Philadelphia and the *Orphious* for New York two days ago to reinforce the ships there – You have heard that the Philada Rebell Privateers have been at [New] Providence, & have brought off Governor Brown with all the Ordnance and Stores that was there; Brown is still on board of Hopkins's Ship –

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

2. The British war vessels would have had little chance of meeting with Hopkins' fleet, as most of them were in Providence harbor at this time.

JOHN LANGDON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir –

Portsmouth 12th May 1776

I write you fully by this Post respecting my Seat at Congress, & takeing the Agency and my reasons for so doing, but notwithstanding if it should so happen, that much difficulty should arise, and some other Person must be appointed, I think of no Man superiour to Capt Supply Clap, who you know to be an active Man and honest fellow, good Accountant and a staunch Friend to the Cause. Our Ship <sup>2</sup> has her Bowsprit set and head, all compleatly Square to the Gunwail, her bends black, and her paint work primed, round & Galleries built and by every Judge looked upon to be the Compleatest piece of Work, ever done in this part of the World, and in my Opinion no better can be done elsewhere – There has nothing turn'd up, since Colonel [Josiah] Bartlett set out, my kind respect to him, and the Mr Adams's, Colo. [Richard Henry] Lee E[dward] Rutledge, Mr [Roger] Sherman, Govener [Stephen] Hopkins, John Jay – all Friends I am your assured Friend [&c.]

John Langdon

Communicate this to Brother Bartlett, shall write him next week –

We can Launch any time – O! the Guns the Guns

To the Honble William Whipple Esqr.

Member of Congress Philadelphia

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.

2. The frigate later to be called the *Raleigh*.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Honor'd Sir

Providence May 12th 1776

By Captn. [John Paul] Jones in the *Providence* I have sent you as many of your Officers and Soldiers as I could Collect but some of them that I took onboard are Sick and some have left the Fleet, for what Reason I can't tell

Shall Collect as many of those that are left behind as soon as possible and send them by the first Opportunity and Advertize the Remainder as Deserters tho' the Officers tell me they believe some are set out by Land to join their Regiments – I am with great Regard [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

1. Washington Papers, LC.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE,  
CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria* <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence May 12th 1776

You are to take as many Men out of the *Alfred* as will make your Complement eighty five, and proceed on a Cruise against the Enemies of the United Colonies for three or four Weeks in such places as you think will most annoy the Enemy if you do not take as many Prizes as you can well Mann sooner

You are also to endeavour to keep Company with the *Cabot*, and give such directions to Lieutenant Hinman her Commander as may be necessary for the Public Good –

If you take any Prizes you are to Send them in here, or in Case of Necessity any other Place you can with most Safety – You are to send in for Tryal all British property, and all Vessels bound to Great Britain or to any of the British Plantations which are now under the British Ministry –

In Case you should want any Supplys you may draw on me for the same or on the Continental Treasurers – Yours [&c.]

E. H. Cr in Chief

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO LIEUTENANT ELISHA HINMAN,  
CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot* <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence May 12th 1776

You are to take Command of the Brig *Cabot*, and take as many Men out of the *Alfred* or *Fly* as will make your Complement up [to] Ninety, and go to Sea and Cruise three or four Weeks if you don't take as many Prizes as you can well Mann in less time – And you are likewise to take such directions from time to time as you may Receive from Captn Biddle

In Case of a Separation with him and you should want Supplys you may draw on me for much as is Necessary

E H Cr in Chief

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776 [Providence River]

Sunday 12 Moderate Breezes & Clear, Sent the Marines on board the *Providence*, that we gott at New London, to the Camp at [New] York

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. For log of *Andrew Doria*, see Volume 4, Appendix C.

CAPTAIN JOHN HAZARD TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS <sup>1</sup>

Honourd Sir/

[Providence, May 12]<sup>2</sup>

I Trouble you with these Lines hoping that out of your accostomed goodness and Generosity to the destressd and Afflicted that you would lend a helping hand and herken with a Gracious Ear to the Petition and request of one whom it is likely may never have such an Oppertunity to address you on so Important an Affair as at this present time, As the Copy of my Tryal is not yet made publick to the World and many will be enquiring into my Conduct since I have been in the Fleet and under your Honours command And in particular in Regard to my being Broke for Crimes alledged to me at my Tryal the first of which is a Breach of Orders in not delivering some Wood at Ready Island which I thought was settled there The Second crime laid to my charge is my not doing my duty on the Night we had the engagement with the *Glasgow* I Beg the Comodore would enquire into my conduct after the Mate awaked me and I came on Deck whither there would be any room for to think me Backwards in fighting when there was Occasion for it an Instance to the contrary was shewn by me when I hove my Top Sail to the Mast for Capt whipple to come up with me and Hailed him and Asked him if he would go alongside of the Ship And if he would I would take the other side and would sink by her or be on Board of her This no man on Board will deny from this I beg your Oppinion and that you would report it accordingly The third Crime is the Embezzlement the greatest of all my Crimes in the light it now stands against me And I humbly Beg you would enquire and you will find it a Mear Triffle indeed – The fourth Crime is my Disobeying Orders in not keeping under your Stern up Providence River which I hope you will set in as favourable light as it will admit as I understood you was going to Newport then when I left your Ship and will give my reason for what did happen then at the time and when that is done I hope you will set the Circumstances of my conduct in as favourable a light as they will admit of As it is likely I shall offer my services again in my Country's Service in some Capacity or another And as a few lines from under your hand may be of great Service to me as a Recomendation to the Publick as my Intention is to serve my Country and the Publick Cause whilst these Warrs continues if they think it proper to employ me and if not my abilitys will get me Employ elsewhere And as Captain Saltonstall

has Deprived me of many Priveledges which I ought to have had at my Tryal and as a proof of his partialty towards me I hear Send you a Copy of an Original I intend for him the first convenient oppertunity which is the usage I did receive from him at my Tryal and Since and to the Truth of which I am ready to attest and in Defence of which I am ready to face my Antogonest any day and to let him and the world know I am no Coward and I likewise hear send you a Copy of my Tryal with the sum of the Evedences against me for your Inspection as to my Evedences he has not give me the Copy of one or the least Remark of any in my favour nor the Writers Defence I made or a copy tho' demanded by me or you should have had it with these papers So from these and your knowledge of the mater I Beg your Honour would recommend me to the Naval Comittee and to represent maters and Circumstance as they were or the particulars that was against me and your Oppinion of my Conduct since I have been in the Fleet and under your honours command and in particular about the Embezlement and hope you may see fit to recommend me to have a new Tryal as I do Desire I may for Sundry reasons and if you will not that you will Recommend me as far as I merit or Deserve and as to the usage I received from Mr President on my Tryal and since I Beg to be heard by you on the Affair as I am determd not to let it pass unnoticed without you should think I am in the wrong and give me your Reasons for it Whose advice I would take and commands Obey as soon as any man in your Fleet would tho' I am now Broke for Disobeying them but my Conscience dont accuse me of doing it Knowingly or I should not Speak with the Boldness I now do and as you have acted the fatherly part towards me since I have been under your Honours command I Beg you will not this time Deny me my Request in this Affair that my Crimes meant appear in a worse light than the[y] ought to do and that allowances may be made for my Misconduct and that I may have a few lines from under your hand to Recommend me to the Naval Committee without which I cant expect any favours from them or any Body else And as I am in a Strange place and destitute of advice or friends to Councel me on Such an Affair, I Beg your honours advice on it which will be greatly acknowledged By me as I am Determ[in]ed not to leave the place till my Char[a]cter stands on some Better Foundation than it now does according to the Questions of my Accusation Which will appear Blacker than they are if Circumstances of the proof against me are Omitted Especially to the Question of Embezlement and I Beg Sir for my Characters Seak you'd State Matters as in your own Judgement you think best for me And in so doing I remain your Honours Humble Servant to Command

John Hazard

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. The date is approximated. Hazard's trial took place May 8, and the results were first published in the *Providence Gazette*, May 18, 1776. As his letter states, "the Copy of my Tryal is not yet made publick to the World," he could have made his appeal any day between May 8 and May 18, and it can be assumed, once he secured a copy of the proceedings, he would have lost no time in presenting his plea to Hopkins.

SAMUEL PATRICK TO FRANCIS LEWIS <sup>1</sup>

Copy

Tho' all that Mr [John] Griffiths did was at my request & with a design to serve me yet on examination I find erecting a Mill to bore the Cannon, the makg of Patterns &c and the Moulders have asked me fourteen pounds p Ton for makg them, that it will be impossible for me to make them unless I have the same price given by the Honbl the Continental Congress to the Iron Masters of Pensylvania, I desire no more, and whatever that be. If I have your order, will make as many 9, 12, 18, & 24 Pounders, as the Shipping will want,<sup>2</sup> Mr Griffiths will forward me your orders, and it shall be attended to immediately, my Furnace is now ready, and I think I can accomplish the business, all I desire is to have the same Price given to others, and I trust it will not be expected that the New York Furnaces should work at lower prices than any other Furnace on the Continent I am &c

Sam<sup>l</sup> Patrick <sup>3</sup>

Orange Furnace [New York] May 12th 1776 –

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

2. The two Continental frigates building at Poughkeepsie.

3. Enclosed in Francis Lewis's letter of May 20, to Paine.

GENERAL ORDERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Head Quarters, New York, May 12, 1776.

Parole Madrid.

Countersign Paris.

The Carpenters, Boat Builders, and Painters, who were selected for the public service this morning, by Major Genl. [Israel] Putnam, are to parade to morrow morning at Sunrise, in the Street opposite to Genl. Putnam's, where they will receive his orders.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V, 39.MATERIALS FORWARDED FOR VESSELS BUILDING ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN <sup>1</sup>[New York, May 12, 1776] <sup>2</sup>

Blocks Compleat for two Vessels on Lake Champlain & for two Pettiaugers –

171 feet of Blocks

4 Serving Malletts

5 Dozen of Pearl Trucks } amount

£25.16..9d

Rigging mentioned in a Letter of Capt Varrick [Richard Varick] as requested by Genl Schuyler

6 Coils spun yarn wt 7.2.26

2 Jib Stays 6½ Inches 16 fathom 3.2. 6

200 fathm 2 Inch Rope in 4 Coils 3.0. 1

200 Do 2½ Do in 2 Coils 3.1.19

100 Do 3 Ind Rope in 1 Coil 2.2.24

2 Coils Ratline 1.1.10

3 ½ Inch Stays 1.0..7

22.3.10 }

1 Doz white hamberline  
 12 Dozen Marline & houseline } amount £98.19..6  
 5 pieces – 192½ yards English Duck } amount 28.18..3

The above articles were desired by a Letter from Capt Varrick by General Schuylers order – That Letter was dated 2d May and the whole went to Albany in a Vessel which sail'd from New York in the Morning of the 12th May directed to Walter Livingston Esqr

The [Provincial] Congress have not any Lead & know not how to obtain it – but what remains in & on the dwelling Houses –

Colo [William] Malcom has Rigging – Holland Duck @ £9. and ravens Duck are in town & may be purchased if wanted –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. This seems to be the report of Peter Curtenius, Provincial Commissary of New York, to whom the matter was referred by the Committee of Safety, May 8, 1776. It may have been delivered on the day the shipment went off for Albany, May 12, or a day or two later.

#### JOHN ADAMS TO ABIGAIL ADAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] May 12, 1776

There has been a gallant Battle, in Delaware River between the Gallies and two Men of War, the *Roebuck* and *Liverpool*, in which the Men of War came off second best – which has diminished, in the Minds of the People, on both sides the River, the Terror of a Man of War. . . .

It gives me great Pleasure to learn that our Rulers are at last doing something, towards the Fortification of Boston. But I am inexpressibly chagrin'd to find that the Enemy is fortifying on Georges Island. I never shall be easy untill they are compleatly driven out of that Harbour and effectually prevented from ever getting in again. As you are a Politician, and now elected into an important Office, that of Judgess of the Tory Ladies, which will give you naturally an Influence with your sex, I hope you will be instant, in season and out of season, in exhorting them to use their Influence with the Gentlemen, to fortify upon Georges Island, Lovells, Petticks [Ped-docks], Long, or wherever else it is proper. Send down Fire ships and Rafts and burn to Ashes those Pirates.

1. L. H. Butterfield, ed., *The Adams Papers*, Series II, *Adams Family Correspondence* (Cambridge, 1963), I, 406–07. Hereafter cited as Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*.

#### CAPTAIN WALTER STEWART TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia, May 12, 1776] <sup>2</sup>

On Thursday afternoon May the 9th Mr Jacob Rush <sup>3</sup> waited on me, and desired I would have a Carriage ready by the next Morning, and wait on Mr Hancock with it by Eight oClock, which I accordingly did, when Mr Hancock was pleased to Honor me with a Commission to repair on Board the *Liverpool* Frigate Commanded by Bellew, in Order to Conduct Mrs Bellew to Philadelphia in her Way to Marblehead.



Engraved by J. Smith

W. Smith, sculp.

THE HON<sup>BLE</sup>. JOHN HANCOCK ESQ<sup>R</sup>.

*Late GOVERNOR of BOSTON in North America*

*Given from an Original Picture in the Possession of Capt James Scott*

Engraved by John Scott N<sup>o</sup> 4 Middle Row Holborn

About Five oClock I arrived at New Castle, where I applied to the Commodore of the Row-Gallies for a Boat, with a Flag, to row me on Board the Ship, as She lay Twelve Miles below, which he immediately complied with; and I set out Accompanied by Mr [William] Erskin[e], & Mr [John H.] Carter who were desirous to see the Vessells. – On my Arrival at the Ship, being Ask'd my business &ca, and finding it was with the Captain, I was Ushered into the State Room where he and Mrs. Bellew were, – I informd him that I had the Honor of being deputed by Congress to deliver him an Answer to the Queries he had sent to Philadelphia by Capt Budden, – He told me he was extremely Sorry he had Asked any Questions as he had been Used very Ill – I replied, – I imagined he would find his Request granted as much to his satisfaction as he could possibly wish, – When I presented him with the Papers delivered me by Mr Hancock, he read them over, then delivered them to me again, and said, he had just look'd them over but they were not worthy his Reading. – I then (as Mr Hancock desired) made his & Mrs. Hancocks Compliments to Mrs Bellew, and assured her all possible Civility would be shewn her by them during her stay at Philadelphia, – and took upon me to assure Captain & Mrs Bellew, on my Honor, the People of that Place would be happy in rendering her every kind of Respect and Civility in their power, – Capt Bellew made answer it was all Nonsense, and affirm'd the Inhabitants of America could never be Capable of shewing Civility to any Person after this, as they were nothing but deceit, rancour & Malice, – and thought it was impossible a Fool (such was he pleased to term Mr Hancock) could shew Civility to any One, – he then began to explain the matter to Mrs Bellew, – and told her that those People we call'd the Congress & John Hancock had sent down word, if she went to Philadelphia, they would protect her untill such Time as her Friends Arrived to Conduct her to Marblehead, which was Nonsense in the highest degree, – and wondered the Congress would take upon them to Consult on any Matter which concerned his Wife, – and she well knew She had none but Female Friends who could never come for her, – I assured him there should be no obstacle as I would Answer for it, the Congress who were pleased to send me for Mrs Bellew in Order to Conduct her to Philadelphia, would likewise take care to forward her to Marblehead. – He again made Use of the above Expressions, both in Respect to the Inhabitants and Mr Hancock, – but enquired whether old Mrs Hancock was in Town, – being answer'd in the Negative, – he said was she here, his Wife might be taken care of, as She was a Genteel Woman, – but Intimated he did not choose to Risk her with any other Person. –

Having Ask'd if I would choose any thing to Drink, – he mentioned a Variety, – among the rest English Porter, – but made this observation, – he supposed I was afraid it would poison me – I assured him my Prejudice to the English did not extend so far as to deprive myself of making Use of any good Porter and Cheese he might have, which I would prove if he would be kind enough to let Us try them, – at the same time I could assure him it was



the Ardent desire of the Inhabitants of America to be on the same footing with England as in former Days would they but propose the matter in an honorable manner, – he immediately told me it was not true – he was Convinced a great Majority never desired to see that Day when the Quarrel would be made up, – for his part, he was sorry to be so situated, but he was only in the Line of his Duty, – but says he, – 'tis a new Thing – you are fond of your Shoulder Knots, Coats, &c – and you are all turn'd Soldiers, – I expect however in a short time to see you return to your Duty again – I told him, – to be sure, at present, it is a new thing to Us, – but asked him whether he was not Confident, if we pursued it much longer it would not become a second Nature to Us & we would not wish to live but in that State, – he allowed it, but said it would be attended with the Ruin of the Countrey. – I beg'd to know what would become of that Power who Waged War with Us – he would not allow they could be hurt – We alone must suffer; – finding him get Warm I told him, that was not the Subject I came on Board to discourse on, & begged it might be at an end. –

I then addressed myself to Mrs Bellew (who I really think had a desire to come) – told her I had brought a light Phaeton & Servant to attend her and wish'd she would give me an Opportunity to prove myself worthy of the trust reposed in me by shewing her all the politeness in my Power between this and Philadelphia. – The Captain was not pleased to thank me, but seemed, the greater Civility Used to him & Mrs Bellew on that Subject, to be the more displeased at it, – and told her She must Content herself for a few Days, for then they would Arrive and settle the matter, when she might go safely without John Hancocks Permission.

Being desired by Mr Hancock to inform him The Subject of an Exchange of Prisoners was to take place that day, – and that he imagined an Exchange would be offered – he said it was impossible, – as our Tyranical Committees & Conventions had passed a Resolve that no Exchange should take place. – I told him the Congress were the Body who had the regulating of that matter & that it was morally Impossible any such Resolve should appear from any of the Committees, – if there had, I had never seen it, – but this he might depend on, Mr Hancock would not mention the matter unless it was to be so, – he still doubted it, – but enquired for his Lieutenant Bouger [Richard Boger], – who I told him was well, and at his Liberty to go about, and was much Caressed by the People as he had proved himself both the Man of Spirit and the Gentleman, – After a little indifferent Conversation We took our leave, when I begged to know if he had any Commands to Mr Hancock or any Person ashore – he answered me very shortly, by saying No, two or three times, – but recollecting himself desired I would carry a Letter to Mr Bouger, which if I pleased I might open as he imagined it was from his Mother, or if you please you may present it to your honorable Congress to open. –

Thus Sir according to your desire I have laid down the Conversation which passed between Captain Bellew and myself as nearly as my Memory

would serve; – I am confident Mr Hancock will excuse any Improprieties throughout which he discovers, when he Considers I had to attend to nothing farther than Matters of Fact. – I am, Sir [&c.]

Walter Stewart

[Endorsed] We do Certify, That the foregoing is the discourse, as nearly as our Memories can serve which passed between Captain Walter Stewart of the 3d Battalion of Pennsylvania, – and Capt Bellew of the *Liverpool* Frigate on Friday May the 10th on Board the said Frigate We being present during the Conversation from beginning to end thereof.

Will<sup>m</sup> Erskine  
John H. Carter

1. Etting Autograph Collection, HSP.
2. The date is approximated. Stewart must have returned to Philadelphia the next day, May 11, and made a verbal report which Hancock apparently requested in writing. It can be assumed that Sunday, May 12, would have been the logical opportunity to compose his letter.
3. Jacob Rush was one of the clerks in the office of Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Congress.

CLEMENT BIDDLE TO GEORGE TAYLOR <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear Sir:

Philad. 12 May 1776.

While I was from Town Mr. Risberg forwarded a letter to you from Mr. James Wharton to which he desired a speedy answer but none has yet come to hand – they wanted 300 Tonns of Pig Iron for the Frigates & desired to know how soon you could deliver it – they offer £ 8 p. Tonn, and if you cannot afford it under £ 8.10 – perhaps they would give it but dont let them know that I mention it – They also wrote about Shott & I must beg your particular answer inclosed to me either other [*sic*] or let me know the purport of it.

In consequence of the Engagements on Wednesday & Thursday between our 13 Gallies & the Kings Ships *Roebuck* & *Liverpool* the Committee of Safety find they shall want an immediate supply of Shott and I have procured part of them for you agreeable to the inclosed List, provided you can do them without Delay & send them down as fast as a waggon Load is finished.

There are many reasons to induce a belief that a larger force will come against us and it is of the utmost consequence to be fully prepared. Therefore if you cannot make the Shott immediately please to inform me by return of the Express who comes with that [*sic* this] that may apply elsewhere, but if it is possible I hope you will do them and I will endeavor to get orders for more which I think will be wanted.

A Gentleman in Congress informs me they want a number of Howitzers cast of Iron wch will weigh as high as 12 Cwt. and down and they are informed of the Quality of your metal & would agree with you if you could undertake to cast them – you will be particular on this head also in your answer.

There seems no prospect of accomodation & I think an Independency will soon take place. Indeed I cannot see how we can avoid it as we must take such steps as will unite the Friends to America & depress our internal Enemies when we have before us the greatest Chance of a vigorous campaign in wch. the whole forces that England could command from within themselves & from foreigners are employed against us.

I must mention to you something of our Engagement below – The *Roe-buck* of 46 Guns & *Liverpool* of 28 Guns came up our Bay & River sounding & filling water & it is thought were making themselves acquainted with the Channel for no good purpose – The Committee ordered down our 13 Galleys who with one Gun each engaged for several hours on Wednesday but at too great a distance to do much damage on either side – but on Thursday they began the Engagement near Christian Creek which continued very close for 4 hours in which our Captains behaved very well & obliged the ships to retire fighting as far as New Castle & then they made down the River & have passed Reedy Island – we have certainly done them great damage & received but little on our side – The first day one man was killed, the second day a few slightly wounded.

Thus we have proved the great utility of Galleys for the defense of Rivers as 13 of them drove two of the finest ships of their rates that the King has & we could have engaged them to greater advantage higher up among the Islands – the place they were at being wide & entirely open from shelter.

Referring to the list of shot below & waiting your answer – I am Sir  
[&c.]

Clement Biddle.

[P.S.] the 12 April it is said they were at short allowance of Provisions in Quebec, but I dont think our chance of taking it before summer arrives is favorable.

#### List of Shott for Committee of Safety.

|                     |     |        |
|---------------------|-----|--------|
|                     |     | lb.    |
| 140 rounds Shott of | 32. |        |
| 560                 | do  | of 24. |
| 1078                | do  | of 18. |

#### Bar Shott

|                 |          |   |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| 15 bar 32 lbs.  | bars 19½ | Ins. long from the flat of each half ball to the other. |
| 60 do. 24 lbs.  | 18       | Ins. do. do. do.  |
| 555 do. 18 lbs. | 16½      | Ins. do. do. do.  |

Since the foregoing wch. contains the order I received last night the Committee have extended it to 50 Tonns & you will if possible execute it according to the List inclosed for round Shott & the bar Shott as above.

1. Typescript in HSP from a letter to Col. George Taylor of Durham, Pa., in private collection.

#### “EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, MAY 12.”<sup>1</sup>

Yesterday came up an express from Lewis Town, informing, that the *Roebuck* and *Liverpool* men of war, were got down to the road, and had taken their old stations.

By another express we have account, that the privateer, *Congress*, fitted out of this port, had taken and sent in to Sinepuxent, a schooner from Pensacola, loaded with flour and lumber, and about 200 half joes.<sup>2</sup> When the Congress dispatched the schooner, it is said she was in chase of two ships.

1. *Connecticut Courant*, May 27, 1776.

2. The *Thistle*, Charles Roberts, master, taken April 30 by the Pennsylvania privateer sloop *Congress*, George McAroy, commander. Records of the Admiralty Court of Pennsylvania, April 13–December 3, 1776, LC Photocopy.

CAPTAIN THOMAS PROCTOR TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE  
OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Mr. Chairman: Fort Island, May 12th, 1776.

Sir, I have herewith Inclosed a Return of Stores Recd at this place for the use of the Battery and fleet, with the Disbursements, also an Acct of the Amunition as Ordered formerly by the Committee to the Commissary, which is not Recd. The tann'd Hides I have not Recd and the powder is in much want of Airing. Lieut Simons [Jeremiah Simmons] brings with him the pay list and Master Rolls, which you will please to order payment for. Yours [&c.]

Thos. Proctor.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 754–55.

CAPTAIN HENRY DOUGHERTY TO ROBERT MORRIS <sup>1</sup>

Sir Newcastle 12th May 1776

At Nine oClock this Morning The Men of War Weighed and is Standing down the River, I have Sent a Guard Boat down as far, is Ready [Reedy] Island to know how far the[y] go. –

I would be Glad to know if we Stay here or go up to our Station I am with Respect [&c.]

H Dougherty <sup>2</sup>

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

2. Senior captain of the Pennsylvania fleet, and commander of the galley *Washington*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW <sup>1</sup>

May 1776 In Delaware River

Sunday 12 at 8 AM weigh'd and came to sail as did the *Roebuck* and Tenders – at 11 anchd. with Do Stoney Point Bearing N. N. E. 2 miles –

First part calm and cloudy midle and latter modr and cloudy. at 4 P M down Topgt yards. at 8 sent the cutter to row Guard

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER <sup>1</sup>

Cape Fear River the [12th] May 1776 <sup>2</sup>

Commodore Sr Peter Parker Knt

I must beg leave to make it my request to you that some Vessel of sufficient force may be sent to Virginia & New York with some dispatches of Consequence from me to The Commander in Chief

If you should think it necessary to send a Frigate and it may be difficult to get out with this Wind, I submit it to you Sir Whether one of the Cruizers may not be directed to proceed upon this Service, and she replaced by the *Sphinx* which might possibly stretch for a few Leagues beyond her Station to protect the Schooner it has been thought necessary to send to South Carolina. I am &ca

H.C.

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.

2. Clinton left the day in May blank, and the one used is approximated. It is based upon the fact that on May 15 Parker reported to Philip Stephens that he had received application from Clinton for assignment of a vessel to carry letters of consequence to Howe.

MERCHANTS OF BRITISH HONDURAS TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON <sup>1</sup>

St George's Kay Honduras 12th May 1776

Sir

(On His Majestys Service)

Mr Miller late Master of the sloop *Morning Star* taken off Black River bar on Mosquito Shore the 30th day of April last arrived here on the 6th Inst in order to procure a Vessel to carry dispatches to his Excellency Sir Basil Keith and yourself – To these dispatches and such accounts as Mr Miller shall give of that unwarrantable Capture, we beg leave to refer you. And as his Majesty's Subjects, residing in the Bay of Honduras, as well as the Merchant Vessels now loading here (of which there are now twenty sail in the different Harbours) think themselves open and defenceless as they are liable to the like insults and danger of the same depredations: WE Therefore take the liberty of laying before you our critical situation, and most humbly crave such assistance as you shall think proper to afford us, and the exigency of the affair requires. – We are with great Respect Sir [&c.]

James Valentine

Pat. Bourke

Will OBrien

Tho<sup>s</sup> Pitts

Walter Davidson

[Endorsed] May 13 76 Bay of Honduras Letter from the principal Inhabitants requesting assistance being greatly alarm'd at the Spaniards Seizing a Sloop in Black River Road.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

13 May

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Surprise*, CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

[In the river above Quebec]

Monday 13th AM Exercised the small Arms.

Most part fresh Breezes and Cloudy. PM. Sent the Schooner down to Point Au Trumble, to get off the *Gaspee* Brig,<sup>2</sup> being inform'd by the Inhabitants that the Rebels had only cutt two small holes in her Bottom, which might easily be Stop't at low Water . . . . People Employ'd occasionally, and about the Rigging.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. H. M. Brig *Gaspee* had been captured by the American forces when Montreal was taken.CONDEMNATION OF SLOOP *John* IN VICE ADMIRALTY COURT, HALIFAX <sup>1</sup>

|               |   |  |
|---------------|---|--|
| Nova Scotia   | } | Cause  |
| Court of Vice |   | John Collins Esqr Commanding his Majestys Ship of War                  |
| Admiralty     |   | the <i>Nautilus</i> – VS – The Sloop <i>John</i> , William Chace       |
| Monday        |   | master – Court Opened by Makeing Proclamation as                       |
| 13 May [1776] |   | usual. Proclamation made for all Claimers Decree Pronounced as follows |

In the Name of God Amen We Richard Bulkeley Esqr Judge & Commissary of his Majestys Court of Vice Admiralty for the Province of Nova Scotia & the maritime parts thereof – Haveing maturely considered the Allegations against a certain Sloop called the *John* her Cargo seiz'd & taken by John Collins Esqr. Commander of his Majestys Sloop of War the *Nautilus* set forth to this Court in a Libel prefer'd to us by William Nesbitt Esqr his Majestys Advocate General in the said Court, as well on the Part and behalf of his Majesty, as for and on the behalf of the said John Collins who therein alledg'd that one William Chace Master of the said Sloop in open defiance of the Act of Parliament made in the 16th year of his Present Majestys Reign was found on a Trading Voyage with the Colonies now in Rebellion and was endeavouring to enter into some Port of the said Colonies laden'd with Bread and Flour <sup>2</sup> and the Allegations having been fully Proved by Evidence sworn and examined before the Register by our Special Order and all Persons claiming Property in the said Sloop and Cargo having been by due Process notified to appear and assert their Claims to the same but no Person appearing so to do, We Do Pronounce this our sentence & Decree thereon as follows We do adjudge and decree the said Sloop *John*, together with her Boats, Tackle and furniture as also her Cargo on Board to be lawfull Prize to the Captors thereof and we do Condemn the same as such Accordingly and do Order the same to be deliver'd to the Agent or Agents for the said John Collins his Officers & Crew to be divided in such Proportions and after such manner as his Majesty hath or shall think fit to Order and direct by his Royal Proclamation or Proclamations Issued or hereafter to be issued for that purpose.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the said Court this Thirteenth day of May Anno Domini 1776 & in the sixteenth year of his Majestys reign –

Rich. Bulkeley      Jud. Admtes

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N. S. Arch.

2. Taken off Rhode Island March 30, 1776.

REQUEST BY OWNERS FOR A COMMISSION FOR THE RHODE ISLAND  
SLOOP *Montgomery* <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence May 13th 1776

We the Subscribers all of Providence in the County of Rhode Island Merchants request your Honor to grant a Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal to Daniel Bucklin Commander of the Sloop *Montgomery* of which we are Owners. She is burthened about Sixty Tons, carries Ten Carriage Guns Four Pounders & Two Pounders and Ten Swivels, manned with Fifty Men, and fitted with a suitable Quantity of Muskets, Blunderbusses, Cutlasses, Pistols Powder Ball and other Military Stores. He hath on board Thirty Barrels of Beef and Pork, Forty Ctwt of Bread, Eight Barrels of Flour, with some Rice, Beans Potatoes &c. John Field is First Lieutenant, Thomas Ruttenber Master, & Thomas G. Scranton Second Lieutenant. We are [&c.]

To the Hon'ble Nicholas Cooke Esqr

R<sup>d</sup> Salter  
W<sup>m</sup> Wall  
Elihu Robinson  
Joseph Cooke  
D Laurence  
John Smith  
Jos: Bucklin  
Nichs Power

Paul Allen  
Nath: Greene  
William Rhodes  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Mathewson  
Lewis Peck

1. Maritime Papers (Letters of Marque Petitions Instructions 1776–1780), R. I. Arch. Continental Bond, \$5000, was executed this date.

*Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, MAY 13, 1776

Newport, May 13.

The *Cerberus* frigate, of 28 guns, was seen cruising a little to the westward of Point-Judith point several times last week.

APPLICATION FOR PRIVATEERING COMMISSION FOR THE CONNECTICUT  
SLOOP *Gamecock* <sup>1</sup>

This may certify Whom it doth or may concern, that having applied for a Commission or Letter of Marque & Reprisal for the Privateer Sloop called the *Game-Cock* of the burthen of Forty two Tons or thereabouts – mounted with Four Three Pounders and two Four pounders, Eight Swivels Twelve S[illegible] 6 Blunder busses, Twenty Muskets twenty Four Cutlasses & Thirty pair of Pistolls – Five hundred wt of Round & Chain Shott – Three hundred wt of Swivel and Grape Shott – & one hundred and Fifty wt of

Musket and pistol Shott – with Thirty Rounds of Powder for all the fire Arms Fifty hand Granados – Forty Barrels of Beef & Pork & Twenty Eight Casks Bread, three Casks pease &c – Her Crew Consists of Fifty Men under the command of Lemuel Brooks Captain – John Gordon first Lieut. Thomas Wheedon second Lieutenant – White, Master – the said Privateer is fitted & set forth by the subscriber at New Haven in the Colony of Connecticut who is sole owner thereof –  
Hartford May 13th 1776 Adam Babcock <sup>2</sup>

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, ConnHS.

2. Connecticut Council of Safety authorized Babcock to draw 400 pounds of powder "out of the Colony store at N. Haven." Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 401.

#### CONTINENTAL BOND FOR THE CONNECTICUT PRIVATEER SLOOP *Gamecock* <sup>1</sup>

1776 *Gamecock*, Sloop. Guns 6; Men, 50  
May 13 Commander: Lemuel Brooks  
Bond: Continental \$5,000  
Bonders: Lemuel Brooks, Norwalk. Adam Babcock,  
New Haven  
Owner: Adam Babcock.  
Witnesses, Noah Phelps, Ezekiel Rogers Hyde

1. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, VI, 1, NA. This abstract from the *Gamecock* bond is illustrative of the vast number of privateer bonds in this source.

#### CERTIFICATE OF GOODS SALVAGED FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA SLOOP *Francis* <sup>1</sup>

In Provincial Congress, New York, May 13, 1776

It is hereby certified that the Sloop *Francis*, Christopher Clarke, master, bound from North-Carolina to this Port, was seized by Captain [Hyde] Parker [Jr.], commander of a British ship-of-war named the *Phenix*, some time in December last, of which Mr. William Lowther informed this Congress soon after he got on shore, within sight of the City. That the said sloop was, in March last, by order of Captain Parker, sent away to the eastward; that advices were received that the Sloop was cast away on the Vineyard, in her way to Boston, and perished; that Mr. William Lowther went in pursuit of her some time after she sailed, and is since returned; that he has brought here and landed out of that part of the cargo which was saved, fifty barrels of tar and turpentine, forty-six barrels of tobacco, and about two thousand staves; and that Mr. Lowther has further informed us that the further quantity of one hundred and twenty barrels of tar and turpentine, and between five hundred and one thousand staves (part of the said cargo) have been preserved, besides those that have been brought back here. [Endorsed] May 13, 1776: In Provincial Congress. – Certificates

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1508. Apparently, from the endorsement, one of the items lost in the State Library fire, Albany, N.Y.



JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR. <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Moor'd off Sandy Hook The Light House  
EBN Distance 1 Mile

Monday 13th AM empd [fitt]ing Netting for the Quarters. First & Midl parts Modt & Cloudy . . . at 2 PM Fired Several uper and Lower deckers, at a Party of Rebels attempting to board the *Asia's* watering Boat. Do sent out Boats Man'd & Arm'd to her assistance, at 4 Fired a Gun & made the Signal for the Boats to Return, the Rebels having made for the Shore,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety,

[Philadelphia] 13th May, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Capt. [Robert] Whyte, Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer, & Mr. James Wharton, settle with the several owners of the Shallops and Boats lately employed in the Public service, and draw orders for payment on Mr. [John] Nixon and others, the Committee of accounts.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Jno. Nixon & others, the Committee of accounts, in favour of John Cobourn, for two hundred pounds, being towards the payment of the men employed in sinking the Chevaux-de-Frize.

*Resolved*, That Capt. [Joseph] Moulder & Mr. Tho's Fitzsimmons be desired to purchase two Convenient Vessels, the one for a Magazine, the other for a Provision or Store Vessel, & Man & fit them immediately, to be ready to attend the Fleet upon the orders of this Board, or the Commanding Officer. And that when they are in service, Richard Wells, with his Pilot Boat, be employed to ply between the said Vessels and the Fleet.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Fire-Rafts be authorized to purchase a Convenient Vessel for quartering the Men belonging to the Fire-Rafts while down the River.

*Resolved*, That Capt. [John] Hazelwood & Capt. Hervey, be appointed to survey the River from Billingsport to Fort Island.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 566, 567.JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

In Delaware River

Monday 13 at 8 AM weigh'd as did the *Roebuck* and Tenders, turned down the River –

First part fresh Gales and cloudy,  
turning down the River at 3 PM anchd in 7 fm empd about  
the Barrakading for the Qur Deck modr with Rain

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

COLONEL JOHN HASLET TO CAESAR RODNEY <sup>1</sup>

[Dover, May 13th 1776.]

We are much distressed here on receiving an Order of Congress, inclosed by the Council at Newcastle to exchange Lt [George] Ball for a Certain Capt. [William] Budden of the City of Philadelphia; Our Uneasiness does by no means arise from opinion, that to exchange an officer of the *Roebuck* for the master of a Merchantman employed in Private Business, is unequal; but from our apprehensions of Danger to the Community; if the Lieut. is permitted to go on Board, while his ship continues in our Bay; You, Sir, well know the Humanity with which he has been treated at Dover, the General Acquaintance which he has Contracted, & the Particular Correspondence he has held with Persons, who have discovered very little Zeal in Defe[n]ce of American Liberty, he has been heard to express great Satisfaction on finding so many true Subjects to his Majesty in the Circle of his Acquaintance: he knows our Naked & defenceless Situation; he knows, it is in his power with 150 men well armed to desolate great part of this Seemingly Devoted County. [Charles] Popes Company is armed by us for the Defence of Lewes Capt [Jonathan] Caldwell marched a Detachment of 150 men completed for the Field by my Orders, as soon as Intelligence was had of the Men of War going up the River, which leaves us without a Sufficient Number of Guns to mount a Sergeāts Guard—all this is known to Mr Ball—

Have not Congress been hurried into this Resolve by the Weight of Capt Buddens Influence in the City, & the Inclination of the Wilmingtonians to Ingratiate themselves with the Commander of the *Roebuck*. I can't help thinking, in the Spirit of a freeman, but with absolute Submission to the Decisions of [Congress, had] the Matter, appeared in its true light [to] them, the Order had not issued. The armed Vessels are expected down every hour. The Council here have called on me for their Arms, & I shall order Capt. Caldwell to march his Detachment back here forthwith, if the Lt is sent on Board. In all this I flatter myself with receiving the Approbation of Congress—as the future Danger, if any, before a Reinforcement, will be in the two Lower Counties—perhaps before the Lt can march from here, & be sent on Board, we may be happy enough to hear from you—this shall go by Express—hope you will be able to collect my meaning from this Hasty unrevised scroll, & shall leave it without other apology, to depend on yr Good sense to give it weight by your Representation.

P.S. I have this Instant been informed by the President of the Council now sitting, that their Sense of the Matter will be sent up with the Prisoners to Newcastle to morrow—

1. Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney*, 77–78.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER RECEIVED BY THE WAY OF SCOTLAND, BY A MERCHANT IN LIVERPOOL, DATED NORFOLK HARBOUR, VIRGINIA, MAY 13.” <sup>1</sup>

It is now five months since the friends of Government have been confined on board the shipping under the protection of the ships of war, and

God only knows when we shall set foot again on Terra Firma. Independence is publicly declared throughout the Colonies, and nothing but force of arms will settle the unhappy dispute. The Provincials are at present laying waste the lower counties, and driving the poor inhabitants up the country.

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

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Halifax] Monday May 13th 1776.

Whereas it hath been thought necessary to fit out three Armed Vessels for the Protection of the Trade of this province. Resolved, That the following Sums be paid the Officers, and Seamen employed on Board the said Vessels by the Month to wit Captain Ten pounds Wages and four pounds for Table, Lieutenant eight pounds Master eight pounds Mate five pounds fifteen Shillings, Doctor Eight pounds Boatswain five pounds Gunner five pounds Carpenter five pounds Clerk five pounds Armourer four pounds ten Shillings, Cooper four pounds ten Shillings, Captain of Marines eight pounds Marines two pounds thirteen Shillings and four pence, Seamen Compleat four pounds, Seamen not Compleat three pounds, That all other Officers on Board Vessels of equal force Burthen the same regulations and pay as by Continental Establishment.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774-1776), NCDAH.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM WILMINGTON IN N. CAROLINA, MAY 13." <sup>1</sup>

The Enemy having landed at General [Robert] Howe's Plantation, on Sunday Morning, between 2 and 3 o'Clock, about 900 Troops, under the Command of Generals [Henry] Clinton and [Charles] Cornwallis, the Centry posted on the River Bank immediately gave the Alarm to the Guard, who had only Time to collect their Horses, and throw down the Fences to let a few Cattle out, which they drove off before the Enemy surrounded the House. On their March up the Causeway from the River, Part of the Guard kept up a Fire on them, which the Enemy returned. A few Women, who lived in the House, were treated with great Barbarity; one of which was Shot through the Hips, another stabbed with a Bayonet, and a third knocked down with the Butt of a Musket. The Enemy had two Men killed, several wounded, and a Serjeant of the 33d Regiment taken Prisoner. They proceeded on their March to Orton Mill, with a Design to surprise Major [William] Davis, who commanded a Detachment of about 90 Men, stationed at that Place. In this they failed, as the Major had received the Alarm from the Guard, and had retired, with his Baggage and two small Swivels, in very good Order, unpursued by the Enemy. They have burned the Mill, and retreated to their Vessels at the Fort. Upon the whole, the Generals have very little to boast of, they having got by this Descent, three Horses and three Cows. We have not had a man killed or wounded.

1. *South-Carolina and American General Gazette*, May 8 to May 22, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE <sup>1</sup>

- May 1776 Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River No Carolina  
 Sunday 12 A M sent a Boat with an Officer Man'd & Arm'd on a Secret Expedition Boat Retd Supply'd the Transports Boats with Rum & Rice interred the Body of Jno Jefferies at Brunswick. <sup>2</sup>  
 PM Fir'd a Six Poundr & made the Signal for Embarkation of the Troops <sup>3</sup>  
 Monday 13 A M Recd Beef and Bread large Cutter Empd Fishing.  
 PM Arriv'd here His Majs Ship *Falcon*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

2. A seaman who had died the day before.

3. On board a transport which had come up the river on May 2.

JOSIAH SMITH, JR. TO JOSEPH BLEWER, PHILADELPHIA <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Charleston] May 13th. 1776 –

Respecting Publick Affairs, I have the pleasure to tell you that we remain undisturbed as yet by the Brittish Troops or Ships, tho we are daily uneasy at the expectation of their visiting us, there being late reports from North Carolina of their having commenced a rendezvous in Cape Fear River. – we hope they will be wise enough not to force an entrance into our Harbour, as they must undergo no small damage in such entrance from our Chevaux de Frize and a Noble Battery now finishing on Sullivans Island, and shoud they weather the brunt there, Fort Johnston & a Fifteen Gun Battery on the high Bank near Mr Lambells will not alittle retard their progress, before they can feel the force of our Cannon from the Wharves & Batteries on the Front of Charlestown &ca of which wehave more than 120 mounted, from 9 to 26 Pounders. – Providence hath Greatly manifested itself in our favour in many Instances, and particularly so, in causing such a dread to fall upon the late Bloodhounds of Boston, as to occasion their sudden & shameful retreat from thence. and if the late resolve of Congress for a General exportation of Goods from all the united Colonys, do not prove the means of their being afresh supply'd with Provisions from the Continent – both Men Warr & Troops must be in an unpleasing situation before the end of this Summer . . . Independency has in a great Degree already taken Place with us, a Commander in Chief, with all other needful Officers being appointed, and all publick business regularly carried out –

1. Josiah Smith, Jr.'s Letter Book, 1771–1784, UNCL.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Cherokee* <sup>1</sup>

- May 1776 Moored in Savannah River Georgia  
 Sunday 12th employed Watering  
 The first part fresh breezes and fair the middle and Latter parts Light Airs Inclining to Calms  
 at 11 PM heard several Musquets fired on Cockspur Island,  
 Do manned and Armed the pinnace and Cutter and sent

them on shore at 1/2 past the boats returned with Intelligence that a party of Rebels had Landed on Cockspur and Attacked our Centinels, and that the Rebels had retired with the Lost of 1 Man killed, Do we sent our Cutter to the Wt end of Cockspur in Company with two boats belonging to the *Raven* in Order to cut off their retreat, at 12 our boats returned with the Rebels boat and 3 prisoners who gave us Information of an Armed boat (Schooner rigg'd) belonging to the Rebels at Anchor about 4 Miles up the River,

Monday 13

at 1 AM sent our pinnace in Company with two boats belonging to the *Raven* In chace of the above Armed Vessel, Likewise employed two boats to Guard Cockspur at 5 Do our boats returned with the above Vessel she mounted 6 Swivel Guns and 6 Organs Commanded by John Brown, Compliment of Men 16, at 11 Do our boats took 3 more of the Rebels from Cockspur Island, prisoners taken 15 one killed and 2 Wounded N B the Rebels fired first at his Majestys boats

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Raven*, CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Moor'd off the Island off Cockspur, Savannah river.

Sunday 12

at 11 PM there was an Alarm given on the Island of Cockspur by firing of Musquets – Mannd and Armd the Boats as did the *Cherokee*, and sent them on Shore, found the Rebels had made an attempt to take away a White Man a Pilot & some Negroes, but being discovered, shot 1 of the Rebels, & the others made off. do sent the Boats round the Island to cut them off –

Monday 13th

our Boats fell in with the Rebel Boat & took her with 3 Men. Examined the Prisoners & found there was an Armd Schooner Boat at 4 mile point – Sent 3 boats to take her which was happily effected – She had 6 Swivels & 6 Organs with small Arms & 8 Men they had 1 Man Shott dead & 3 wounded. Took 3 Men more Prisoners on the Island.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON <sup>1</sup>

(A Copy)

English Harbour Antigua the 13th May 1776.

Sir I have lately received information that several Ships of Force were fitting from different parts of America which are said to be intended to Cruize for and intercept the homeward bound West India Ships, both from these Islands and Jamaica: and as it has likewise been represented to me that Sundry Vessels from the West India Islands Laden with Gunpowder and Military Stores for the use of the Rebels in America; pass under French Col-

ours and are cleared out with French Papers for the Islands St Pierre and Miquelon, on the Coast of Newfoundland, thinking by such finesse to pass for French Vessels, and escape the vigilance of our Cruizers. – As it is probable the same Artifices may be practised on your Station, from Cape Francois &c. I have therefore thought it necessary to acquaint you with the aforesaid Intelligence that you may take such measures to defeat the designs of the Rebels as to you shall appear needful. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO LORD DUNMORE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract] English Harbour Antigua the 13th May 1776

My Lord I had the honour to receive your Letter of the 9th April by the Brigantine *Rebecca*, John Brown Master; accompanied by another Letter for Sir Ralph Payne, Governor of this Island who being absent from his Government, I opened the same agreeable to your desire. In answer, I beg to acquaint your Lordship; that the Provisions Ordered by Mr Jameson (as they are said to be for the use of Government) have been procured at this Island, and Shipped by Messrs Willm Robertson & Co Merchants here; and I have granted my pass for the same to be carried to Virginia for the use of the Kings Army and Navy Employed there; said Gentlemen proposed likewise sending a Considerable Sum of Money by the same opportunity, but as I do not think myself Authorized by the late Act of Parliament to grant a pass for Money, I have therefore declined doing so.

The Ordnance and Military Stores your Lordship has wrote for cannot be procured at any of the Islands within my Command, but had it been possible to have got them; I could not have suffered Stores of such Consequence to have been carried to the Coast of America in a Vessel so defenceless and likely to be intercepted by the Rebels; and the small Number of Kings Ships employed on this very extensive Station, makes it impossible for me to spare any of them, as a Convoy on such an occasion.

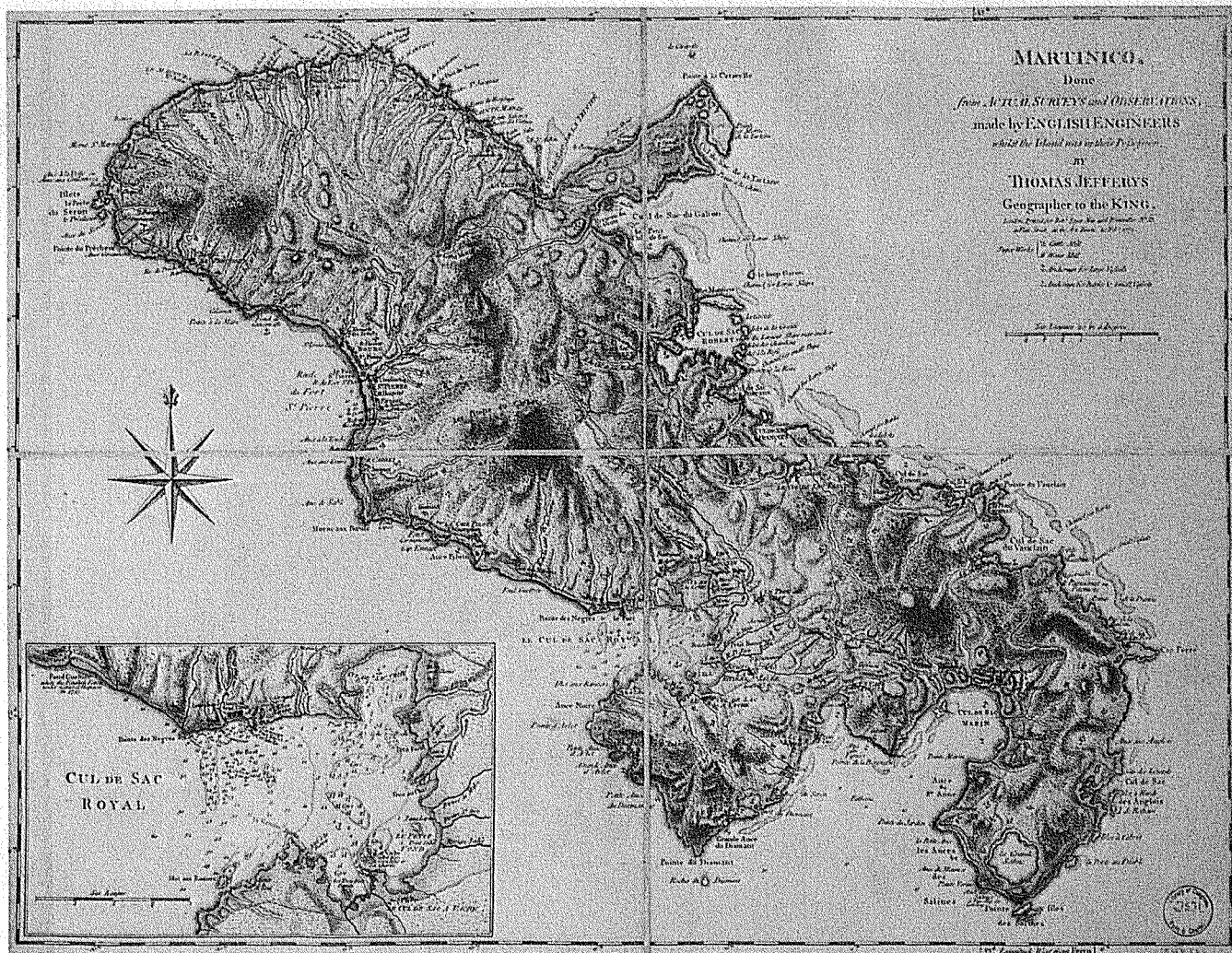
Such a person as your Lordship describes Mr [John] Goodrich called on me in February last, but having no Credentials whatever and giving rather a lame Account of himself I was induced to think him an Imposter; since then have neither seen or heard of him. . . .

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

PIERRE BEGOZZAT TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

Sir St. Pierre Ma[r]tini[que] 13 May 1776

this Letter will inform you Capn Samuel Soule is departed from hence the 14th of April he hath done very well to wait no Longuor for 3000 of Gun powder he wanted more, because our french Vestles have been detained by the Contrary wind till the 6th of this Month, Since that time we have received 14 Vestles laden with provisions and dry goods, they have imported about a hundred thousand of Gun powder & Some Casses of fire



Arms, the first powder hath been paid 5 – lbs, the Americans have purchased about the Half at that rate, the price fall now every day, I hope the next months it will be no more than four about five days [ago] a general assembly hath resolved how the Americans will be received here with provisions of all Sorts, I think it will be Brofitable to the Americans to send here the Produce of their Country, to Exchange them for goods they want, the Brofit of the entry, will pay the risque they will run, I hope the Next Month we will recive about hundred thousand weight of gun Powder at least You May depend upon that, and any Vestle Send here to that Purpose will be well received here,

I wish to be informed of the Safe arrivary of your son in law Mr Paul allen and of your Sloop *Diamond* Capt Soule I am sir [&c.]

P Begorrat

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776, vol. 8, R.I. Arch.

#### 14 May

CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS<sup>1</sup>

Sir

*Triton*, at Quebec, 14th May 1776.

I take the earliest opportunity by his Majesty's Sloop *Hunter* going Express to England to desire you will inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty of the safe Arrival of the Convoy under my Command.

After acquainting their Lordships of the *Swift* Victualler being unfortunately burnt, I saild with the rest of the Convoy, from Portland Road, the 21st March, and on the 13th April struck Soundings on the Banks of Newfoundland, having the preceding Evening passed by several large Islands of Ice and many small drifted pieces. On the 19th I made Cape Ray on the West end of Newfoundland, where I fell in with a vast quantity of drifted Ice which with great difficulty we sail'd thro', & some of the Convoy were for a considerable time stop'd by it we kept forcing thro' till the 24th when we got clear of it – On the 29th in the River St. Laurence between Anticosti and the South Shore, I spoke with his Majesty's Ship *Niger* and a Transport from Hallifax having a part of the 47th Regiment onboard for Quebec – Being very desirous to gain early information of the Situation of that Place I made Sail a head of the Convoy, ordering them to make the best of their way to Isle Coudre, and on the 4th of May I sent a Boat onshore opposite the Isle of Bic, where I got intelligence that Quebec was closely be-seiged, and that the *Isis* and some other Ships were gone up a few days before. my Convoy by passing on the North side of Isle Bic where I was be-calm'd got ahead of me, & I received an Order from Captain [George] Talbot<sup>2</sup> to wait at Coudre (on my arrival there) for farther intelligence, and to take care of any Ships of his own Convoy or mine that I shoud meet with – On the 7th, I anchor'd at Coudre with Two Victuallers, and having there received a Letter from Captain Hamilton<sup>3</sup> dated the 6th that they were apprehensive of being storm'd again, I left Orders for the *Bute* and *British Queen* who were a few Leagues a stern of me to follow as soon as



possible and with the two Victuallers Anchor'd before the Town the morning of the 10th Instt: –

I have great satisfaction in acquainting their Lordships that the Officers commanding the Convoy paid the strictest Obedience to the orders they received from me and that it was entirely owing to their assiduous attention that I was able to arrive with them at so early a Season. – Capn [Thomas] Pringle who now commands the *Lord How* as an Armed Ship, having arrived at Isle Coudre before me on hearing the Town was closely beseiged, and knowing of what consequence the reinforcement he had on board might be, proceeded immediately up to the Bason, and Anchor'd before the Town the 8th instt. I am happy upon this occasion to acknowledge the great assistance I received from him upon the passage from England, not only in keeping together for some time a part of the Convoy which was unavoidably seperated from me in the foggy Weather we met with, but also upon every occasion shewing an Alacrity in the Service we were employ'd upon which must recommend him to their Lordships Notice as a diligent and active Officer. I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Skeff<sup>n</sup> Lutwidge

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2054, 6, 12.
2. Commanding the *Niger*.
3. Captain of the *Lizard*, and in command of the naval battalion in Quebec.

#### GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Quebec 14th May 1776. –

My Lord! After this Town had been closely invested by the Rebels for five Months, and had defeated all their attempts, the *Surprise* Frigate, *Isis*, and Sloop *Martin* came into the Bason the 6th Instant. –

As soon as that part of the 29th they had on board, with their Marines, in all about two hundred, were landed, they, with the greatest part of the Garrison, by this time much improved, and in high Spirits, marched out of the Ports of St Louis and St John's, to see what those mighty Boasters were about; they were found very busy in their Preparations for a Retreat, a few Shot being exchanged, the Line . . . marched forward, and the Plains were soon cleared of those Plunderers; all their Artillery, Military Stores, Scaling Ladders, Petards, &c.&c. were abandoned, the *Surprise*, *Martin*, and a Province Armed Vessel, went up the River, when they also quitted the *Gaspe*, and the Armed Schooner *Mary*; the Rear of the Rebels have halted at Deschambault, and the *Surprise*, with the other two Vessels, are a little upon this side of the Falls of Richelieu. –

Thus ended our Siege and Blockade, during which, the mixed Garrison of Soldiers, Sailors, British and Canadian Militia, with the Artificers from Halifax and Newfoundland, shewed great Zeal and Patience under very severe Duty, and uncommon Vigilance, indispensable in a Place liable to be Storm'd, besides great Labor necessary to render such attempts less practicable . . .

May the 3d about ten at Night a Fireship attempted to run into the Cul du Sac, where the greatest part of our Shipping were laid up, but

this also proved abortive, and she burned to the Water's edge without doing us the least Injury; 'tis supposed they intended a general assault, had they succeeded in setting Fire to the Ships and lower Town. —

I cannot conclude this Letter without doing Justice to Lieutenant Colonel Maclean [Allan McClean], who has been indefatigably Zealous in the King's Service, and to his Regiment, wherein he has collected a number of experienced good officers, who have been very useful; Colonel [John] Hamilton, who Commanded the Battalion of Seamen, his Officers and Men discharged their Duty with great alacrity and Spirit, the same thing must be acknowledged of the Masters, inferior Officers, and Seamen belonging to his Majesty's Transports, and Merchant Men, detained here last Fall; only one Seaman deserted the whole time; the Militias British and Canadian behaved with a steadiness and Resolution, that could hardly have been expected from Men unused to Arms, Judges and other Officers of Government, as well as Merchants, cheerfully submitted to every Inconvenience, to preserve the Town; the whole indeed upon the occasion shewed a Spirit and Perseverance, that does them great Honor.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 42/35.

*American Gazette*, TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1776<sup>1</sup>

Halifax, May 14.

Sunday last the *Glasgow* man of war, Capt [Tyringham] Howe, with four vessels under her convoy, sailed for England: — In this fleet went many Gentlemen of *Distinction*, viz. Francis Legge, Esq; Governor, and James Monk, Esq; Solicitor-General of this Province, Gov. [James] Wright of Georgia, Thomas Oliver, Esq; Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts-Bay, and President of the Council, Hon. Peter Oliver, Harrison Gray, John Murrey, Richard Lechmore, John Erving, Nathaniel Hatch, and George Erving, Esqs. Councillors; Brigadier-General Royal, Col. Vassal, John Gore, Esq; Adino Paddock, Esq; Captain Joye, Mr. Laughton, Mr. Brindley, Mr. Bowes, Mr. Inman, Mr. Deblois, Thomas Danforth, Esq; Benjamin Gridley, Esq; Mr. Pitman and Mr. Pelham, all of them of Boston, and most of them with Families; Charles Dudley, and George Rome, Esqrs; of Newport.

1. This news was reprinted from the *Nova-Scotia Gazette*. The June 19, 1776 supplementary issue of the *American Gazette* noted: "By Captain Joseph Cook, of the Schooner *Elizabeth*, who arrived at Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, Yesterday from Canso, in Nova-Scotia, we are favored with Two Halifax Papers."

#### MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford*<sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Thatcher's Isld N N E 2 Leags

Tuesdy 14

saw a Sail under the land out Reefs and gave Chase at 11 found the Chace to be a Rebel Privatr Hove in Stays & fir'd 2 Nine Poundrs & stood off[f]

Mode & fair discovered a Rebel Privateer Coming out of Cape Ann Harbr Tack' Ship and gave Chase at 2 the Chace Bearing for Cape Ann Harbr fir'd 5 three Poundrs & 10 Nine

pounds, at 6 Spoke the *Orpheus* saw 2 Sail to the Etward  
made Sail & gave Chace at 1½ past the *Lively* fir'd a Gun at  
the Chace Shortend sail & haul'd our Wind *Lively* & Chace  
standing to the Etward.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

JAMES FULTON TO HIS SHIP OWNERS IN ENGLAND <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Salem, May 14, 1776.

This is to acquaint you, that we were taken by an armed schooner, Capt. [Samuel] Tucker, commander, on the 6th of this instant, within two miles of the light-house of Boston, and in sight of four men of war. We are used very well, and have liberty to walk where we please; but when we shall get home, I cannot tell; but will come home as soon as possible.

James Fulton.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, July 3, 1776. Fulton was master of the transport brig *Jane*. In the *Remembrancer* there is a paragraph reading: "The *Jane* (formerly the *Minerva*) Fulton, a transport, from Clyde to Boston, was taken by the Provincials on the 6th of May, and carried into Salem. . . . The above ship had a cargo on board, worth upwards of 6000 l. which is mostly insured at Glasgow." John Almon, ed., *The Remembrancer or Impartial Repository of Public Events* (London, 1776), III, Part II, 139. Hereafter cited as Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*.

RICHARD DERBY, JR. TO THOMAS CUSHING <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Salem 14 May 1776

The Honble the Councill some time since did me the Honour to appoint me one of a Committee for building Armed Vessells, and agreeable to my Directions I have had one of said Vessells compleated more than three weeks ago, which vessell might now have been on a Cruize against our unaturall Enemys, had I been furnished with Cannon & other necessary Implements – I think 'tis of Importance that no more time should be lost, & if your Honour is of the same oppinion I beg you will assist the Bearer, one of the Lieutenants of the *Tiranicide*, in procuring Canon for said Vessell. Comodore Manly, last Evening from Boston, informs me, he saw a Considerable number of 6 lb Cannon, with only one Trunnion off, which is of very little Consequence, as this can soon be Repair'd –

I have ordered the Bearer, & with your leave, he will tarry & see these Gun's put on board a Boat for this Place, where I have the Caryages, Provision &c &c for said Vessell Ready – six pound shot & 12 Swivell Guns are also wanted & some Pistolls if to be obtained.

The Plan on which these Vessells was ordered to be Constructed is by no means agreeable to me, I have made some Little alterations in the one now Compleated, and have taken the Freedom, in the one I am now Building to make many more; such as Increasing the Length six feet, two Inches more Dead Rising & six Inches more Beam, this vessell will be soon Compleat & 'tis time even now to begin to procure materialls for fixing her – I have Rigging Enough but Duck will be wanted, – nothing on my part shall

be Wanted if can be provided – Please Excuse my Innacuracys as I have wrote very haistily & believe me to be Sir [&c.]

R. Derby Junr

I have not had an opportunity to see the Committee and hope the alterations I have made without their consent will be over looked as I had [no] other motive in Doing it, but making the Vessell more fit for Publick Service as a Cruiser.

To the Honble Thomas Cushing Esqr

Chairman of the Committee of War

[Endorsed] answered May 15, 1776 by the Committee who Referred him to the Commissary General for the necessary Supplies and wrote to the Com General ordering him to do it

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 397.

### JOSEPH Lee and MILES GREENWOOD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

The Petition of Joseph Lee of Beverly and Miles Greenwood of Salem – Humbly sheweth

That your Petitioners, together with several other Persons, their Partners, have at their own Cost, fitted out an Armed Sloop, called the *Revenge*, for the purpose of making Reprisals on the Enemies of the united Colonies of North America, agreeable to the Laws and Regulations of this Country, and which Vessell is now all ready for Sailing; Your Petitioner's humble Prayer, therefore is, that Joseph White of Salem may be Commissionated Captain of the said Armed Sloop, and your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray

Joseph Lee      Miles Greenwood

Watertown May 14th 1776

The abovementioned Sloop is burthen Ninety five Tons – carries twelve Carriage and sixteen Swivel Guns, Navigated by Eighty five Men.

[Endorsed] In Council May 14th 1776 Read & order'd that a Commission be issued to the abovementioned Joseph White as Commander of the Sloop *Revenge* on his giving Bonds agreeable to the Resolves of Congress      John Lowell Dpy Secy P T –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 356.

### CONTINENTAL BOND FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SLOOP *Revenge* <sup>1</sup>

1776 *Revenge* Sloop. Guns, 12, and 16 swivels; Men, 85.

Commander: Joseph White

Bonders: Joseph Lee [Beverly] and Miles Greenwood [Salem] merchants, and Joseph White [Salem], mariner

Owners: Joseph Lee, Miles Greenwood and others <sup>2</sup>

Witnesses: John Lowell, John Molineux

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 6, 339. An abstract from the bond. This source contains numerous bonds.

2. One of the other owners was Josiah Batchelder, Jr., whose share in the sum of ninety pounds was acknowledged on May 18, 1776, by Joseph Lee "on acct of the Sloop *Revenge*," Bartlett Papers, 2428, BHS.

JOURNAL OF BARTHOLOMEW JAMES<sup>1</sup>

[May 4 to May 14]

From the time of our arrival [at Halifax, in his Majesty's ship *Orpheus*] to the 4th of May we were employed fitting the ship for sea, on which day we quitted this port and stood to the southward; and on the night of the 8th spoke his Majesty's sloop *Merlin*, with two transports from Amboy bound to Halifax. On the 12th we spoke the *Milford* and *Lively* on a cruise,<sup>2</sup> and that day arrived in Nantucket [*sic* Nantasket] Road, Boston, where we found lying the *Renown*, Commodore [Francis] Banks, whose broad pennant we saluted with thirteen guns. During our stay here a constant cannonade was kept up by the rebels at the ships, which we occasionally returned. And on the night of the 14th, having been sent on shore to secure our boats with a party of men, while watering, I furnished my berth with a handsome table and half a dozen chairs.

1. John Knox Laughton, ed., *Journal of Rear-Admiral Bartholomew James 1752-1828* (London, 1896), 25. Hereafter cited as Laughton, ed., *James' Journal*.

2. According to the *Milford's* journal, she spoke the *Orpheus* on May 14, not May 12. James' narrative frequently seems hazy on dates.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Hartford, May 14th, 1776.

Would acquaint your Honor that upon application being lately made to the Honorable Continental Congress, to have the cannon and such other of the stores which Commodore Hopkins brought from New Providence, except what was necessary for the fleet, to be left at New London for the defence of that port; the Congress considering the importance of having that place well fortified, passed a resolve directing said cannon and stores to be left at New London, for the purpose aforesaid, as will appear by a copy of said resolve which I herewith transmit to you. But I was much surprised and disappointed to find that the Commodore had sailed from that port without complying with said resolve. Have wrote him upon the subject, and have to request the influence, aid and assistance of your Honor, that the cannon, stores &c., may be sent back to that port, as soon as possible, agreeable to the expectation and resolve of the Congress, as before mentioned.

1. *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society*, VI, 156-57.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Hartford, Tuesday 14 May, 1776

Gave order on Pay-Table for Wm. Griswold for £125 12, as follows, *viz.*:

Please to draw on the Treasurer for the sum of £125 12 0, in favor of Capt. Wm. Griswold, for and in payment of the hire of the brig *Minerva*, employed the last season as an armed vessel in the service and for the defence of the seacoasts of this Colony, under the command of Capt. Giles Hall,

being the sum and amount of said hire according to charter party, as the account has been settled and allowed by the Governor and Council of Safety, March, A.D. 1776.

To the gentlemen Committee of Pay-Table, Hartford.

N.B. *I was to have carried it to him in March, going to Philadelphia, therefore dated it in March.*

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 401-02.

BILL OF ANTHONY PERIT AGAINST THE CONNECTICUT BRIG *Defence* <sup>1</sup>

[New Haven, May 14] <sup>2</sup>

| Colony of Connecticut to Anthony Perit |                             |      |   | Dr               |  |
|--|-----------------------------|------|---|------------------|--|
| [Feb.] 9                               | To 11 Yds Blue Tammy        | 1/7  | £ | 0.17..5          |  |
| 10                                     | To 2 lb 6d Nails            |      |   | 0..1..9.         |  |
| 22                                     | To 1 Keg white lead 0.2.0   | 84/  |   | 2..2..0          |  |
|  | To 3 lb 6d Nails            | 10½d |   | 0..2..7½         |  |
|  | To 1 Brass Hob lock         |      |   | 0..6..0          |  |
|  | To 3 lb 6d Nails            | 10½d |   | 0..2..7½         |  |
|  | To 26½ yds white Tammy      | 1/7  |   | 2..1.11½         |  |
|  | To 2 lb 6d Nails            | 10½d |   | 0..1..9.         |  |
|  | To 2 Gimblets               | 4d   |   | 0..0..8          |  |
|  | To 4 lb 24d Nails           | 8½d  |   | 0..2.10.         |  |
|  | To 1 Spick Gimblet          |      |   | 0..1..0          |  |
|  | To 35 yds Oznabrigs         | 2/   |   | 3.10..0          |  |
|  | To 1 Bolt Oznabrigs 71 Ells | 2/4  |   | 8..5..8.         |  |
|  | To 1 Pad lock               |      |   | 0..1..2          |  |
|  | To 2 Half hour Glasses      | 1/6  |   | 0..3..0          |  |
|  |                             |      |   | <hr/> £18..0..5½ |  |

The above Goods Deli[vere]d James Rice –  
for Use of the Row Galley [*Whiting*] –

|                    |    |                  |
|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 20 Yd[s] osnabrigs | 2/ | 2..0..–          |
| 8 Yds ditto        |    | .16..–           |
|                    |    | <hr/> £20.16..5½ |

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 67-68, ConnSL.

2. *Ibid.*, 1, bill rendered that day, according to general account of the *Defence*.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HENRY BROCKHOLST LIVINGSTON TO GEORGE  
WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Fort Constitution 14th May 1776

Sir/ I arrived here the 9th Instant, but did not take the Command till today, as Colo [Isaac] Nicol did not think himself releived before.

The Fortifications intended here with a few improvements will render them almost impregnable, and impassable if a Boom was thrown Across the River Oposite them; which I think very Practicable as the River at this

Place is no more than 500 Yards – its Depth 18 Fathom, the Tide not so rapid as at New York and a very Bold Shore 2 Whale Boats with Oars at Each Post are much wanted to render the Communication more easy, I fancy they might now be Bought Cheap at New York as they cant be employed in the Fisherie. – Also a Boat to Transport Stores from one Post to another. Colonel Nicol tells me he represented to Your Excellency the Necessity of an Allowance of Rum for the Men upon Fatigue at this Post: and that Your Reply was that they Should be allowed a Gill per Man. – An Order from Your Excellency to the Commissary General would procure us a Supply of that Necessary Article on Working Parties its Efficacy is well Known. . . .<sup>2</sup>

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, Robert Hanson Harrison, writing for Washington, answered this letter on May 19. Little could be done to meet Livingston's needs except that rum and fresh provisions were ordered immediately.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN TUPPER<sup>1</sup>

Sir

New York May 14, 1776

His Excellency received yours of the 13th Instt and It is his desire that you take every possible means in your power to prevent the Intercourse & communication with the Ships of War & to hurry the fitting of the other Boats – As to dislodging the people at the Light House, he does not mean to advise an attempt unless you are morally certain that It will be attended with Success – A Miscarriage wou'd damp the Spirits of the men at the first set out, be held disgracefull, and the Experiment is such case be considered as a departure from the plan & design you went on I am &c

R H

1. Washington Papers, LC.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GREAT EGG-HARBOUR, MAY 14.”<sup>1</sup>

Yesterday Capt. Broadhurst, in the schooner *Fidelity*, from Martinico for Brunswick, was chased in here by a large white-bottomed sloop, with a square-sail and standing top-sail, supposed to be a tender, as she appeared to be full of men; she followed the schooner on to the bar, till it was thought she struck; – being low water, and the bar rough, she wore round and stood out, and has been beating off and on ever since.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 22, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, May 14, 1776

Martin Strobach [Strobagh], lieutenant of marines on board the *Hornet* sloop, finding the service by sea to disagree with him, and apprehending he can be of more use in the land service, begs permission to be discharged

from the present service he has engaged in, that he may apply for a lieutenancy in the Pennsylvania artillery company, where there is a vacancy, which he is encouraged to make application for: <sup>2</sup>

*Resolved*, That leave be granted to discharge him.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 352, 355-57.

2. John Martin Strobach was commissioned a lieutenant in Thomas Proctor's artillery company. Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, April 1775 to December, 1783* (Washington, 1914), 525.

#### MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 14th May, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Officers of the Ship, Armed Boats, Floating & Land Battery, make report to this Board the quantity of Military stores they now have.

Whereas, several Gent'n have offered to form themselves into Companys of Volunteers, and whenever called upon in defence of this River, to enter into actual service on Board any armed Boat that shall be provided for them by this Committee, under their own officers.

*Resolved*, That this Board has a just sense of their spirited & patriotick offer, and Messrs Sam'l Howell, Thomas Wharton, & Owen Biddle, are appointed to confer with those Gent'n, receive their proposals, consider of the best means of employing them, and of the expediency of making any alterations in any of our armed Boats for the use of the said Volunteers, & consult Capt. [John] Rice upon that subject and that they make a Report to this Committee as soon as possible.

*Resolved*, That it appears necessary to build two Gallies for the protection of the Commerce in Delaware Bay, and that the above Committee procure the same to be built by Boat builders, with all possible dispatch.

*Resolved*, That it appears necessary to Fortify some part of the Jersey shore for the Defence of the River Delaware.

Upon application of the Marine Committee, orders was give to admit the sick Men from Capt. [Lambert] Wickes' ship into the Hospital at Province Island.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 567-70.

#### WOOLSEY & SALMON TO JOHN PRINGLE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 14th [May]

we shall as soon as the Brig gets away, make out Your Acct & Get all settled to satisfaction. Mr. Russell is Arrived in Town, he got all safe Landed at Indian River, and is now a getting them over he had five Tons of Powder in which will be some help. he goes out again for the same Consarn, & we think we Can get You any sum in Your Share (at present we are only £ 50 and do not mean to put more in now) . . . the Boat Russell is in is a fine Boat, and therefore think You had better fix soon if You do anything



by him . . . your brig now full, has on Bd 1189 Barrls 113 half Barrels flour 448 Keggs Bread 1000 hhds Staves, 1500 bls do all on freight, the Capt Goes to Morrow to Annapolis, & by Next Post shall tell you which way she goes, & Perhaps You may have time to give further Orders if not we shall do what we think Necessary<sup>2</sup> . . . we are sorry to find that ships of war is got up as high as Wilmington we do not think they can hurt your Town but they must Certainly, stop all Trade which will injure us here Very much.

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Woolsey & Salmon wrote again to Pringle that George Woolsey and the brig's captain had gone to Annapolis but "we do not yet know when she will get her Orders to Sail. Neither will they tell us what Island she will go to, of Course it puts out of our power to let you know our Council are Queere People," *ibid*.

#### MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, May 14, 1776.

A warrant to Richard C. Graves for £15.5.0 for arms for the marine service.

Same to Capt. James Barron for £44.10.8 for the pay of the Hampton militia under his command to the 12th April.

Same to same for £108.11.6 for the pay of the men belonging to the Boat *Liberty* to the 25th April.

Same to same for use Rich'd Barron for £62.12.0 for do. for Boat *Patriot* to the 25th April.

Same to same, use Wm. Watkins for £3.0.0 for work on board the Boat *Liberty*.

Same to Capt. James Barron for £16.10.10½ for sundry necessities to the Boat *Liberty*, also for use Capt. Rich'd Barron for [£] 5.8.9 for 435 lbs. junk to Capt. [John] Calvert.<sup>2</sup>

Same to Capt. James Barron for use Latimer & Parish, and for £140 for the boat *Patriot*.

Same to same for use Ballard & Bayley, £200 for the boat *Liberty*.

1. *Journal of the Committee of Safety of Virginia From February 7, 1776, to July 5, 1776, Calendar of Virginia State Papers* (Richmond, 1890), VIII, 176. Hereafter cited as *Virginia State Papers*.

2. Commander of the galley *Norfolk Revenge*.

JOSIAH SMITH, JR. TO MATTHEW CLARKSON AND MICHAEL HILLEGAS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Gentlemen

[Charleston] May 14th, 1776. –

The 25th March per Post, I wrote you in reply to yours of the 28th February, in which I expressed my Willingness to transact for you the business you requested of me to do with Theobald Ent, who at that time not being arriv'd here, I was fearful had fallen into the Enemys hands, or perished on the Seas – the former misfortune it seems has been his portion, being taken by the *Syren* Man of Warr 15 days after he left Philadelphia, and carried Prisoner into Cape Fear, himself & 45 of his Companions that could not be

prevail'd on by threats or promises to enter into the Brittish Service, were confined onboard an Hospital Ship in the River, where they suffer'd exceedingly in the want of suitable provisions, which put 18 of them to the desperate attempt of getting to Shore on a Raft they had contrived in the Night, and which they happily accomplished. – Ert, with three others, soon after took the resolution of swimming to shore in the Dark, but he only, came safe, the others having drown'd by the way. The other 24 were afterwards put on Shore from the Ship in order to save their scanty food. three of the 46 are return'd overland to your place, and forty sett off on foot for this, most of them are come in, and Ert among them, he appear'd to be in a tatter'd State but in good Spirits. they have Join'd our Artillery Regiment, Ert is in the first Company under Command of Capt [Barnard] Beekman, who is a very good Officer. . . .<sup>2</sup>

1. Josiah Smith, Jr.'s Letter Book, 1771–1784, UNCL.

2. This tells what happened to Captain Francis Proctor's artillery company which sailed from Philadelphia February 16, 1776 for South Carolina and were taken prisoners on March 15, 1776, by H.M.S. *Syren*. See Volume 4, 358.

#### RICHARD HARRISON TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS SPEAKE<sup>1</sup>

Sir

St Pierre Martinique May 14. 1776.

I have now by me Sixty Barrells of Gun powder & twenty two Barrells of Sulphur, which I am desirous of Shipping to America for the province of Maryland, for whose use I purchased it. – If therefore, you will take it on board the Schooner *John*, belonging to Messrs Jenifer & Hooe, & now commanded by you, and will safely deliver it to any Committee in Maryland, Virginia or Pennsylvania; I do hereby promise & engage that the Council of Safety of the first mentioned province shall allow & pay unto your Owners a just & satisfactory Freight for the same. – And further, that should the Vessel be lost at Sea, or taken by the Ennemy, in either case, your Owners shall receive the sum of four hundred pounds Common Currency of Maryland, as a Compensation for their Loss, from the Council of Safety as aforesaid.

The Swivels & small Arms I have put on board for the protection of the Cargoe, together with the Articles thereunto appertaining, I agree shall go to the public Expence, and you must accordingly deliver them with the Cargoe as already directed.

If these proposals are agreeable to you be pleased to signifie your Assent by a Line at bottom.

I am, wishing you a safe passage, in behalf of the province of Maryland. Sir [&c.]

R Harrison

[Endorsed] Sir I do in behalf of my Owners, Messrs Jenifer & Hooe, consent to take the Goods you have mentioned above, on board the Schooner *John*, on the Terms you offer. and am Sir [&c.] Fr<sup>s</sup> Speake,

To Mr Richd Harrison St Pierre.

May the 14, 1776

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 10, Md. Arch.

GOVERNOR ABRAHAM HEYLIGER TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG <sup>1</sup>

Sir.

It is not without the greatest real Concern that I find myself reduced to the disagreeable Necessity of complaining to your Excellency of an Insult very recently offered to the Flag of their High Mightinesses the Lords States General of the United Netherlands and my person as Governor of this Island, by John Colpoys Esquire Commander of His Britannic Majesty's Ship of War the *Seaford* in the following manner.

On the 10th Current the said Ship of War came to an Anchor here and the usual Ceremonies of Salute being adjusted with the proper Officer, paid the Ordinary Compliment of the garrison which was returned with equal courtesy: in a few hours afterwards Capt'n Colpoys by a Lieutenant Signified to me; that he had received information of a Sloop belonging to Philadelphia being Anchored in the Port, requiring my permission to Seize her, to this demand or request not less Extraordinary than impertinent, I returned, as was my duty, a negative conceived in as gentle Terms as the nature of the case would permit, notwithstanding which he saw proper to cause certain of his Crew to board and take possession of her by Violence and then sent me a Letter of which the inclosed piece No 1 is a copy; to this repetition of his absurd demand I returned an answer in writing of which the piece No 2 is a copy; and ordered withal the proper Officer of the Government to take possession of the Sloop, which he did but not without some opposition on the part of the Officer & people Capt'n Colpoys had been pleased to put aboard, and some short time after their retreat, I received a Second Letter from that Gentleman, of which the piece No 3 is a copy, as preposterous as affrontive. <sup>2</sup>

I Complain not to your Excellency of the indecent and insolent behaviour of a Subaltern. I believe a Midshipman employed to bring Messages on the part of Capt'n Colpoys, because of my Contempt of his illiberality Secured him from being punished upon the Spot, I think him also beneath your Excellencys notice.

To a Gentleman acquainted as you are with the treaties, of Amity Subsisting between my Masters and his Britannic Majesty, it is unnecessary to say that the Conduct of Captain Colpoys was such as I neither ought or can consistent with the duties of my function, overlook without demanding and receiving such Satisfaction as hath been accorded to other Governors acting under the commission of a free and independent State in cases of a Similar nature.

When I did myself the honour of complaining to your Excellency formerly of the Singular ridiculous and irregular Conduct of William Garnier Esquire Commander of His Majestys Ship the *Argo*, I received neither Satisfaction or Answer; Altho' I had an apparent claim of the former from your Excellencys Justice and might justly have hoped the latter from your known politeness.

The Political contention between Great Britain and her American Colonies neither hath or ever can furnish the former with any plausible reason for offering causeless insults to the Flag of any neutral power, and it is under that persuasion that I expect your Excellency will not only procure me intire Satisfaction from Captn Colpoys, but give such Orders to the particular Cruizers of the Squadron under your Excellency's Command as may prevent any future wanton infractions of the Law of Nations or of the particular Treaties subsisting between his Britannic Majesty and the States General of the United Netherlands.

This Letter will be handed to your Excellency by Mr Charles Chabert and I flatter myself with the Expectation of receiving by him such an answer as may prevent all future Altercation. I have the Honour to be with the most respectful consideration, Your Excellencys [&c.]

Abr<sup>m</sup> Heyliger

St Eustatius 14th May 1776.

James Young Esquire, Commander in Chief of his Britannic Majesty's Squadron Stationed at the Windward Island, Antigua.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. For these three "pieces" see exchange of correspondence between Heyliger and Captain Colpoys, May 10, 1776.

## 15 May

### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Surprize*, CAPTAIN ROBERT LINZEE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

At Single Anchor off Point Au Platoun

Wednesday 15th AM. The Schooner returned and inform'd us that she had got the *Gaspee* Brig, off, and sent her down to Quebec. People Employ'd occasionally.

Mode and Cloudy Weather. PM. Came on board a Deserter from the Rebels. People Employ'd Variously. <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Surprize*, on orders from Captain Charles Douglas of the *Isis*, dropped down to Quebec on May 19, and sailed from there May 22, bound for a station off the Island of Bic in the lower St. Lawrence. She remained there until June 25, and then sailed to join the Newfoundland squadron.

### MAJOR GENERAL JOHN THOMAS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Three Rivers, May 15, 1776

. . . The invalids who have got in I shall leave here with the other troops for a few days, where Mr. [John] Bonfield tells me he can provide for them. I shall repair immediately to the Sorel, and advise with the principal officers there; if the boats and gondolas are in readiness, it will be my opinion to return with the utmost expedition to Deschambault, a post I am, for many substantial reasons, extremely unwilling to abandon to the enemy. Not a vessel of theirs has yet been able to pass the falls of Richelieu, so difficult is the navigation. But should it, after a thorough inquiry, be thought advisable to fortify and make a stand only at the mouth of the



*John Thomas.*

Sorel, and give up the large tract of country below, the observations Mr. [James] Price makes in regard to our taking post at the little river Berthier, I believe are just and shall be attended to.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, VI, 588-89.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONGRESSIONAL  
COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Sorrel May 15th 1776

... Mr [John] Bonfield a Gentleman of Character arrived here Yesterday, he left Sully on Thursday last Decham: on Saturday Morning – where General [John] Thomas was with only nine hundred Men Colonel [William] Maxwell was at Jacques Cartier, but the Number of Men with him Mr Bonfield could not tell – Mr Bonfield saw a Number of the regular Officers and Inhabitants of Quebec before he left Sully, who acquainted him that on Monday the 6th Instant arrived at Quebeck one Sloop of War of fourteen Guns, one twenty and one fifty Gun Ship from England, with two Companies of the 27th Regiment and one Company of Marines, which were immediately landed, who with the Garrison that came out the same Afternoon made a Body of one thousand Men commanded by General Carleton, from whom our people made a most precipitate Retreat without ever firing a Gun, on the 8th arrived a Frigate of thirty Guns and a Large India Man, with five hundred Men from Halifax part of General Howe's Army the whole of which were on their passage for Quebec & six thousand Hessians it is said are on their Way from England – If the latter is true we shall doubtless have our Hands full, Colo: [Ethan] Allen is come out in the Ships from England in Irons (it is given out) to receive his Trial for Rebellion & to be executed here.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Isis, Quebec, May 15th 1776

So many things have happened, & been transacted since my long Letter of the 8th, that I gladly, find myself under the necessity of hereby troubling you with another. On the 8th His Majesty's Ship *Niger*, from Halifax, anchored here, having sail'd from thence, with the 47 Regiment in three Transports under her Convoy, two of which, are this day safely arrived here, as did on the same day, the *Lord Howe*, armed Ship, commanded by Lieutenant (now Captain) [Thomas] Pringle, the other Transport is safe in the river, & hourly expected up, with the *Bute* Arm'd Ship, and the *British Queen* Victualler; Capt'n Lutwidge in the *Triton*, on the 10th in the Morning, having with great Alacrity made the Best of his way up, as soon as he reached the Isle aux Coudres. The *Beaver* & *Agnes* Victuallers, got up the same day, and Capt Pringle, with the Lieutenants Knox Maclellan, & Scot, are in possession of their respective Commissions, which I received from the hands of Capt'n Lutwidge, together with their Lordships other commands; all which shall be carefully attended to. And in compliance, with the Spirit

of their orders to me, of Feby 16th I detain the *Niger* under my command, for some time at least, And shall employ her forthwith, on a Cruize between Cape Roziers, and the Island of Anticosti, his Majesty's service, both in General Carleton's opinion & mine, strongly requiring a Cruizer there, and moreover now and then to look into the bays of Chaleurs & Gaspee, — Whereof I acquaint Admiral Shulldham, at Halifax, the moment the *Magdalen* schooner can be got ready, which I hope may be by the 14th. Both she and the *Hunter* Sloop, have required repair, as does every Ship, Vessel and Boat, which winter'd at Quebec, either from the ice, or Rebel Shot, not excepting Fire transports, all which I have much to the liking of General Carleton, begun to fit out, to act, both in their late capacity and that of floating battery's, in the approaching expedition towards Montreal, to the end that no time be lost I also, at the request of His Excellency, am fitting out the taken Rebel Schooner; the command whereof as Lieutenant I have given to Mr Starke, superceeded by Lieut Maclellan in the *Lizard*, to which Lieutenancy Capt'n [John] Hamilton had appointed him; he having bravely performed the duty of Captain, in the Gallant Naval battalion; And the General therefore much desiring that he may command the said Vessel; which his Excellency has expressed a desire, may be for his own Conveyance, as Occasion may require, If Mr Peacock arrives in time, he shall have his passage to England in the *Hunter* — if not, by the next express, for I humbly judge the late event to be of such importance, that I shall send duplicates in some small hired Vessel, some few days after the above Sloops departure. I hope my Lords Commissioners will approve, of my having appointed, Mr Boyle my first Lieutenant, to the Command of her; Mr Thos Butler Master of the *Isis*, to be my third Lieutenant; Mr Mcevoy first, and Mr Berkley second; all which appointments, after so particularly critical and perilous a Voyage, I beseech their Lordships to conform. I am also under the necessity of appointing Surgeons & Gunners to the *Lord Howe* & *Bute*, and a Master & Carpenter to the *Hunter*; of which I flatter myself my Lords Commrs will moreover approve; the same also, arising from the Exigencies of the Service, and the nature of my present; accidental; situation, hitherto under the Command of nobody, between me and their Lordships, under whose immediate orders alone, I am still acting. The nature of the Service at present in various pressing respects, lays me under the necessity of wearing a broad pendant, until some superior officer arrives in the River, or until the present, or future Commander in Chief, shall order me to haul it down; yea should more force arrive, and our Arms then move upwards, in order to perform my duty, according to my Wishes, for my King and Country's service, and to my own honor, I shall be moreover under, the necessity of appointing a Captain to the *Isis*. To the end, that I may in person superintend the naval operations, quite up to Montreal. As I feel no impressions from the appointments, or Ornaments of a Commodore in this great Affair, I shall be ready to relinquish both without regret; In the mean time I shall hope for the approbation of their Lordships herein being signified to me, by the first conveyance —

Many of the Gentlemen who did the duty of Officers, in the naval battalion, having been thereby put to great expences, wou'd be undone, were not their Lordships to take order for making their pay up to them, according to their respective late Military ranks; and I have been pressed hereby to solicit their Lordships accordingly.

The *Surprize*, *Martin*, and province arm'd Sloop, still keep their Stations near the rapids & are to continue there; as we do not mean to retrograde, even to the most minute appearance. A province Arm'd Vessel carrying 40 men & Guns in proportion, is now cruizing near the Isle of Bic, with Pilots, until I send another of greater force, (also an armed Vessel taken last Winter into the Service by General Carleton) to relieve her, and to continue there to countenance, and protect them, in their functions. I am very well aware, that I may have done, have left undone, and may be doing various matters, which in other times wou'd be reckoned excentric: but I hope their Lordships will impute any such inaccuracies, to the quick deciding, necessity I am under of followng the dictates of my own poor judgement, arising from the nature of my Situation, and the pressing exigencies of His Majestys service. Capt'n Lutwidge in the *Triton* struggled also hard with the ice, in the Gulph, as did the Captains Pringle & Parry, in the armed Ships; and the Victuallers too but was [*sic* what] is very extraordinary, Capt [George] Talbot in the *Niger*, with his Convoy, who passed through the Gulph of Canceau, and between the Island of St Johns, and the Main, on the 24th April saw none at all. I send you herewith an account of our States & Conditions: As also some rebellious papers and acquaint you, that we have recovered the *Gaspee* Brig not very materially damaged, that the whole of the 47th Regiment is now in the bason, & that the *Bute* arm'd Ship & *British Queen* Victualler are hourly look'd for, not having been able as yet to pass the traverses. I am &c –

Charles Douglas

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 76c.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lizard*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE <sup>1</sup>

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| May 1776                  | Laid up in the Coude Sec [Cul de Sac, Quebec]  |
| Monday 12<br>[Sunday]     | Fresh breezes & fair weather . . . Capt [John] Hamilton being ordered home with dispatches in the <i>Hunter</i> Sloop Capt Thomas Mackenzie of the <i>Hunter</i> was appointed to the <i>Lizard</i> & Mr Dunbar Maclellan haveing Superceded Mr Stark as 2nd Lieut both their Commissions were publicly read on the Quarter Deck |
| Tuesday 13<br>[Monday]    | Modt & fair there being no further Occasion for the Seamen in the Garrison, they were Marched up to the Grand Parade to deliver up their Arms.   |
| Wednesday 14<br>[Tuesday] | Fresh breezs & fair Capt Douglas hoisted his broad pendant on board his Majestys Ship the <i>Isis</i> & was saluted by the Men of War and Garrison   |



Thursdy 15 Do Wear A M Arrived here the *Bute* Armed Ship Lieut  
[Wednesday] Perry & *British Queen* Transport Sailed for England his  
Majesty's Sloop *Hunter* recd on board Men from the  
*Hunter*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/550.

JOHN BRADFORD TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Sir

Newbury port 15th May 1776

I but yesterday Recd a Ltr from Mr [Thomas] Cushing under the 7th Instant, informing me you had Acquainted him with my being Appointed Agent for prizes with a power to Appoint deputies, that you had not time to write me, but desired to know if I would accept, in answer to which, I am truly penetrated with a Sense of Gratitude for the honour Conferr'd on me by this appointment, and shall at all times endeavor to Exert my self in such a manner as I hope will Render my conduct irreproachable by my worthy friends who have appointed me

I can with pleasure Acquaint you Sir our Builders go on briskly, the small Frigate we shall launch the next full moon. we this day begin to lay her upper deck and I cant but flatter my self the Ships will be equal in every Respect to any on the Continent

Mr Cushings Ltr. Recd yesterday advises to be looking out for Officers, in order to return their names to your Comme for approbation, wch shall be done so Soon As the nature of the business will Admit of. Capt [John] Ford (I think) of Chensford, a distinguish'd officer in the Bunker hill battle has offer'd himself as Capt of Marines and says, he will bring all his men with him, I make no doubt we shall get the Ships well Officer'd

1. Dreer Autograph Collection, American Navy, vol. 1, HSP.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Experiment*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SCOTT <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Cape Ann WbNo<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>N 6 Leagues

Wednesday 15 A M do at 4 [TKd] <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> past 5 brought too & detain'd a fishing boat belongg to Piscataway, took her in tow, at 8 Saw a sl in the SW out all reefs made sail, at 10 found her to be the *Lively* frigate brot too, at Noon in Co the *Lively* & 10 sail of our Convoy

First part Fresh Breezes & hazy, latter Modte & fair P M Sent the *Vipers* men on bd the *Lively*,<sup>2</sup> joind Co the *Senegal* sloop, at 6 the *Lively* took Charge of our Convoy & bore away for Halifax, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> past made sl & kept the Wind at 12 tack'd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

2. The prize crews which the *Viper* had put on board two prizes she had sent into Antigua; the brig *Tartar*, February 24, 1776, and the brig *Sawney*, March 1, 1776. See journal of the *Viper* for these dates, Volumes 4, 74 and 134.

ACCOUNT BOOK OF WILLIAM SEVER <sup>1</sup>

Kingston 15th May 1776

Colony Dr for Brig *Independence*

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| 3 lb Sole Leather 4/ 1¼ hundd 10 d nails 1/10½ | 5.10½    |
| 100 6d nails 1½ hundd 40 each                  | 1..6     |
| Colony Dr Joseph Shurtloff bill for boards &c  | 14..-    |
| Colony Dr cash pd Anty Thomas for 135l lb pork |          |
| p rect   | 27..0..5 |
| pd Joseph Short carting do                     | 10..-    |
|  | 27.10..5 |
| pd Lazs Goodwin for 7.2.0 Bar Iron @ 40/       | 15..-..- |
| Nathan Spear for 30 Iron bound W[ater] Cask    | 24..4..- |
| 1218 feet Mentd boards pd Silas Cook @ 30/7d   | 3.17..2  |
| Carting do 4/                                  |          |
|  | 70.11..7 |

1. Sever Account Book, 263. Courtesy of Captain and Mrs. Noel Sever O'Reilly, Glenview, Illinois.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL  
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND <sup>1</sup>

[Providence] Wednesday Evening May 15th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment -

Whereas Major Benja Tolman has safely launched the ship that he was building, and it is determined that the other ship may be launched on Saturday provided that Major Tolman gets the way up. It is thereupon Voted that the sum of fifty Dollars be paid to the master Builder of each ya[r]d to be expended in providing an Entertainment for the Carpen[ters] that worked on the Ships. -

Voted That one third of the sum of the Agreement made with Capt Pendleton be paid him for the Disappointment he met with in not bringing the provisions from New Haven bought their for the Fleet. -

Voted That the Committee's Treasurer pay the sum of Twel[ve] Hundred Dollars to Eseck Hopkins Esqr for a Bill drafted by him on the Continental Treasurer at Philadelphia.

1. Journal of the Committee who built the Ships *Providence* and *Warren* for the United States AD 1776, RIHS. Hereafter cited as Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO JOHN LANGDON, PORTSMOUTH <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Provid May 15, 1776 -

I Wrote You of 10th Inst. p Post In Ansr to yrs of the 2nd Inst sinc wch have recd Orders from the Secret Comme of Congress, to send you 100 Bolts of the Contl Duck, wch is now forwarded by Mr Dogets Waggon to the care of Capt Jere Stamford of Ipswich as you Directed it was with the Graitest Difficulty Could get it Carted Just at this Time, Was Obgd to give at the rate of 3/6, LM, p 100 from hence to Boston Cart Houst about 50

Mile & In pro[po]rtion to Ipswich how much further that is cant say wch is 6d more p 100 [illegible] have Wrote Capt Stamford Desirg him to pay the C[h]arges As Do not Choose to take it here – Abolt of Duck supposd to weigh 45 lb –

If you Should Want Any of My Duck please to make strict Orders Other servcs in My Power shall at all times be ready to offer I am Yrs &c

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

#### OWNERS' BOND FOR THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOONER *Success* <sup>1</sup>

Know all Men by these Presents That we Ambrose Page Joseph Russell and Wiliam Russell all of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Four Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves and each of our Heirs Executors and Administrators jointly and severally firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals. Dated the Fifteenth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand seven Hundred and Seventy Six

Whereas Jonathan Donnison Master of the Schooner *Success* is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr Governor of the said Colony a Voyage with the said Schooner to the Island of Hispaniola. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Jonathan Donnison shall in all Things during and respecting said Voyage Conform himself to the Rules and Regulations of the Continental Congress, then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

|                      |   |                        |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Sealed and Delivered | } | Ambrose Page           |
| in the Presence of   |   | Jos Russell            |
| John Russell         |   | W <sup>m</sup> Russell |
| Joseph Green         |   |                        |

1. Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R. I. Arch. This is a standard form of owners' bond, and is illustrative of the many to be found in the Rhode Island Archives.

#### CAPTAIN SETH HARDING TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Fairfield, May 15, 1776

Agreable to order I now transmit to your Honour an account of my proceedings since my last letter wrote while at Fairfield, since which I have enlarged my number to about one hundred and expect soon to have my complement of men. I proceeded with the brig under my command from Black-Rock-Harbour, westward, & on the 12th Instant espied a small sloop attempting to cross the sound which I brought along-side and on examination found eight persons on board who pretended they were going to New York for shad –, but on more strict enquiry found to my satisfaction they were Tories from the town of Redding in Fairfield County bound to Long

Island to Join Peter Fairchild, a noted tory, who had fled to the Island before. One of the eight was Samuel Hawley whose declaration <sup>2</sup> is inclosed the contents of which declaration are a profound secret not communicated even to my officers choosing rather to leave the matter to your Honour's wise direction considering the character of a respectable gentleman who seems to be slightly pointed at. Upon discovering that Peter Fairchild was on the Island I ordered Lieut [Samuel] Smedley with a number of men to proceed to the Island in the small sloop in order to apprehend Fairchild, but upon Mr Hawley's disclosing the whole scene I hoisted a signal for Lieut Smedley to return which he did immediately, and we arrived here this day since which have despatched my orders several ways and have brought in seven Tories more whose names were given me by one of the eight taken on board the sloop and expect some of the leading persons will soon be apprehended. Have ordered a small sloop to be taken into the Government service, and Lieut Smedley with forty men under him to take the Sloop and proceed directly to Long-Island in pursuit of Fairchild with directions to take one of the eight Tories taken in the little sloop who knows the place where Fairchild is lodged and had appointed to join him there who is to write to Fairchild and acquaint him of his arrival which it is hoped will afford Lieut Smedley a favorable opportunity to seize him, I have taken this step from a full conviction of great expediency & even necessity of the measure and by the advice of Jonathan Sturges Esqr <sup>3</sup> whom I have consulted on the occasion in the before-mentioned manoeuvre had an opportunity to open sundry letters passing the sound which have improved but made no material discoveries, I send this to your Honour by my Clerk and pray a Copy of this by him as I am so hurried as not to have time to copy. shall proceed to New London, with a view more thoroughly to fit the Brig and procure such things as are necessary for a cruise unless your honour should order me otherwise it is my opinion it will be highly serviceable to employ several small Cruisers in the Sound especially at the westward, to prevent the collection of Tories on the Island and to prevent the escape of those who are collected there, as it is hoped an attempt will be made soon to seize the whole body of them – I pray your honours directions for my future conduct which I shall endeavour punctually to observe and shall make it my great study to serve the common cause to the utmost of my power. I am with great truth & regard [&c.]

Seth Harding

1. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, Hawley's declaration revealed the Tories' "horrid plot." This date Harding and Sturges joined in a letter to Governor Trumbull asking that Hawley be allowed bond since he had "disclosed the affair voluntarily, without any compulsion . . ." and, furthermore, he seemed "to be very penitent."

3. Sturges wrote to General Washington on May 14 suggesting an army expedition to Long Island "to spread over the whole and break up the gang." Sturges promised that the people of Fairfield would join with the troops. "They should land on the island, to prevent their [the Tories] escape eastward, would land one hundred or more men, and also place guards at our shore at different places." *New York Provincial Congress*, II 114. Washington replied on May 16 requesting specific details, "names or places of abode of the persons alluded to," Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Fort George May 15th:1776 – 10 OClock A.M.

My dear General

This Moment Capt [William] Goforth arrived with sundry Letters and papers to me; Copies of all which I do myself the Honor to enclose to your Excellency.

The Distress our Army is in from their Variety of Wants is truly affecting and gives me the most poignant Anxiety – Some of the inclosed papers observe that General [William] Thompson's Brigade carried only ten Days provision with them, but this is happily a Mistake, for they carried from three to five Barrels of pork in each Batteau with all the Flour that there was at the post, insomuch that Colo: [Cornelius] Wynkoop had to send an Express Boat here for pork and Flour for his Garrison – On the 13th I sent off 120 Barrels of pork, with Orders to have it forwarded without Delay; Colo: Wynkoop writes me that 115 Barrels of it left Tyconderoga on the 14th and it will probably reach St John's to Day.

Immediately on receiving the Intelligence of our Distress in Canada I flew to the Communication below; sent on part of [James] Reed's Regiment; the Front of which I met (on the 5th Day after their leaving Albany) 20 Miles below this: those I sent on, being picked Men arrived here the same evening being the 14th and Yesterday they crossed this Lake with 109 Barrels of pork; 12 Barrels more are gone off this Morning and 110 Barrels with half the Remainder of Reid's Regiment will move to Morrow, and the next Day I hope to send an equal Quantity, and after that about 50 Barrels a Day along with the Troops – ordered to move on Saturday next from the several places where they were halted.

When I met Colo: Reid's Regiment, I had their heavy Baggage taken out of the Batteaus, and loaded them with pork, acquainting the Officers and Men with the Distress our people laboured under in Canada for Want of provisions, but as I could not stay to see the Boats off, being obliged to push further down the River, to the other places of Embarkation, no sooner was my Back turned when the Officers threw the provisions out of the Batteaus, and reloaded their Baggage by which Means I have forty eight Barrels of pork less than I had ordered – At this Outrage and infamous Conduct I must however wink, lest the Service should be still more retarded.

I hope a considerable Quantity of Pork is coming: – if there is, 150 Barrels will be sent off daily from here after the 21st Instant.

I shall be quite out of Nails on Tuesday – I hope a Supply is on the Way up.

Intrenching Tools of every Kind will be wanted, more powder, Lead and Cannon Balls, and Guns for the Vessels on Lake Champlain, Rigging, Sail Cloth and Sail Makers to be sent up . . .

The Misfortunes we experience would in all probability have been pre-

vented had the Connecticut Troops not quitted Canada so early as they did last Year, or had it been possible for Congress to have complied with my repeated Solicitations to send in Troops.

Altho' I believe we shall lose Canada, which will be attended with many disagreeable Consequences, yet I am not under the least Apprehension that they will be able to penetrate into this province. I am with every Wish for your Excellency's Health & Happiness – Dear Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Washington Papers, LC.

# DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] May 15th

. . . part of Several p[ie]ce[s] of the men [of] war, beat off[f] by our Gondolas the other day we brought to [the] Cofee house this day.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

*Pennsylvania Journal*, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1776.

Philadelphia [May 15].

We are told, that the *Roebuck* is one of the handsomest ships of war belonging to the King of Britain, and was built last summer under the particular patronage of Lord Sandwich, whose favorite she is. – The Captain is also of his particular appointment. – *Quere*, What must his Lordship say of his ship, when he hears that she was beat by the “cowardly Americans,” who have nothing but “rusty guns, broomsticks, &c.”

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE DELAWARE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Committee of Safety

Philada May 15. 1776

Gentl

In Consequence of a representation made by your Delegates to the Congress of the Impropriety and danger you apprehend in Exchanging Lieut. [George] Ball for Cap [William] Budden

That Honble Body have passed the following Resolve –

[Here was inserted the Continental resolve of May 15]<sup>2</sup>

This Resolve of the Congress is but just sent down to us and we dispatch this letter instantly by Express to prevent the execution of a Measure that we understand is disagreeable to you Gentl for whom we have the greatest Respect & are [&c.]

By order of the Committee RM. VP.

1. Papers Relating to British Prisoners and their Paroles, HSP.

2. “Resolved, That the committee of safety of Pennsylvania be desired to write to the committee of safety of Delaware government, to suspend the execution of the resolve of Congress, for exchanging Lieutenant Ball for Captain Budden, till farther orders.” Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 357.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

Lewistown, May the 15, 1776.

This Day, about noon, Came down the Bay, and anchored in our Road, the *Roebuck*, *Liverpool* & two Tenders, and as I tho[u]ght it my Duty to let you Know it, I have sent off[f] this Express that you may Govern your selfs Accordingly. Excuse me for Dictating to you, but I think it would be Necessary for to have some of your Arm'd Vessels under Cape May for to Protect your Vessels from the insults of the Pirates' smaull Boats. I am inform'd that Lieutt Ball is to be sent on board his ship, if that be the case, it will be attended with bad Conciquences, for he has had such Liberty, that I Doubt he has got better information that I could wish, therefore I must beg that you would use your Interest with the Congress to have him Remain a Prisoner, if you have any Regard for us here. I should be glad to here something about the matter that I D[e]sir'd you to lay before the Congress in regard to us here, (some time ago,) and in the mean time beleave me, Gentlemen, that I shall doe Every thing in my Power to give you the Earliest acct of any New matter that may turn up. Putting full Confidence in you that you will doe Every thing in your Power for us here. I Re[m]ain [ &c.]

Henry Fisher

Capt. Sheldon return'd yesterday from Sinnepuxent, says there was a Vessel there sent in by the Sloop *Congress*, taken in the Lattd 28, bound from Pensacola, one Hammond, the Prize Master; he said the Capt. when he saw the Sloop *Congress* burnt all his papers, but after being taken there confess'd she was charter'd as a transport; there was found on board 2 or three hundred half Johs, which I forget, her deck is fill'd with Lumber.

J. King.

N.B. - The Sloop *Congress* was in Chase of two Ships, which the Prize Master thought struck to her.

[Endorsements]

My Express set off[f] at 15m. after 5 o'Clock in the Afternoon

Henry Fisher.

Came 20 minuets after 8 o'Clock, went off[f] at 9 o'Clock from

Thomas Evans.

Reced fifty-five minits after Seven, Dispatchd Ten after Eight.

Mat'w Delany.

Rece'd at Wilmington at Half after two, and Dispatch Forty Minuets af. Two.

Thos. Kean.

Directed, To the Committee of Safety in Philadelphia. Express.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 755-56.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND <sup>1</sup>

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Wednesday, May 15]

We lay here [south of New Castle] & above Reedy-Island for three days,

when finding there was no prospect of drawing them down having filled our water, and fully executed all I had in view in going up the river, we weighed anchor in order to drop down to the Capes, where we arrived the 15th

It is, however, a matter of some satisfaction, that the Enemy should have fired away so much Powder & Shot, to so little purpose; For at a moderate computation they could not have fired less in the 2 days then Seven Tuns of Powder, which they obtained with infinite difficulty.

Neither Ship received any damage, the least material: some shot holes thro' the Sails, and a few in the Hull, being the chief of what they sustained – onboard the *Liverpool* no Person was in the least hurt, and the *Roebuck* had only one man killed and another wounded.

During the Action, a Brig that was in Company, onboard which I had sent a few empty Casks by way of clearing the Ship, took an opportunity of deserting to the Enemy: She was quite light, and of little value.

Being now confirmd in my opinion that nothing could be done in the River Delaware without more Ships, a Bomb vessel, and a body of Troops to act with them, I immediately turned my thoughts towards the expedition going on to the Southwd and accordingly took the resolution of leaving the *Liverpool* to cruize off the Capes to intercept the Trade of Philadelphia, and to proceed with the *Roebuck* to join Sir Peter Parker.

1. Hamond, No. 5, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW,  
H.M.S. *Liverpool* <sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

*Roebuck* Delaware Bay 15th May 1776.

Sir: If at any time in the Course of our Cruizing off this place, we should happen to lose Company, or that I should think it necessary to proceed to any other place with the Ship under my Command, It is my desire and direction to you, that you remain with His Majesty's Ship the *Liverpool* on this Station, and Cruize in the manner You shall think best to annoy the enemy and intercept the Trade of the River Delaware.

And whereas I expect the *Glasgow* to arrive here every hour, I would have you keep her to Cruize with You; but should any other of His Majesty's Ships arrive here also, you are to dispatch one of them to Virginia, with any intelligence or information you can collect necessary for my knowledge. I am Sir [&c.]

A. S. Hamond

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN NATHANIEL SMITH <sup>1</sup>

No 157.

Sir Captn [James] Campbell has applied to our Board to exchange two Pieces of Cannon, for two Pieces of Cannon belonging to the Province – four Pounds. – those he has are too long for the Service he is



going on. — <sup>2</sup> If his Cannon are good of the Kind, and will answer the public Service, we are willing to make the Exchange and desire you would let Captn Campbell have two of the four Pounders now at the Battery. We are [&c.]

[Annapolis] May 15, 1776

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

2. Campbell was going privateering in a vessel subsequently named the *Enterprize*. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, IV, 77, NA.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Solebay Cape Fear River 15th May 1776

The 3d instant I arrived Here, with His Majesty's Ships *Bristol*, *Actaeon*, and *Solebay*, the *Sybella* Storeship and Sixteen Sail of Transports, Ordnance Ships, and Victuallers; They are all in this River except the *Bristol*; She must Anchor without the Bar, I have therefore shifted my Pendant for the Present on Board of this Ship, for the convenience of a ready Communication with General [Henry] Clinton, Who has been Here since the beginning of March with Two Companies of Light Infantry; Governor Martin and Lord William Campbell are also Here. The *Sphynx* arrived Two Days before me, with the *Pigot* Hospital Ship, Two Transports and a Victualler; Captain [Anthony] Hunt informs me, that He thinks the *Thunder* Bomb and Her Tender have put Back; Besides the *Sphynx* I found in this River, His Majesty's Sloops *Falcon*, *Cruizer*, and *Scorpion*, the *St Lawrence* Schooner and some Transports; Their Lordships will See by the List which I send Herewith, that There are now Five Transports, One Ordnance Ship, and Two Victuallers, missing. The 2nd instant I fell in with the *Syren* of[f] Cape Fear, and the next Day with the *Mercury*; I sent the former to Cruize for the remainder of the Convoy, from Three to Fifteen Leagues of[f] the Frying Pan, and the Latter from Three to Fifteen Leagues, between the South End of the Frying Pan and Cape Romaine. The *Hawke* Sloop has not been of[f] this Cape, nor can I get any information about Her. Captain [Tobias] Furneaux wrote to me the 1st instant, charging Lieutenant David Cuming of Marines, belonging to His Majesty's Ship *Syren* under His Command, with Shooting in a Duel on the 18th of January last, Mr Joseph Pennington, first Lieutenant of the said Ship, and desiring a Court-Martial on Him; I have given Mr Thomas Newton the Second Lieutenant an Order to Act as First of the *Syren* in the Room of the late Mr Pennington, have appointed Mr Sylvester Moriarty (who has passed His Examination) to Act as Second Lieutenant. General Clinton having applied to me for a Vessel to carry some Dispatches of Consequence from Him to General Howe, I shall send the *Mercury* with Them as soon as They are ready, and also with a particular Account to Admiral Shuldham of all my Proceedings. The *Hinchin-*

*brook* Schooner came in Here, the 4th instt for Orders, and with a Letter from Captain [John] Stanhope of the *Raven*, complaining of the want of Provisions; At the Instance of General Clinton, I have sent Her with Mr Stewart [John Stuart] Superintendant for Indian Affairs, to Pensacola. She is to call in Her Way at Savannah with Provisions for the *Raven* and *Cherokee*; I have stationed the *Hinchinbrook* at St Augustine, and the *Raven* and *Cherokee* at Savannah, till I hear from the Admiral. As I have found all the Ships and Vessels Here, and to the Southward in great want of Provisions, and as the *Levant* Victualler is ordered to Boston, and no Contractors in any of the Rebellious Colonies, and not knowing as Yet, how the Ships to the Southward are to be supplied, I have put the Squadron to Two Thirds Allowance of Bread, Beef, and Pork, have taken about a Weeks Provisions from the Transports (which had near Twelve Weeks on Board) and ordered Mr John Read Purser of the *Bristol* to Purchase out of some Prizes that I have found Here, some Flower and Rice, which will come reasonable to Government; General Clinton brought with Him, a large Quantity of Rum for the Army which He bought on His Way hither, at Virginia. He has promised to spare Us a few Hogsheads, which we are to return in kind, or give Bills for Them – I have sent the *Sphynx* with the *Pensacola Packet* of[f] Charles Town; in the latter, the General sent an Engineer, and I, a Lieutenant with instructions to act in concert with the Engineer, to observe the Motions of the Rebels and gain all the Information in His Power of the State of the Fortifications, and particularly whether any have been lately Erected on Sulivans Island, Cummin's Point or at the Light House; When He has finished His Observations, He is to Sound the Bar with the greatest Exactness, in Order to ascertain the true depth of the Water.

The 12th instt the 33d and 37th Regiments and Four Companies of Light Infantry were Landed at Day Break Two or Three Miles above Brunswick, with a view to surprise about Three Hundred Rebels, Who were incamped near Town, but They had timely Notice, and made Their Escape. The 57th Regiment is incamped at Bald Head, and the rest, near Fort Johnston. General Clinton is in Daily Expectation of Hearing from General Howe; the Season is so far advanced, that it is likely our next Movement will be to Virginia, especially, if the Troops shou'd be wanted soon to join the Main Army.

I have received Your Letter by the *Sphynx* of the 8th of Feby last, inclosing a Commission for Mr John Rickman to be Lieutenant of the *Carcass* Bomb, I am informed that the *Carcass* has been at Spithead, and tho Mr Rickman is now in England, I shall keep the Commission in my Hands 'till I hear further from You. I am Sir [&c.]<sup>2</sup>

P. Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

2. The letter was not posted until later, and Parker added a postscript on May 19, "The 17th instt His Majesty's Ship *Active* and the *Thoetis* Victualler arrived."

"A LIST OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS, TRANSPORTS, VICTUALLER &C. WHICH SAILED UNDER CONVOY OF COMMO SIR PETER PARKER; AS ALSO THOSE WHICH SAILED AFTERWARDS FROM CORK, NOW IN CAPE FEAR HARBOUR THE 15TH OF MAY 1776."<sup>1</sup>

| Ships Names                     | Capts Names    | Ships Names.                 | Master's Names. |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Ships of War.</u>            |                | <u>Lt Knowles's Transpts</u> |                 |
| <i>Sphynx</i> —                 | Anty Hunt      | <i>Myrtle</i>                | { Lt Knowles    |
| <i>Solebay</i> —                | Thos Symonds   |                              | { Goland Burton |
| <i>Actaeon</i> —                | Chrisr Atkins  | <i>Nancy (1st)</i>           | Chas Yarrel     |
| <i>Bristol</i> —                | John Morris    | <i>Emanuel</i> —             | Danl Spencer    |
| <i>Carcass</i> Bb Tender        |                | <i>Blessing</i> —            | Jno Atkinson    |
| <u>Lt Tonkins's Transports.</u> |                | <i>Saville</i> —             | Thos Brown      |
| <i>Harcourt</i> —               | { Lt Tonkin    | <i>Earl of Orford</i>        | Jas Johnson     |
|                                 | { Thos Price   | <i>Union</i> —               | Willm Wallis    |
| <i>Juliana</i> —                | Wm Johnson     | <i>Jenny</i> —               | Willm Pigg      |
| <i>Ocean</i> —                  | Jno Mallam     | <i>Nancy (2d)</i>            | Saml Late       |
| <i>Mercury</i> —                | Jno Chalmers   | <i>King George</i>           | Peter Kelly     |
| <i>Peace &amp; Plenty</i>       | Elisha Preston | <i>Rachl &amp; Mary</i>      | Fras Rowbottom  |
| <u>Army Victuallers</u>         |                | <i>Ann &amp; Isabella</i>    | Gif. Read       |
| <i>Sovereign</i> —              | Php Flin       | <i>Golden Rule</i>           | Isc Thompson    |
| <i>Thos &amp; William</i>       | Jas Smith      | <i>Good Intent</i>           | Jno Wiely       |
| <i>Sea Nymph</i>                | Jno Levitt     | <i>Aurora</i> —              | Jno Wetherall   |
| <i>Pce of Piedmont</i>          | Fras Harman    | <i>Clibborn</i> —            | Wm Thomas       |
| <i>Nancy</i> —                  | Paul White     | <u>Hospital Ship.</u>        |                 |
| <u>Arm'd Ship.</u>              |                | <i>Pigot</i> —               |                 |
| <i>Friendship</i> —             | Robt Lumley    | <u>Ordnance Vessels.</u>     |                 |
| <u>Navy Storeship.</u>          |                | <i>Earl of Derby</i>         | Jno Habberson   |
| <i>Sibella</i> —                | G. Robinson    | <i>Noble Bounty</i>          | Jno Duckman     |

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125, NCDAH Transcript.

"A LIST OF AMERICAN PRIZES TAKEN BY HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS UNDER MY COMMAND. (VIZT) " 1

| Time<br>When<br>Taken | By what<br>Ship<br>Taken | Names of                      |              | From<br>Whence | Where<br>Bound          | Burthn<br>Tuns | No. |      | To whom<br>Consign'd | Lading   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----|------|----------------------|--|
|                       |                          | Vessels                       | Masters      |                |                         |                | Men | Guns |                      |  |
| 1776                  |                          |                               |              |                |                         |                |     |      |                      |  |
| April 17th            | <i>Actaeon</i>           | <i>Frankland</i><br>Sloop }   | Amos Weeks   | No Carolina    | Tortola                 | 50             | 5   | —    | Robt Knox            | White Oak Staves                                 |
| Do                    | Do                       | <i>Sally</i><br>Sloop }       | Jno Riggen   | Do             | Do                      | 50             | 5   | —    | Do                   | Do   |
| April 24th            | <i>Solebay</i>           | <i>Industry</i><br>Schooner } | Nemh Taylor  | Wilmington     | Wt Indies               | 30             | 4   | —    | Nobody               | Flour, Rice, Tar<br>Turpentine                   |
| " 27th                | <i>Actaeon</i>           | <i>Sally</i><br>Sloop }       | Leml Jenkins | Cape Nicola    | Dartmouth<br>N. England | 50             | 6   | —    | Not known            | Molasses, Coffee,<br>Arms Gunpowder<br>& Sulpher |

[Endorsed] List of Prizes taken by the Ships under the Comd of Sir Peter Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486. Enclosed in Parker to Stephens, May 15, 1776.

MAY 1776

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

At a meeting of the Council of Safety,  
[Savannah] the 15th day of May, 1776.

Ordered, that a rowingboat, cockswain and six men be forthwith procured for the service of the public.

1. Allen D. Candler, comp., *The Revolutionary Records of the State of Georgia* (Atlanta, 1908), I, 125, 126. Hereafter cited as Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*.

JOURNAL OF THE BERMUDA ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>

Die Mercurii, May 15th, 1776. Post Meridiem.

Then Mr. [John] Randle, Deputy Secretary, attended, read and delivered a written Paper from His Excellency the Governor to the General Assembly as follows.: -

The Law for ascertaining the price of all kind of Grain being very nigh expiring, I have called you together to consult you on that matter, and to observe to you at the same time that moderation and forbearance were the humane principles that have been the constant guide of our most gracious Sovereign; and all His Majesty's orders and commands tend to direct those Principles of Benevolence and Goodness to be followed. Until the deluded People in many parts of the Continent of America broke into faction, Rage and Anarchy, by Plundering His Majesty's Stores and Arsenals and committing many Acts of Violence in many Parts of His Majesty's Dominion even to open Rebellion.

The Consequence of such Violent and Atrocious proceedings hath caused Coercive measures to be exchanged and pursued with Violence in many Parts of His Majesty's Dominions in place of lenity and moderation. In vindication of the Resistance and Oppressions that many Persons have suffered for their Zealous attachment to our happy Constitution, and to our sorrow it is known that such Hostile and unwarrantable Proceedings have brought on the Horrors of a Civil War in many parts of His Majesty's Dominions, with the Loss of many a Brave Man. And myself hath been the greatest sufferer of any Person in these happy Islands, by the fall of a dearly beloved Son, in the Defence of and for the continuance of the justly admired and happy Constitution of great Britain, with this single consolation, that my Boy hath done his Duty. I think from His Majesty's well known lenity and Moderation I may be authorized to hold out the Flag of Truce to all such as do and will continue in Moderation and Submission, and properly support legal Government. And it is the Duty of every Governor to take care that His Majesty's Subjects be provided with Provisions at a reasonable and Moderate price, and to prevent forestalling and monopolizing. These were my Reasons for my giving my assent to the provision law last year; which is now very near expiring.

And notwithstanding very little of the wheat (as I am informed) hath been sold, It having been kept up at so high a Price, and so long as the Inhabitants could supply themselves in any shape they did not purchase. Yet

so large a quantity of wheat being in these Islands hath alleviated the fears of starving which many Persons seemed to have. But as the late Act of Parliament which I but very lately received from London by a tedious Passage, may prevent any future supplies being brought into these Islands contrary to that Act. I think you will find it necessary to lower the price of the wheat that the poor may be able to purchase it, as the season for our little plantings of Potatoes, &c. hath not been auspicious or fruitful for the present Season.

Gentlemen of the Assembly, I have now an Information to give you which I hope will be pleasing and Interesting to alleviate your fears of Starving, which many Persons have appeared to be terrified with.

It is the following Paragraph taken from my Lord Dunmore's letter to me, word for word:—

“If the People of your Island are loyal, well disposed Subjects, and should have occasion for flour or any thing else that I can supply them with, I shall be willing at your Request to do so.”

This assurance from my Lord is a comfort to me and I hope to all you, which benefit you may have in a legal way to all such as continue to profess Loyalty and act agreeable thereto, and I pray that you may be guided by a due sense of your Duty and Loyalty to His Majesty with a perfect obedience to the Sovereignty of the British Empire, as the only means to preserve yourselves in a state of tranquility and avert the impending danger that hang over such as do Revolt.

George James Bruere

St. George's, May 15th, 1776.

1. Journal of the Votes of the Assembly, 1664-65, Bda. Arch.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM JAMAICA, DATED MAY 15.”<sup>1</sup>

Our Vice Admiralty Courts have lately had some business from the prizes brought in here by Admiral Gayton's squadron. A sharp lookout is kept at the windward passage, and scarce any thing escapes them. Two vessels were brought in yesterday, prizes to a sloop of war. The people on the island are in some measure glad of these helps, the prizes having always a loading very acceptable; yet they wish no disturbances had ever happened, as not only in the article of provisions, but also in that of trade, they will suffer; particularly in molasses and coffee, of which the Americans used to take great quantities — I have the pleasure to inform you of the goodness of our crops of sugars.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 11 to June 13, 1776.

16 May

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Moor'd In the Bason of Quebec

Thursday 16th

Do. W – lat, fresh Breezes – AM, came in & anchor'd here the *Bute* & *British Queen* belonging to my Convo – at 9 AM, the *Hunter* made Sail down the River, going express to England – Recd on bd, brass 6 poundr from the Garrison in Lieu of two 3 pounders Went on Board the *Maria* Schooner by order of the Commodore. Light Breezes & vble – PM, recd an Order to proceed up the River to Point au Tremble with 3 Transports appointed to carry the 47th Regt thither & to protect them in there Operations – at 6 PM, unmoord

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lizard*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Laid up in the Cou'de Sec &amp; the People in Barracks

Friday 16th

employed Stripping the fore & Mizon Masts severl of the Shrouds being Shot away by the Enemy.

[Thursday]

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/550.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, LIEUTENANT JOHN BOYLE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776.

the West end of Orleans N N W

Thursday 16th

A M: Fired a gun and made the Signal for our Boat  $\frac{1}{2}$  past repeated the Signal  $\frac{3}{4}$  past repeated the Signal  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 Weigh'd & Came to Sail Under Single Reef Topsails having Recd on board Capt Hammelton & Majr Caldwell with their Dispatches <sup>2</sup> in Weighing Lost the Kedge Anchor –

First & Middle parts fresh gales & Squally latter light Breezes and fair  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 1 P M Came too with the Small Bower off Bertie in 8 fathom Water & Veer'd Away to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Cable the Church E S E 2 Miles at 4 fired a Swivel Shotted to bring too a Batteaux  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 Weigh'd & Came to Sail Working down the river  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 8 came too With the Small Bower in 13 fathom Water and Veer'd a Way to a  $\frac{1}{2}$  Cable.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

2. Captain John Hamilton and Major James Caldwell carried the official letters of Sir Guy Carleton and Captain Charles Douglas, announcing the relief of Quebec.

CONDEMNATION OF AMERICAN SLOOP *Britannia* AND CARGO IN VICE  
ADMIRALTY COURT, HALIFAX <sup>1</sup>

|               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| Nova Scotia   | } | Cause   |
| Court of Vice |   |   |
| Admiralty     |   |   |
|               |   | Captn [John] Burr Commander of his Majestys Ship the<br><i>Milford</i> – VS John Gray Master of the Sloop <i>Britannia</i><br>and Cargo – |

May 13th [*sic* 16] Court Open'd by makeing Proclamation as usual – Decree  
Pronounc'd as follows –

In the Name of God Amen

We Richard Bulkeley Esqr Judge and Commissary of his Majestys Court of  
Vice Admiralty for the Province of Nova Scotia and the Maritime parts  
thereunto belonging &c &c &c –

Haveing maturely consider'd the Allegations against a certain Sloop  
called the *Britannia* and her Cargo seiz'd & taken by Captn Burr Commander  
of his Majestys Ship the *Milford* <sup>2</sup> libell'd in this court by William Nesbitt  
Esqr his Majestys Advocate General in the said Court for and on the behalf  
as well of the said Captn Burr as on the behalf of his Majesty who therein al-  
legd that the said Sloop was own'd by some one of the Inhabitants of his  
Majestys Colonies now in open Rebellion, & that in open violation of an Act  
of Parliament made and pass'd in the 16 year of his present Majestys Reign,  
one John Gray Master of said Sloop *Britannia* was found trading or on a pre-  
tended voyage to one of the said Rebellious Colonies without any Papers on  
Board laden with wood And the Allegations so set forth in the Libel  
aforesaid haveing been fully proved to us by Evidence Sworne and examined  
before the Register of our said Court by our special Order for that purpose  
& all Persons claiming property in the said Sloop & Cargo haveing been by  
due Process notified & Cited to appear and assert their Claims to the said  
Sloop & Cargo haveing failed so to do – We do Pronounce this our Sentence  
& decree therein as follows. We adjudge & decree the said Sloop *Britannia*,  
her Boats, Tackle and furniture as also her Cargo on board to be lawfull  
prize to the Capters thereof, and we do Condemn the same as such accord-  
ingly and do order the same to be delivered to the Agent or Agents for the  
said Captn. Burr his Officers & Crew to be divided in such Proportions & af-  
ter such manner as his Majesty has or shall think fit to Order and direct by  
his Royal Proclamation or Proclamations issued or hereafter to be Issued for  
that purpose –

Given under our hand & the Seal of the said Court this 16 Day of May  
A.D. 1776 and in the 16 year of his Majestys reign –

Rich. Bulkeley Jud Admtie <sup>3</sup>

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N. S. Arch.

2. Taken April 23, 1776. See Master's Log of H.M.S. *Milford*, Volume 4, 1213.

3. On May 16 the schooner *Betsey* taken by H. M. Sloop *Hope* and ship *Chance* taken by  
H. M. S. *Roebuck* were also condemned. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777,  
N. S. Arch.



JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Moor'd in Halifax Harbr

Thursdy 16

A M Clear'd Hause Unmoor'd and hove Short, at 9 Weighed and came to Sail Came in H M Ship *Greyhound* Haul'd down the Broad Pendant, Steerg out of the Harbour, Stowd the Anchors &c left in the Harbour Vice Adml Shulldham in the *Chath[a]m* with the *Scarbor[o]* & *Greyhound*  
 Light Breezes and Cloudy, at 8 PM the Light House N N W  
 10 Legs Spoke a Ship from St Kits bound to Halifax at 10  
 Squally In 1st Reefs,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

VERDICT IN LIBEL AGAINST THE SCHOONER *Industry* <sup>1</sup>

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay }  
 in New England Essex ss }

At a Court erected to try & condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coast of America, & brought in to either of the Counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, or Essex, holden at Salem in the said County of Essex, by the Honourable Timothy Pickering junr Esquire, Judge of said Court, on Thursday the sixteenth Day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy six

Jonathan Glover of Marblehead in said County of Essex Merchant Proponent in a Libel against a Schooner called the *Industry* about twenty five Tons Burthen, commanded by Francis Butler – The said Francis Butler Claimant. The Time & Place of Trial having been duely notified. After a full Hearing of the said Proponent and the said Claimant, the Bill aforesaid of the said Jonathan & the Claim of the said Francis were committed to a Jury duely returned impannelled & sworn, Which Jury upon their Oath said “that the said Schooner *Industry* with whatever she had on board upon her Return from New Providence, designed to go into Boston in the County of Suffolk in New England & was taken by Hugh Hill in the Schooner *Dove* & his People & carried into Salem in the County of Essex.” <sup>2</sup>

And thereupon, It was by the said Timothy Pickering, Judge as aforesaid, considered and decreed that the said Schooner *Industry* with her Cargo & appurtenances be restored to the said Francis Butler the Claimant for the Use of himself and the other Owners thereof

as appears from the record

attest Isaac Mansfield Clerk

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292, 1022, 1023.

2. *Ibid.*, vol. 180, 274, is an undated petition from Hugh Hill to the General Court stating: “That Your Petitioner in Concert with a Number of his Fellow Townsmen (Actuated & Inspir'd with the hopes of Doing Good to the American Cause and Injuring their Enemies) did some time in the Month of October 1775 by force of Arms Attack Subdue & take a Small Schooner Call'd the *Industry* Commanded by Francis Butler laden with Turtle Limes &c from New Providence bound to Boston. Your Petitioner as soon as he Made the Capture (there being No Courts of Admiralty Establish'd) Communicated it to the

Committee of this Town with the papers found on board sd Vessel, who forwarded them to the Honble Council & in Consequence Rec'd Directions to dispose of the Cargo at Vendue & to deliver the Vessel to the Order of Genl Washington, Which they Complied with, As soon as the Courts of Admiralty were Open'd some of the Persons Concern'd in the Capture of said Vessel Libell'd her & Trial thereon Was had, When the Jury for Want of Proper Evidence & from some Mistaken Circumstances Clear'd Vessel & Cargo and of Consequence made Your Petitioner Liable to Costs Your Petitioner therefore prays your Honors Will take the Matter into Consideration & Grant him an Indemnification from such Costs and from such other Damages as the Owners of sd Vessel may attempt or recover Against him & Your Petitioner as in Duty Bound Will Ever pray  
Hugh Hill."

JAMES LYON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston May 16. 1776 –

... I shall venture to give your Excellency my sentiments of the necessity & importance of an immediate expedition against Nova Scotia, in as few words as I can.

If our late intelligence from Great Britain can be relied on, I apprehend none of our troops in Canada can be spared, whether Quebeck is, or is not, in our hands. Nova Scotia has heard of our intention to reduce that Province, as soon as we can call Quebeck our own, & that the troops now in Canada are to be sent against them. Consequently they are now in profound peace. no ships of war are now in the Bay of Fundy, except the *Marlin* stationed at Anapolis; nor have the Kings troops taken much pains to fortify Halifax, as yet. But as soon as they hear of the reduction of Quebeck, they will immediately make themselves as strong as possible. Nova Scotia will not readily be given up, & if Anapolis & St Johns River are strongly fortified, the eastern part of this Colony, as far as Penobscot will be ruined, it is almost ruined already; & should Machias break up, which lies about ten leagues from the boundary line of Nova Scotia, an infant, & once flourishing country, of upwards of 100 Miles in extent, will probably be deserted & become again a wilderness, or a prey to enemies. Now the whole Province may possibly be taken by surprize, if proper secrecy can be observed. Nine tenths of the Inhabitants, who amount to 12, or 14000 Souls, wish for nothing more, & would join us instantly. A few pieces of cannon, which might be easily conveyed across the Country either by land or water, properly planted on a hill nearly opposite the town of Halifax, would soon demolish the town, & navy yard, & destroy or drive the shipping away. Some variation from the plan already laid before your Excellency would doubtless be necessary – Five thousand men would not be too many to insure success –

If this is the proper time to strike a decisive blow in that quarter, the importance of an immediate expedition is self-evident, victory will add to the other Colonies a teritory of great extent & immense value.

1. Washington Papers, LC. Lyon was chairman of the Machias Committee.

JOSEPH HAWLEY TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Twenty Officers in the British Navy the greater part Midshipmen were confined to this Town on their Parole not to go beyond the Bounds of it the Complaints of the Inhabitants that they were abroad unseasonably in the Night to the Disturbance of the People induc'd us to resolve that they should not be from their Lodgings after 9 oClock in the Evening – though several of them have since declared they were not properly notified of it – About the 20th of March from an Apprehension that some might be inclined to make their Escape a mutual Parole drawn up by one of their own Number & at that Time known only to themselves was proposed to each of them to sign in which the Subscribers after reciting the above Apprehension reciprocally engaged to each other that they would not leave the Place of their Confinement without the Knowledge & Consent of the Majority, all of them signed the above mentioned Paper except Messrs [Henry Edwin] Stanhope, [George] Gregory, [E. E.] Webb, Robinson, Curtis & [John] Atkinson soon after the Comittee was informed by some of the People with whom they lived that a Design of Escape was certainly in Contemplation among the Prisoners, but as they were closely connected among themselves it was impossible to learn who in particular entertained the Design & being often out on Horseback late in the Evening & sometimes absent through the Night, the Comittee thought it necessary about the Middle of April to direct them for the present not to be from their Lodgings after Sunset – In the Evening of the 27th of April Mr Stanhope & Gregory absconded they were pursued & retaken at Middletown in Connecticut & brought back to this place on the first of this Month & comitted to Gaol – when they were examined the next Day before the Comittee Mr Stanhope declared that any Restriction laid on him by the Comittee would discharge him from every Obligation to observe his Parole & that the Order not to be out after Sunset or even after 9 oClock would justify his going away, Mr Gregory excus'd himself on similar Principles they were recommended & are now in close Confinement.

In the Night of the 30th of April Mr Robinson also absconded & has not yet been retaken – On the first of this Month Mr Webb (of whom there had been strong Suspicion) was desired to attend upon the Comittee, one of his fellow Officers declared he had heard him say that he did not think his Parole binding, another testified that Mr Webb had told him he would make his Escape if he had an Opportunity – the Comittee also confined him in Gaol <sup>2</sup> as the other Gentlemen did not appear to be privy to their Companions going off & had only heard them express themselves in general Terms our Conduct toward them is not altered – We should be happy to know the Sentiments of Congress touching the Matters abovementioned & it would be perfectly agreeable to us if any other Place could be chosen where those in Gaol could be confined in a Manner less disagreeable to them how-

ever we shall with the greatest Punctuality observe any Instructions we may receive –

Northampton 16th May 1776

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XI, 49, NA. Hawley was chairman of the Northampton Committee of Inspection.
2. *Idid.*, XXIII, 277, Webb wrote John Hancock complaining about his treatment – “that I think is rather enforced by the hand of tyranny than of Justice.”

ORDER ON CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE FOR BUILDING  
THE SHIP *Oliver Cromwell* <sup>1</sup>

Hartford 16 May 1776

Gent Please to draw on the Treasurer for the sum of Five Hundred pounds, in favr of Cap Uriah Hayden of Saybrook, Master Builder of the ship building at Saybrook for the Use of the Colony, to be by Him accounted for in & about building & Material &c for sd Ship

By Order of the Govr & Council of Safety

W<sup>m</sup> Williams Clerk

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 1162, ConnSL.

CAPTAIN SETH HARDING TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Fairfield May 16th 1776  
12 oclock P.M.

The Brig *Defence* is so well known in this part of the Sound that I apprehend it would have been in vain to have sent her out on the present affairs <sup>2</sup> accordingly with the advice of the Committee took the Sloop *Discovery* into service, gave the command of her to Captn Smedley. – subalterns were appointed from among respectable gentlemen of this town, – Manned her with forty of my own people – hope your Honour will excuse the liberty on this pressing emergency – should imagine it would be of consequence by some small Cruisers to cut off entirely the communication between the Main and the Island, unless sufficient certificates for a Passport were first obtained from Magistrates or the Committee – however submit the whole to your Honour’s judgment. In the meantime as your Honr in Council was pleased to vote that I should have orders to cruise on the High Seas for a while – hope I may not be disappointed – I await your Honrs further commands & shall cheerfully fulfill them with my best abilities <sup>3</sup> As my own desire was I joined Commodore Hopkins at New London after the enemy had left the coast – I obtained leave to pursue your Honour’s first orders – have touched at several places and have now near an hundred men. should have been now ready to have proceeded on a cruise to Sea had not these new affairs turned up – Notwithstanding I mentioned my desires of going to sea, am however all submission to future orders.

<sup>1</sup>. Jonathan Trumbull Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

<sup>2</sup>. To seize Tories on Long Island.

<sup>3</sup>. Governor Trumbull replied on May 18 directing Harding to “continue cruising in the Sound for the present.” Trumbull Papers, V, 32a, ConnSL.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Albany May 16th 1776

My Dear General

I this moment Returned from Still Water where I have been To give Some Directions about Conveying the provisions forward to our Troops in Canada immediately upon the Receipt of The Letters which I forwarded to your Excellency I Draughted a Number of Men for the Batteaus from the Regiments here being well Convinced that the Men appointed for that purpose would not in a year Carry forward provisions Enough to Last our Troops a month, I sent off all the Batteaus to half Moon, (the Night the Express arrived) well Loaded with Pork our Men tho unacquainted with the River carried up the Batteaus & Returned again Early in the morning I had them immediately Loaded & Sent off againn when I had ordered them Constantly to Make two trips in 24 hours I thought best to proceed up the River to See whether it went from there without being Delayed by the Indolence of Such Rascally Batteau men & waggoners as we are Cursed with in this City. when I arrived at half Moon (about twelve miles from hence) Early on the 15 Inst to my Surprize I found three hundred Barrels (which I had sent forward) Lying on the Beach without any teams to Carry them to Still Water about twelve Miles further I Enquired for the waggon Master & was Informed he was at his own House About Six Miles off I Immediately wrote him of the Necessity of his Exerting himself at this time I heard of Some waggons ready to Enter the Service at New City I immediately ordered the Commissary there to Send for & Employ them, – I then proceeded the Same Day to Still Water there I found Some Batteaus Setting off with one oar and a paddle Some indeed had Neither Some of them making one trip to Saratoga Falls in a Day & Some but one in two days Though the Distance is but Sixteen miles & the water not half so Rapid as between this & half Moon. I immediately Draughted a number of water men from Colo Winds Regiment for the Batteaus ordered a party to make proper oars & Paddles and with assistance of the overseer there Contrived matters So that two trips may be made in twenty four hours (at least Double the Number they have heretofore made) . . .

1. Washington Papers, LC.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York, May 16, 1776.

His Excel[lenc]y Congratulates you on the Success of Captn [Samuel] Tucker, & is hopeful more of the Vessels employed for the ministerial Army, will be picked up. They will in some small Degree compensate for the Damage done by seizing those belonging to us.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

COLONEL HENRY KNOX TO JOHN ADAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York May 16th 1776

Such opportunities as the present do not often turn up in the course of human events – The picture – happiness or misery of a great proportion of the human race is at Stake – and if we make a wrong choice ourselves and our posterity must be wretched – wrong choice! there can be but one Choice consistent with the Character of a people possessing the least degree of reason – And that is to Seperate – to Seperate from that people who from a total dissolution of virtue among them must be our enemies – An Event which I directly pray may soon take place; and let it be as soon as it may I Hope we shall like the romans when Hannibal was thundring at the Gates of Rome carry the War into the enemies Country.

I know many people would laugh at this proposition I think but whoever Considers of the total blindness of the present ministry; and the Unprepar[e]d situation In which they will be if the intended armament comes here – their veterans in America – their regular militia Coxcombs – their peasantry unarm'd – In this Situation of affairs admiral Hopkins with three or four frigates might I think plunder & burn Liverpool a place where they seldom or ever have Ships of war a retali[at]ion for Charlestown Falmouth & Norfolk – a successfull expedition of this Kind would give strength and energy to any ambassadors of America which might be at foreign Courts – perhaps this may be chimerical – I know Monsieur Thurot with 2 or 3 frigates landed At Carrick fergus in Ireland in War time, when the whole British fleet almost was cruizing for him and the whole coast alarm'd, and it was a mere accident he was met by Capt Eliot – <sup>2</sup> If so when prepar'd something might be done now by an enmy they effect to despise and they unprepar'd

We are going on rapidly in fortifying this place and in a few days I think we shall be able to give any troops a proper reception – I wish Boston was as well fortified not that it appears probable the enemy will attempt it again – but it would give a greater confidence knowing it to be secure – I am afraid sir you will repent the Invitation you gave me to correspond with you and under the influence of that fear I shall wait for one short line to dispel it. In the Interim I am Dear Sir [&c.]

H. Knox

1. Adams Papers, MassHS. Materials drawn from the Adams Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society are copyrighted and printed by special permission of the Society.

2. An exploit of the Seven Years War which culminated with the capture of Thurot in the frigate *Belleisle* by Captain John Eliot in the British frigate *Aeolus*.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENJAMIN TUPPER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir

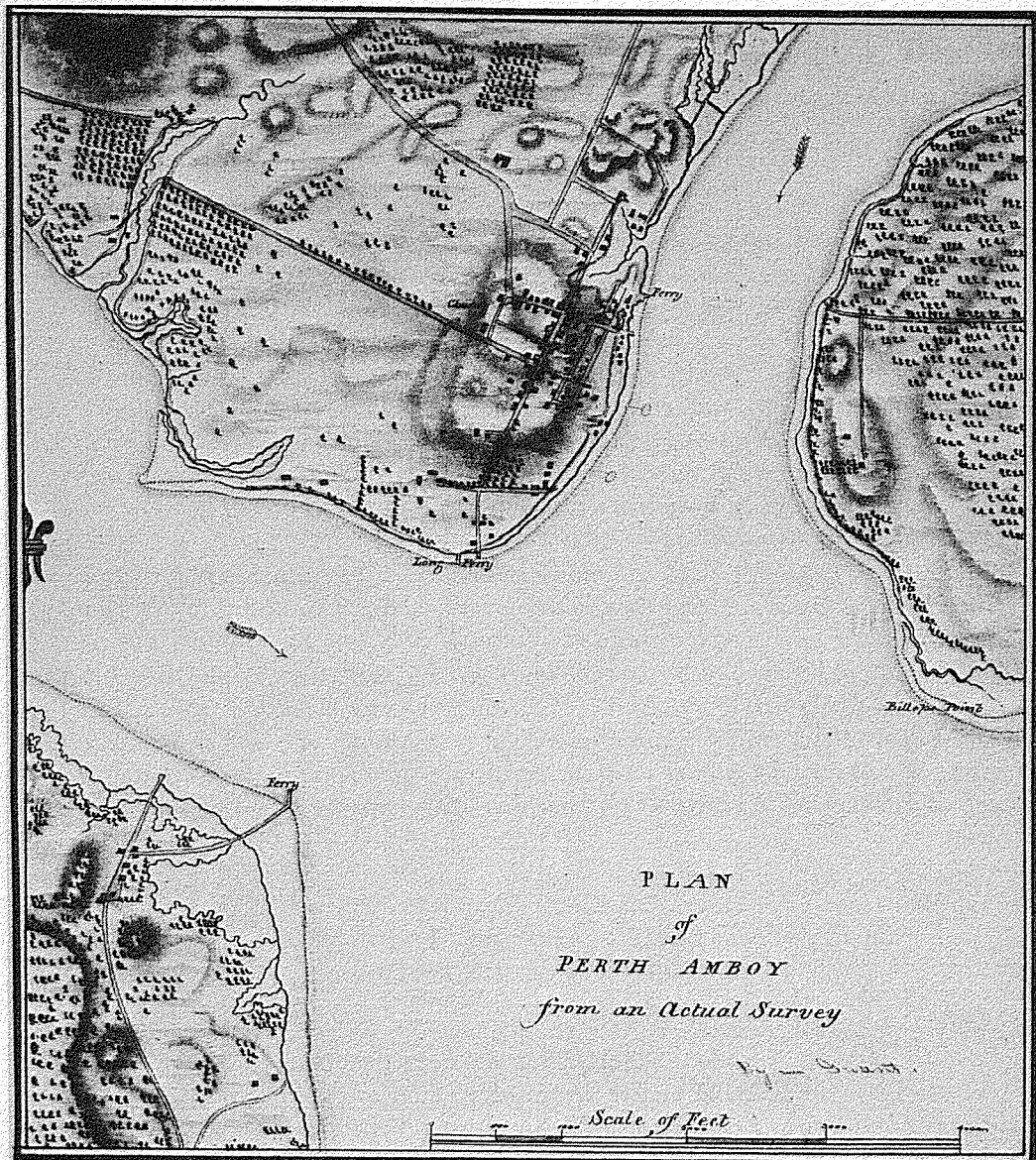
Sloop *Hester* off Amboy May the 16th  
A D 1776 Thursday 10 oclock A M

Ever since the Evening date of my last report I have been Employed in Detecting some persons who have lately been on board the men of War, in a

small sloop which I have taken into Custody & Shall wait your Excellencys orders for a further Disposition of her, I have also taken & Sent by Lt Humphris [Nathaniel Humphreys] who brings this one Mrs Darbage who went on board – she has absolutely refused to give any Account or Answering any Questions both to the Committee of the Town as well as to my Self & says She will do the same to Your Excellency, but it is my opinion a little smell of the Black hole will set her Tongue at liberty, it is the opinion of our friends in this Town that She is able to bring out a Number of Rascalls & Villins in Sundry towns Nigh here.

There is something unaccountable to me as well as of the Committee here respecting the Conduct of the Comtee of Brunswick where one John Hartwick resides who conveyd the woman on board and carried fresh meat Hams &c I sent a party to apprehend him but he could not be found untill the officers pledged their Honours that no vilence should be offered. the Commtee met examined him & Resolved that as he had got on Shore that it was more proper he should be tried by their own Provintial Congress than by Millitary Law, took Bonds for his appearence & set him at liberty – as a good Corrospondance with the Committee is so Necessary, (which I have Indeavored & obtain[ed] here and else where) that I judged (howeer I may be mistaken) that it would not be prudence for me to Arrest him untill I had aquainted your Excellency with the Circumstances, your further orders will be obeyed to a tittle, it is thought that he is detaind least by Examination he should bring out some pretended friends in disguise – he owns he Saw Person ——— Langdon & his Brother who live on long Island Nigh Hogg Island on board one of the Ships as he sd Hartwick was on board both.

I have sent a Number of Lymes which I found in the Care of one Thomas Stevens a late Colector who is very Insolent but I can git no Evedence against him unless the Ladys Tongue should be set at liberty and I could find no owner for them Thought No person could be More disarving of them than Your Excellency, I have kept a few to Drink your Excellencys Health – I am Instantly removing my Station to Princess Bay shall send the whail Boats to Cruse in the Narrows, the Torrys here begin to hang their heads like Bull rushes, and the Friends to Amaraca have taken great Courage and act more Vigorus since my Arival. hope soon by Gods Blessing to be able to bring them to Terms as well as many other of Your Excellncys Enemies – I have got a good rattan and unless I am forbid by your Excellency if they Insult me as a Continantel officer as some of them have done Rather than trouble your Excellency with Such Villins I will pay them off at the small end of my ratt[an] – as I conceive that as Soon as I can complea[t] the Numbers of whail Boats &c as was proposed it will be Nessesary to Send part of the Armiment to cruze on long Island shore, and as I conceive that the vessel which we sent up the Sound after them only waits for a wind to return that when the wind is fair Should be glad of your Excellencys Aprobation to post my Vessels in the best manner I can and return





to New York to Man & direct the sd boats &c – I cant discover any alteration of the Sytuation of the Ships at the Hook – I am Your Excellencys [&c.]

Benj. Tupper Lt Colo of the 21st Regt

P S as Captn Crige [Thomas Cregier] of the schooner *Putnam* is gone to York to procure some Nessesaries was with the Committee at Brunswick your Excellency can Inquire of him further of the Matter

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia, 16th May 1776

My endeavours to get a few Muskets for your Troops have hitherto been fruitless it is impossible to procure any here at this time, many of the Continental Troops in this City and in New York are without any, we are greatly distressed on that Account, some of our Vessels have returned without any, some have brought a few, a very few, and several that were expected with a Considerable quantity are missing supposed to be taken by our Enemies, every effort is exerted to get them made in these Colonies but this Source falls exceedingly short of our demands, however we have some Vessels out that may be expected about this time and we hope they will arive safe with a seasonable Supply.

a few days ago Thirteen Row Gallies built at the expense of this Province each carrying one Eighteen pounder attacked the *Roebuck & Liverpool* Men of War in the River about Twenty Miles below and obliged them to return to the Capes in a Shattered condition it is thought if they had been fully supplied with powder & Ball they would have destroyed those Ships, the Boats expended in the engagement about four Tons of powder, the report of this day is that the Ships are gone out to sea supposed to be to Halifax or Virginia to repair the damage they received in this action

...

1. Samuel Johnston Papers, NCDAH.

JOSEPH MOULDER AND THOMAS FITZSIMONS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA  
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentn

In pursuance to yr Resolve, we have made Inquiry for two, such Vessels – as you describe,<sup>2</sup> & are of Opinion That one under the Care of Arthur Donaldson wd be fitt for an Ammunition Vessell & a Schooner belonging to Thos Hollingsworth for a Victualling boat. the former is Valued at Three hundred twenty Five pounds Capable of Carrying four hundred Barrels – the latter at Two hundred Carrys about two hundred Barrels – both tolerably well found, & wanting very little repairs or attention, to make them fitt for the Service.

Josep<sup>h</sup> Moulder Tho<sup>s</sup> Fitzsimons

To the Hble the Committee of Safety <sup>3</sup>  
[Philadelphia] May 16, 1776 –

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.
2. See minutes of Committee of Safety, May 13, 1776.
3. While the minutes do not show an authorization to purchase the recommended vessels, Moulder and Fitzsimons were ordered to equip them. See minutes of Committee of Safety, May 28, 1776.

#### PENNSYLVANIA GALLEY CAPTAINS TO THE PUBLIC <sup>1</sup>

##### To the Public

Whereas many misrepresentations have been circulated respecting the quantity of ammunition, and other circumstances relating to the condition of the gallies at the time of the late engagement, the officers on that service, in justice to their reputation, conceive themselves called upon to give a true account thereof.

The number of cartridges on board, at the commencement of the action on the 8th instant, amounted on an average, to twenty-eight rounds only, when filled up fit for service which was expended in many of the boats, and only a round or two left in others, at the time the *Roebuck* got aground otherwise, we have every reason to believe we should have made a prize of her, as we had above an hour's daylight when we were obliged to retreat for want of ammunition. Soon after this we received a small supply, partly of loose powder, amounting to eight rounds only, and deficient of cartridges to put it in, which we judged insufficient to renew the attack with.

On the ninth we received a second supply, which made up forty five rounds including the former eight, but not till long after the *Roebuck* was got off, which she effected before day-light. Soon after receiving this, we began the second attack, under the disadvantage of being obliged, in the time of the action, to cut up blankets, jackets, trowsers, stockings, &c. to supply the defect of cartridges; and for want of wads, some were necessitated to cut up cables and take the oakum out of the netting, this supply likewise also expended about sun-set, after a very close engagement, when some retreated to look for fresh supplies, and meeting with a barge, three of us got seven rounds therefrom and returned to the attack, which was continued till the enemy was below Newcastle. Next morning they dropt to Reedy-Island, we continued watching them three days, in which time we received a farther supply of powder, but as many of the boats were then without shot, and others having but very few, we were still ill provided either for attack or defence.

We have on former occasions, from first entering on the duty, experienced many distresses, both for service and accomodation, which we have borne with a soldierlike patience, under the hopes that future regulations would relieve us therefrom.

We are the public's most obedient humble servants, Henry Dougherty, John Rice, John Hamilton, James Montgomery, James Blair, Richard Eysers, Alexander Henderson, Thomas Moore, Nathan Boyce, Hugh Montgomery,

Thomas Houston, Lieut. Benjamin Thompson commanding the *Experiment*, Lieut. Robert Hume commanding the *Ranger*.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 16, 1776. Reprinted in the *Pennsylvania Journal*, May 22, 1776.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1776

Philadelphia, May 16.

The correspondent who furnished the printer of this paper with the paragraph inserted in the *Evening Post* of Saturday last, <sup>1</sup> respecting the engagement between the gallies and the enemy's ships, is concerned that the officers on that service should misunderstand him. He meant to do honor to the bravery both of them and the men under their command, and to rescue their reputation from any misrepresentations which might be thrown out, in their absence, to their disadvantage, in order to screen it from others. We know who hath declared "*that he hath served under the King, and that he will never serve against him,*" and the public are amazed that such a person was trusted with any part of the direction of the expedition.

1. The paragraph to which the galley captains probably had taken exception reads: "if we consider, that although the whole thirteen were employed, yet not more than one half can be said to have been engaged at any one time: And this circumstance, though it shews a want of judgment somewhere, in stationing them *properly* and at *proper distances*, is, at the same time an additional argument in favor of the real service of boats." *Ibid.*, May 11, 1776.

#### MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

##### In Committee of Safety

[Philadelphia] 16th May, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Commodore [Andrew] Caldwell be directed to give notice to the Commanding Officers of the Armed Boats, to attend this Board on Saturday Morning next, at 9 O'Clock.<sup>2</sup>

*Resolved*, That Mr. [John] Nixon & Capt. [Robert] Whyte, be requested to make enquiry and Report the quantity of ammunition that each Armed Boat was supplied with when they went down the River last week against the Ships of War, and what supplies they received afterwards from the Ship, Fort & Floating Battery, with the times and other Circumstances of the different supplies.

*Resolved*, That Mr. [George] Clymer, Mr. James Biddle and Mr. [Alexander] Wilcocks, be a Committee to draw up a Memorial to Congress, respecting the procuring of Sulphur & Lead, and erecting Fortifications at Billingsport.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 570-72.

2. Colonel John Cadwalader was also requested to attend. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 757.

#### JOHN KING TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

I Once more Petition that honourable Board hoping that in your Wise

Councils you may think your Petitioner Worthy a Lieutenantcy in the River Fleet when A Vacancy Shall Offer either in Som Gondola that is or hereafter may be built or in the Marins Your Compliance with my humble Request Shall be Grately Acknowledged by a Sincer freind to the Amaricain Cause [&c.]

John King

Newport New Castle County [Delaware]

May 16th 1776

[Endorsed] We whose Names are hereunder written do give it as our oppinion that the above Petitioner is fitting for the Office for which he has Petitioned as first or Second Lieutenant when such Should be Wanting

John Morton

Elias Boys

James Read

Robert Knox <sup>2</sup>

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, HSP.

2. *Ibid.*, George Read and Thomas McKean also endorsed King on May 22.

# JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND <sup>1</sup>

May 1776.

Cape Henlopen Lighthouse WNW 3 Leagues.

Thursday 16 at ½ past 9 in the morning weighed and made Sail the *Liverpool* in Company.

Moderate and fair Weather at 2 in the afternoon gave the *Liverpool* orders <sup>2</sup> and made her Signal to chase to the NEt 6 the *Dolphin* my Tender joined us, from Norfolk; at 7 Sent the *Pembroke* and *Ranger* on a Cruize.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. The orders were written May 15; see under that date. Hamond was bound for Virginia to join Lord Dunmore.

# JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Thursday May 16, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Safety be desired to lay before the Convention a list of the armed vessels now fitting out for the defence of this colony, with a state of the condition they are in, and an account of the cannon, arms, and ammunition, provided for them.

Mr. [Archibald] Cary, from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, reported, that the committee had, according to order, examined into the cases of Josiah Rogers, William Bliss, and David Ramsay, prisoners confined in the public jail, and had agreed upon a report, and come to the following resolutions thereupon; which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to.

It appears, that Josias Rogers was a mate in the *Roebuck* ship of war, which had taken a vessel bound from Cape Francois to Philadelphia, into which he was put as prize master; that the sailors rose against him, and, the vessell running on shore, he was taken prisoner. <sup>2</sup> That William Bliss was a soldier in captain Pickett's company of Provincials; that he had deserted to

Lord Dunmore, and returned again. That David Ramsay was a sailor in a vessel belonging to Joseph Scott, in the county of Nansemond, which was taken by the enemy; that the said David Ramsay was afterwards employed by the provincial prisoners who were put on board that vessel to provide them with fresh provisions, and that the said Ramsay was active in procuring such provisions, and, having a pass from Anthony Lawson to come on shore, in quest of some vegetables, he was taken and sent to jail.

*Resolved*, That the said Josias Rogers is a prisoner of war, and that this resolution be communicated to the commanding officer.

*Resolved*, That the said William Bliss appears to be guilty of desertion, and that he ought to be delivered over to the commanding officer, to whom the resolution should also be communicated.

*Resolved*, That the said David Ramsay be discharged.

1. *The Proceedings of the Convention of Delegates held at the Capitol, in the City of Williamsburg, in the Colony of Virginia, on Monday, the 6th of May, 1776* (Richmond, 1816), 17. Hereafter cited as *Virginia Convention*.
2. Apparently the *Cazia*, from Cape François for Philadelphia with molasses and coffee, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

#### MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Thursday, 16th May, 1776.

A warrant to L't Edward Venable for £36.5.0 for pay and prov[ision]s to him and Co. as a Guard at Sandy Point.

Same to Capt. John Calvert for £250 upon acc[oun]t for furnishing materials and fitting out the Galley under his command.<sup>2</sup>

Order'd, that the commissary of stores deliver to Capt. Calvert, or his order, 150 yards Slaver's Duck and 100 y'ds Ozaburg for the use of his Galley.

Resolv'd that any person who shall furnish the commanders of the Cruizers or Gallies now fitting out with rigging or necessaries for that purpose, be paid the full value thereof in money or repaid in kind out of any public stores which may be hereafter procured.

Capt. Calvert is empowered to procure a H'h'd Rum for use of his Galley at 7s.6d.

#### In the Evening

Mr. Rob't Cuirlye having offered the Committee to engage himself and raise 30 men to be employed in the business of building vessels for the use of the Colony the Commee are disposed to encourage that business but Mr. Cuirlye being a stranger to the Comm'ee they recommend it to the Comm'ee of Norfolk or Princess Anne proceed to the choice of a discreet and proper person to take the direction of a number of ship carpenters to be employed in the public Dock yard and certify the name of such person to this comm'ee, giving him directions immediately to proceed to engage as many ship Carpenters as he can, whose abilities shall be satisfactorily made known to the Comm'ee to engage in the public service for at least one year, and employed in building vessels for the colony at such place as shall be appointed by the Comm'ee of Safety or other executive power, and when 30 of the said

persons shall be so engaged, they proceed to Cobham in Surry County, there to wait for further directions, the wages to be agreeable to a late advertisement of Gen. [Charles] Lee's

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 179-81.

2. Commander of the Virginia galley *Norfolk Revenge*.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE <sup>1</sup>

May 1776                      Moord at Brunswick [North Carolina]  
 Wednesy 15    Modt. and Cloudy  
                     Empd Occasionally    Exercis'd Small Arms.  
                     P M Supply'd H M Arm'd Schooner *St Lawrence* with 105  
                     Galls of Rum pr Order of Sr peter Parker. Came on Bd 2  
                     Negro men from the Rebels  
 Thursy 16    Recd on Bd some Water    Empd Stowg it away Huld Ship and  
                     Hogg'd her Both Sides – Modt. and Cloudy Wr the Rebels  
                     fird at us    Returnd with Round and Grape

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/334.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES CORNWALLIS TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN <sup>1</sup>

My Lord                                      Camp at Cape Fear May 16th 1776  
 I arrived here on the 3d of this month, & had the pleasure of finding that many of the Transports had got here before us. Your Lordship will hear from Genl. Clinton the present state of this Colony, & his intention of going from hence as soon as the Transports are watered, from what I have heard since I came here I must still more lament the fatal delays that prevented the armament from arriving in time in this Province, As I am now convinced that it would have produced the most happy effects in this & probably in the other Southern Colonies. I shall now probably serve in the Army under Genl. Howe. I have only to assure Your Lordship that wherever it may be my lot to serve His Majesty, I shall do it with the utmost zeal & diligence. I have the honour to be with the greatest esteem, Your Lordships [&c.]

Cornwallis

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, 927.

“JOURNAL OF THE EXPEDITION TO CHARLES TOWN IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE MONTHS OF MAY JUNE & JULY 1776 – UNDER THE COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL CLINTON AND COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER. –” <sup>1</sup>

The Possession of the Port and Harbor of Charles Town having been thought an object of much importance to His Majesty's Service, and many different accounts having been received of the state of that Town, and the works carrying on by the Rebels in fortifying the Town, putting Fort Johnson in a posture of defence, and erecting a Fort of considerable strength on Sullivans Island, which commands the entrance of the Harbor; on the 16th

May His Majestys Ship *Sphinx* with a small Schooner called the *Pensacola Packet* were dispatched from Cape Fear River, with instructions to sound the Bar and to reconnoitre the works on Sullivans Island, and in order to obtain the fullest information Capt [James] Moncrief of the Engineer Corps and one of the Lieutenants belonging to the Commodores Ship were directed to embark on board the Schooner. <sup>2</sup>

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

2. Journal of H.M.S. *Sphinx*, May 16, 1776 reads: "A M hauling off the Land, gradual soundgs from 5 to 10½ fm *Cornet* schooner in Co Modt breezes & clear Wr standg off & on gradual soundgs from 14 a 8 fm," PRO, Admiralty 51/922.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ST. EUSTATIA, MAY 16." <sup>1</sup>

I wrote you some days ago of a schooner's being seized in the road by the *Seaford* twenty gun ship, who kept possession of her till on my making application to the Governor; he sent a guard of soldiers and took the possession from them; next morning the *Seaford* sailed, and since that the Governor has sent a flag to the Admiral to know the reason of such insolence: The Burghers were much enraged, and we may now depend on any American bottom in this road being defended to the last, in case of such attempts."

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, June 5, 1776.

## 17 May

CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA TO MAJOR GENERAL  
PHILIP SCHUYLER <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Montreal 17th May 1776

A Gondola built to carry a 24 pounder, or two of them would now be exceedingly serviceable – By what time could you finish one? Pray fit out the *Royal Savage* & the other Vessel as speedily as possible for War, to keep us the Masters of Lake Champlain – Pray send back the Batteau In which Docr [Benjamin] Franklin & Mr. [John] Carroll returned and Remember us most affectionately to them – We desire our respectful Compliments to Your Family and with great Sincerity & regard Dr Sir [&c.]

Samuel Chase

Ch: Carroll of Carrolstown [Carrollton]

1. Washington Papers, LC.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONGRESSIONAL  
COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA <sup>1</sup>

Sorell May, 17th 1776

It is thought most adviseable to send all the Troops at Montreal here, who have had the Small Pox, & to send Five or Six hundred Men from this to Montreal, who will be at no expence of getting up, as they can row themselves. . . .

As soon as Genl. Thomas arrives I expect a council of War will be immediately held, I shall be for keeping Deschambault by all Means. if it can be done without too great a hazard of our Army. our own Strength (which at present is uncertain) and the advice which we may receive of the Numbers & designs of the Enemy, must govern our movements. I believe the Difficulty of Provisions may be got over; but the Small Pox, & Gondaloes; to secure our Navigation and retreat, are very great obstacles in our way. –

We have here abt three Tons of Powder. there is a quantity at Chambly. how much I am uncertain, the Distribution of the Battoes is already Made, & twenty are sent from this to St Johns Immediately on my arrival here I sent to Maska & have received from thence One Hundred & seventy Six Bags of flour, I believe the same you refer to. as soon as Mr [John] Bondfield arrives I shall employ him to collect all the Flour in this Neighbourhood, who will at the same time call on Mr. Belfeuël & receive such goods as may answer our purpose. I have in Contemplation the sinking a Cheveaux de Frize, at the Islands five Miles below this, where the Channel is very narrow, but the water is so high we cannot Fortify at present; Two other Vessels will be Ordered to Montreal the first fair Wind. <sup>2</sup> . . . Honble Messrs Chase & Carrol

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, 68–69, NA.

2. *Ibid.* (Letters and Papers Relating to Canadian Affairs), 166, 49. From Montreal this date, the Commissioners wrote to the President of Congress: "In the present situation of our Affairs it will not be possible for us to carry into execution the great Object of our instructions, as the possession of this country must finally be decided by the Sword; we think our stay here no longer of service to the public—We are however willing to sacrifice our time, labour and even our lives for the good of our Country. . ."

#### RICHARD DEVENS TO JOHN ADAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Watertown, May 17, 1776]

. . . 2 of our small Cruizers brought into the gut at point Shirley a Ship 34 days from Ireland I had an oppertunity to cast my eye on the Inventory and she has on board 1500 Barrils of powder & 1000 Stand of Arms the rest of the Cargo Consists of intrenching Tools &c in Such Abundance as tho they intended to Cut Cannals thro' America, and Station their Navy up in the Wilderness. as the prize Could not get up to Town at low Tide all the Boats in Boston Charlestown & Dorchester were sent onboard her to bring up the powder and arms, and part of the powder is Already in the Magazine in Boston. <sup>2</sup>

The Men of War in Nantaskett could not get out to her Assistance the wind being Easterly

the hand of Providence is Conspicuous

1. Adams Papers, MassHS. Continuation of May 16 letter.

2. The ship *Hope*, Alexander Lumsdale, master, with a cargo of 1000 carbines, five gun carriages, 10,000 sand bags and 1500 barrels of gunpowder, taken by Washington's schooner *Franklin*, James Mugford, commander.



A LIST OF BRITISH NAVAL PRISONERS FOR EXCHANGE IN MASSACHUSETTS <sup>1</sup>

[May 17, 1776]

Prisoner 24th Decr – 75 – Robt. Basden 3d. Liutt the *Niger*  
 Ditto 24 June 1775 – Robt Campbell, Voltr  
 Do Wm Furnivall Midshipmn taken May 6th 76  
 Do Thos Payne Ste[n]t Midshipmn taken Februaay 8th 76  
 Do Jno Mulcaster Midshipmn taken May 17th 76  
 Richd Edgcumbe rated as Able Seaman onboard his Majesty's  
 Ship *Chatham*  
 John Lear rated as Able Seaman on board his Majs Ship *Falcon*  
 N.B. the gentlemen that you'r acquainted with Desire there Compts  
 Rd Luckes

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 231.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir –

Boston, May 17, 1776

I have the pleasure to inform your Excellency that the Armed Schooner *Franklin*, Captain [James] Mugford this day took and bro't into this Harbour a large Ship from Cork, Several other armed Schooners were in company. A Bill of Lading I have inclosed, by which you will see that she is a very valuable Prize; she carried four three pounders, and is about three hundred tons burthen. She came out the fourth of April with nine Sail of transports under convoy of a Frigate; I cannot learn any important intelligence by her; the Master says there are but about one hundred Soldiers on board these transports, and that they are laden with provision and warlike Stores for the Kings troops. I am your Excellency's [&c.]

Artemas Ward

[Enclosure]

Account of Stores received from the *Hope*, taken from the Enemy May 17, 1776

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Carbines Compleat, 1000 in 40 Chests —                 |               |
| Traveling Carriages, 24 Pds heavy —                    | 1 —           |
| 12 Pds Light —   | 4 —           |
| sand bags, bushels 5000—                               | } In 20 Bales |
| ½ bushel 50000—0                                       |               |
| Coils white Rope,                                      | 3½ Inch — 1 — |
|  | 2 — 1 —       |
|  | 1½ — 2 —      |
| Tann'd hides — 5 —                                     |               |
| Powder . . . barrels, Cooper hoop'd                    | 1497 —        |
| Short dld from the ship                                | 3.            |
| The remainder of the Stores are dld to                 | }             |
| Thos Chas Esqr A.Q.M. General                          |               |
| 500 bbls of the above mentioned powder is at Cambridge |               |

500 do at Roxbury

497 do at Boston which is to go to Watertown immediately

Errors Excepted

Nathl<sup>1</sup> Barber Jun<sup>r</sup>

Dpy Commy Artillery

1. Washington Papers, LC.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Boston May. 17. 1776

I embrace this opportunity, by Mr Cabot, to Congratulate you upon our Continental Vessells this day bringing into this Harbour a Ship of between Two and three hundred Tons loadened with fifteen hundred barrells of Powder, One Thousand Carbines and a number of intrenching & Carpenters Tools – one of the Richest pri[z]es that has as yet been taken – As Genl Washington has left so few Men for the defence of the Town of Boston it's harbor & the Lines around it, This Colony has been oblidge to raise at its own Expencc Two Regiments one under the Command of Colo [Josiah] Whitney & the Other under Colo [Thomas] Marshall of Boston, & also a regiment of the Train under Colo [Thomas] Crafts [Jr.], for the defence of the Town & harbor of Boston and as the Carbines (provided they are not Wanted for the Ships) As well as the intrenching and Carpenters Tools will accomodate these Regiments as well as if they had been sent for on purpose, I heartily wish you could prevail with Congress to make this Colony a present of them or, if they will not do that, to direct that the Colony should be supplied with them, they paying their Value – I hope the Congress will also order that this Colony should be refunded for the Powder (abt Ten Tons) they have advanced the Continent out of the powder taken in this Prize – & permitt us also to purchase as much more of it as we want for the supply of our Town – We shall want a great deal of Powder left here for the Defence of the Works at Boston,<sup>2</sup> we have got fine works on Charlestown Point, Noddles Island, Fort Hill Dorchester point, & at Castle Island – The Court also have ordered two row Gallies to be built & some fire rafts. I beg leave to put you in mind that I want some more money for the Ships – Mr Nathl Carter has furnished me with Thirty five hundred Dollars for which I have given him two Setts of Bills Dated May 12, 1776 on your Self, one sett for 17 hundred Dollars & the other for 18 hundred Dollars, which I doubt not will be punctually paid. If the Carbines will answer for the Marines for the Ships I hope some of them will be applied that way Excuse haste – I remain [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

2. James Sullivan this date sent a similar appeal for the powder to John Adams, Adams Papers, MassHS.

J. PALMER TO THOMAS CUSHING <sup>1</sup>

Braintree, 17th May, 1776

Yesterday a party of the enemy landed upon Pettick's Island (at or near

the Sheep-Pen) & traveled about upon it a considerable time; if these companies had had the Whale-Boats, 'tis not likely the enemy would have ventured so far – I find that a considerable number of inhabitants of Hull are returned, & boats from the Ships have been observed to go thither; no doubt can be made, but that intelligence and provision are conveyed in that channel, & for want of Whale-Boats we can't prevent it; It would be better to burn the Town than permit such communication – but a party, perhaps 50 or 100 men might prevent it, & protect the Inhabitants: They certainly know that the W-Boats are taken off from hence, or they would not venture to look after our Fishing Canoes so far up the Harbour, wh[en we wer]e so near to our Guards upon Hough's Neck: The Comte of W[ar] will doubtless consider this matter.

By intelligence from our Guards, our Armed Vessels, this morning took a ship & Brig a little without the L[ight]-House; Some say only a ship: I saw [George] Dawson endeavour to go out, at the time of the Firing, but wind and Tide being agst him, he cou'd not get out; <sup>2</sup> The like has taken place several times before, & is evidence to me that the enemy do not think it safe to ride outside the L-House: Just before their great Fleet left Nantaskett Harbour, several of them anchored below the Lt-House, but soon returned; similar instances I can give, which fully evince that they do not think it safe to anchor so low down:

It may be well to consider, whether, if they are driven from their present station, they may not attempt to lodge in Marblehead Harbour, or some other within the Capes. It ought also to be considered, how they may be dislodged from the heights of Hull and the Islands, should they possess them, & also how they will dislodge us, shou'd we have possession of those heights. I am &c.

J. Palmer

[To] The Honble Thomas Cushing, Esqr.  
Chairman of the Comtee of War Boston

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 195, 1.

2. Captain of H.M Sloop *Hope*.

#### MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SLOOP *Hope* <sup>1</sup>

| May 1776   | Remarks in Nantasket Road  |
|------------|--|
| Fridy 17th | at 6 AM the Commodor Sent his Boat on Brd with Orders to go to Sea at ½ Past 6 AM Weigh'd and Came to Sail as Did the <i>Milford</i> , at ½ past 9 Boraway for the Light house Channel it Being Little Wind & a Strong Flood Tide at 11 the Commodor Sent a Boat to Order us in Again at Noon Anchored in Nantasket Road Saw a Transport taken by the Rebels <sup>2</sup> First and Midl Modt and Hazy the Latr Calms and Cloudy at ½ past 3 PM Weigh'd and Came to Sail |

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1794. The *Hope* seems to have been rerigged from a brig sloop on or about this date.

2. The powder ship *Hope* taken by Washington's schooner *Franklin*.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford* <sup>1</sup>

May 1776 Boston Light House West 3 or 4 Miles  
 Friday 17 at 6 AM Weighd & came to Sail as did the *Hope* on informa-  
 tion of some Privateers at 1½ past 7 saw 3 Privateers to  
 Windward Gave Chase at 10 lost sight of the Chace the  
*Hope* parted Company.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS <sup>1</sup>

May 1776 Montock point N43°W 23 Leagues  
 Thursday 16 A M TKd at 5 saw two Sail to the SE gave Chace fired  
 two 3 pdrs at the Chace at 11 sent the Longbt on bd  
 her found her a Sloop from New York bound to Demarara  
 with Flour, Bread &c. <sup>2</sup>

Fresh Breezes and fair at 1 P M hauld the prize  
 alongside Empd clearing her took out of her 7215 lb  
 Bread & served the People 15 lb p Man lieu of their short Al-  
 lowance from the Time we began which was 1st of April, not  
 being able to stow it at 7 sett fire to the prize at 8 wore  
 Ship

Friday 17 Do N38.32W 12 leags  
 A M saw a sail to the NE out reefs & gave Chace at 8 Brot  
 too the Chace a Schooner from Newhaven loaded with Lum-  
 ber bound to some of the French Islands <sup>3</sup> Empd taken the  
 provisions out her ½ pt 12 sett her on fire  
 First and Middle pt Modt Latter fresh Breezes and  
 Rain at 1 P M made Sail at 7 Montock NNW 3 Lgs ½  
 pt TKD Set Close Reeft the Topsls.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

2. Sloop *Polly*, Robert Crosby, master, — Franklin, owner, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777,  
 PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

3. *Ibid.*, the schooner *Leviathan*, B. Woodcock, master and owner.

JAMES MEASE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE  
 OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Philadelphia, May 17, 1776] <sup>2</sup>

I have been so exceeding ill ever since my Return from below, & the  
 weather is so intollerably bad for my disorder That I cannot without certain  
 injury to my wretched health Stir abroad today: Therefore I am in hopes  
 the committee will indulge me unless there is an absolute necessity for my  
 presence wch I can hardly think will be the Case

Upon considering the business as it now stands I am of opinion the nature  
 of our intended enquiry became totally changed by the publication of the  
 officers, <sup>3</sup> It was the Commodores duty to have attended the board as soon  
 as possible & given an Accot of the transactions of the fleet. but he neglect-  
 ing that duty & much altercation arising without doors the Board, as I con-

ceive wish'd to have as decent an Accot of the engagement as possible that by some publication from them they might quiet the minds of the public & favor the character of the Officers far as they could without transgressing the truth.

The Attack made by the Cpts against the Committee of Safety hath made it necessary in some measure for the board to justify themselves to the publick, Therefore in my opinion it would be very prudent for the board to postpone taking up the matter on the last ground untill tuesday or wednesday next – & just in general acquaint them that when the board required their attendance they had no expectation Of being cal'd upon by them to justify their conduct to the publick,<sup>1</sup> but wanted to have collected from a general inquiry materials to have made a publication of the whole transaction without any design of blaming the officers – & they may be dismiss'd very decently in my opinion upon some such Ideas as those – one reason wch induce's me to think the posting the enquiry off a day right is that I am fearful there has not been time to collect sufficient evidences of many facts wch may be discovered from those volunteers from the floating Battery & ship on board the Gallies during the Engagements. Mudian Dick – & Garret should be examened the former supplying almost all the Gallies with rounds of Cartridge during the first engagement – Capt [Thomas] Forrest was also on board & present at the council cald to plan an Attack on the Ships at Night & will I dare say be able to recollect tha[t] not the least objection was Made to an Attack on the score of Amunition. when I sat down to address you I did not think of being so prolix but I hope you Sir in particular & the Committee in general will excuse it in their most Obedt [&c.]

James Mease

P.S. If you read this yourself perhaps it will not be needful to trouble the board with it –

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

2. The date is based on the fact that the publication of the galley captains' grievances was on May 16, 1776. And, on May 18 Mease was appointed to a committee of seven to draw up a memorial to the Pennsylvania Assembly justifying the conduct of the Committee of Safety in supplying ample arms and ammunition to the galleys during the May 8 and May 9 engagement with the British frigates *Roebuck* and *Liverpool*. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 572–73.

3. See *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 16, 1776.

4. The Committee had asked, on May 14, for a report from the various units of the fleet, the quantity of military stores they had on board, and on May 16 had requested the captains of the armed boats to attend the Committee on Saturday, May 18.

BENJAMIN HARRISON, JR. TO WILLING, MORRIS & CO.<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Williamsburg 17th May 1776

... Yours of 7th Inst is come to hand this After noon, The Tobacco I expect will be safe in the Public Warehouses, Tokely has been here since my last to you, & he then had not a hand belonging to his Vessel but himself – & he says they are not to be got,<sup>2</sup> I have advanced him forty One pounds 12/6 by the inclosd Rects, for which I was once going to make out an Acct against Mr. Hews [Joseph Hewes] & charge him 2½ PCt & draw on him for the

Amt, but I conceive it best to send them to you to know how I am to be reimbursed, I suppose the new Trade will soon begin to open, in that case when a Foreigner leaves his own Port, to come to America in the Confusion that things now are, he must make the first Port that he can after he gets on our Coast, for fear of being taken, perhaps in these instances it may be the Fate of some of your old & Valuable Correspondents to drop in here, without having any one to assist them in the sale of their Cargoes, & in such or any other Instances, I beg leave to offer myself to them through you promising you a Share of the Advantages that I may gain in this Business through your means, I would have them directed in case they should come into Virginia & cant get up James River to my house to go up York River to Cumberland Town, from whence I live only 24 Miles, I offer this for your Consideration.

1. Papers of Robert Morris, Accession 1805, LC.

2. William Tokely, master of the brig *Fanny*. The brig was to be loaded with tobacco on account of the Secret Committee of Congress.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Pursuant to powers received from the Hon. the Continental Congress, the Committee of Safety are ready to grant commissions for making reprisals upon the property of the people of *Great Britain*, at sea, or in the rivers, below high-water mark, to any persons who shall apply for them, and comply with the terms mentioned by Congress.

Edmund Pendleton, president.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, May 17, 1776.

#### "EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER OF THE 15TH REGIMENT, TO HIS FRIEND HERE [LONDON], DATED AT THE CAMP NEAR CAPE FEAR, NORTH CAROLINA, MAY 17." <sup>1</sup>

On the 7th inst. the 15th and 28th regiments landed on a Peninsula, at the mouth of the River, but the enemy not chusing to shew themselves, the General, after reconnoitring the country, reimbarked them. A few days after, the 27th and 33d regiment went fifteen miles up the River, and dispossessed the Rebels of a post they had at that place called Brunswick. They took a few prisoners, and had one man killed. After executing this business, they returned to the ships with a seasonable supply of twenty bullocks. On the 15th inst. the 15th, 28th, 33d, 37th, and 54th regiments landed, and encamped near a demolished post opposite to our shipping.<sup>2</sup> The 57th is encamped on the opposite shore, and the 46th is still on board. Part of the Rebels are within two or three miles of us, but their strongest post, or chief dependence, is at Wilmington, about twenty miles from hence.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, August 5 to August 7, 1776.

2. Fort Johnston.



American Liberty and to make Captures of Such Vessells as shall be supplying the Enemies thereof with Provisions and other Stores or otherwise infesting the Sea Coasts, and for the makeing Captures of British Vessells & Cargoes

Now if the said John Fisk shall in all things observe and Conduct himself and Govern his Crew According to the Resolves of the General American Congress and according to the acts & orders of the Great & General Court of this Colony Relative to Armed Vessells fitted out for the Purpose aforesaid and follow such Instructions as he may Receive in pursuance of his Commission the foregoing Obligation shall be Void or Else remain in force

Signed & Sealed

Jn<sup>o</sup> Fisk

in Presence of

Richard Derby Jun<sup>r</sup>

Tho<sup>s</sup> Safford Wm Gray Jun<sup>r</sup>

David Phippin

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 139, 119. Bonds for other ships are also found in this Mass. Arch. volume.

#### WILLIAM HUNT TO ELBRIDGE GERRY <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Watertown May 18th 1776

Yesterday was brought into Boston Harbour by one Capt Muckford [James Mugford] of Marblehead, in face of the Men of War, a Brig, loaded with fifteen hundred whole barrells of Gun Powder, containing about – seventy five Tons, one Thousand stands of Arms a large quantity of intrenching Utensils – a Number of travelling Carriages, a quantity of English Goods &c &c – If you want any thing farther, you may expect an Account thereof by the next opportunity, as the Privateers are gone after more. sixteen sail came from Cork in Company with the above Brig convoyd by two Frigates, & the Capt supposes they have received Intelligence, that Boston is evacuated by Genl. Howe & that they are gone to Halifax Our Privateers intend doging of them & find out who they are where they are bound. A Number of letters are taken, what intelligence I have not heard but as she is but Thirty four Days from Cork no doubt something material. I expect to hear the *Roebuck* man of war is in our hands, every Day. God grant it may prove true.

All well, can tell you nothing more at this time, and unless you are exorbitant in your Demands, apprehend you will be satisfied for once. [&c.]

William Hunt

1. FDRL.

#### D. INGRAHAM, JR. TO SAMUEL PHIPPS SAVAGE <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir –

Boston, May 18th, 1776

Yesterday Morning one of our Small Privateers Gave Chase to a Ship <sup>2</sup> and follow'd her almost up to the Light House and Boarded her and to our Surprize she made no resistance, altho' our Vessell mounted but 4.2 Pounders and the Enemy had (6) 4 and 6 Pounders Loaded with Grape Shot. They brought her through Pulling Point Gut, and in Sight of 10 Sail of Poltroons unladed her in Part, and this Morning She is Safe at Anchor off



Hancock's Wharf. She is part of Eleven Sail that saild from Ireland 34 Days ago, and lost the Fleet 8 Days Past, and expected to find the Troops here. Her Cargo is as follows 1500 Barrells (or 75 Tons) Gun Powder, 2500 Small Arms and Carbines, a few English Goods, a Large Quantity of Intrenching Tools, Gun Carriages and t'is said, 8 Brass Field Pieces, etc. etc. The Sailors on Board say she has 10,000 Stand of Arms under the Powder. But I'm of opinion 'tis a mistake. Thus while we are humbling ourselves for our Sins, and beseeching the Pardon of them; and intreating the Assistance of Heaven, we receiv'd an answer, and to me a very Striking one. Excuse my Errors as I'm in haste and accept my best [wishes] for Self and family. I am, Sir, [&c.]

D. Ingraham, Jun.

No Troops had Sail'd from Ireland, but were to Sail in 14 Days, all for Quebec. A number of Papers and Letters were found on board.

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, XLIV, 689.
2. *The Hope*.

#### JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Saturday, May 18, 1776

[Resolved] That, as the colony of Virginia is intersected with many navigable rivers, six gallies be built for the protection of the troops in their transportation across the said rivers, at the continental expence, on as cheap terms as the business for which they are intended will admit of; that such other defence of the rivers and bays, as shall be requisite for the colony, be at the particular charge of the inhabitants thereof; And, that General [Charles] Lee, or the commanding officer in Virginia, transmit to Congress, as early as possible, an account of the expence which shall be incurred in consequence of this resolution.

The Secret Committee having informed Congress of the arrival of one of the vessels fitted out at the expence of the continent, with a quantity of cash,

*Resolved*, That the Secret Committee be directed to give orders for sending the cash, with all convenient despatch, to the commissioners of Congress in Canada:

The secret committee laid before Congress A letter from Mr. [John] Langdon; and, the same being read,

*Resolved*, That it be referred to the Committee of Secret Correspondence, and that said Committee be directed to apply to the Marine Committee for the use of one or more of the continental fleet; and that they send the same to the French West India islands, in order to procure, if possible, a number of muskets, not exceeding ten thousand, and further, that the said Committee be directed to endeavour to discover the designs of the French in assembling so large a fleet, with a great number of troops in the West Indies; and whether they mean to act for or against America.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, 362-66.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, MAY 18." <sup>1</sup>

By another express we have account, that the privateer *Congress*, fitted out of this port, had taken and sent into Sinepuxent a schooner from Pensacola for Grenada, loaded with flour and lumber, and a bout 200 Half Joes; when the *Congress* dispatched the schooner, it is said, she was in chase of two ships.

1. *Constitutional Gazette*, May 22, 1776.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON <sup>1</sup>

My Dear Sir,

Philadelphia 18th May 1776

This only serves to tell you Col [Josiah] Bartlett arrived yesterday and to enclose a Resolution of Congress which I know will not displease you.<sup>2</sup> You see how we come on, a confederation permanent and lasting ought in my opinion to be the next thing and I hope is not far off: if so then the establishment of foreign Agencies I hope will fill our ports with ships from all parts of the world. By the enclosed "Evening's Post" you'll see the effects of their resolution – may it operate in the same manner through America. Your sincere friend

W<sup>m</sup> Whipple

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. Resolution of May 15, 1776.

MEMORANDUM BOOK OF WILLIAM BRADFORD, JR. <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Saturday May 18.

... I received a letter from Capt [Philip] Lacey for Mr [Joshua] Wallace inform[ing] him there was no provisions on board the Vessel which was in Morris River <sup>2</sup> & that [William] McFaden (the former Capt whose bad conduct made Mr Wallace dismiss him) had carried off[f] with him the directions for signals. The remainder of 1 night I spent in enquiring after a vessel for morris River & provisions.

1. Colonel William Bradford Papers, HSP.

2. The brig *Polly*, destined for France under contract with the Secret Committee of Congress, in Maurice River, New Jersey. See William Bradford to Joshua Wallace, May 19, 1776.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1776

[Philadelphia, May 18]

Mr. [Benjamin] Towne – Please to insert the following Queries in your next paper.

1. Whether it would not be adviseable to keep the fire rafts at a greater distance from each other for fear of accidents. Also to keep separate, as much as possible, all other combustibile matters, such as tar, pitch, turpentine, rosin, sulphur, gunpowder, &c.

2. Would it not be well to collect all the spare cannon into one common magazine, or place of safety, and protect them with a strong guard, probably it would be much cheaper then clearing the spikes out, and running the hazard of a disappointment?

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Saturday 18th May 1776

Ordered, That Treasurer of Western Shore pay to Joseph Middleton ninety one Pounds five Shillings, it being the Balance of his Acct for furnishing a Pilot Boat to 3rd Day of Instt

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

GEORGE MASON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Williamsburg May 18th. 1776

Pray confer with some of Your ablest Friends at Congress upon the Subject of forreign Alliances. what Terms it will be expedient to offer. Nations, like Individuals, are govern'd by their Interest – Great Britain will bid against Us – whatever European Power takes us [b]y the Hand must risque a War with her. – We want but two things – a regular Supply of Military Stores, and a naval protection of our Trade & Coasts – for the first we are able & willing to pay the Value in the produce of our Country – for the second, we must give something adequate – to offer what is not worth accepting will be trifling with ourselves. – Our Exports shou'd not be bound or affected by Treaty; our Right to these shou'd be sacredly retain'd – In our Imports perhaps We may make Concessions, so far as to give a preference to the Manufacturers or produce of a particular Country: this wou'd indeed have the Effect of every other Monopoly: We shou'd be furnished with Goods of more Quality, & at a higher price than in an open Market; but this wou'd only force Us earlier into Manufactures – It is an important & delicate Subject, & requires thorough Consideration – I know you will excuse my loose Thoughts; which I give You in a Hurry, without order, but without Reserve.

1. Lee Miscellaneous Folder, VHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

May 1776 in Willmington River Cape Fear No Carolina  
 Thursday 16 fired 6 four pounders at a party of the Rebbels who was firing at us  
 Friday 17 at 11 P M sent the master and 9 men to assist Captn [John] Linzee in dislodging a party of the Rebbels from Newtown ferry House.  
 Saturday 18 AM the Boats Returnd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Cape Fear River

Commander in Chief

the 18th. May 1776

In my last letter of the 29th of April by the *General Gage* Sloop I had the Honor to acquaint Your Excellency that a few of the Transports had got into this River. – and I am now to inform you of the Arrival of the greatest

part of them with Lord [Charles] Cornwallis & Sir Peter Parker, who joined us on the 3d of this month – Two more of the Transports are since arrived, and there are now missing five Transports, The *Hawke* Man of War, Two Bomb Vessels, an Ordnance Store Ship, and a Victualler –

By Lord Cornwallis I received my dispatches from His Majestys Secretary of State a Copy of which is herewith inclosed.

Having previously considered the several objects pointed out by the former instructions from which these appear to differ but little in any essential points, I must beg leave to refer Your Excell. to my letter by the *George*, wherein I stated my Sentiments at large upon the Subject of what in my opinion might be undertaken with effect – But as under the present instruction I am in hourly expectation of receiving your Commands to join you I shall attempt little more than putting the Troops on shore for a few days – for though I am convinced that with a sufficient force operations of consequence might be carried on, I am equally of opinion that it is by no means adviseable to engage in such measures without giving them a fair and full Tryal, as a very ineffectual Attempt would only serve to throw Things into greater confusion and embarrassment.

It is now upwards of Three months since I have received any Letters from Your Excellency which leaves me in a state of total ignorance with respect to the operations carrying on in the Northern Colonies, and tho I might think myself justified by my instructions in joining you immediately, I conceive it upon the whole to be most adviseable to touch at Virginia, which I shall do as soon as the Fleet can be got in readiness for sailing, and there wait for your ultimate directions, unless I should hear from you before my departure.

Brigadr Genl [John] Vaughan has represented to me that the 46th Regt are much in want of their Clothing on board the *Argo* Transport which Vessel was blown off to the West Indies and is now supposed to be with you [Endorsed] By The *Mercury* sailed Sunday 19th May

I. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.

#### JOURNAL OF THE BERMUDA ASSEMBLY <sup>1</sup>

Die Saturni, May 18th, 1776. Ante Meridiem

Mr.[John] Randle also delivered the Bill for renewing and prolonging the Provision Act, Concurred to by the Council, but not assented to by the Governor, with a Message from His Excellency as follows, vizt.: –

I am directed by His Excellency to acquaint Mr. Speaker and the House of Assembly that he can by no means give his Assent to the Bill for renewing and laying on an Embargo on all kinds of grain, flour, &c. &c., without the following Exception: That if any kind of grain or flour is or may be wanted for any of His Majesty's Navy or Army, or any Vessel actually employed in the Government Service, on such necessity any kind of grain or flour may be Exported; anything to the contrary in this Bill or Act notwithstanding.

Ordered that the following Message be sent to His Excellency the Governor in answer to the one just received, viz.: –

May it please Your Excellency: –

We have this Moment received Your Excellency's Message to our House acquainting us that Your Excellency cannot give your Assent to the Bill for renewing the Provision Act unless a Clause be therein inserted in the following words: "That if any kind of Grain or Flour is or may be wanted for any of His Majesty's Navy or Army, or any Vessel actually employed in the Government's Service on such necessity, any kind of Grain or Flour may be Exported; any thing to the contrary in this Bill or Act notwithstanding." In answer to which we will beg leave to observe to your Excellency that if any of His Majesty's Ships of War or any other Ships in the Government Service shou'd come to these Islands in want of Stores for the Prosecution of any Voyage they may be destined for, full and ample provision is made for them under the General Direction of the Bill now under Consideration. Shou'd more be required, the Legislative Body, it is to be presumed on a proper Representation of the matter will be ever ready to testify their Loyalty to their Sovereign by giving all assistance to Government that can be done with security to the Inhabitants of these Islands. This it has ever appeared to us they have been ready and desirous of doing, however it might have been represented to the contrary. Your Excellency well knows that this is not a Provision Country, and that the Difficulty of our Situation in respect to the obtaining Supplies necessary for our subsistence obliges us to give as little Latitude as possible for a possibility of evading the Intention of the Bill in question. Shou'd the Clause proposed be inserted, we conceive it wou'd be incompatible with that security we shou'd endeavour to preserve to the Inhabitants of these Islands, as at present we are not permitted to enter the Ports of America from whence we have hitherto drawn our Resources, by which so far from having it in our power to provide for Fleets and Armies, we might be compelled by hard necessity to quit These Islands for some Country that might furnish us with the necessaries of Life. It is with concern that we find ourselves under the necessity of declining the insertion of the Clause proposed for the Reasons we have already given to Your Excellency. We therefore hope that the Bill will be favored with Your Excellency's assent in it's present State as it cannot operate to the prejudice of His Majesty's Service, and as the safety of thousands of the poor Inhabitants might now be said to depend in a great measure on the Will of Your Excellency.

By Order of the House,  
May 18th, 1776.

Cornelius Hinson, Speaker.

Whereas the Bill for renewing, prolonging and amending the Act for prohibiting the Exportation of Provisions, which this Day passed this House and has been Concurred to by His Majesty's Council, has met with some Obstruction from His Excellency the Governor. In order to remove any Doubts or Objections which may remain in the Breast of His Excellency relative to passing the same; therefore unanimously Resolved that if any of His Majesty's Ships of War or any other Ship actually employed in the service of Government should arrive at these Islands, and should be in want of more Provisions than are by the said Bill allowed, this House on application will ever be ready to grant a further allowance consistent with the safety of His Majesty's Subjects of these Islands.

Ordered that the said Resolution be laid before the Council for Concurrence.

Moved that a Message may be sent to His Excellency the Governor desiring a months' adjournment.

Ordered accordingly, and that such Message be carried by the following Members: — Thomas Fitt, Stephen Outerbridge, Esqrs.

Then Mr. Randle, Deputy Secretary, attended, read and delivered a Paper from His Excellency the Governor, as follows, viz.: —

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly: —

I think I am fully justified for refusing my assent to the Bill if you will not amend it by the proper Clause proposed. As I suppose many of your House cannot be ignorant of the Idle pretence made use of for pursuing out to Sea the small Sloop on the 3d of September, and the Insult the Master of the Vessel met with which I had sent to Sea with Dispatches to His Majesty, And likewise the Disappointment that Captain [John] Tollemache, of His Majesty's ship the *Scorpion*, met with in not obtaining the Rice he had actually agreed for with two several Gentlemen.

As I cannot call the General Assembly upon every occasion of the kind which Assembly might neglect to give their attendance as heretofore.

George James Bruere.

18th May.

Mr. Randle, the Deputy Secretary, attended with the following Message, viz.: "I am directed by His Excellency to acquaint Mr. Speaker and the Gentlemen of the Assembly that he adjourns their House to Monday, the 24th June next."

1. Journal of the Votes of the Assembly, 1676–79, Bda. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS,  
H.M.S. *Seaford* <sup>1</sup>

(A Copy)

You are hereby required and directed to proceed forthwith in His Majesty's Ship *Seaford* under your Command, to Prince Ruperts Bay at the Island of Dominica, and there use all possible dispatch to Compleat her Wood



*John Colpoys.*

and Water, and as soon as that is finished, you are to proceed off the Island Curassou and Cruize about that and the adjacent Islands to intercept and take as Prize of War all such American Vessels as you may meet with; and are particularly described in my General Orders marked No 12 and No 13, which Orders you are strictly to obey and execute, as well as the other General Orders you have received from me; but in executing the same, you are to be exact and careful not to offer any Insult to the Forts, Harbours or Ships of War belonging to His Most Christian Majesty; His Danish Majesty; or the States General of Holland &c. you are to remain on this Service till the 30th June then to return to English Harbour Antigua, with such prizes as you may have taken: for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand at English  
Harbour Antigua; the 18th May 1776.

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

## 19 May (Sunday)

### DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS <sup>1</sup>

[Liverpool] Sunday, May 19th,

Mr. Gideon White reports that one Doan, of Port Roseway, has, as he has said been brought too by 2 armed vessels, one a 40 gun ship, the other a 10 gun brig. That he was detained some time under their sterns, and in a fog, cut cable and run. He supposes them to be Americans.

1. Harold A. Innis, ed., *The Diary of Simeon Perkins 1766-1780* (Toronto, 1948), 121. Hereafter cited as Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*.

### "EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, MAY 19." <sup>1</sup>

On Thursday last [May 16] arrived here the *Greyhound* man of war, Capt. [Archibald] Dickson, in six weeks from Corke, with nine victuallers under convoy; and the same day sailed the *Rose*, Capt. [James] Wallace.

On Friday arrived the *Savage* sloop of war, Capt. [Hugh] Bromedge, from New York, with dispatches for Admiral Shulldham and General Howe.

Sunday last arrived the *Argo* transport, with Col. Enoch Markham, and three companies of the 46th regiment.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 20 to June 22, 1776.

### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Renown*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS BANKS <sup>1</sup>

May 1776

Moor'd in Nantasket Road

Sunday 19

A M Read Prayers to the Ships Company

Mode & hazey Wear. P M Arrived here His Majs Ship *Experiment*, who Saluted me with 13 Guns; Do Return'd Eleven. At 8 sent the *Experiments*, & our Boats Mann'd & Arm'd, (with three Officers) to Attack a Privateer that was aground off Pudding Point, at 10 they came up with her, but found the Rebels had got her off, and another Privateer with her, which obligd they Boats to Retreat, as they kept up such a