

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 5

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

Part 2 of 8

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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^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

19 May (Sunday)

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS ¹

[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." ¹

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 ¹

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

constant fire; Our Barge in Boarding One of them was overset & Lost wth 18 Ships Musquits, 18 Cutlasses, & 8 Pr of Pistols, together wth Cartouch Boxes &ca Compleat. Find Missing Lieut Josh Harris, Robt Socket, & Wm McFarlin, Seamen, And James [E]lling & Andw Sullivan Marines –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/776.

JOHN COTTON TO BARNABAS DEANE ¹

Sir

Middletown My 19th 1776 –

I Recd yours by Mr Osborn wherein you Desire Me to Send you the Length and Size of the Ships Stays to gether with the Qnty of Lines worming, Marling, and Housling, to gether with the Length and Size of Main and Fore Shrouds which Must be Cable Laid and of the Best of Rusia hemp ² – In Regard to My acct, I am about to Gett them Ready for You as I Suppose this Week will be the Most Leasure time With Me, as I intend [to be] about fixing the top Mast Riging and Straping Blocks, I Dont Send you any Dementions for the Mizen Mast Except the Stay as I think there is here a Coil of Riging that will Make Shrouds Which I intend to fix as Soon as I Can Gett the Dementions from Callander as he has Gott them and I have No Coppey I wish if you Come to Rockeyhill you would Gett them and Send them to Me by the first Oppertunity and to Desire Strong to Send Down his Blocks as Soon as posibl as I Shall want them Emediatly – We have gott these wails on the Ship and fifteen Streakes of a Side, I hope this Week please God to Near Shut in Under the wails and Gitt the Bottom Bolted of Which is all present From [&c.]

John Cotton

Main Stay 9 Inch 13½ fathm, Fore Do 13 fathm Same Size
Mizen Stay 7 Inch 10 fathm, fore Shroud 177 fathm, 8 Inch
Main Ditto 80 fathom – 8 Inch –
Wormline 4 Whole Shots of 6 Thread, & 2 Do of 4 thread –
2 Dozen Codlines 8 Dozen Marlin 10 Ditto of Houseline
60 lb of Twine for Sewing and 10 lb for Whiping –

Yrs J.C –

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. The Continental frigate building at Middletown.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN

NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

May 1776	[Providence River]
Monday 13	Light airs and Calm, Weigh'd, in Company with the <i>Cabot</i> & drap'd, down to Petuckoct and came too
Tuesday 14th	Moderate Breezes & Clear, Hove up and beat Down, and at 6 P M, gott a Ground on the Gull rocks
Wednesday 15	Light airs & Calm, At 3 A M, Gott off & tow'd down abres of new Port & came too
Thursday 16th	Moderate Breezes & Clear, Employ'd filling Watar
Friday 17	Fresh Breezes, the first part, the Latter Rain

Saturday 18 Moderate Breezes & Cloudy thick Weather, the *Fly* arriv'd from Providence
 Sunday 19 Light Breezes & Clear, at 2 P M, took a Sloop, from the Warf, Bound to Halifax, & fetch'd her a Long side & over-hauld her,

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

LIEUTENANT JOHN PAUL JONES TO JOSEPH HEWES ¹

On board the Sloop *Providence* N. York

Sir

19th May 1776

I had the honour of writing you the history of our Cruise in the Fleet from the Capes of Delaware 'till our Arrival at N. London the 14th Ulto inclosing an inventory of all the stores taken at N. Providence &ca – the letter contained a particular account of the Action with the *Glasgow* in an Extract from the *Alfred's* Log Book – it also contained some free thoughts on Certain Characters in the Fleet – it was inclosed to Mr [David] Sproat, and by ill luck fell into hands not the most agreeable on its way to the Post Office; from which circumstance I much fear it hath miscarried – for, I have Just now parted from Capt'n [David] Lenox and tho' he is late from Philadelphia he hath no account of any letters from me to his Uncle Mr Sproat.

I now inclose you the minutes of two Court Martials held on board the *Alfred*, the Evidences at large excepted – these minutes have not yet been seen in Print. – in Consequence of the last Trial I was ordered to take the Command of this Vessel the 10th Curr't I arrived here Yesterday Afternoon in 36 hours from Rhode Island with a return of upwards of 100 men besides Officers which Genl Washington lent to the Fleet at N. London. – I left the *A. Doria* & *Cabot* at Rhode Island ready to Sail together on a four Weeks Cruise. – What will become of the *Alfred* & *Columbus* heaven only knows – the Seamen have been so very Sickly since the Fleet returned to the Continent, that it will be Impossible to man them without Others can be entered. – I have landed Genl Washington's Soldiers, and shall now Apply to Shipping men, if any can be Obtained but it appears that the Seamen almost to a man had entered into the Army before the Fleet was Set on Foot, and I am well informed that there are four or five thousand Seamen now in the Land Service. ~~If this be admitted, I will affirm that without an Order to draft seamen out of the Army the thirteen New Ships may rot in the harbours for want of hands²~~

The Unfortunate Engagement with the *Glasgow* seems to be a general refl[ec]tion on the Officers of the Fleet – but a little reflection will set the matter in a true light – for no Officer who Acts under the Eye of a Superiour and who doth not Stand charged by that Superiour for Cowardice or Misconduct, can be blamed on any Occasion whatever. – For my own part I wish a General Enquirey might be made respecting the Abilities of Officers in all Stations – and then the Country would not be Cheated. I may be wrong but in my Opinion a Captain of the Navy ought to be a man of

Strong and well connected Sense with a tolerable Education. a Gentleman as well as a Seaman both in Theory and Practice – for, want of learning and rude Ungentle Manners are by no means the Characteristick of an Officer. – I have been led into this Subject on feeling myself hurt as an Individual by the Censures that have been indiscriminately thrown out – for altho' my Station confined me to the *Alfreds* lower Gun Deck where I commanded dureing the Action – and tho' the Commodores letter which hath been published says "all the Officers in the *Alfred* behaved well" – Yet still the Publick blames me among Others for not taking the Enemy.

I declined the Command of this Sloop at Philadelphia – nor should I now have Accepted it had it not been for the Rude Unhappy Temper of my late Commander. – I now reflect with Pleasure that I had Philosophy Sufficient to Avoid Quarreling with him – and that I even Obtained his blessing at Parting. – may he Soon become of an Affable even disposition, and may he find Pleasure in Communicating Happiness arround him.³

There is little Confidence to be placed in reports Otherwise the Lieutenants of the Fleet might have reason to be Uneasie when they are told that the Several Committees have orders to Appoint all the Officers for the New Ships except only the Captains. – I cannot think that they will be so far Overlooked who have at first Stept forth and Shewn, at least, a Willingness. – Nor can I suppose that my own Conduct will in the Esteem of the Congress Subject me to be Superseded in favour of a Younger Officer, especially one who is said not to Understand Navigation – I mean the Lieutenant of the *Cabot* who was put in Commr of the *Fly* at Reedy Island after I had declined it –⁴ I was then told that no new Commission would be given – and I considered her as a paltry Message Boat fit to be Commanded by a Midshipman. – but on my Appointment to the *Providence* I was indeed Astonished to find my Seniority Questioned – the Commodore told me he must refer to the Congress – I have recd no New Commission – I wish the matter in dispute may first be cleared up – I will Chearfully abide by whatever you may think is right – at the same time I am ready at Any time to have my pretensions enquired into by men who are Judges.

When I applied for a Lieutenancy I hoped in that rank to gain much useful knowledge from Men of More experience than myself – I was however mistaken for instead of gaining information I was Obligated to inform Others – I formed an Exercise and trained the Men so well to the Great Guns in the *Alfred* that they Went thro' the motions of Broad Sides & Rounds as Exactly as Soldiers generally Perform the Manual Exercise.

When I get what men are to be had here – I am Ordered back to *Providence* for further Instructions. – the Sloop must be hove down – and considerably repaired and refitted before She can Proceed properly on any Cruise. – I should esteem myself happy in being Sent for to Philadelphia to act under the more immediate direction of Congress especially in one of the new Ships – I must rely on your Intrest herein. –

The largest and I think by far the best of the Frigates was Launched the day after I left *Providence* – but from what I can learn neither of them

will equal the Philadelphia Ships – I left the *Columbus* heaving down and the *Alfred* hauling to the Wharf. – I send this by the Commodore's Steward who hath leave to Visit his Wife at Phila⁵ and will call on You on his return in a day or two I expect that he will overtake me here if I succeed in getting Men – if not he will follow me to Rhode Island and Providence. – May I hope for the honour of a letter from you by his hands – it will most Singularly Oblige me and greatly add to the favours Already Confered on Sir [&c.]

Jn^o P. Jones

[NB.] If you have not recd my last I will send a Copy if desired

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

2. The deleted sentence is contained in the draft of this letter in Papers of John Paul Jones, L.C.

3. Captain Dudley Saltonstall.

4. Lieutenant Hoysteed Hacker.

5. The Commodore's steward was John Connor who appears on the *Alfred's* roster as "discharged May 10, 1776," the day that he apparently took passage on board the *Providence* for New York.

WILLIAM BRADFORD, JR. TO JOSHUA WALLACE¹

[Extract]

Philada Sunday Evening.

Dear Sir,

May 19th 1776

Yesterday Evening I received a Letter from Capt. [Philip] Lacey for you, which I opened agreeable to your directions. It was in these words,

Mr Wallace

Morris River May 17th

Capt. McFaden has been here and has taken his Chest and every thing out of the Cabin. He has left some letters and the Ships Papers. His things is gone to Philada in Mr Peterson's Shallop. There is but one Barrel of Beef and one of Pork on board, which will be broached in a few days. I am going to try if I can get any. If you would send two or three barrels down in Mr Peterson's Shallop: he keeps store here: If I can get provision I shall sail the first opportunity: If I should be gone Mr Peterson will take care of them for you Capt. McFaden has taken away his orders with Directions for signals that is to be at our Capes, I know not. I am yours &c P. Lacey²

I consulted with Daddy what was to be done. He advised, to get two barrels of Pork & two of Beef, to look out for Peterson's Shallop & send them by her. Accordinly I set out & inquired at almost all the Pork Merchants I could hear of – they either had none or none to dispose of. Rees Meredith, however, on acquainting him with the circumstances of the case has promised to let me have two barrels if I can get none elsewhere, & Billy say Mr Wharton has a few Barrells which he believes he will spare – My inquiries after the Shallop were still more fruitless – I could hear nothing of her – I hurried to McFaden – he was not at home but this Morning I saw him. He told me the Shallop had not yet come. I demanded the orders that he had carried off[f] – The villain said he had left them at Cohansie – that he had been stopped by some of the Committee of that place as a suspected person. [No wonder thought I! that ugly Face of yours – I shall forever honor that

Committee for their skill in Physiognomy –] he said he was obliged to produce the papers to prove that he was a good man: that the Committed dismissed him but kept the papers, saying that as he had left the Vessel he had no occasion for them and that they themselves would send them to Mr [Robert] Morris. – This is the Scoundrels Story – how true I know not – I shall wait on Mr Morris in the morning – at present he is out of town.

This Evening I happily found at Salter's Wharff a Shallop – Capt Thompson's – going for Morris River tomorrow night. I shall send the Pork by her & if I can light on no beef shall send three barrels. I will write both to Mr Peterson & Capt Lacey.

Mr Joshua Wallace Somerset County New Jersey.

1. Wallace Papers, vol. 1, 33, HSP.

2. Master of the brig *Polly*, chartered by the Secret Committee to carry provisions for France.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE ¹

May 1776 Single Anchor Snows point [Cape Fear River] NNW 1½ Mile

Sunday 19 at 6 Weighed ½ past came too at the Fort with the Bt Br Veer'd away & Moor'd Fort Johns[t]on W½ Mile found riding here his Majs Sloop *Cruizer*. Saluted Commodore Sir Petr Parker with 18 Guns.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

“COPY OF A LETTER FROM DON GEROMINO ENRILE GUERCI & DON MANUEL PHELIX RIESCH – AGENTS OF THE ROYAL ASSIENTO COMPANY AT THE HAVANA TO MESSRS FOORD & DELPRATT DATED 19TH MAY 1776.–” ¹

Most Honble Gentlemen

Yesterday, to our great Surprise, arrived at this Port twenty two English Sailors, which made part of the Crew, belonging to the *Lady Juliana* Captain [Christopher] Stevenson, the *Reynolds* Captain [Heylock] Rusden, and the *Degune* [*Juno*] Captain [Samuel] Marson, which were taken near the Port of Mantanzas, at the Mouth of the Bahama Channel, by two Bostonian Sloops, so well manned and armed that they are able to fight any vessel whatever, as we have been told by the people taken. ² These Three Vessels sailed from your Island bound to London, laden with produce and money to a considerable amount; the greatest part of their Crews & passengers were kept Prisoners; & the 22 Men which arrived here, were sent ashore by the Privateers in a large Boat, as they chose rather to come here, than go to America; amongst these is the Mate of the *Reynolds* and Captain Marson, but Capt[ain] Stephenson staid with the Privateers, in order as we imagine not to abandon his Ship, and to have Justice done him, if possible from the Injury he hath sustained from those Pirates, we wish we may not be deceived in this our Opinion. –

The Privateers still continue cruizing at the same place, that is at the very mouth of the Bahama Channel, in so much, that any Vessel that comes this way, must fall into their hands, as they are not acquainted with the Dan-

ger which has engaged us as well as in consideration of your being possibly concern'd in the Vessels, and the benefit it may be to your Merchants in general, to forward you this express by way of Port au Prince, with orders to Charter immediately a small Vessel to proceed to you that you may have the earliest account of this Important news – We are Gent [&c.]

Geromino Enrile Guerci
Manuel Phelix Riesch

(A Copy)

[Endorsed] a true Translation from the Spanish – Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. The Pennsylvania privateer sloops *Congress* and *Chance*.

20 May

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN HENRY DEARBORN ¹

[Seminary, Quebec, May] 16

At one O Clock P:M: Mr [Peter] Levius came to see me, & to my great joy inform'd me that the Genl had given his Consent for me to go home on Parole, & that we should sail this afternoon, – at 5: of the Clock the Town Major Came for Major [Return Jonathan] Meigs & myself, to go to the Lieut Governor. to give our parole, the verbal agreement we made was, that if ever there was an exchange of Prisoners we were to have the benefit of it, and until then we were not to take up arms against the King. After giving our Paroles from under our hands, we were carried before the Genl ² who appear'd to be a very humane tender-hearted man. after wishing us a good voyage, & Saying he hoped to give the remainder of our officers the same liberty, he desir'd the Town Major to conduct us on Board, we desir'd leave to visit our men in prison but could not obtain it.

After getting our baggage & taking leave of our fellow prisoners we went on board a schooner, which we are to go to Halifax, in but as she did not sail today, we were invited on Board the Admirals ship, where we were very genteely used, and tarried all night.³

17 We Sail'd this morning, 10 O'Clock, we fell down to the lower end of the Island of Orleans, the wind being ahead we were obliged to cast anchor, at two of the Clock P:M: we went on shore upon Orleans, bought some Fowl & eggs, Orleans is a very pleasant island, but the Inhabitants are extremely ignorant.

18 We weighed anchor at 4 this morning, & had a fine breeze. at 2 Clock we Struck on the Rocks off against the Isle of Coudre, which is eighteen Leagues from Quebec. we ware in great danger of staving to pieces. But lucky for us we got off, here we Saw a great many white porpuses which were very large – We came to an anchor this night by Hare-Island, which is thirty-six Leagues from Quebec.

19 We hove up at four this morning, we have but very little wind the River here is five Leagues in Weadth, we fell down to the Isle

of Bic which is fifty Leagues from Quebec, where we found his Majesty's ship *Niger*, which is a thirty-two Gun Frigate, and an arm'd schooner lying at Anchor, we cast our anchor here at sunset.

20 We weighed anchor here this morning at 4 we had a small breeze & some rain, and a very large sea at six o'Clock we had both our masts sprung, which were barely saved from going overboard, we made a signal of distress to the above mention'd vessels, which we were in sight of. who gave us immediate relief, we put back to the ship as fast & well as we could, and after the schooner was examin'd by the carpenters, it was order'd back to Quebec and we were put on Board the *Niger*, which was now going to sail, bound for Hallifax. — at 10. O Clock this evening we met with Two Men of war and several Transports. ⁴

1. "Journal of Captain Henry Dearborn," *The Magazine of History* . . . (Tarrytown, 1927), XXXIV, Extra No. 134. Hereafter cited as *Dearborn Journal*.
2. General Guy Carleton.
3. Probably the *Isis*, Captain Charles Douglas.
4. Dearborn was a day off in his reckoning according to the journal of Captain George Talbot of the *Niger*, which reads: "Monday 20th: at 7 A M Arrived here the *Victory* Schooner bound to Halifax at 6 A M [Tuesday, May 21] the Schooner Sailed Do Unmoor'd Ship the Schooner Anch'd about 2 Leagues to the Etward of us and made the Signal of Distress Sent the Boats to her Assistance found Her Masts rotten and Sprung sent the Carpenters to Examine Ditto and was reported unfit to proceed to Sea With—Fresh Breezes & Cloudy Wear at 4 P M weighd and came to Sail." The journal makes no mention of receiving Dearborn and Meigs on board. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Chatham in Halifax Harbour the

Sir

20th May 1776.

I am to inform you His Majesty's Sloop *Savage* arrived here the 17th Instant with dispatches from New York, bringing under Convoy the Ship *Lady Gage* and two other Vessels taken at that place by His Majesty's Ships.

I herewith transmit to you Copies of Captain Parker's Letter, and the several Articles of Intelligence with which it was accompanied. ²

Their Lordships having by Mr [George] Jackson's Letter of the 29th February signified to me their directions that I should purchase a Ship at Boston recommended by Lieutenant [Henry] Mowat to be established as a Sloop in His Majesty's Service, which Vessel having been destroyed at the Evacuation of that place by the King's forces, and as the *Lady Gage* appears to be in every respect proper for that purpose, it is my intention to purchase and establish her as a Sloop of War.

You will also receive by this Conveyance a List of such Vessels as have been Seized or Taken by His Majesty's Ships as have come to my knowledge, since my last Account. Their Lordships will observe among them a Schooner which was laden with Gunpowder, Arms, and other Military Stores, taken by the *Cerberus*, and *Diligent* Brig, the Cargo of which Vessel appears to have cost Twenty seven thousand Livers at Cape Francois, ³ and the additional number of Ships which will in future be employed upon the Ameri-

can Coast must necessarily render the Rebels obtaining Supplies of these, and other Articles, still more difficult and precarious. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. Parker's letter of April 29, 1776, with enclosures, Volume 4, 1310-13.

3. Schooner *Lyon*, Moses Barlow, master, taken May 1, 1776, bound from Cape François to Rhode Island, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Chatham Halifax Harbour 20th May 1776.

I am to acquaint you that an Armed Sloop sent from Cape Fear with dispatches for the General and myself arrived here the 13th instant, and that by a Letter from Captain [Anthony] Hunt of His Majesty's Ship *Sphinx* I am acquainted with his arrival there with the *Pigot* Hospital Ship, *Aurora* and *Emanuel* Transports, the *Sovereign* Victualler, and the *King George* Transport one of Sir Peter Parker's Squadron, which joined him upon the Coast.

Captain Hunt further informs me that on the 14th of March he spoke the *Solebay* off Madeira, when he was acquainted that Ship parted from Sir Peter Parker the preceeding day, who had with him only Thirteen Sail of Transports, the *Actaeon*, *Active*, and *Carcass* Bomb, with many Transports having seperated from him.

I have also been informed from Cape Fear, that several Transports which sailed with the *Bristol*, but which had parted from her, were arrived there. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Chatham Halifax Harbour 20th May 1776.

I am to inform you of the arrival of His Majesty's Ship *Greyhound* at this place the 16th instant, and also of the whole of her Convoy except the *Hope*, laden with Gunpowder and Ordnance Stores, which Ship I am sorry to acquaint you seperated from the *Greyhound* the 10th in a very thick fog, and has not since been heard of; but as I am acquainted by Captain [Archibald] Dickson that he having before his departure from England received an anonymous Letter which intimated that the Master of that Ship was disaffectedly inclined, and that he on that account had put a Petty Officer and two Men on board her giving directions to the Officer "to attend very particularly to the conduct of the Master, and if he suspected him of any design to seperate from the Convoy, or to put the Ship in the way of being taken by the Rebel Privateers to confine him, and take the Command of her, and offer a handsome reward to the Seamen on board for their Assistance, if it should be necessary; "and as in my disposition of the Cruizers, I have taken every precaution for the protection of such Vessels as may come upon the

Coast, and particularly those that may be Ordered to Boston, I hope she will be met with by some of His Majesty's Ships

Captain Dickson delivered to me the following Orders and Letters, which shall be duly attended to.

Orders.

- 29th Januy 1776. To increase the Complements of the Ships as therein mentioned.
 26th Februy To put the *Hope* on the establishment of a Sloop.
 29. " To take Captain Dickson in the *Greyhound* under my Command.

Letters.

- 20th February Mr [George] Jackson's inclosing Commissions for two first Lieutenants of Marines.
 23rd " Do acquainting me of my being promoted to Vice of the Blue.
 5th March 1776 Mr Jackson's to acquaint me of a Subaltern and twenty three Marines being sent in the *Greyhound* to be distributed to the Ships short of complement, and of their Lordships intention to send out Marines in future for that purpose in Vessels laden with Supplies. I am Sir [&c.]
 M: Shulldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

ADMIRALTY COURT TRIAL OF THE AMERICAN BRIG *Diligence* ¹

- Nova Scotia } Hyde Parker Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship of
 Court of Vice } War the *Phenix* and George Vandeput of the *Asia* VS the
 Admiralty } Brig *Diligence*
 20th May 1776 Libel filed and entred Order made on file Court 23d May
 for examination of Witnesses 8th June
 20 May 1776 Charles Richard Bowen Midshipman on board the *Phenix*
 being Duly sworn deposeth that on or about the 17th March last they
 took the Brig *Diligence* off Sandy Hook near New York loaded with
 Cyder Cotton Melasses and Salt bound to Elizabeth Town New
 Jersey —

Chas Richd Bowen

Wm White being duly sworn Confirms the above

his
 Wm X White
 mark

Sworn before me 20th May 1776

Chas Morris Junr Regr

[Endorsed]

- 8th June } Papers filed by the Captors No 1. to 6 inclusive as on file
 1776 } Court open'd by makeing Proclamation as usual
 Decree Pronounc'd as on file whereby the Brigantine

Diligence and Cargo was Condemn'd as lawfull Prize to the Capters thereof no Claimers appearing—
Court adjourn'd without Day in this Cause—²

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

2. *Ibid.*, on May 20 trial was also held on the following American vessels: *Lady Gage*, *Hannah*, *James*, and *Lyon*. All were condemned as lawful prizes.

JOHN LANGDON TO JOHN BROWN, PROVIDENCE¹

[Extract]

Portsmouth 20 May 1776

... We hope to Launch our Frigate to Morrow or next day, the Ways are almost Completed, Cables & Anchors going on board, the small one at Newbury getting in her upper deck the large one has not her lower deck beams in as yet—² I find by my Letters from Phila: that there's an Order on you & your Brother for one hundred Bolts Canvas, which you'll please to forward by Land with all dispatch to Ipswich to the Care of Capt. Jeremiah Stamford from whence I take it by Water with Safety—We this moment hear that a glorious prize, with Powder, Arms Ld is carried into Boston on which I Congratulate you—³

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

2. The references are to the two frigates building at Newburyport, subsequently to be named the *Boston* and the *Hancock*.

3. The powder ship *Hope* taken by Captain James Mugford in Washington's schooner *Franklin*.

JOHN LANGDON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE¹

My Friend—

Portsmouth 20th May 1776

Your several favor's of the 2d and 7th Instant are come to hand with the Regulations of Navey &c I think with you, that the Officers are very low especially the Capt'n, it will not Uniform him, I've sent a List of the first I tho't of, some time since, I now inclose another, out of which you'll take your Choice, if they are not already appointed, you say you do not like the 1 Lieut (for good reasons) but when I tell you he has been very ready to Acknowledge all mistakes, he's made, and been very ready to give every Assistance well acquainted with the business (having been in the Service as an Officer[]), have no doubt you'll think him [a] proper person—I've never given him the most distant hint, of sending his Name, am therefore entirely free, as I've mentioned to no Soul except [Thomas] Thompson, of any Names, I've sent therefore am not Certain, he or they will Accept, but suppose they will, I therefore offer him free from Prejudice at [a] proper Man, I had in my mind the same difficulty ever since he oppos'd the building battery's, think I am clear he's laid all that aside, as he's very staunch, every one knows that the principal Officers, are appointed by Congress, immediately therefore I don't pretend, to know who will be recommended by you, Captain [Thomas] Simpson has not return'd, but Expected therefore you'll be Judge, whither to recommend him or not I have not asked Major [James] Hackett but if he's appointed and will go, he's the smartest Man in the Colony I know not who to mention for Surgeon, we have no one here who would accept, I believe except Little who is a Tory,

therefore won't do, I've this moment tho't of John Jackson, who is very cleavour, if it was worth five hundred Stg p[er] year our Brother [Joshua] Brackett would be the best Man in the World. I rejoice with you at the arrival of Powder. News has just arrived from Boston that our privateers have carried a Ship in there, with 75 Tons of Powder, dry Goods small Arms, & many other matters² this I beleive is true, when which I most heartily Congratulate you. what must the infamous Tyrant George think of himself and menions when he sees Heaven against him – (Parker and Cornwallis,)³ one half their Fleet dispersed, many intirely lost by hard Gales, those 17 Sail you mention I beleive is all thats left of them – The Army at Hallifax Starving, their Warlike Stores, every Day falling into our Hands, the Continent compleately prepar'd to meet the poor remains of a guilty and disheartned, band of butchers of Mankind, I say will not all this with Ten thousand more of his misdeeds, bare down the Guilty Soul of that Dog in Forehead but in Heart a Deer.

We are now finishing the Ways getting Cables and Anchors on board, shall Launch next Day after tomorrow which will be Wednesday the 22d May, As good a Ship as can be built on the Continent, raised the 1st of March and Launched & Compleatly graved &c the 22d of May following, God send we may meet with good Fortune in Launching, put this in the paper immediately in any manner you think proper –

Our yard is in the Compleatest order and its a pity could not be improved another Year, as it has cost much Money which will be Lost, otherwise. – I've mentioned in all my Letters, that I would Resign, my seat in Congress, and take the Agency at present, as I find I must be here, for some time; and can release it, when I see fit, and can recommend one to you, hereafter, if I should incline to go to Phila and resign in his favour. –

If a Battalion should be Ordered for this part of the Continent, I think Major James Hackett the Compleatest Officer we have to comm'd and James Hill good second if such a thing as that should happen, don't recommend him as Capt of Marines – I've refer'd Colonel [Josiah] Bartlett to this Letter for any particulars which you'll Communicate. I am without Flattery [&c.]

John Langdon

P S I've desired the Canvas to be forwarded from Providence – no light Canvas, no Guns of any kind no orders to procure provisions, or to Ship Men, every thing going on at the greatest Expençe, for want of having Orders in Season – I've not yet got another Cargo for France, not being able to procure a Sufficiency of Furr, potash &c without which cannot make up a Cargo, of sufficient Value worth while running risque of Vessell, the other Cargo turns out not so Valuable, as could have wished if a Ship of Five hundred Tons, could be had, Masts could be the Cargo I therefore shall wait the Orders of the Secret Committee Respecting sending another small Vessell with Masts plank &c think it not worth while –

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

2. The powder ship *Hope*.

3. Commodore Sir Peter Parker and Major General Charles Cornwallis.

JOHN LANGDON TO HENDERSON INCHES, LINCOLN MERCHANT ¹

Sir –

Portsmouth 20th May 1776

Your favo'r of the 14th instant is now before me by which I see you've taken Measures to forward the Yarns to Ipswich to the Care of Capt Jeremiah Stamford for which I thank you, I Expect to pay the same that Mr [Thomas] Cushing did for Hemp, with the proper Consideration, between that and yarns, as you mention which no doubt is right. –

We have heard of the Valuable prize taken and carried into Boston upon which I most heartily Congratulate you – With all due respect [&c.]

John Langdon

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

JOHN LANGDON TO SAMUEL BRECK, BOSTON MERCHANT ¹

My dear Sir

Portsmouth 20th May 1776

Your favo'r of the 14th instant is now before me; am much Obligated to you for forwarding the Anchor, to Ipswich to the Care of Captain Jeremiah Stamford the Yarn from Mr Inches (from whom I have a Letter) think best to come by Water to Newbury, as you mention, if Mr Inches has not sent them by Land to Ipswich, shall thank you to see to this for me, any Expençe, or Trouble, I'm ready to make Satisfaction for on demand. My kind respects to your Lady – With Respect your Friend

John Langdon

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

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1776

[Advertisement]

Colony of the Massachusett's Bay, Essex ss.

Libels are filed before me against the brigantine named the *Jane*, burthen about one hundred and twenty tons, commanded by James Fulton, – and against the brigantine named the *William*, burthen about one hundred tons, commanded by Richard Pine [Price]: – Which vessels are said to have been improved in carrying supplies to the fleet and army employed against the United Colonies, and taken and brought into the county of Essex. And the Court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea coast of America, and brought into either of the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex or Essex, will be held at Salem, on Tuesday the fourth day of June, 1776 at the hour of ten in the forenoon, to try the justice of the said captures – Of which this notice is given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, that the owners of said vessels, or any persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessels, with their cargoes and appurtenances, should not be condemned.

Timothy Pickering, jun. (Judge of said Court.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Boston, May 20, 1776

I am to inform your Excellency that yesterday afternoon Captain Mug-

ford in the armed Schooner *Franklin*, fell down in order to go out on a Cruise but got a ground near Point Shirley in the Evening. Major [John Gizzard] Frazers little armed Schooner went down at the same time with the *Franklin*, and anchored not far from her; about midnight a number of sail and other Boats from the Men of War attacked the two armed Schooners, the people on board Major Frazer's cut their cable and came up; Capt Mugford was very fiercely attacked by twelve or thirteen Boats full of Men, but he and his Men exerted themselves with remar[k]able Bravery, beat off the Enemy, sunk several of their Boats and killed a number of their men, it is supposed they lost sixty or seventy. The intrepid Captain Mugford fell a little before the Enemy left his Schooner, he was run through with a lance while he was cutting off the hands of the Pirates as they were attempting to board him; and it is said that with his own hands he cut off five pair of theirs; – no other Man was either killed or wounded on Board the *Franklin*. –

These are all the particulars which I have been able to collect, as but one man has yet come up from the Schooner this morning I am your Excellency's [&c.]

Artemas Ward

P S. Mr Mugford was not commiss[ion]ed Captain of the *Franklin*, but Master, and as the other Officers had left the Schooner he took the Command.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

DAVID COBB TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE ¹

My Dear Sir

Boston May 20th 1776

I sent a Letter to the post Office for you last Saturday, but a Circumstance that happen'd last Evening, relative to our privateers, obliges me to write you again. – As Capt Muckford, (the same that took the Prize Ship on Fast Day) ² was going out on another Cruize yesterday afternoon being accompined down the Harbour by the [Lady] *Washington* Privateer, Muckford got aground by Point Shirley; in this scituation they were attack'd, about 8 or 9 o'Clock in the Evening, by 13 Boats & 3 Schooners belonging to the Man of War, an engagement ensued, in which the Americans, ever noted for their Intrepidity, repuls'd the Enemy with great Loss, their Boats & Dead Men being found in plenty on Deer Island shore this morning, & the Decks of the Privateers where cover'd with the hands & fingers of the Enemy. – our prize Ship is at the Wharf unlading her Cargoe. – you won't forgit our Friend Mr Russell; if there can be such a post as Auctioneer for the Agents in this Province it wou'd be agreeable to him –

Do be so good as to send me your Philadelphia papers – In haste I am [&c.]

David Cobb

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

2. The powder ship *Hope*.



FUNERAL ELEGY, Composed on the DEATH of the truly Brave and Heroic CAPTAIN JAMES MUGFORD,

Late COMMANDER of the FRANKLIN PRIVATEER Schooner, lately fitted out from MARBLEHEAD, with a few
Bonders and Swivels, and 21 Men, who on the 17th of May, 1776, valiantly attacked and took a King's Store-
Ship of 100 Tons, bound from Cork to Boston, mounting 3 Carriage Guns, besides Swivels, and 18 M
is the richest Prize that has been brought into any Port in the AMERICAN COLONIES since the
commencement of the War, having on board 1500 Barrels of Powder, designed for the Use of our cruel and un-
cable Enemies, the British Fleet and Army, employed to subvert the CONTINENT.—This brave and gallant
HERO, most unfortunately for his COUNTRY, fell a sacrifice in Defence of its RIGHTS and LIBERTIES, on
the 19th of the same Month, in a desperate Engagement with 13 Boats, manned with 200 Marines and Sailors
from the British Fleet. This BRAVE is recommended to be preserved by all the FRIENDS to AMERICAN LIBERTY.

Alas! who but mourns at the decrees of fate,
To snatch a Youth whose death I ne will relate,
To vary manners of the dead to live,
And mix with the brave I am of war above.

The winged messenger of death, with force dart
Was swiftly sent, and pierced our HERO's heart.
The Muse but weeps, whose breast is with woe,
We've lost a mortal courage our Country's foe.
O! could his life been spared for a few years!
But ah! the brave is fled, and left a world in tears.
Wilt thou be praised? poetic powers are faint,
Thy courage and thy valor halt to paint.

To thee let Heroes grateful voices raise,
The brave and great may justly join their praise.
This Youth who was but in his prime,
Shall in CORUMBA's latest Annals shine.

Whose brightest deeds of glory and renown
Were late with wreaths of laurels crown'd.
Ye great and good! O mourn now with the Muse,
And weep on hearing of this awful news.

MUGFORD's no more. O let our tears now flow!
No more he lives the terror of our faithless foe.
Through thick'ning glooms, look back, immortal SHADE,
In that confusion which thy death hath made.

Or from CORUMBA's height look down and see
A Continent in grief bereft of thee.
Who taught thee, MUGFORD, in the powers of night,
To vanquish numbers who oppos'd with might?

Who thrang thy feeble arms with might unknown?
How great thy conquest, and how bright thy crown!
The morning sun, which rose resplendent bright
Was quickly mantled with the gloom of night.

But hark! in Heav'n's blest how's your HERO hear,
And learn to imitate his courage here:
"Come WARREN, WOLFE, MONTGOMERY join with me,
We're glad we fought to set our Country free."

"Free from those Tyrant's mercenary sway."
Thus spake those HEROES, whom the gods obey.
Great Monarch! see, deprived of vital breath,
A youthful HERO in the dust of death.

Dost thou go on incessant to destroy,
Our guests to double, and lay waste our joy?
Enough thou never yet wast known to slay,
Through millions die the vassals of thy sway.

Nor youth, nor science, nor the ties of love,
Nor ought on earth thy flinty heart can move.
The conqueror brave, from his dire dart to save
In vain we ask the Sovereign of the Grave.

Thy PARTNER sees thee mingle with the dead,
And rear thy graceful tresses from her head,
Wild in thy grief, with grief unknown oppress'd,
Such grief as deep heavings on her breast.

Fair MOURNER there see thy lov'd MUGFORD laid,
And o'er him spread the deep impervious shade;
Close his eyes, and heavy fetters keep
His senses bound in never-waking sleep.

'Till time shall cease, 'till many a starry world
Shall fall from Heav'n, in dire confusion hurl'd,
'Till nature in her final wreck shall lie,
And her last groan shall rend the azure sky.

Not, not 'till then his active soul shall claim
His body a divine immortal frame.
But see the softly-tearing tears apace
Pursue each other down the MOURNER's face.

But cease thy tears, bid ev'ry sigh depart,
And cast the load of anguish from thine heart:
From the cold shell of his great soul arise,
And look beyond, thou native of the skies.

There fix thy view, where swifter than the wind
Thy MUGFORD mounts, and leaves the earth behind.
Thyself prepare to pass the vale of night,
To join forever on the hills of light.

To thine embrace his joyful spirit moves
To Thee, the PARTNER of his earthly loves.
He welcomes thee to pleasures more refin'd,
And better suited to an immortal mind.

Say, PARENT, why this unavailing moan?
Why heave your pensive bosom with the groan?
To JAMES, the subject of my mournful song,
A brighter world, and nobler strains belong.

Say, would you tear him from the realms above,
By thoughtless wishes and preposterous love?
Doth his felicity increase your pain?
Or could you welcome to this world again.

Indulgent PARENT, weep not for thy son,
Prepare yourself the heavenly race to run.
When death shall snap the thread of life's frail cord,
May you enjoy the blessed mansion of your GOD.

ALBANY: Printed and Sold by E. RUSSELL, in Main-Street, over-against the COMMON-SCHOOL, CLARK'S DESK, and found-
other New Pieces on the same Paper, very cheap, by a
ALBANY: Printed and Sold by E. RUSSELL, in Main-Street, over-against the COMMON-SCHOOL, CLARK'S DESK, and found-

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Experiment*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SCOTT ¹

- May 1776 Cape Cod SbW 16 Miles
- Saturday 18 A M at 6 Wore to join her [*Milford*] at 8 Tkd & stood to her, at 10 spoke her, made sl & stood up Bay, out all reefs, all Sail Sett, Punish'd Edwd Flinn, Seamn, Thos Ellis & Jno Southorne Marines, for Drunkenness & Neglect of Duty, Soundd 8 fm Coarse Sand
Light Airs & foggy Wr with small rain at times. P M at 7 Wore at 8 in 1st & 2d reefs
- Sunday 19 at 1 A M Wore, at 6 out all reefs & made all Sail to Wt ward, at 9 TKd falling in near the Shore, & Calm at 10 Came too with the Stream Anchor in 161½ fathms, at Noon weigh'd & made all Sail lost a Hand lead & two lines
Situat Church S30W Off Shore 4 Miles
Modte & hazy Wr P M at 2 fird a Six pr Shtd & brot too His Majts Brigg *Hope*, spoke her & got a Pilot out of her, made sl for Nantaskett Road ¼ past came too there with the Bt Bowr in 6 fathm & veer'd to ½ a Cable found here His Majts ship *Renown* with a broad pendt saluted her with 13 Guns, in all reefs & handd sls Got Top Gt Y'ds down, at 6 came down near pudding point an Arm'd Schooner belongg to the Rebels, at 8 Sent the Bardge, Pinnace & Cutter, Man'd & Armed with an Officer & severl Petty Officers, in Co with the *Renowns* boats, to take or destroy her, on attacking her about 10 found an Arm'd Brigg came to her Assistance, ½ pt 11 the boats ret'd with the loss of Thos Ellis & John Southorne Marines & severl wounded, Lost in the above action, two Boats Sails, Masts, & Sprits, three Barge Oars, Out of the Flat bottom'd boat, Two Iron Thoals, Two Oars, Two Leather Bucketts, — Arms, Two bright Musketts, Two pr of Pistols, Three Swords & Scabbards, Six Carte Boxes Belts & Six Frogs for Bayonets
- Monday 20 A M at 6 Moor'd a Cable each way, the Small Br to SE & Bt Br to NW in 6 fms each, at 9 Buried the above Marines longbt watering, Gunners &c Variously employd. Modte & hazy with some rain the first part, Latter fair Longbt as before, Sailmrs repairing the Mizon Staysail,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

WILLIAM CUSHING TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Scituate May 20th 1766 [*sic* 1776].

A rumor has been spread here, a day or two past, of a british reinforcement arriving at Quebec & obliging our army to raise the siege; which I am loth to believe at present. It seems to my poor understanding in politics, that our army ought to have had a large reinforcement, while the Lakes were

passable on the Ice; & that we have depended too much on the impracticability of navigation up the river in the Spring. — Where is our grand fleet? Why is Lord Dunmore permitted to Set foot on american ground? But I must beg pardon, believing every thing has been done, as far & maturely as practicable, & leave these weighty matters to you, wiser heads; trusting in the Supreme Ruler, for prosperity to your councils & Success to American freedom. — I have some Conception of the Difficulty of defending every part of so extended a Continent.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

MEMORIAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

To the Most Honorable the Delegates of the United Colonies.
in Congress assembled at Philadelphia.

In the Absence of the Governor and Deputy Governor Commodore Esek Hopkins hath applied to us for the re-delivery of 20 Pieces of Cannon which he had landed in this Colony. We have thought it absolutely necessary to detain them until your Honors should be made acquainted with the Circumstances of the Colony, not doubting but that upon mature Consideration it will be thought best for the common Interest to permit them to remain here. We beg the most favourable Construction of this Measure, and assure your Honors that no Persons living are more sensible of the Necessity of establishing the Authority of Congress nor more ready to pay Obedience to it.

Your Honors have doubtless frequently with Pain reflected upon the unhappy State of the Town of Newport, which was entirely defenceless, surrounded by a powerful Naval Armament, and daily threatened with, and in Danger of, immediate Destruction; for it was incontestably in the Power of the British Fleet to destroy it at Pleasure. In this Situation it is not at all strange that near a Third Part of the Inhabitants removed, and that a Majority of the Remainder were induced to temporize, and even to assume an Appearance rather unfriendly to the United Colonies. — To this Situation alone is the former Conduct of Newport to be attributed and not to Want of Spirit or Love of their Country. — In this State of Affairs the British Fleet quitted the Harbor, and Commodore Hopkins most providentially arrived with Twenty six Cannon and some Shot which he offered to the Town. The Inhabitants, elated with the Prospect of having the Means of Defence, assembled in a full Town-Meeting and unanimously Voted to work upon the necessary Fortifications, and to defend the Town, and immediately entered upon it with Vigor. — This decisive Resolution gave every Friend to the United Colonies a new Spring, as many of us looked upon Newport as worse than lost to the common Cause. Three considerable Works have been erected; these Cannon have been with great Expedition mounted upon Carriages and placed upon the Platforms, and the Town of Newport is now capable of being defended against all the Frigates in the British Navy. Fortifications are also making at Bristol Ferry and on the East Side

of Rhode Island, which, when completed, will effectually secure a Communication with the Continent, and enable us to defend that most valuable Island. – We were happy in the Idea of having put a total Stop to supplying the Enemy, of destroying the very Seeds of Disaffection in the Colony, and of being an united People. We looked upon the saving the Town of Newport, the commanding the Harbor, in which from its Easiness of Access Vessels from Sea may find a quick Protection under the Cannon of the Forts, and which will at all Times afford a safe Asylum to the Continental Ships, and to Privateers and their Prizes, as well as to other Vessels, and which by Means of the Works now erected may pass in and out in Spite of all the British Fleet, as Objects of very great Importance to the common Cause. – But our pleasing Prospects are greatly interrupted by the Order to deliver Twenty of these Cannon to Messrs [Levi] Hollingworth and [Thomas] Richardson to be transported to Philadelphia. From the Face of it, which is directed to the Commodore, and in his Absence to Mr [Daniel] Tillinghast, it appeared clearly to us that your Honors thought the Cannon were barely landed here, and had no Idea of their being fitted with Carriages and planted in Forts erected purposely for their Reception.

We beg Leave to refer you for a general State of the Colony to the Memorial from the Assembly which is now before your Honors, and is in no Degree exaggerated, by which you will be able to judge of the exposed Situation of the Colony, of its great Exertions for the common, as well as our own, Defence, and of the utter Impossibility of our defending ourselves. To which we would add that there are now in the Colony, exclusive of those brought by the Commodore but Twenty four Pieces of heavy Cannon being 24 and 18 Pounders. The Assembly had contracted with the Owners of Furnace Hope for Sixty more But the Commodore having brought 26 heavy Cannon into the Colony the Assembly consented that the Cannon for the Continental Ships should be first made, as the Owners of the Furnace could not possibly supply both Departments in Season, so that we have yet had but Four 18 Pounders from them; nor can the others be made under a long Time unless a Stop be put to those making for the Ships. – We are informed by the Commodore that he landed Thirty six heavy Cannon at New-London, which from its Situation can be defended with one Quarter of the Number required for the Defence of the Bay, Town, and Harbor of Newport. And when the Difference of the Towns of Newport and New-London in Point of Number of Inhabitants and Value, in Point of Importance to the United Colonies, and in the Abilities of the Two Colonies of which they are Part to defend them, are considered we think it will not admit a Doubt from which Place the Twenty Cannon wanted are to be removed.–

We beg Leave also to mention to your Honors some of the probable Consequences of depriving us of those Cannon. – All the disaffected, all the lukewarm, and all the timid cry out that this Colony hath been totally neglected by Congress, while every other Colony that is exposed is defended by Continental Troops; which the most hearty in the common Cause cannot deny. This, with the dangerous Situation of the Town of Newport, the

Capital of the Colony, containing upwards of 1300 Dwelling-Houses and between 9 and 10,000 Souls, hath produced a very great Division, and was near overthrowing that Administration which had so greatly exerted the Force of the Colony. The Blow however was averted, and the most seasonable Arrival of those Cannon with the decisive Resolution of the Town of Newport hath given Union Spirit and Vigor to the Colony. Take them from us and we cannot answer for the Event. The Town of Newport, and the Island of Rhode Island are lost: A small Part of that Army now at Halifax may in their Way to the Westward effect their Destruction without being detained Three Days. It will be impossible for the Inhabitants to defend themselves. They will not even attempt it. There is Danger that those People who are so desirous of Reconciliation with Great Britain upon any Terms will gain the Ascendancy, and of the Colony's being lost to America. — Leave us the Cannon we can save Newport, which hath been induced in Consequence of their Arrival to take such Steps as may bring upon them the British Arms, and who will be most cruelly treated in being deprived of them. We can keep Possession of Rhode Island which is of great Consequence to the Inhabitants and Trade of Taunton and Swansey Rivers; and we shall be an united People, ready with our Lives and Fortunes to support the Measures of Congress.

We submit this Representation to your Honors which will be delivered to you by John Collins, Esqr the First Assistant in this Colony to whom we beg Leave to refer you for further Information, not in the least doubting that upon full Inquiry and Deliberation your Honors will consent that the Cannon remain here until we can be otherwise supplied.

Signed by Order and in Behalf of such Members of the General Assembly as could conveniently be convened, by

Henry Ward Secry
Providence May 20th 1776.

[Endorsed] May 20th 1776 No 7. A memorial from A number of the members of the Assembly of Rhode-island respecting the cannon brot there by Comr Hopkins. read May 29. 1776. —

1. Papers CC (Memorials addressed to Congress), 41, VIII, 256–58, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Monday Evening May 20 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment —

Voted. That Mr John Manly have an Order on the Treasurer fifty Pounds Lawful Money.

Voted. That the Sum of One Hundred Pounds sixteen shillings & six pence LMy be paid Mr Wm Giles out of the Treasury as p ordr from Mr John Manly & Charge the same to Mr Manly's Acct —

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1776

Newport, May 20.

Capt. Thomas Stacey, of this place, whose vessel was lately seized by the *Viper* sloop of war, near Dominica, arrived passenger at Newbury the 28th ult. and came to town last Tuesday; who informs, that the people at Dominica were very violent against America; that Governor Shirley had issued a proclamation, making any person who would speak in favour of America liable to a fine of £ 5 sterling, and to be imprisoned; that a brig had sailed from that island for Boston, with a load of rum, &c. in order to fit out as a privateer; that the Captains Jones and Kirby, who had been taken by the *Viper*, some time before, were kept on two-thirds of an allowance; that Peter Whitcock, of Philadelphia, had all his goods, servants, &c. seized by the Governor of Dominica, for being an American. – (*Query*, Whether it be not high time to seize all the effects of the Tories in the United Colonies?)

The *Cerberus* watered at Block-Island Sunday the 12th inst. the brig which was with her some time past, had sailed for Halifax, with 2 or 3 prizes.

Last Wednesday was launched, at Providence, the Continental ship *America* [*sic* Warren] of 32 guns, said, by good judges, to be a very fine vessel.

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1776

Hartford, May 20.

By Capt. David Hawley who came to town last Saturday from Halifax, which place he left the 24th of April last, we have the following interesting intelligence, viz.

That on the 17th of March he sailed out of Stratford – on the 21st was taken by the *Bellona* of 6 guns and 8 swivels; the ministerial crew jump'd on board him eager for plunder, damn'd him, his crew and country – they were all taken and put on board the *Bellona*. About 10 o'clock at night they joined the *Rose*, *Glasgow* and *Swan* men of war, and went on board the *Rose*, the next day sailed into Newport, when he obtained liberty to go on board his own sloop, to get his cloaths, where he found his chest broke open and all his cloaths plundered. They offered him five shillings sterling per day, a good cabin, that his vessel should be paid for, after the dispute was over, and his choice of a plantation in any part of the continent, if he would be their pilot, which he refused, and was thereupon parted from his men, and put on board the *Glasgow* and not allowed so much as a line to his mate, relative to a glass he had left. On the 5th of April the *Glasgow* sailed from Newport – in the morning of the 6th discovered sundry sail and stood for them – come up with, and hailed the brig, who answered, that they were from Plymouth; then the brig hail'd the *Glasgow*, and was told who they were – upon signals being made and not answered, as it was still dark, the *Glasgow* received a heavy broad side from the brig, killed one man and slightly wounded another, then the *Alfred* came up, and closely engaged her for near three glasses, while the black brig attacked the *Glasgow* on her

lee bow – it was observed by the motion of the *Alfred* that she had received some unlucky shot – the *Columbus* kept at a distance, the sloop of 12 guns fired upon her stern without any great effect, the most of the shot went about 6 feet above the deck, whereas, if they had been properly levelled, must have soon cleared them of men. The *Glasgow* got at a distance, when she fired smartly, and the engagement lasted about 6 glasses, when they both seemed willing to quit. The *Glasgow* was considerably damaged in her hull, had 10 shot through her main mast, 52 through her mizen stay sail, 110 thro' her main sail, 88 through her foresail, had her spars carried away and her rigging cut to pieces – on the 6th they got into Rhode-Island, early in the morning of the 7th were fired upon from the shore, cut her cables and run up to Hope-Island, where the hospital ship followed them – the wind shifting to the northward they went out and joined Commodore [James] Wallace, and after two days sailed for Halifax and arrived there in eleven days, where Capt. Hawly tarried a fortnight, and on the 7th [sic] of April made his escape with 8 others in a small boat, and came to Old York.

Capt. Hawley is of opinion that if the *Alfred* had come close along side the *Glasgow*, she would have struck. – At Halifax, is the *Chatham* of 50 guns, *Orpheus* of 34 guns, *Scarborough*, *Glasgow* and *Rose* of 20 guns, the *King-Fisher*, *Tamer*, and other of 16 guns, an armed brig, two schooners, and two small sloops, and a number of transports; the *Tamer* and the *Glasgow* are sent home to refit. On the 24th of April the *Niger* frigate of 32 guns, with two ships and a brig, having on board 700 troops sailed for Quebec. Five transports arrived at Halifax from the West-Indies with troops. – From the best information there was about 8 or 9000 troops at Halifax before any were sent away. On the 24th a packet arrived from England with accounts that about three regiments were lost on their passage to America; and by what he could learn they expected 10,000 troops to come to America this Spring and no more.

CAPTAIN SETH HARDING TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Honoured Sir:

Fairfield, May 20, 1776.

I received your favour of the 18th, wherein your Honour has been pleased to order me to cruise in the South until further orders, after I had taken the small sloop that was carrying the Tories to Long-Island. I fixed her with two swivels, and put thirty men on board, to go to the Island in search after some Tory deserters that we hear lodged at such a place, which we went to and returned without making any new discoveries. After which I fixed out another small sloop, called the *Discovery*, to cruise to the westward, which has since returned. I am now about fixing out another small sloop that was taken from a Tory, that I have called the Life-Guard, to be commanded by Mr. [Samuel] Smedley, to cruise to the westward. As I have occasion of many necessities for the brig before she can be fit for duty, I shall return to New-London, and there prepare her for a cruise; and after that return back to the westward and cruise, except I receive further orders from your Honour. The unnatural combination betwixt the Tories daily

grows more and more open, and I shall shortly send your Honour some new discoveries that I have already made; they are first examined by me, which will detain me here two or three days. I have cited the Committee, and shall resign them to the Committee. After I arrive at New-London, if I have a convenient opportunity, shall wait upon your Honour and Assembly, I am Sir [&c.]

Seth Harding.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, VI, 531-32.

FRANCIS LEWIS TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE ¹

Dr Sir,

New York 20 May 1776

Your favor of the 9th Inst I received the 17th and in compliance with your request I transmit you an abstract of my proceedings relative to the Cannon & shot &c. I had contracted for to supply the Ships of War building in this Colony. ²

I have been lately informed that Mr S. Patrick (a partner in the Orange Iron Works) has been at Phila, where he learn't that the Committee of Congress had contracted with others at a higher price than what was stipulated for with me, this occasion'd the letter of which you have inclosed a Copy, ³ and must desire the Committees instructions on that head;

From the tenor of my Contract with Griffiths, I am induced to believe the Committee has been imposed upon in their Contracts entered into at Phila, and to urge the Orange Company to a compliance with theirs, will I fear be attended with difficulties & disappointments. therefore think it reasonable that they should have the same prices given to others. shall therefore in the intrim, urge them to proceed in casting as many pieces of Cannon &c. they possibly can, at the same time assuring them the Committee will not let them be suffers by their contract, until I have the Committees further instructions on this head. It will be necessary to furnish me with the dementions & weight &c of the respective pieces of Cannon. This Company having enlarged their Hearth can now cast Cannon of any Size up to a 24 pounder, and they have been as far as Boston in order to procure Sufficient workmen

The Superintendent to one of our Ships was with me Yesterday, and informs me that both ships are planked up to the Wales, and expects they will be in the Water by the last of June; but that they met with many delays, by the badness of Roads in haleing their Timber to the Shipyard.

our Mr Livingston is gone up to the Shipyard. upon his return shall give you further information.

Please to inform Mr Robt Morris I have both his letters of 11th & 15 Inst and that when the Sulphur arives, it shall be forwarded agreeable to his request. I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Fran^s Lewis

[Endorsed] May 21st 1776 – answered

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

2. The two Continental frigates building at Poughkeepsie.

3. Samuel Patrick's letter of May 12, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.¹

May 1776 Moor'd off Sandy Hook The Light House E B N Distance, 1 Mile

Monday 20th AM at 8 up Top Gallt yards at 10 the Pilot Sloop brot in & Anchor'd here a Sloop from Cape Francois with Arms & Ammunition,²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. This vessel is not listed on any prize list.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, May 20, 1776

Resolved, That Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, at his request, be discharged from serving on the Marine Committee, and that Mr. [Arthur] Middleton be a member of said committee in his stead.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 367, 369.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON¹

Dear Sir

[Philadelphia] 20th May 1776

Your favor of the 6th inst is now before me I am glad the money has got safe to hand, the list of Officers you mention I suppose has reached you before now I inclos'd one sometime ago² I also gave you my Reasons for disaproving the Person you mention for 1st Lieut, I have no objection to the Mr [John] Roche you mention but am apprehensive his being appointed woud make some uneasiness as there are many masters of vessels of good Characters out of imploy & who perhaps will think themselves neglected,³ I shall nominate Capt [Thomas] Thompson the first opportunity, & think it won't be amiss to appoint such of the Warrent or petty officers as you think necessary as to the other officers I think you might sound such persons as you may think proper & know what places they will accept without engaging them absolutely the Canvas I hope will soon be with you but I very much fear it will be some time before you'll get the Guns, if they are to go from here I see no prospect of them 'till July, the furnaces are at work at Providence & by what I can learn have made a considerable number, I think it woud be well for you to take a ride there, you will then be able to judge of the probability of getting them from thence & on the first notice from you I'll get an order for the first guns that are made after the ships that are building there are supplied, I shall lay your proposals for purchasing the Powder before the Committee this evening shall also apply for Cash you dont mention the sum you shall want, but my application shall be for the round sum 20,00⁴

1. Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.

2. See list of officers for a frigate of 32 guns, May 25.

3. John Roche was first lieutenant of Washington's schooner *Lynch*.

4. Whipple continued the letter on May 21: "I've got the order for the sum & shall send it forward in a few days, the Chairman of the secret committee desires You'll buy the Powder . . ." Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

[Philadelphia] 20th May, 1776.

John Ryan, a Person taken some time since at Cape Henlopen, and intended to have been exchanged for some Person on Board the *Roebuck*, Man-of-War, was this day brought to this City, Capt. [James] Craig, who went down with him and other Prisoners, to exchange, not being able to get on board said Ship, she having gone to sea, and this Board having been informed that the said Ryan was well acquainted with the River and Bay of Delaware, and that he was otherwise dangerous to the safety of this Province; therefore,

Resolved, That the said Ryan be confined in the Gaol of this County till he be discharged by Congress or this Committee.

Resolved, That Capt. [Robert] Whyte & Capt. [John] Hazlewood be requested to survey the Channel on the East side of the Barr opposite to Fort Island, and make report to this Board as soon as possible of such survey, and of the narrowest part of said Channel.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 574, 575.

BILL FOR REPAIRS TO THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Lexington* ¹[1776] May 20 Stephen Hopkins Esqr for Brig *Lexington*

To Henry Phile for	5½ day	at 9/	2..9..6
John Cotto[n]	1	do	9..-
Thos Kellen	2	do	18..-
4 mast Cleats		1/6	6..-
1 day 2 potts & Ladle			3..6
1½ day 2 Stages			7..6
Joshua Humphreys Attendance			1
	bill delivered		£5.13..6

1. Wharton & Humphreys Ship Yard Accounts, 1773-1795, Joshua Humphreys Papers, HSP.

CAPTAIN LAMBERT WICKES TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹On bord the Ship *Reprisal*, off Chester,

Sir:

May 20th, 1776.

I this Day Recd your favr, With a Letter for Captn [Philip] Lacey, which I shall take care to Send Him as soon as possible. Captn [Benjamin] Wickes Remains above the fort for want of a Pilot to Bring him Down; one of the men I sent on Shore at Great Island Hospittal is Ded for want of the Assistance of a Docktor, as I am Informd there is None Attending here since they was Landed. We have four in there Now, which I am affeard Will go the same way If not properly attended. This Neglect yol pleas to have remidyed, if in your power; you may Depend on my utmost Care and attention to your orders, from Sir, [&c.]

Lamb't Wickes.

P.S. Pleas make my compliments to Misses Morris; We are Now wait-

ing for a Pilot to Carry us Down the Bay, there is None on bord & None Engaged that I Know of. L. W.

Directed. – To Robt Morris, Esqr, at Philadelphia.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 758–59.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION ¹

[Annapolis] Monday, May 20, 1776.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered immediately to contract with proper persons to raise the vessels lately sunk in Patapsco river for the preservation of Baltimore-Town; and to rigg and put those vessels in the same state, that they were before they were sunk. And the said Council of Safety for the time being be also empowered to appoint proper persons not less than three, who on oath shall ascertain and return the difference of value, if any, of the same vessels, occasioned by the sinking thereof, and that the said Council of Safety pay the expences of raising the said vessels and putting them in order as aforesaid out of the public money as well as any actual expences incurred by the owners for wages and maintenance of the crews of the said vessels, and a reasonable monthly allowance for the time the vessels have been and shall be out of the possession of their owners.

The order of the day for taking into consideration the late intercepted letters to governor Eden, the proceedings of the Continental Congress, and of the Council of Safety of this province, thereupon, being read, *Ordered*, That the same be referred for further consideration till to-morrow.

1. *Proceedings of the Convention of the Province of Maryland, Held at the City of Annapolis, on Wednesday the eighth of May, 1776* (Annapolis, [1776]), 13. Hereafter cited as *Maryland Convention*.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Monday 20th May 1776

Ordered That Treasurer of Western Shore pay to Wm Lux Agent for Ship *Defence* two hundred Pounds.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON ¹

No 158.

Sir We have received Information that there are no Vessels of War below, except the *Otter* and *Eilbeck*, and that most of the Tenders are gone to the Carolina Coast to protect the Transports on their Arrival there; in Consequence of which we have ordered down the Briggs *Fortune* and *Rogers* and the schooner *Ninety Two* with valuable Cargoes of Bread, Flour, &c and require you will give them what Assistance you can in getting out, if you see a Probability of their running thro', but if from any certain Intelligence, which you may receive, you should think it most likely they may fall into the Hands of the Enemy, if they proceed we would have you immediately order them to return to Baltimore. – it is a Matter of great Consequence to

the Province to have these Vessels get safe out, if possible, and we would have them conveyed down as low as you think you can venture with Safety to yourself. We are [&c.]

P.S. Order the Boat, which will deliver you this to speak the Vessels on their Way down the Bay & let them know where to join you
[Annapolis] May 20th 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COMMITTEE OF CLAIMS TO GEORGE WELLS ¹

Sir

Annapolis 20th of May 1776

The Committee of Claims think it necessary that you should satisfy Them, that the Prices you have charged for the Plank & Timber made Use of in the Ship *Defence*, does not exceed the Prices charged by others for the same Kind of Plank & Timber or that you could have got the same Prices from Individuals as those with which the Province is charged ²

Signed by Order of the Committee
Nich Harwood Clk Com

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 10, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, another paper marked "deductions on G. Wells Acct" shows an itemized account totaling £30..14..3.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CHIN[C]OTEAGUE, MAY 20." ¹

Friday last the 18th inst. three tenders, one sloop, and two schooners came into Chin[c]oteague Inlet, landed about 40 men on an island called Wallop's, who obliged the tenant on the island to pen what cattle he could, of which they killed six and carried off two alive – they were boarded by a flag from the inhabitants to whom they declared they meant to offer no violence, unless resisted, that they were in very great want of fresh provisions, and would have some – and were willing to pay the owners for it; but took care not to do it – The Islanders say they appeared to be very much afraid of the inhabitants, and made the greatest dispatch possible to get on board with their booty – that their guns were in bad condition, and the men bad marksmen, as they frequently snapped, several times without firing, and then did but little execution, though at a small distance. – This inlet, Sir, I am afraid will furninsh them with a great quantity of provisions of this kind, unless a proper guard should be fixed here.

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, May 29, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE ¹

May 1776. Moord at Brunswick

Mondy 20. A M unbent all the Sails tarred the Rigging &c taken by the Rebels the latter end of March the Arm'd Sloop *General Clinton* with pilots looking out for Sr Peter parker & his fleet.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. Apparently a bit of intelligence just learned and entered in the journal as a matter of record.

JOURNAL H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES ¹

May 1776 in Wilmington River Cape Fear No Caroline
 Monday 20 Modt and fair sent the Boat to tow a fire Raft the Rebbels
 had Constructed to Burn us and the *Glasgow pacquett* towed
 it to the Edge of the marsh Island and set it on fire

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

NARRATIVE OF COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN ¹

[May 3 to May 20]²

The third day of May we cast anchor in the harbor of Cape Fear, in North Carolina, as did sir Peter Parker's ship, of fifty guns, a little back of the bar; for there was not depth of water for him to come into the harbor: These two men of war, and fourteen sail of transports and others, came after, so that most of the fleet rendezvoused at cape Fear, for three weeks. The soldiers on board the transports were sickly, in consequence of so long a passage; add to this, the small pox carried off many of them. They landed on the main, and formed a camp; but the riflemen annoyed them, and caused them to move to an island in the harbor; but such cursing of riflemen I never heard.

A detachment of regulars was sent up Brunswick river; as they landed, they were fired on by those marksmen, and they came back next day damning the rebels for their unmanly way of fighting, and swearing that they would give no quarter, for they took sight at them, and were behind timber, skulking about. One of the detachments said they lost one man; but a negro man who was with them, and heard what was said, soon after told me that he helped to bury thirty-one of them. this did me some good to find my countrymen giving them battle; for I never heard such a swaggering as among gen Clinton's little army, who commanded at that time; and I am apt to think there were four thousand men, though not two thirds of them fit for duty. I heard numbers of them say, that the trees in America should hang well with fruit that campaign, for they would give no quarter. This was in the mouths of most who I heard speak on the subject, officer as well as soldier. I wished at that time my countrymen knew, as well as I did, what a murdering and cruel enemy they had to deal with; but experience has since taught this country, what they are to expect at the hands of Britons when in their power.

The prisoners, who had been sent on board different men of war at the cove of Cork, were collected together, and the whole of them put on board the *Mercury* frigate, capt. James Montague, except one of the Canadians, who died on the passage from Ireland, and Peter Noble, who made his escape from the *Sphynx* man-of-war in this harbor, and, by extraordinary swimming, got safe home to New-England, and gave intelligence of the usage of his brother prisoners. The *Mercury* set sail from this port for Halifax, about the 20th of May,² and Sir Peter Parker was about to sail with the land forces, under the command of gen. Clinton, for the reduction of

Charleston, the capital of South-Carolina, and when I heard of his defeat in Halifax, it gave me inexpressible satisfaction.

1. *A Narrative of the Captivity of Col. Ethan Allen* . . . (Albany, 1814), 59-61. Hereafter cited as *Ethan Allen*.
2. According to the journal of H.M.S. *Mercury*, she sailed over the bar on May 18, 1776. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Raven in Savannah river the 20th

Sir,

of May 1776.

I beg you will be pleased to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that since my last to you, dated the 22d of January last, informing their Lordships with the arrival of His Majesty's Sloop under my Command upon this station, I dispatched Lieutenant Osborn of the *Raven* in a Pilot Boat mann'd and Armed to a Sloop in the Offing which he took on the 4th of February; her Cargoe consisted of 56 Barrels of Gun Powder, some military stores with several Bales of goods to a considerable amount: ² That on the 12 of April I seized a Brig from Philadelphia laden with stores for this Place,³ and on the day following I took a Sloop from Rhode Island with Cyder and Apples ⁴ which Cargoe was distributed among the sick of the different Ships by order from Captain Barkley of His Majesty's Ship *Scarborough*, which happily proved a great restorative to the Ships Companys health, who had long laboured under scurbutick disorders. That I have also seized a Brig late from Jamaica with Rum, Sugar and Coffee, an Account of which Vessels I shall transmit to the Commanding Officer in North America by the first opportunity.

I have the pleasure to inform their Lordships that on the night of the 15 instant, I detached the Ships Boats manned and armed under the Command of the Lieutenant in pursuit of a small Rebel Arm'd Schooner and a row Boat, belonging to the Town of Savannah, which after a few minutes brisk firing he took them both ⁵ - The Schooner has greatly infested this river for a long time, preventing all communication and intelligence being sent me from the Officers of the Crown most of whom have escaped out of the hands of the Rebels, and are gone either to England or East Florida. I am Sir [&c.]

Jn^o Stanhope

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2483, 14, 2.

2. The sloop *St. John*, Gilbert Harrison, master, taken February 4, 1776.

3. The brig *Georgia Packet*, George Bunner, master.

4. The sloop *Phoenix*, Norton Cole, master.

5. See Journal of the *Raven*, May 12 and May 13, 1776.

GEORGE GAULD TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Sir

Pensacola 20th May 1776

I take the opportunity of Captain Spears of the Ship *Champion* to transmit to you the fair Copy of our last years work. -

It is generally thought here, and indeed both Mr Cobb and I are of the

same opinion, that it would be very imprudent to proceed among the Florida Kays, where we left off last year, considering that New Providence has lately fallen into the hands of the Americans, and their Privateers are sufficiently acquainted with the Kays to annoy us if they think proper, as they will, no doubt, expect us there. However we can find employment enough for the present without going there.

A hard Gale of wind that happened some years ago has greatly altered some parts of the Coast to the Westward of Pensacola, since I surveyed it, particularly Ship Island and the Chandeleurs. Wherefore we think it will be most proper in the present Situation of affairs, first to examine those places and the Mouths of the Mississippi; then to try how far the general Bank of Soundings runs off along the Coast, and afterwards we intend to carry on the Survey of the West part of the Peninsula of East Florida, near the Bay of Espirity to where we left off, when I was ordered up to Jamaica by Sir George Rodney to survey the Harbours of Port Royal and Kingston.

I am greatly in want of large Drawing Paper, and black-lead Pencils, particularly the largest kind of Paper called Double Elephant, I wish their Lordships would be pleased to order out a Box of Stationery, as I have had but one since I was first engaged in this employment with now and then some occasional supplies from Jamaica. At present there is even no common writing paper to be got here.

I have enclosed a Sett of Certificates for a half year's Pay which I beg you will be kind enough to sign and send down when it falls due. My late Agent has broke with almost all my money in his hands, which has distressed me very much, as some Bills to a considerable Amount have come back protested. I have the honour to be with great Respect Sir [&c.]

George Gauld

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

English Harbour Antigua; the 20th May 1776.

Sir. I entreat you will acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that it has given me the greatest Concern to perceive by Mr [George] Jacksons Letter of the 20th February last, their Lordships had been pleased to approve all the appointments I had made in Consequence of Captain Gordons Dismission, except that of Lieutenant Young to Command the *Pomona*; and that their Lordships added "I had therein acted Contrary to the rules of the Service; and also to my Instructions; as He was youngest Lieutenant on board the Ship:" It is true my Instructions Say "that in case of the Death, or Dismission of an Officer by Sentence of a Court Martial; I am to appoint such persons to the Vacancies as by the Quality of their Employments ought to Succeed thereto" this I take to be a Master and Commander to the Vacancy of a Post Captain, and a Lieutenant to that of a Master and Commander; And in the present Instance, I think I have Strictly complied both with the Words and apparent meaning of my Instructions: and altho I did not appoint the first Lieut. of the *Portland*, to this Vacancy in the *Po-*

mona; I cannot allow the same to be contrary to the Rules of the Service; as there are many precedents (and some of a very late date) where the Commander in Chief having a Son in the Fleet, has given him the preference of promotion to the first Lieutenant of the Flag Ship, and when the same was done in fair and proper Vacancies, I never before heard that such appointment had been set aside by their Lordships: I therefore flattered myself, Forty four Years faithful Service might have intitled me to the same distinction which has been allowed to other Commanders in Chief; in favour of my Son, and I cannot help thinking myself Cruelly used, to be the only person fixed upon for so Mortifying a Disgrace: besides to add to the uneasiness of mind I must naturally feel at having my Son thus Superseded; the Man their Lordships have appointed in his room, had the indecency to tell me (as soon as I delivered his Commission) He should now bring an Action at Law against me for Damages; as he had lost Prize Money by my not appointing him at first; this he triumphantly declared in publick to be his Intention; grounding his Plea, on their Lordships disapproving my appointment of another: I cannot indeed Suppose their Lordships will suffer such Indignity to the Service, as a Subaltern Officer bringing an Action at Law against His Commander in Chief, for not giving him promotion; if so, hard indeed will be the fate of Superior Officers, who in publick Service, must often do what may be displeasing to Individuals under their Command; and should they be Subject to prosecution from Malicious Litigious persons for any thing done in the line of publick Service, there must soon be an End to Subordination.

It is certainly a very unpleasant Circumstance for a Commanding Officer, to find himself thus braved by an Inferior when He is not Conscious of having done wrong: I have therefore inclosed herewith My Sons Commission for the *Pomona* and earnestly entreat their Lordships will be pleased to Confirm it, by putting him on the List of Masters and Commanders from the date thereof; and I hope my own long Service may plead for me in this matter, and obtain the distinction for my Son I now Solicit.

I have delivered the Honble Mr Windsor their Lordships Commission to be first Lieutenant of the *Portland*; and have appointed Mr William Swiney late third Lieutenant of the *Portland* to be Second Lieutenant, and removed Mr John Auriol Drummond, Second Lieutenant of the *Argo*, to be third Lieutenant of the *Portland*, and appointed Mr John Luck to be Second Lieutenant of the *Argo* in the room of Mr John Auriol Drummond, which I hope their Lordships will approve. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

[Endorsed] Recd 25 July 7 Aug Ammend

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO GOVERNOR ABRAHAM HEYLIGER ¹

(A Copy)

No. 5.

English Harbour, Antigua the 20th: May 1776.

Sir I had the honour to receive from Mr Charles Chabert your Excellencys

Letter of the 14th Current Complaining that Captain [John] Colpoys of His Britannic Majesty's Ship the *Seaford*, had on the 10th Instant wrote to desire your permission to Seize an American Vessel (from Philadelphia) then lying in the Road of St. Eustatia; this Letter I certainly disapprove of as he had no Authority or direction from me to do so, and I think your Excellencys Refusal of His request was very proper on that occasion: however as said Request was made in decent terms, I cannot perceive how it deserves those harsh Epithets of Impertinence &c. you have so frequently repeated; especially as I find on the Strictest enquiry that Captain Colpoys never took possession of the Vessel, nor left any one person on board her; therefore your Excellency has been very grossly imposed on by the Persons who related the affair to you, and the assertion of your peoples meeting opposition from the Officer and People put on board by Captain Colpoys is undoubtedly a falsehood, calculated to serve the sinister purposes of some wicked designing people: Captain Colpoys says further that He employed no Person to carry Messages between him and your Excellency, besides his Lieutenant. My Orders, to all the Captains under my Command (Stationed in these Seas) are Strictly to observe the Neutrality of foreign Ports, &c. and on no account to infringe them, or give any publick Offence, to the Powers in Amity with Great Britain: and I should suppose, had Captain Colpoys Intention been to have acted Contrary to these Orders, He would not have asked permission to Seize the American Vessel, but would have attempted to carry her away without such application: this I find He did not attempt, either before or after your Excellencys refusal. The former complaint your Excellency made against Captain [William] Garnier of the *Argo*, I received at Sea, and had no opportunity of enquiring immediately into the particulars, after my return, the multiplicity of publick business I found myself engaged in, Occasioned the Answering your Letter to slip my memory, and no disregard whatever to your Excellency: however I was then of Opinion, and remain yet in the same, that Captain Garnier had done no more than his duty in that matter: He did not take possession of the Vessel when under the protection of your Port, nor was anyways instrumental in bringing her from thence, but the Mate of the Vessel who was a Loyal Man! and well knew the dangerous and pernicious traffick she was engaged in, came out to Sea, and delivered her up to the *Argo*, as the property of His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in America intended for the purchase of Gunpowder and Military Stores for the use of the Rebel Army; Surely after such information, to have returned her back with her Loading to St Eustatia would have been "Singularly ridiculous and irregular Conduct in Captain Garnier." I must now take leave to observe that your Excellency who appears so very tenacious of the rights of their High Mightiness the States general of the United Netherlands, should pay more regard to the repeated declarations made by your Masters to the Court of London, Vizt "that none of their Subjects either at home or in their Colonies should anyways aid or assist the British American Colonies now in Rebellion, either with Arms, Ammunition, Naval or Military Stores &c." these declarations you can be no stranger to, as the same has been

transmitted to all their Governments abroad, with the positive Orders of the States for their being Strictly complied with [though] the little attention that has been hitherto given to these Orders and declarations, at St Eustatia, is so notorious and publick, that it is altogether needless for me to point out any particular Instances; the very pernicious traffick (for a great while past) carried on between His Britannic Majesty's Rebellious Subjects from North America, and the Inhabitants of St Eustatia, for Gunpowder and Warlike Stores, has been so general and done in so publick a manner, as to be no Secret to any Person in the West India Islands; however not satisfied with this breach of the Orders of your Sovereigns, and the professed Neutrality of your Government; you have likewise suffered several American Vessels belonging to the aforesaid Rebellious Colonies to be Armed and fitted in a Warlike manner from your Port of St Eustatia, thereby putting it in their powers to attack and intercept the Trading Vessels of His Britannic Majesty's Faithful Subjects, in these Seas; Two Vessels armed in the above manner sailed from the Road of St Eustatia, only the day before the *Seaford* arrived there; the Excuse of their not being cleared out for America, is too gross to be deceived by; when the destination of them are so publicly and perfectly known: These are Indeed Infractions of Neutrality and Friendship, which I am confident their High Mightinesses will not Countenance; nor protect the Inhabitants and Government of St Eustatia in carrying on, to the prejudice of their Oldest Friends and firmest Allies; and I must think it my duty not only to lay open these transactions to the Court of London, but also to use every means in my power to prevent and put a stop to Measures so very disgraceful and dangerous.

The reparation and Satisfaction your Excellency requires for the behaviour of Captain Colpoys, which you are pleased to call "impertinent, Insolent, preposterous, Affrontive &c." cannot be Seriously expected, whilst your own Conduct, in matters of much greater National import appears so very reprehensible, however I shall transmit the whole of this Correspondence to England by the first opportunity; and take the Opinions of our respective Masters whose Conduct has been most irregular. I have the honor to be Your Excellencys [&c.]

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

21 May

LIEUTENANT HENRY EDWIN STANHOPE, R.N., TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir/

Northampton Goal May 21st 1776

I am very sorry my Situation is such as to oblige me to apply to You as a Prisoner, I can remember a Time when I could have esteemed You a Friend, & Acquaintance, You no doubt will recollect it, in 1769 when I frequently had the Pleasure of paying my Respects to you in Boston; however not to trespass too much on yr Time, I must beg to inform you that the Pur-

port of this Letter, is to seek a Redress of Grievances from You, & the Gentlemen of Congress, (tho' You in particular,) from whose kind Desire of having Lenity shown Prisoners I have every Reason to expect it. –

My Parole to Governor Cooke of Rhode Island in whose Government I was taken, restricted me to the Township of Northampton, without any Clause whatever as to the Time of my going out, or coming in. My Situation seemed by no means agreeable to the Inhabitants (who as I am induced to suppose tho' have no positive Proof) encouraged our common Sailors to attack us, by which means I nearly lost my life, having been assaulted three times, by People whom I had never before seen, & upon Application to Major [Joseph] Hawley for Redress by the civil Law, was informed, that we were not entitled to the Benefit of it. as Prisoners. – however, some Time after the Committee published an *Advertisement, signifying to the best of my Understanding that we had been fighting among each other (making no Distinction between Officers & Privates,) whereas You will observe it was an Attack by them upon Us & I wish I need [not] (as before) have added were encouraged, for who can suppose that Men whom I had never before seen, or heard of, should attack me, merely for the Sake of beating me, but these are Points which cannot be better determined than by a Man of Mr Hancock's Understanding & Abilities) & for the future the Aggressor should be punished, likewise if we insulted any body in Town, lett them bring their Evidence & they should have ample Satisfaction. – After this the Committee resolved that, We should be at our Apartments by nine o'Clock, this was never made known to me, being at one of the Committee's House, some minutes after that Time to visit some of my fellow sufferers; he brought a Stick with him &, threatened if I did not instantly depart, he would kick me out which he put in Execution, upon which the Committee made another Resolve, confining us to our Apartments at Sundown & one of their Body said, he hoped somebody would not attend to it, as then the Whole would be put in Goal. These were Encroachments, which from the Tenor of my Parole I by no means thought myself obliged to comply with, & well knowing if I refused, I should be committed a close Prisoner to Goal, & fearing lest somebody should neglect to comply with this last Resolve &, to avoid the miserable abode of Felons, I absconded, & unfortunately for me was retaken, & committed close Prisoner to Goal, without even the Liberty of a yd. to walk in; an Instance of Cruelty never before practised to any Officers, Prisoners of War, in any civilized Nation; much less to the only Son of the Heir to one of the first Earldoms in the British Realm, add to this my Cloak & Utensils, which are seized from me. – It rests then with You Sir to release me from my Place of Confinement, & as I have a very near Relation and many Friends in Hartford; I beg you will please to direct that Town, for my Confinement; & should You be pleased to put me on the Parole that the Prisoners there are, I shall most stricly comply, & shall be happy in acknowledging my sincerest Thanks for my Enlargement, to Mr. Hancock, & the honourable Members of the Continental Congress. –

In hopes of obtaining yr Consent to my Request, I have the Honour to subscribe myself [&c.]

H. E. Stanhope

*a Copy of which I should have enclosed but cannot procure it.

It would not be doing Justice to General Washington, was I to omitt mentioning his friendship to me, instanced in part of two Letters, I recd from his Excellency, which indicate to me the Committee's encroachment on us —

Cambridge Jany 4th 1776

His Excellency hopes that the Gentlemen whom the Fortune of War has thrown into our Hands, are treated with Civillity, & Respect; it is his Desire Your Captivity may [b]e made as light to you, as possible.

Cambridge March 12th 1776

If You can mention any Thing to render yr Situation more comfortable, (except being set at Liberty) it will immediately meet with his Concurrence.

both Signed Step. Moylan

True Copies.

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XX, 33-40, NA. Endorsed: "Read 11 June. 1776 referred to the committee on Prisoners."

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

May 1776 [Off Newport, Rhode Island]

Sunday 19 At 3 A M, Weigh and at 7 Do abreast of the Light house, almost Calm

Moderate Breezes & Clear, At 6 P M, Nowman's Land, Bore NBW 5 Leagues, at 7 Do Saw a large Ship, a Stern standing after us, At 8 Do Sounded 25 fathom, At 10 Do, saw the Ship a Stern comeing up fast The *Cabot* bore away to the Eastward, & we made sail to the South'd, at 11 Do Lost sight of her —

Monday 20 Light Breezes & Heazy At 8 [A.M.] Sounded 50 fathom, white sand with Specks,

Tuesday 21 At 4 A M saw a sail, to Leward, gave Chase, and at 8 Do, fir'd 2 Swivels, & brought her too, she prov'd a Sloop from Tertolo, bound, to Liverpool in Nova Scotia, with Kings Clearance, which we made a prize off ² her Cargo Consisting of 20 Barrels Sugar, 22 Hhds Rum 26 Hhds of Molasses, and 1000 Bushels of Salt, sent Mr [Philip] Brown prise master & 3 Men to Carry her in to Providence left the Master and one man on board, ³

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. For *Andrew Doria* Journal see Appendix C, Volume 4.
2. The sloop *Two Friends*, of forty tons burden and a crew of five men. Her clearance from Tortola is dated April 27, 1776. Her papers contained a partial crew list consisting of the master's name, Abraham Copeland; Melatiah Nye, mate; John Wiley and Joshua Dearing,

sailors, the latter being shipped May 1, 1776 for a voyage from Tortola "to Liverpool in Novascotia and back again to Tortola." Admiralty Papers, vol 9, 1776, R. I. Arch.

3. Bound in the *Andrew Doria's* journal is a sheet of "Remarks" evidently kept by the mate of the *Two Friends*, beginning the morning of the capture, May 21, and continuing to May 29, when apparently it was detected and confiscated. For May 21, the remarks are: "at 1½ past 4 A M we Saw a Sail in Chase of us and She soon Came up with us and hild and ordered the Capt on Bord and Sent the penance for him & afterwards, for me with N Bowen George Barber and N. Russell and Sent the Capt on Bord with a prize Master and 4 Sailors and took out one of our Sailors and Left the other on Bord the Sloop and sent her for Newport and the Brig stood to the W S W the Brig Nd *Andrew duriah* of 14 Guns Belonging to Philadelphia Commanded by Capt. Biddle - and so end the day." The remaining entries are purely routine and uninteresting.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir

Andrew Doria May the 21st 1776

The Night after we left New Port being Chased by a Vessel we took to be the *Cerberus* the *Cabot* Run a more direct course for Nantucket Shoals than I thought safe to do by which Means we have lost company with her. This Morning we took a Sloop bound from Salter tudas to Liverpool in Nova Scotia.² Mr [Philip] Brown my third Mate to whom I have given Charge of Her will Give You what further information You may want to know I am Sir [&c.]

N. Biddle

1. Hopkins. Papers, RIHS.

2. The sloop *Two Friends*. Notification of the libel against the sloop "laden with rum, cocoa, molasses" is in the *Newport Mercury*, May 27, 1776.

CONDEMNATION IN RHODE ISLAND ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE BRIGANTINE *Georgia Packet* AND CARGO ¹

We find That upon the Eleventh Day of April AD.1776, the Brigantine called the *Georgia Packet*, her Appurtenances and Cargo, were brought into the Harbour of Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island, by one of the British Ships of War called the *Scarborough*, then employed against the united American Colonies. - We also find that on the same Day, the said Brigantine her Appurtenances and Cargo, were taken out of the Possession of the said Ship *Scarborough*, by the Officers and men on board the Row-Gallies, called the *Spit-Fire* and the *Washington*, and by other persons mentioned in the Bill and were by them soon after brought into the Harbour of Providence in said Colony. - We also find that the said Brigantine her Appurtenances and Cargo, at said Time of Capture, were used by the Officers and men on board the said Ship *Scarborough*, for the Purpose of Supplying the British Navy. - We also find that at said Time of Capture, the said Brigantine her Appurtenances and Cargo, had not been condemned by the Enemy; And We also find that at said Time of Capture, the said Brigantine her Appurtenances and Cargo, were Owned by Christopher Pechin and Richard Bright ² of Philadelphia, and Joseph Clay and Joseph Habersham of Savanna in Georgia. -

The above Verdict is agreed to by the Parties in Court

Zachh Allen

Elisha Bartlet

Abraham Arnold

Joseph Lee

Jonathan Sayles

John Knight

Jacob Phillips

Benjamin Luther

Peleg Round

William Dexter

George Brown

John Updike, Foreman

[Endorsed] May 21: 1776 –

The above Brigantine and also the Sloop-*Speedwell*³ their Cargoes and appurtenances were condemned and the same Day a Warrant was issued to the Sheriff to make Sale of them at public Vendue to the highest Bider as soon as convenient first giving convenient and public Notice of the Time & place of Sale and out of the Money first to pay to the Cler[k] the Cost of Condemnation and his own Fee for Sale and to deliver the Remainder to the owner and Captors according to Law and to make due Return of his Doings on said Warrant

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, 1776, R. I. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, claim of owners gives names as Christopher Perkins and Jacob Bright.

3. *Ibid.*, condemnation and claim of owners of *Speedwell*, Thomas Follansbee and William Morland of Newburyport.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN COLLINS¹

Sir

Providence May 21st 1776

When you arrive at Philadelphia please to get directions to me from the Congress or the Naval Committee what I shall do with the Negro Slaves taken in the Bomb Brig and what I shall do with the New Providence Sloop which I took to bring the Guns to New London – And let the Congress know that it will not be in my power to Mann the Fleet without their Orders for Shipping men out of the Army. I am yours, &c.

E. H.

To Mr. John Collins²

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Collins had been designated by the Rhode Island Assembly to carry its petition to Congress; see Petition, May 20, 1776.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO MIDSHIPMAN WALTER SPOONER¹

Sir

Providence May 21st 1776 –

You will on Receipt of this deliver to Messrs [Levi] Hollingsworth & [Thomas] Richardson the Bomb Brig or Schooner as they may think best if they have occasion for them – And if you can Collect any of the hands that belong to the Fleet you must get them onboard and take Charge of the Vessel yourself, and follow such directions as you shall Receive from them.

E. H. Cr in Chief

To Mr Walter Spooner² at New London

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Spooner was appointed a midshipman on board the *Alfred*, December 31, 1775, but was trans-

ferred temporarily to the sloop *Providence* before the fleet sailed from the Delaware. Apparently he had been among those left in New London because of illness when the fleet sailed to Rhode Island, *Alfred's* Muster Roll, R. I. Arch.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sir

Providence May 21st 1776

I this day receiv'd yours and observe the Contents – and as to the Order of Congress to deliver the Cannon to you there was a discretionary power in me to Stop as many as I thought would be for the benefit of the Fleet, and as I was & am still Careening the Fleet I think it not safe to part with the Cannon before the Ships are in a posture of defence –

I yesterday receiv'd an Order of Congress to deliver to Messrs Hollingsworth and Richardson in Order to be sent to Philada for the defence of that City, twenty of the heaviest Cannon which I brought from New Providence, and as the largest of the Cannon were left at New London I have accordingly given them an Order on you for the same and make no doubt as it is an Express Order of Congress you will deliver the Same without delay – I am, with great Respect [&c.]

E. H.²

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Hopkins wrote a similar letter this date to Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. in the event "Governor Trumbull is not at New London," Nathaniel Shaw Papers, NLCHS.

ALPHEUS RICE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

To Esek Hopkins Esqr
the Petition of Alpheus Rice
humbly sheweth

that your Petitioner desirous to be of Service to his Country has Quit'd the land Service with a design to get into the Fleet under Your Comd & as your Petir is well versed in the Small Arm exercise – would be greatly obligd'd to your Honr if a Vacancy should present that You would Cons[i]der your Petir as he is now & has been for some Time upon Expences This from your most Humble Sr.

A. Rice

P.S. Sir as the *Columbus* is Now a fitting out I should be very much oblinded to your Honour [if] you would give Me a birth aboard of [h]ir as I want to be in Buisness – in so doing you will Lay Me under the greatest obligations.

A Rice

Providence May the 21th 1776

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. Rice was appointed Lieutenant of Marines on board the sloop *Providence*, June 12, 1776, *Providence* Muster Roll, Transcript of Military Papers, RIHS.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

To Admiral Hopkins
att Providence

New London May 21st 1776.

Sir Inclosd is an Accott of what I have Advant to the People belonging to

the Fleet for Nessesarys wich they Could not do without Amountg to 18.15.11 also Fifty dollars wich I have Deliverd to Sargt [William] Hamilton² & John MackNeil 2d Mate of the *Providence* to pay their Expences on the Road and wich Sum they are to Accott with you for – I thought it best to send them off[f] for they are now fitt to do Duty & they Cannot bear to be Idle. I am sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Junr

1. Shaw Collection, Letter Book, YUL.

2. Marine sergeant on board the Continental ship *Alfred*.

LEVI HOLLINGSWORTH AND THOMAS RICHARDSON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen

New London 21st May, 1776

We came to this place on Saturday evening where we learnt that Commodore Hopkins was at Newport in the *Fly* therefore delivered the Order of Congress to Danl Tillinghast Esqr as directed who advisd us to proceed to Newport where we should meet the Commodore, Sunday evening we delivered him the Order, he informs us he left 34 of the Cannon mostly heavy at N London & brought only 12 24 & 12 9 pounders to Newport which he delivered to the Govr of the Colony & took his Rect for them, we came up to this place with him yesterday, Governor Cook had left Town before we got here & will not be at home for some time. Commodore Hopkins hath applyd to the Govr Council for the Cannon that he might be enabled to Comply with the Requisition of the Congress but they have Refused to deliver them until they have a hearing in Congress & send a Gentleman John Collinss Esqr to represent their Situation in hopes the Cannon for Philada will be Ordered to be sent from New London –

Commodore Hopkins will give us an order for 20 Cannon on Govr Trumbull with which we shall proceed to Connecticut & make a demand of them, tho we fear with as little success as at this Place, we shall if refused return to Newport & wait your further Orders which we expect as soon as Possible – Please to excuse haste.² we should have been more full but the Post hath waited near two hours & is very impatient Your [&c.]

Levi Hollingsworth Tho Richardson

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XI, 53–54, NA.

2. The haste probably caused such confusion in the minds of the writers that the reader is confused as to just where the two gentlemen had been; apparently first to Newport, where Daniel Tillinghast resided, then to Providence, and finally to New London.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Fort George May 21st 1776

. . . I have now Batteaus sufficient to move three of the four remaining Regiments, and on Wednesday Evening I shall have enough for the last of the Brigade, and by that Time the Nails now here will be all expended, but shall probably e'er then receive those your Excellency ordered from New York, with which I propose to build about forty Batteaus more, twenty to be

employed on Lake George and the others on Lake Champlain in transporting provisions, for I dare not trust to the large Vessels (which may be detained by contrary Winds, or by getting aground) until the Army has six Weeks Allowance before hand.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HENRY B. LIVINGSTON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Fort Constitution 21st May 1776

May it Please Your Excellency

I am induced to trouble Your Excellency with this Letter, lest You should be deceived by the Information I Gave You with respect to the Depth of the River Opposite this Fort which was very Erronious: Oweing intirely to want of Recollection in the Gentleman fr[om] who I had my Information he had tak[en] its depth but had forgot it. I have since sounded it and found it to be 28. 31. & 32 Fathoms oposite Our two North-ermost Batteries. Over against Our southermost (which is now ready to Mount ten Guns) & 3/4 of a Mile from it, It begins to Shoal from 18 to 11 Fathoms in the Channel it then remains at 11: 12 & [13] till Near Fort Montgomery opposite to it on this side the Creek Called poops it deepens again to 18 Fathoms just over the Creek to the southward it is 22 Fathoms and in the Mouth of it 31. Near the shoal water Mentioned on the West side the River is an Eminence that Commands a Long reach both up and down the River if it should be thought Necessary to Boom Across I think it much more practicable there than in any Other part of the Highlands. . . .

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

New York Tuesday past 12 at Night

Dear General

[May 21, 1776]

Capt Wm Goforth arrived here about an hour since with the inclosed letters – Express from Canada, which I mean to forward on to Amboy very early in the morning, and beg your Excellency's particular answer in regard to what you would have forwarded from this place, – Capt Goforth commanded the Schooner in the river St Lawrence he says – that not more than 100 Men are taken prisoners & them all sick – the Frigate gave him chase – he crowded all Sail possible but found it in vain, he then quitted wt his Crew, save a Son of Colo [Alexander] McDougall's and one more who were so obstinate they would not leave the Vessel & were taken Prisoners, – he further says that he did not see a single Man land from the Ships that came up – nor does he believe the Enemy sallied out on our Troops – of this he is confident, that not a Gun was fire'd but between the Frigate and himself. – the Troops from the Island of Orleans – Point Levy & all out Guards had got safe off, and join'd Genl [John] Thomas.

Missfortune on misfortune, – A Vessel from France arrived yesterday on the back of Long-Island & came to Anchor, loaded with 12 Tonns powder – 500 Small Arms & dry Goods, – The English Captn with a Boats

Crew came on shore for Assistance to land his Goods, soon after the French Capt who was on Board – saw a small Sloop to Leward beating up to him, 'tis supposed he thot them friends – he immediately weigh'd anchor and bore down for them when unluckily it prov'd to be one of the *Asia's* tenders – who took and carried her into the Hook – I have seen the Capt he was owned by Mr [Nicholas] Brown of Providence, – she was seen coming into the Hook this morning in Company with the Tender, that there can be no doubt of the truth of it. –²

The Committee this Evening applyed to me to let the arm'd Petty-Auger³ Cruise off[f] the back of the Island to protect a number of Vessels which are hourly expected in with Arms & Ammunition. – she is a very Swift Sailer and draws but little water and probably may be of great service to us in this way – this Request I shall comply with unless otherways ordered by your Excellency, I have the Honor to be Your Excellencies [&c.]

Israel Putnam

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Captain Jonathan Clarke, from the French West Indies; see Journal of the New York Provincial Congress, this date.

3. Pirogue, an anglicization of the Spanish *piragua*.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Martis, 4 ho. P.M.

May 21st, 1776.

Capt. Jonathan Clarke, late from the French West Indies, and bound to some port to the eastward, attended, and was admitted. He informs that he has had the misfortune to have his vessel and cargo seized and taken by an armed tender near Black Point, below Sandy Hook; that he has four men of his late crew with him; that they depend on him for support, and that he is in want of a small sum of money to support them for the present.

Ordered, That Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esq. Treasurer of this Congress, do advance to Capt. Jonathan Clarke twenty-five dollars, and take his receipt for the same.

Notes of Capt. Jonathan Clark's intelligence, which he gave to the Congress, were taken on the rough short notes of the day; and are filed.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 456.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, May 21, 1776

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on prisoners, respecting the manner of treating prisoners; and the same being read, debated and amended was agreed to:

Resolved, That all persons taken in arms on board any prize, be deemed prisoners, to be taken care of by the supreme executive power in each Colony to which they are brought, whether the prize be taken by vessels fitted out by the Continent, or by others:

That such as are taken, be treated as prisoners of war, but with humanity, and be allowed the same rations as the troops in the service of the United

IN CONGRESS,

MAY 21, 1776.

RESOLVED,

THAT all persons taken in arms on board any prize, be deemed prisoners, to be taken care of by the supreme executive power in each Colony to which they are brought, whether the prize be taken by vessels fitted out by the Continent, or by others.

That such as are taken be treated as prisoners of war, but with humanity, and be allowed the same rations as the troops in the service of the United Colonies; but that such as are officers supply themselves and be allowed to draw bills to pay for their subsistence and clothing.

That officers made prisoners in the land service be allowed the same indulgence.

That the officers be not permitted to reside in or near any sea port town, nor public post road, and that the officers and privates be not suffered to reside in the same places.

That in case the officers cannot draw or sell their bills, the Congress will allow for each of them Two Dollars a week, for board and lodgings to be repaid by said officers before they are released from their captivity.

That no tavern keepers supply any officers who are prisoners, on the credit of the Continent.

That the capitulations entered into with prisoners at the time of their surrender be punctually observed.

That such officers as surrender prisoners of war be put on their parole, unless Congress shall otherwise direct.

That the FORM of the PAROLE be as follows:

I ——— being made a prisoner of war, by the army of the ~~United Colonies~~ ^{State of} ~~United Colonies~~ America, do promise and engage, on my word and honour, and on the faith of a gentleman, to depart from hence to ——— in the presence of ——— being the place of my destination and residence, and there, or within six miles thereof, to remain during the present war between Great-Britain and the said United Colonies, or until the Congress of the said United Colonies, or the Assembly, Convention, or Committee or Council of Safety of the said Colony shall order otherwise; and that I will not directly or indirectly give any intelligence whatsoever to the enemies of the United Colonies, or do or say any thing in opposition to, or in prejudice of the measures and proceedings of any Congress for the said Colony during the present troubles, or until I am duly exchanged or discharged. Given under my hand, this ——— day of A. D. 1776,

That the said Parole be signed by the officers.

That such as refuse to subscribe the parole be committed to prison.

That David Franks, Esq. Agent to the contractors for victualling the troops of the King of Great-Britain, be permitted to supply the prisoners with provisions and other necessaries, and to sell his bills for such sums of money as are necessary for that purpose.

And to enable him to do this to the satisfaction of his employers, that a commissioned officer be permitted once a month to visit the prisoners to victualled and supplied, in order to count their numbers and certify the rolls.

That such of the prisoners as are not supplied by Mr. Franks, be furnished with provisions not exceeding the rations allowed to privates in the service of the Continent.

That the women and children belonging to prisoners be furnished with subsistence and supplied with firing and other things absolutely necessary for their support.

That no prisoners be enlisted in the Continental Army.

That the prisoners be permitted to exercise their trades and to labour in order to support themselves and families.

That the Committees of Inspection and Observation, for the counties, districts or towns, assigned for the residence of prisoners, be empowered to superintend their conduct, and in case of gross misbehaviour to censure them; and report to their respective Assemblies, Convention or Committees or Council of Safety the proceedings had on such occasions.

That a list of the prisoners in each Colony be made out by the Committees of the counties, towns or districts where they reside, and transmitted to the Assembly, Convention, or Council or Committee of Safety of such Colony respectively, who shall send a copy thereof to Congress.

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, and Committees or Councils of Safety be empowered to contract with proper persons for the most reasonable terms for supplying such of the prisoners, their wives and children, in their respective Colony as are not supplied by Mr. Franks.

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, and Committees or Councils of Safety, be authorized and requested to take the paroles of the officers, and to cause a strict observance of the terms on which they are enlarged, and also to take especial care that none of those confined by order of the Congress, be suffered to escape; also to advance the allowance of Two Dollars a week to each of the officers who cannot draw or sell their bills and to draw for the same on the President of the Congress.

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, Committees or Councils of Safety of the Colonies respectively in which prisoners are or shall chuse or be appointed to reside, be empowered to remove such prisoners from place to place within the same Colonies, as often as to such Assemblies, Conventions, Committees or Councils of Safety it shall seem proper, having regard to the former resolutions of Congress concerning prisoners.

Extract from the Minutes, published by Order of Congress,

CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

Colonies; but that such as are officers supply themselves, and be allowed to draw bills to pay for their subsistence and cloathing:

That the officers be not permitted to reside in or near any sea port town, nor public post road; and that the officers and privates be not suffered to reside in the same places:

That in case the officers cannot draw or sell their bills, the Congress will allow for each of them, Two Dollars a week for board and lodgings, to be repaid by said officers before they are released from their captivity:

That no tavern keepers supply any officers, who are prisoners, on the credit of the Continent:

That the capitulations entered into with prisoners, at the time of their surrender, be punctually observed:

That such officers as surrender prisoners of war, be put on their parole, unless Congress shall otherwise direct:

That the said Parole be signed by the officers:

That such as refuse to subscribe the parole, be committed to prison:

That the Committees of Inspection and Observation, for the counties, districts, or towns, assigned for the residence of prisoners, be empowered to superintend their conduct, and, in cases of gross misbehaviour, to confine them, and report to their respective Assembly, Convention, or Committee, or Council of Safety, the proceedings had on such occasions:

That a list of the prisoners in each Colony be made out by the Committees of the counties, towns, or districts where they reside, and transmitted to the Assembly, Convention or Council or Committee of Safety of such Colony, respectively, who shall send a copy thereof to Congress.

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, and Committees or Councils of Safety, be authorized and requested, to take the paroles of the officers, and to cause a strict observance of the terms on which they are enlarged, and also to take especial care, that none of those confined by order of the Congress, be suffered to escape; also, to advance the allowance of Two Dollars a week to each of the officers who cannot draw or sell their bills, and to draw for the same on the President of the Congress:

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, Committees or Councils of Safety of the Colonies, respectively, in which prisoners are or shall chuse to be appointed to reside, be empowered to remove such prisoners from place to place, within the same Colonies, as often as to such Assemblies, Conventions, Committees or Councils of Safety, it shall seem proper, having regard to the former resolutions of Congress concerning prisoners.

Ordered, That the same be immediately published.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 369, 370-74.

2. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, June 5, 1776.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON TO JOHN JAY¹

[Extract]

You have doubtless seen the acct brought by the Rifleman from London by which it appears that we shall at least have 34000 Comm[issione]rs.

If your Congress have any spirit they will at least build 14 or 15 light Boats capable of carrying a 12 pounder to secure hudsons river which is to be the chief scene of action – The carpenters employed on the frigates would build 2 or three in a day if they were built in the maner of Batoes which is the true construction –

21st May 1776 Philadelphia

1. John Jay Papers, CUL.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

[Philadelphia] 21st May, 1776.

The following Memorial to Congress was this day drawn up, read and approved off, and deliver'd by Mr. James Mease to Mr. Rob't Morris:

In Committee of Safety, 21st May, 1776.

To the Honorable the Continental Congress.

The Memorial of the Committee of Safety of the Province of Pennsylvania,

Shewing:

That the General Assembly of this Province, having appropriated large sums for the Defence and protection of the same, and of the River Delaware, this Committee, who were intrusted with the application thereof, caused thirteen Arm'd Boats or Gondolas to be built, equip'd and Manned, and have since built, fitted and Manned a large Ship, Floating Battery, several Guard Boats, and a great number of Fire Rafts, erected Fortifications on deep Water Island, raised a large Artillery Company for their Defence, and sunk Chevaux-de-Frize in the Channel of the River; That the Assembly have raised two Battalions of Rifle Men and one of Musketry, station'd on the Banks of the River Delaware.

That the Committee perceive, after all these exertions, greatly surpassing, as they believe, any that have been made on this Continent at an Expende merely Colonial, that their defence is still imperfect and far unequal in their Idea, to the probable Force that may soon be employed against this Colony.

To give, therefore, additional security to this Province and City, and the navigation of the River and Bay of Delaware, the preservation of which must be of the highest importance to the Common Cause of the Colonies, This Committee conceive it necessary that some more Armed Boats or Gondolas, larger than those already built, capable of Navigating in Delaware Bay, and another Floating Battery, should immediately be built. They are also of opinion that some military works should be erected on the Eastern Shore of the River Delaware, and particularly at a place called Billingsport.

That as the moneys granted by the Assembly for the purposes of Defence must soon be exhausted in supporting the large establishment of Seamen & Soldiers in the pay of this Province, and as the building, equipping, & manning the additional Floating Battery & armed Vessels, & erecting Fortifications on the Jersey Shore, will be too heavy a Burthen for this Province singly to bear, this Committee beg leave to call the attention of the Congress to these important objects, and to pray their aid in directing those further Defences, and such other, as in their Wisdom, shall appear requisite, to be immediately undertaken and carried into Execution at the Continental Charge.

Instructions to Mr. William Richards were this day drawn up, read, approved of, and delivered him, and are as follows:

To Mr. William Richards:

You are hereby appointed Ships' Husband to the Pennsylvania Fleet and empowered to do all such matters and things as may be necessary for the due execution of the said office.

You are to make known to all Commanders and other officers employed in the said Fleet, that they are to apply through you for all stores and necessaries required for the service; you are to obtain from them an Invent[o]ry of all the articles they have on Board, and an Indent of such as they are in want of, both which you are carefully to preserve, as they may serve you in regulating any future supplies that may be called for; you are to procure the sundry articles of the best qualitys, each in its kind; and it is your particular duty to buy them on the best terms in your power; you are to take each Officer's receipt for the articles delivered to him, and you are to return the Bills or accounts for those you purchase for this Board, Certify'd by you that the quantities are what you receiv'd and the prices what you agreed for, not being dearer than the Current rates of each respective article at the time of purchase.

You are empowered to inspect and enquire on the [*sic*] Board the Fleet at least once in every month, and as much oftener as you may think necessary, whether all stores and necessaries are taken proper care of, and not neglected, wasted or embezzelled, and make Report according as you find, to this Board.

This Board, being ever desirous of serving the Public faithfully, do recommend the most prudent economy in the Outfits and Supplies of the Fleet. They must have every thing necessary, but avoid all expensive superfluitys, and in the purchase of what is wanted give a preference to such persons as are known to be Zealous Supporters of the American cause, dividing the business amongst as many of such as can be done with conveniency and consistently with the Public good.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COLONEL SAMUEL MILES¹

Sir,

[Philadelphia, May 21, 1776]²

You are directed to send Lieutt [George] Ball to this Committee, in company with one of the Officers of the Troops under your command; & as it is improper that he should obtain any knowledge of the passage through the Cheveaux du Frize, it is recommended that he come here by Land.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 760.

2. "A letter was this day sent, by order of the Board, to Colo. Sam'l Miles, directing him to Send L't Ball with an Officer, by Land, to this Committee, in order to his Paroles being taken when he is to be sent to Germantown to reside." Minutes of the Committee of Safety, May 21, 1776. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 578.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE
BRIGANTINE *Lexington*¹[Philadelphia, May 21, 1776]²Brigte *Lexington* – Jno Barry Esqr Commander

For Second Cruise.

1776

July 15	To Cash paid for Sundrys from 15 May till this day		
	Vizt		
May 15	" do " for Sawing and Splitting 2 cords wood	15..-	
" "	" do " Robt Bridges for 2 cords wood & cordg	2..14..4	
16	" do " Thomas Badge for 2 Boxes candles	5.. 1.10	
" "	" do " James Hann Instrument maker	-.. 8..6	
18	" do " William Woodhouse for Stationary	-.. 4..6	
" "	" do " for a Pennknife	-.. 4..6	
20	" do " for 702 lbs Fresh Beeff	16.. 1..9	
" "	" do " for 4 quire Writing paper	-.. 10..-	
" "	" do " John Taylor for Cleaning her arms	6. 14..4½	
" "	" do " William Waltman port[er]age of Sundries	6. 16..-	
" "	" do " for 2 Half tann'd hydes	1. 18..-	
" "	" do " Thomas Cuthbert	1. 14..-	
22	" do " John Locktons bill for days labour	9.. 3..-	
24	" do " Thomas Ridge Riggers bill	3. 15..6	
25	" do " John Elmslies do	7.. 4..-	
30	" do " Charles Allen hire of his Boat	1. 10..-	
June 20	" do " for hawling 9 loads provision	-.. 3..-	
July 4	" do " Robert Fitzgeralds bill	-.. 3..6	
10	" do " William Rigdon for 8 lbs yellow paint	-.. 12..-	
17	" do " Philip Moser for 12 bars & 4 kegs b[rea]d	9. 13..6	
" "	" do " James Russell for 2 barrls flour	3.. 6..8	78.13.11½
	T ct qr lb		
Augt. 2d	" Pig Iron for Ballast wte 3..4..3..0..@ £9..		56.18..4
Sept 6	" Cash paid for 2 Oars	-.. 11..8	
" "	" do " Alexander Carlisle for a half tann'd hyde	-.. 12..-	
" "	" do " Freight of 6 water Casks	-.. 9..-	1.12..8
Novmr 23	" do " Anthy Morris Brewers bill		10..2..-
Decemr 3	" do " for a half Tann'd Hyde		1.12..-
	[No balance shown]		

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP. See footnote 1 under *Lexington's* account with the Commissioners of the Navy, March 28, 1776, Volume 4, 550.

2. The date given is the one on which the *Lexington* sailed from Philadelphia for her second cruise. See footnote 2 under *Lexington's* account with the Commissioners of the Navy, March 28, 1776, Volume 4, 550.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE
SLOOP *Hornet* ¹

[Philadelphia, May 21] ²

Sloop *Hornet* William Hallock Esqr Commander.—

To the Commissioners of the Navy Dr

For First Cruise —

1776

April 19	To 3 Pieces Canvass No 7	121 Yards		
" 23	" 1 Piece L ditto	34 "		
" 25	" 2 Pieces L ditto	91 "	3. 15	
" 29	" 3/6 Bolt Russia Duck	@ £7.10		
May 24	" 47 Hammocks & 3 Cotts			51..1..7
June 3	" Cash paid Sundries from 5 April to 6th June	Vizt		
" "	do " John Saunders for Inward Pillotage .		5. 10..—	
" "	do " Port[cra]ge of 15 Loads sundrys fm	vessel	— 15..—	
" "	do " two Seamens Board		1.. 5..—	
" "	do " Seamens board Pr bill		1.. 6..4	
" "	do " for 100 lbs Fresh Beeff & Greens . .		1. 18..6½	
" "	do " Dennis Sullivan & Wm Sansons	board	1. 11..4	
" "	do " Days labour as Pr Jno Locktons	bill	7..19. —	
" "	do " Hawling 3 Loads dirt		— 4..6	
" "	do " 2½ weeks board of the Drummer . .		1.. 5..—	
" "	do " 1 weeks board of the Cook		— 10..—	
" "	do " John Taylor for Cleaning the Arms .		9. 19..1½	
" "	do " for a pen knife for the Clerk		— 2..6	
" "	do " 1 weeks board of Mr [John] Harper	preceedg his Entry on board Ship		
" "	do " <i>Reprisal</i>		— 15..—	
" "	do " for a penn knife for the Steward . .		— 2..6	
" "	do " for 1 cord hickory wood hawlg &	Cordg	1. 18..2	
" "	do " George Craig for 24 Mast hoops . . .		2.. 8..—	
" "	do " for 1 cord hickory wood Hawlg &	Cordg	1.. 6..2	
" "	do " Alexander Stewart for a new Cott . .		1.. —..—	
" "	do " Jonas Abram for Boardg Wm Stans-	ton & Emanuel Britt 2 weeks	2.. —..—	
" "	do " for Sawing Two cords hicky wood . .		— 15..—	
" "	do " James Craig Rigger for 14 days wk	for 1 pair large Scissars 2/6 & 1 lb		
" "	do " Amry		— 5..—	
" "	do " Thomas Cuthbert for 5 days wharfg		— 15..—	
" "	do " Robt McGill Stationary ware		1.. 7..6	
" "	do " Thomas & John Ridge riggers bill . .		3. 10..—	
" "	do " for 134 lb Fresh Beeff & Greens— . .		2. 16..7	
" "	do " James Allenby coopers bill		3.. 4..3	
" "	do " John Deveraux chieff mate for 21	days work @ 15 Dollars P Mo	3. 18..9	
	Carried Forward		£	[blank]
	Brought Forward		£	
June 4	To Cash paid for 1 Bushell fine Salt		15..—	
" "	do " Days labour as Pr Capt Locktons bill		13..11..6	
" "	do " Benjn Condys bill		1.14..—	
" "	do " Wetherill & Cressons bill		9..1..5	
" "	do " John Murdoch for a Boatswains call		1.15..—	
" "	do " Joseph Stansbury for Stone & Glass	ware	1.10..4	

Sloop *Hornet* William Hallock Commander. 1st Cruise. contd

1776	"	"	do	"	John Mease for wine for Medicine ..	2..2..6	
	"	"	do	"	Anthony Groves for Amot his bill for Slops	28..1..3	
	"	"	do	"	Ged Gilker for Gammons	3.11.10½	
	"	"	do	"	Alexander Carlisle for a haf tann'd hyde	9..-	
	"	"	do	"	for ½ Bushell fine Salt & Coarse do.	16..6	
	"	"	do	"	Dean Timmonds for 2 Boxes candles	5..7..8	
	"	"	do	"	Philip Flock for repairing the Drum ..	1..-..-	
	"	"	do	"	Clem Humphreys for 6 doz porter ..	3..8..-	
	"	"	do	"	John Phiz Sailmakers bill	9..8..9¾	
	"	"	do	"	Thomas Corgees do	2..3..6	
	"	"	do	"	Edward Lackey for fresh beef & greens	4.13..2	
	"	"	do	"	Samuel Rhoads and Jos Russell for wharfage	1..5..-	
	"	"	do	"	Hawling 20 Loads provision	6..8	
	"	"	do	"	James Stephens for 17 days attendance Previous to Capt Hallocks takg comd	6..4..8	
	"	"	do	"	Henry Litman Blacksmith	7.15.10	
	"	"	do	"	Amot. Sundry Ship Chandlery Stores comprehending Gunner, Carpenter, Boatswain &c c qr lb		
					Amot Cordage w[eigh]t 18..2..8	@	
July	3	To	Cash	paid	Robert Fitzgeralds bill	1..13..3	
	11	"	do	"	Wetherill & Cressons bill	-..9..1	
	12	"	1	Cask	Butter hd of J. W. Nt 91 lbs @ 7d & Keg 2 /	2..15..1	
					t c qr lb		
Augt	27	"	Pig	Iron	for Ballast wte 6..6..1..26 ... @ £9	56..18..4	
Sepr	8	"	Cash	paid	William Waltman for port[er]age ..	8..4	
	"	"	do	"	Deficiency in Charging Edw Lackeys bill	4..8	-..13..-
	16	"	do	"	Mathias Landenberger for 20 bls bread	15..5..9	
	"	"	do	"	for 30 lbs Fresh beef	10..-	
	"	"	do	"	for Potatoes and Greens	1..5	
	"	"	do	"	27 lbs Pork and Mutton	10..1½	
	"	"	do	"	for Potatoes and Cabbages	2.10½	1..4..4½
Octr	21	"	do	"	Arthur Donaldsons bill	6..6¼	
					[No balance shown]		

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP.

2. The date chosen is the one which the *Hornet* sailed from Philadelphia in company with the brigantine *Lexington*.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, MAY 21." ¹

The prize brig taken by the *Wasp* in the river, at the time of the engagement between the ships and galleys, is arriving in this harbour. The flag that was sent down for the exchange of Captain Budden, his son, and some others, prisoners on board the *Roebuck*, returned on Sunday. It was delayed a little in getting a Lieutenant belonging to that ship,² who was a prisoner at Dover, by which means it arrived at the Capes too late, as the ships were going off with themselves, as it got down, and night coming on, they could not come up with them, altho' they were followed 12 leagues to sea.

1. *Connecticut Journal*, May 29, 1776.

2. Lieutenant George Ball.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO LIEUTENANT THOMAS TONKEN ¹

By Sir Peter Parker, Commander of a
Squadron of His Majestys Ships, to be
Employd on a particular Service.

Whereas Doctor Blagden, Physician to the Army under the Command of Major General Clinton, hath recommended it as absolutely necessary, that most part of the Bedding on board the *Harcourt* Transport, under your direction, should be Burn't, in order to prevent the spreading of a dangerous infection thro' the Army, occasion'd by a contagious Fever having been among the Troops in the said Ship.

You are therefore hereby required & directed to cause such part of the Bedding, as Doctor Blagden hath recommended to be destroyed, to be immediately Burnt, taking particular care to give the Master of the *Harcourt* a Certificate thereof.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Solebay*, the 21st May 1776,

(Sign'd) P: Parker

To Lieutenant Tonken Agent for Transports.

By command of the Commodore, Jn. Read,
[Endorsed] a copy. Thos Tonken

1. PRO, Admiralty 49/2, 178, LC Photocopy.

LIEUTENANT CHARLES COBB, H.M. SURVEY VESSEL *Florida*, TO
VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

[Extract] Pensacola May the 21st 1776 –
Sir Since my last dat'd the 16th Ultio I have receivd an Account of Captain Daveys having got into the River Mississippi & that he had sent his Boats up to Manshack before him. it is about 64 Leags up it is said there is several Americans in the River.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LIEUTT COLONEL STIELL [STEELE] OF THE 3D
BATTALION OF THE ROYAL AMERICAN OR 60TH REGIMENT TO HIS
EXCELLENCY SIR BASIL KEITH DATED 21ST MAY 1776" ¹

I have the Honor to Acquaint you that the *Amherst* Transport Anchor'd this day at Savanna La Mar (obliged to put in for Water) having on Board part of Seven Companies of the 3d & 4th Battalions of the Royal American or 60th Regiment under my Command, Bound to Pensacola, for the Security of West Florida We parted Company at Sea with the *Friendship* which Vessel has the rest of the Detachment on Board.

I should have Personally waited upon you with this Report, had not the Master Assured me He would as soon as water'd directly proceed on his Voyage.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part III, LC Photocopy.

CAPTAIN HENRY BRYNE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹*Hind*, English Harbour Antigua

Sir

the 21st May 1776.

I am to acquaint you I Disembarked the Three Company's of the 60th Regiment at St Augustine the 11th April 1776, agreeable to your directions. On my Arrival there found in the Harbour His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Hinchinbrook*, Commanded by Lieutenant [Alexander] Ellis, who informed me he had intelligence of the Rebels fitting Arm'd Vessels in the adjacent Rivers. I thought it my duty to give him directions to keep company with the *Hind* under my Command, and Sailed to the Northward. The 21st of April we Anchored off Sunbury River. I dispatched the *Hinchinbrook* with our Tender and Boats Mann'd and Arm'd over the Bar. The 25th Lieutenant Ellis informed me of their having set on fire a Brig that was Loading, and a Ship on the Stocks, which he was informed the Rebels intended for a Twenty Gun Privateer. On their return they were attack'd by about 6 hundred and Fifty or Sixty Crackers (Rebels in Georgia so called) on the Island of St Catherine, but after half an hours engagement they retreated to the Woods. No damage was done on our side except to the Tender's Hull and Sails, and on the 26th made the best of my way for Antigua.

The 10th May in Lattitude 19°.06' No Four large Ships; gave Chace and come up with the Sternmost which proved to be a large Spanish Ship about Eight or Nine hundred Tons full of Troops from Cadiz bound to Porto Rico, she informed me the other three in Company were Spanish Men of War, bound to the same place. I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Hen^y Bryne

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

22 MayJOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lizard*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

May 1776

[Laid up in the Cul de Sac, Quebec]

Wednesday 21st

[Tuesday]

Sailed up the river the *Marie* Armd Schooner with Genl Carelton [Guy Carleton] on board & the *Fell* Armed snow & 6 sail of Transports with Troops on board

Thursday 22nd

[Wednesday]

Fresh breezs & fair Weather in the first part & lattr some Showers of Rain came on board 12 hands from the *Isis* to Assist in Overhauling the rigging sailed up the river the *Lord How[e]* & *Bute* Arm'd Ships.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/550.

ISSAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Mr. Adams

Salem May 22d. 1776

Your esteemed favors of the 29th. Ulto. and 6th Inst. now before and in Answer say I shall att all times be willing to communicate my sentiments or give any intelligence, that may tend to the public good. — As to Boston I

think when the works are compleated the enemy will never attempt coming that way, but as soon As that is compleated hope there will be some way found to keep the ships from rendevousing att Nantasket, but should that succeed there may be a dificulty as great iff they should make C[ape] Ann a harbour as they would then stop all Coasters coming which now do get a long, but iff C. Ann was well fortified which by Nature Is best Able with proper batteries to defend itt self of any I know. Indeed M[arble] H[ea]ld and Salem are well cituated, and iff properly fortified would keep Out almost any thing but C. Ann would be the safest harbour for them.

I dont know how many ships there are in Nantasket but almost every day they are Out. There are two ships and a brigantine most Constantly cruzeing between Cape Codd and Casco bay. One is the *Milford* of 28 Guns which goes exceeding fast. Yesterday a Coasting skipper came thro here that had been taken and after taken a sloop with Sparrs &c. from the Eastward, takeing likewise he was put on board to go to Boston but managed itt so as to get in to Casco – itt said belongd to N York. Several Masters &c. are come from Halifax. 12 days from thence three belonging here. There not being barracks enough the rigements take turn to go a shore. – There was nothing lately from England. The reason they give of Leaveing Boston was on Account of Provisions. On Approach of some part of the fleet they say they knockt of the Truneons of off 60 or 70 Canon and spikd the guns up. . . .

You desire to know whether itt would be likely Our Vessells would be stopt in foreign ports. As to France and Spain there Appears no dificulty but in Lisbon and Holland &c. am Apprehensive there will be a dificulty As the English Consells have such a power there and those Nations seem to [be Aided?] by the Ministry that I am of Opinion no Vessell would be safe going to those places. I have lately received a letter from Lisbon On that subject, which says you must be very cautious as to any Vessell coming here as all the Consells att the differant ports, are scrupeliously exact in regard to all Vessells that enter – for which reason I have hauld up a Vessell I was going to send there.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 413–14.

JAMES WARREN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Gentn

Plymo May 22d 1776

I have Agreeable to the order of Court purchased A Sloop to observe the Motions of the Enemy & give Intelligence you may if you please call her the *Swift* Capt [John] Wigglesworth the Bearer of this I have Appointed to the Command of her he now waits on you for your Orders & to get some powder & other Ammunition & perhaps A few Articles which cant be Obtained here. you will please to give him dispatch as I propose to have every thing ready for him to go to Sea as soon as he returns. I am with great Respect [&c.]

J Warren

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 195, 8.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Wednesday Evening 22d May 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment –

Capt William Barron of Newport having Produced sufficient Testimonials of his Seamanship & other Qualifications he is appointed Master of the largest of the Ships & is desired to attend on board as soon as may be. –

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Gentlemen

Providence May 22nd 1776

When I arrived at New London I delivered 36 Guns and all the other Stores but 26 Guns and some Trucks which was then onboard the *Alfred Columbus* & *Cabot*, and as I could not get Ballast in room of the Guns, brought them here and deliver'd to Governor Cooke which he put into the Fort to prevent the return of the Kings Ships which I consented to on Condition they should be Subject to Order of Congress – Three days past I receiv'd your Orders to deliver twenty to the City of Philada Committee – I came up here and found that Governor Cooke had gone a long Journey – I then called such of his Council & Members of Assembly as could be got together, laid the Order of Congress before them and desired they would deliver the Guns. The Council determined they could not be delivered before you was acquainted with the present circumstances of the Government which they had sent one of their Members Mr John Collins to represent to you – I then gave the Committee an Order on Governor Trumbull for twenty of the Guns left at New London, and I hope he will deliver them as they may be better Spared from there than here, as the consequence of moving the Cannon from here would be the blocking up of the Fleet in this River, or such part of them as are now here.

The Sickness that has attended the Fleet since we left New Providence still continues in a great Measure and has Render'd the Fleet useless as near one half the whole Number are Sick and unfit for duty – Eight days past I sent the *Providence* to New York to carry the Sailors to General Washington which I borrow'd of him to bring the Fleet round here – The *Cabot* and *Andrew Doria* are clean'd & Mann'd with upwards of two hundred Men and Sail'd last Sunday Morning by the Light house on a Cruise, and as I put a number of hands out of the *Alfred* onboard the *Andw Doria* it has left her almost without hands – and the most I now expect is to fit and send the *Columbus* & *Providence* on a Cruise in about ten days which will leave the *Alfred* without any hands more than the Officers – The Sickness discouraging new hands from Entering. The Brigs carried near four Months Provisions with them, and have procured near the same for the other Vessels, which I have and shall draw on your Treasurer for I am likewise obliged to furnish the Officers and People with some Money – and the Hospital Bill will be a large Sum.

I think it would be for the publick Advantage and should be extremely glad you would send or appoint some Agent to transact the business here – and also of the Prizes. Should also be glad you would direct what is to be done with the Sloop which I took at New Providence to bring the Guns and Stores, as no other Person in that Island suffered one Shilling it would be hard the Owner should not have his Vessel or be paid for her –² hope you will also give me directions what I shall do with the Slaves taken in the Armed Vessels, for my giving them without Salvage would disaffect the Officers & People without your Orders so to do –

The reason of my leaving the *Alfred* to the last Vessel fitted out is, She is tender Sided and the most unfit Vessel in the Fleet for Service, and her Main Mast has a 9 lb Shot through it, and can't get another easily in this place, although it is fished in the best manner we could do it I am still in doubt whether it will bear hard Crowding on – Upon the whole all the chance I have of manning the *Alfred* is when the Assembly Sitts to get Orders from them to Ship Sailors out of their Army at Newport – if that fails she nor the New Ships built here will hardly get Mann'd without you give Orders for Sailors to be Shipp'd out of the Army –

Inclosed you have Copies of the Sentence of two Court Martials on the Captains of the *Columbus* and *Providence*, the latter of which I have confirmed, the other shall wait your directions for – And as for the rest of Captn Hazards Conduct I could have look'd it over, but as he was found Guilty in the affair of the *Glascow* I could not pass it by. I am with great Respect Gentlemn [&c.]

E. H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. See Charles Walker to the Continental Congress, June 18, 1776.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

Providence May 22nd. 1776 –

I sent the *Providence* last thursday with all the Soldiers which belong'd to your Army that could then be collected – since I sent three by Capt Williams and there is some Sick now here which shall send as soon as well – some few I believe is deserted or gone by Land –

The *Cabot* and *Andrew Doria* both Sail'd last Sunday Morning on a Cruise to the Eastward – The *Columbus* hope to send soon – The others I am afraid cant get away for want of Men as the Men onboard the Fleet continue very Sickly it makes it difficult to get either & want it² for that Impediment the Sailors are mostly taken up in the several Armies & otherways so that it will be with great difficulty the Fleet here can be Mann'd – the two new ships are Launched & will be soon ready if men could be had

I receiv'd Orders to send to Philadelphia a Number of Cannon which if comply'd with will give great Uneasiness in this part of the Country – I am with great Regard [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. In the letter book copy in RIHS the words are "was it not."

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Hartford] Wednesday 22d May, 1776.

Mr. Jas. Rice, one of the committee for fitting the Colony brig *Defence* and for building the row galley at N.H., presented his accounts to be settled &c., as voted by the Lower House &c., and being so large and numerous, this Board cannot at this time go thro' with the examination, and consider and order that an order be drawn on the Pay-Table for £700 in his favor, and refer the full settlement of his account to another opportunity: he to attend it at Lebanon. And Order is drawn accordingly, viz:

To the Committee of the Pay Table:

Gent: Please to draw on the Treasurer in favor of Mr. Jas. Rice of N. Haven for the sum of £700, to be considered and allowed on settlement of his account exhibited for fitting the Colony brig *Defence*, and building &c. a row-galley at New Haven: not having time fully to settle and adjust said account; and charge accordingly.

By order of the Governor and Council of Safety,
Hartford, 22d May, 1776. Signed W. W. Clerk
And delivered him, present.

Said Rice also presented an order on the Governor &c. drawn by Cap. [Seth] Harding of said brig *Defence* in favor of said Rice, for £11 19 21½,

And it is considered and voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table for the same, to be accounted for by said Harding on his account and wages in the Colony service, as captain of said brig &c. And order is drawn accordingly in favour of said Harding or order, for the said sum of £11 19 21½, and delivered said Rice, and took standing order indorsed by said Rice.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 402-03.

Connecticut Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1776

New-Haven, May 22.

Last Wednesday evening came to town from Halifax, Capt. Edmund French; — he sail'd from this port the 1st of March, in a sloop, loaded with grain, bound to Falmouth, Casco-Bay, on the third, about 12 leagues from Cape-Cod he was taken by a large transport ship, of 6 guns, from England, and carried to Boston, he was there put on board the admiral's ship, where he liv'd among the common crew, till the 25th, when he was turn'd over to a transport, belonging to the fleet which had taken on board the troops who a few days before had evacuated Boston, in which vessel he went to Halifax, being obliged to do the duty of a common seaman, which was very hard, as the vessel was very short handed, which it was said was the case with all the transports. — Capt. French says, that they were put to an allowance, on account of the scarcity of provisions in the fleet. — That the town of Boston was evacuated so precipitately, that they had not time to stow their holds, but all kinds of stores, &c. were tumbled in promiscuously. — That at Halifax, all kinds of provisions, especially fresh, were very scarce and dear, that butter

was sold at 2/6 per lb. beef at [12]. mutton and veal at 1/8, and that he saw a fresh cod fish sold at a dollar. — Capt. French, with several other prisoners, made their escape from Halifax the 8th of April; they traveled about 20 miles on foot, to Cape Sambro, where they procured a boat, in which they came to Port Rosway, from whence they were put across the Bay of Fund[y], and got to Pemiquid, from which place, Capt. French came on foot to this town. He confirms the accounts which we have received, of the wretched situation of the tory-refugees at Halifax.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO ANDREW HUNTINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Camp New York 22d May 1776

—a French Vessell with about 12 Tons of Powder & 500 Stand of Arms coming into this Port has fallen into the Hands of our Enemies at the Hook throu' the Indiscretion of the Captain—

a Vessell with Dutch Goods such as Linnens &C is just arrived & the Cargo all sold to one Retailer—European Goods appear to me to be plentier in the City than when I first came here, it is expected they will be plentier yet before Christmas—

Brandy sells a 7/6 — Clove Water &C a 5/—

I cannot find any Price for Cherry Rum—

1. Huntington Papers, ConnHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 9 ho. A.M.

May 22nd, 1776.

Francis Lewis, Esquire, infomed this Congress that William Hawxhurst is employed by contract in making anchors for the Continental navy, in which business he cannot proceed without a small supply of gunpowder, and therefore he applied for 100 weight of gunpowder, for William Hawxhurst, for the use of the iron works, to be paid for in cash.

Ordered, That Mr. Richard Norwood, commissary of Colony stores, deliver to Mr. William Hauxhurst one hundred weight of gunpowder, at the price of thirty pounds, on receiving the ready money for the said hundred weight of gunpowder, and that the said Richard Norwood, pay the said sum of thirty pounds to Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esquire, as Treasurer of this Congress, and take a receipt for the same.

Die Mercurii, 4 ho. P.M. May 22d, 1776.

Mr. Randall informed the Congress that Colo. [Peter] Curtenius has four muskets of a particular kind, unfit for soldiers' use, which would be very useful and necessary on board of the private vessel of war named *Putnam*.

Ordered, That Colonel Curtenius deliver to Thomas Randall, Esquire, or his order, four muskets, such as Mr. Randall may choose for the use of the armed schooner *Putnam*.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 457.

PETITION OF BRITISH SEAMEN TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

New City Hall [New York] May 22, 1776

May it please the Honourable Committee:

Honourable Gentlemen:

We, the prisoners of his Majesty's ships the *Phenix* and *Savage*, humbly implore of your Honours to allow us a proportion of provisions to live upon. The keeper, McCleef, gives us but sixpence sterling per day; we are almost perished, for it is impossible for us to live at this rate. We cannot say, gentlemen, had your Honours been notified before, you would make us a sufficiency of provisions; therefore, gentlemen, here follows, for instance, the proportion of provisions that is allowed to prisoners taken by his Majesty's ship of war, from the honourable Congress: The proportion per week, Bread, 7 lbs.; Beef, 7 lbs., Pease, 1 quart; Oatmeal, 1½ quarts; Brandy, 1 ¾ quarts; Butter, ¾ lbs.; Flour, 3 lbs.; Suet, ½ lb.

Now, honourable gentlemen, compute; the current price of provisions never deviates from the above proportion on board his Majesty's ships, by whatsoever nation he takes prisoners from, much more a natural fraternity, as we all can't say to the reverse. The market in this port is so that by it we can't live. The midshipmen taken with us, you allow eighteen shillings per week, and we are to live upon sixpence sterling per day. Had the highest Commander of France or Spain been taken by his said Majesty, have no more of provisions to be allowed them than the seamen on board the respective ships. Had any Commander-in-Chief been taken at this your honourable cause's side, there would be no proportion of provisions made than the said proportion. Now, gentlemen, consider this. Have been myself steward and clerk in the naval service these six years. I am your Honours' [&c.]

Jeremiah Bierdan

To the Honourable Congress, at New York.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, VI, 1355.JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT¹

May 1776

Moor'd as before [Gravesend Bay]

Wednesday 22 A M heard a firing of Guns at the Hook sent the Barge, Mann'd & Arm'd, the Rebels were Attacking our Watering Sloop.
Light Breezes & Clear P M Clear'd Hawse, the Barge return'd.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM¹

[Extract]

Amboy, May 22, 1776.

You will please to give every Assistance which General Schuyler requires, that may be in your Power, and least you may not have kept a Copy of his Letter, I will transcribe that Paragraph, which contains his Demand. "Intrenching Tools of every Kind will be wanted, more Powder, Lead, and

Cannon Ball, and guns for the Vessels on Lake Champlain. Rigging, Sail-Cloth, and Sail Makers to be sent up."

For intrenching Tools, Rigging, Sail Cloth, and Sail Makers, I would have you apply immediately to the Provincial Congress, who will probably be able to procure them for you. Some of the Members mentioned to me, that they could procure a Quantity of Tools, of which you will send off as many as you can spare. You must take care not to leave yourself destitute.

I sent five Tons of Lead forward, which General Schuyler knew not of: However I would have you examine what Quantity there is in store; and if you can spare it send up two tons more. As to the Cannon Ball and Guns, you will consult with Colo. [Henry] Knox, who must judge what Sort of each is necessary, and send them up with the other Articles. . . .

It was a Misfortune indeed that the Vessel with Powder and Arms should fall into the Enemy's Hands.

Let the Committee by all Means have the Pettiauger to cruize off the Back of the Island. The sooner she is out the better, as more Vessels with these Articles may be daily expected. . . .

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V, 76-77.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM ROGERS TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Little Egg-Harbor, on board the sloop *Montgomerie*
May 22, 1776.

Gentlemen – We yesterday put in here to wood and fill up our water, which we are now about, and shall sail again to-morrow, wind and weather permitting. On the 5th instant we brought too a schooner, Capt. Caysy, from Salt Tudeas, bound for Rhode Island, who informed me that on the 1st of May in latitude 36° 30'' longitude 71°, he saw eight sail of ships standing to the northward, but what they were he could not tell. The 6th of May we was cruising off Montock, we saw a sail in the offing and gave chase, she stood from us; the day being thick and hazy; that we came in about a league of her; then we discovered that although she seemed to be running from us with topgallant sails set, her courses were hauled up and stay sails all down; the weather clearing a little off we saw she was a ship of war, we then gave over chase and hove too, as we was between her and the land; but no sooner she saw that we gave over chase, she gave chase to us, and followed us round Montock. We hauled close a board of a reef that lays within Montock, she then gave over chase and stood out again. From a Block island fishing boat that I spoke, I was informed that there was a ship of 28 guns, and a brig of 14 guns a cruising off there, that they had been on shore on the island and filled water about the 20th or 21st of April. We have not been into any of the inlets on the back of Long Island, but we sounded one with the boat, and found 13 foot water over the bar at about half ebb. The 18th we were off Sandy Hook, see but 2 ships in the bay; they did not send anything out after us, which we expected they would. I expected to find the schooner *Putnam* on this coast, but have not seen or heard any thing of her. We have not saw a sail of any kind since we left cruising off Montock,

but the ships we see in at Sandy-Hook. When we go out again I expect to cruise towards Cape May: our ship's company is all well and hearty. And I remain [&c.]

William Rogers.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 205–206.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, May 22, 1776

A petition from James M'Knight was presented to Congress and read.

The committee to whom the petition of P. Simons, was referred, having brought in their report, the same was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

Resolved, That it appears James M'Knight hath proceeded to the sale of the sloop *Sally* and her cargo, contrary to the mode prescribed, and without any authority from Congress:

That the resolution passed the 4th of April "empowering the committee of inspection and observation of the county of Burlington, to make sale of the sloop *Sally* and the cargo on board, and to pay one-half of the net proceeds to James M'Knight for salvage, and retain the other half for the owner or owners," be set aside.

Resolved, That it be an instruction to the Marine Committee, to procure an exact account of the number and weight of the cannon lately taken at [New] Providence.

Resolved, That it be an instruction to the committee to whom the instructions given by the Naval Committee to Commodore Hopkins were referred, to enquire how far Commodore Hopkins has complied with the said instructions, and if, upon enquiry, they shall find he has departed therefrom, to examine in to the occasion thereof.

Resolved, That the said committee have power to send for witnesses and papers.

That General Schuyler be informed, that Congress have in view these two great objects, the protection and assistance of our Canadian friends, and the ~~retaining~~ securing so much of that country as may prevent any communication between our enemies and the Indians: The means of effecting these purposes by fortifying proper posts, building armed vessels where most expedient, opening roads of communication or otherwise, are left to the determination of a council or councils of war, governing themselves by events and their knowledge of the country:

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 374–83.

CAESAR RODNEY TO THOMAS RODNEY ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia May 22d 1776 –

One of our Rifle-men that Travelled across the Country with [Benedict] Arnold, and taken prisoner while on Centry at Quebec, was sent to England: a few days after he landed, he was sent to London and put in Bridawell in Irons – Sawbridge (the Lord Mayor) went to him, Examined him

and had him immediately discharged & sent down to Bristol, where a number Gentn procured him a passage to Halifax. He left Bristol the 24th of March, arrived in this City the day before Yesterday – And tho searched at Hallifax two or three times, brought undiscovered a number of Letters and newspapers to the Congress, by which we are possessed of all their plans for the distruction of America – *No Commissioners* – Captn Craige who was appointed to make the Exchange of prisoners with the *Roebuck* – has returned to Chester with Captn Budden, Lt Ball and all the rest of them – They say (for I have seen Budden & Craige) that the men of War are gone off to Sea, that they Stood after them 12 Leagues without the Capes, then lost sight of them and Returned –

1. Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney*, 82–83.

VOTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Philadelphia] May 22, 1776.

[3 o'clock P. M.]

A Petition of George Bryan, Esq; to be appointed the Officer to superintend the Imports and Exports, and other naval Affairs, of the Port of Philadelphia, was presented to the House and read. *Ordered to lie on the Table.*

1. Hazard, et al., eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 8th series, VIII, 7514, 7516.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1776

Philadelphia [May 22].

On Monday last a flag that was sent down to the men of war in our bay, for the exchange of several Americans they have on board, returned to this city, as the men of war weighed and put to sea about an hour too soon for the flag, they followed them 10 leagues to sea, but could not overtake them.

It is supposed by the course the men of war steered, that they are gone to Virginia to refit, as by accounts, and the great number of pieces which have since been picked up, they received a great deal of damage in the late engagement with our gallies. – Their Carpenters were seen at work every day for a week after the action.

We are well informed that the bodies of two men sewed in hammocks (one marked No.22) were drove ashore in the Bite of New-Castle on Friday or Saturday last. They both belonged to the *Roebuck*, and it is said the one in No. 22 was the gunner's mate.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTER FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GALLEY

Chatham ¹

Deserted from the *Chatham* armed Boat, James Montgomery, Esq; Commander, James Brown, about 5 feet 5 or 6 Inches high, stout built, round shouldered, sandy Hair, about 21 Years of Age, has a Scar on his Face, can beat the Drum, and is supposed to be gone to Maryland. Whoever takes

up the said Brown, and brings him to the Boat, or Commander, or secures him, so that he may be had again, shall have Four Dollars Reward, and reasonable Charges, paid by

James Montgomery

May 22, 1776

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

DANIEL JOY TO THE CANNON COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Reading Furnace May 22nd 1776 –

I recd your Esteemed favour of the 15th Instant p Col: [Mark] Bird directing me to attend the proving &ca the cannon made at Sd Cols Furnace ²—You may assure your Selves I shall attend that Service faithfully when ever it is needfull & direct the same in Such a manner as I hope will give general Satisfaction to your Honourable Board, If you Should think proper to direct me to attend the proving the cannon that will be made at Col: Grubbs Furnace I belive shall be able to attend there likewise and shall account it as an additional favour confered on your [&c.]

Daniel Joy

To the Honble Committee }
of Congress for Cannon }

NB Since the recept of your's I have been twice at Col: Birds but have not had the pleasure of seeing him he happened to be gone just before my arr[ival]—he have not got any Powder up, but I understand he intends to get Some from the Comittee at Reading to prove 3 or 4 of his guns. – I expect to be in Philad on Sunday next when shall waite on one of your board to know what further commands you may have. – I should be glad you'll please send up with the Powder a Quire of Paper for cartherages yours &ca

D. J. –

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

2. For the frigates building at Philadelphia.

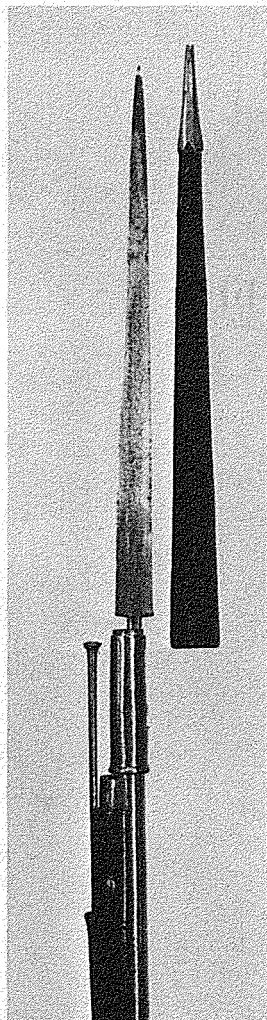
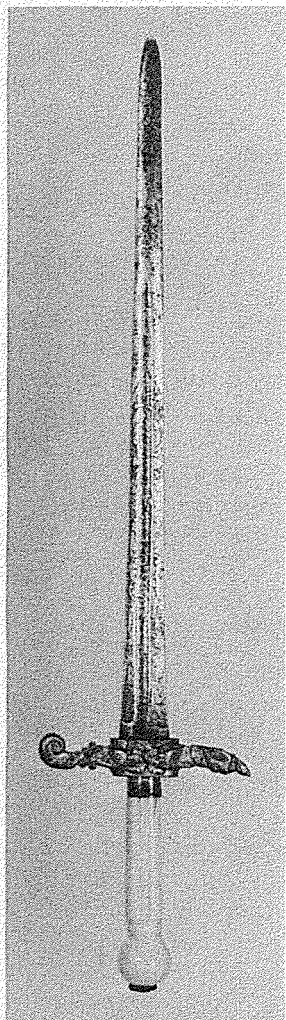
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION ¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday, May 22, 1776.

The Convention taking into consideration the resolutions of Saturday last on the charge against Samuel Purviance, jun. of Baltimore-Town, *Resolved*, That Samuel Purviance, jun. be called before this Convention, and be informed by Mr. President of the resolutions had on Saturday last on the articles of charge against him, and further, that this Convention highly disapprove and condemn his conduct in usurping the pow[er] to direct the operations of the military force of this province, and in using his character of chairman, and engaging the countenance and promising the protection and indemnity of the committee, without the orde[r]s of the committee, assembled as such. That it appears to this Convention, that the said Samuel Purviance in his usurpation of the power to di[r]ect the military force of this province, was considerably influenced by a person not residing in this prov-



(Top) American cutlass. (Lower left) British naval dirk. Blade marked with George III cypher. (Lower right) British socket bayonet fixed to the muzzle of a Sea Service musket, with leather scabbard.



ince, nor having any interest or property therein, and that it would be of the most dangerous tendency to the peace of this province, and to the safety and security of the good people thereof, to suffer any person or persons, other than those entrusted with the proper authority by this province, and more especially such as do not r[e]side nor have any interest therein, to interfere in the direction of the internal affairs civil or military of the said province. . . .

That this Convention are therefore of opinion, that justice would well warrant a more exemplary punishment to be inflicted on the said Samuel Purviance for his said misdoings; but that in consideration of his active zeal in the common cause, and in expectation that he will hereafter conduct himself with more respect to the public bodies necessarily entrusted with power mediately or immediately by the people of this province, and will be more attentive to propriety, this Convention hath resolved, that the said Samuel Purviance for his said conduct be censured and reprimanded, and that Mr. President do from the chair censure and reprimand him accordingly, and that he be thereupon discharged.

And thereupon the said Samuel Purviance, junior, being called in, and being at the bar of this house, Mr. President communicated to him the resolve of Convention, and did censure and reprimand him accordingly.

1. *Maryland Convention*, 15–16, 19. For Purviance affair see Volume 4.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday. 22d May 1776

Ordered That Captains of the Brigs *Fortune* and *Rogers* & Schooner 92 immediately order their Vessels down to the Port of Annapolis and wait upon the Council of Safety for Instructions and sailing Orders.

Ordered That Commissary of Stores at Balto Town deliver to Captn [James] Campbell (on Loan) 300 wt of sheet Lead. –

Ordered That Treasurer of Western Shore pay to Hugh Young twelve hundred Pounds Curry for Amt of Insurance of Brig *Nancy* Captn [G.] Wise.

Ordered That Treasurer of Western Shore pay to Hugh Young eighty three Pounds, fifteen Shillings and one Penny Curry for Balance of Schooner *Ninety two's* Cargo.

1. *Council of Safety Journal*, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COL. [WILLIAM] WOODFORD TO GENERAL [ANDREW] LEWIS, DATED NORFOLK, MAY 22.” ¹

The vigilance of my guards has occasioned the enemy to abandon their lines at Portsmouth. This, and some fire rafts I was preparing, has likewise occasioned the fleet to go off. They have thrown over their salt, burnt the most indifferent of their small craft, and are all now below Craney island, except four ships, which are opposite the distillery, but under way likewise. One of the 14th regiment, and five sailors, have deserted, they inform me they have the smallpox. I have given very particular orders to

avoid this evil, if it be true. They all concur in the same story, and likewise that the fleet is bound for Cape Fear; but I doubt whether my Lord does not intend a secret expedition to some other part of the colony. I received the enclosed letter, and list of prisoners from Lord Dunmore, and have sent orders to the guard at Portsmouth to destroy the enemy's works.

Ship *Dunmore*, May 22, 1776.

Sir, Enclosed is a list of prisoners on parole, who ought to have returned last Sunday. I therefore think proper to inform you, that if you do not order them to return to me on or before the 26th instant, I shall most certainly not only not grant the same indulgence to any that shall hereafter fall into my hands, but punish every man of them as they deserve, if ever they fall into my hands again. I am, sir, [&c.]

Dunmore.

To the commanding officer on shore.

List of prisoners on parole, who ought to have returned on board the *Dunmore* the 19th of May, 1776. James Nimmo, John Nimmo, Jonathan Woodhouse, John Woodhouse, ——— Robertson, ——— Fountain, Cautwell Garryon, Tully Boony, ——— Hagley, ——— Thompson, ——— King, ——— Roberts, ——— Taylor.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 25, 1776.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8
TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1776

Charlestown, May 22:

On Monday Capt. [Simon] Tufts, in the Colony Schooner *Defence*, returned from a Cruise, with a Brigantine belonging to New-York, that had been a whaling. The same Day an English Man of War and her Tender appeared off; and yesterday Morning Capt. [Joseph] Turpin, in the Colony Brig. *Comet*, with a large Ship, a Prize, hove in Sight. The Man of War had lain at an Anchor off the Bar all the preceeding Night, and as soon as the *Comet* and her Prize appeared, weighed and gave Chace; the Wind being at S.W. and the Man of War considerably to leeward, she could not come up with the *Comet* or her Prize, both of which bore down for the Bar; but, unfortunately, the Tide just then turning, and the Prize Ship drawing 17 Feet Water, it was found impracticable to bring her over, she was therefore run aground about 3 Miles to the N.E. of Fort Johnson. Capt. Tufts had, previous to this, gone down with an Intention of affording all the Assistance he could to bring off the Prize, but likewise run aground, and the Tide falling prevented the *Comet* coming near her. The Man of War, taking Advantage of these Circumstances, sent her Tender, full of Men, to the Prize, which had been abandoned, and set her on Fire. She was the *St. James*, Capt. Wilson, and was bound from Jamaica to Bristol, with a very valuable Cargo of Rum, Sugar, &c. all of which was entirely lost. A few

random Shot were exchanged between the Man of War and the *Defence*; the *Comet* fired some Guns at the Tender, but, being a considerable Distance, it is supposed, without Effect.

The Man of War is still in the Offing, and this Afternoon her Tender took a small coasting Sloop, thought to be from Winyaw with Turpentine.¹

1. H. M. Frigate *Sphynx*. See her journal, May 19 to May 23, 1776.

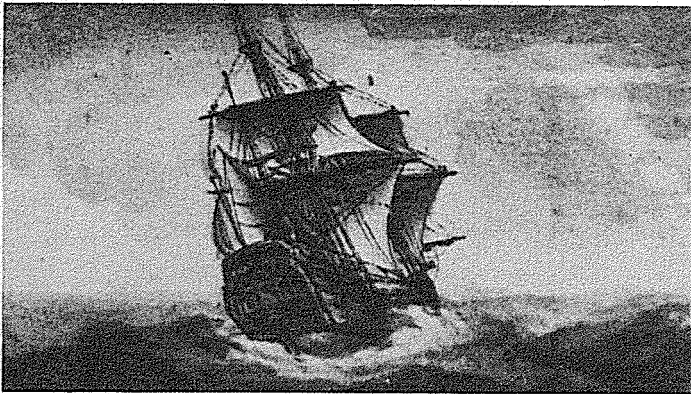
MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Cherokee* ¹

May 1776

Moored in Savannah River Georgia

Wednesday 22 at 11 AM sailed hence His Majestys Schooner *Hinchinbrook* in Company with the Ship *Unity* Brig *Live Oak* and Brig *Sally*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.



23 May

"AN ACCOUNT OF VESSELS SEIZED OR TAKEN BY HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND
VESSELS

When Seized or Taken		Where	What Sort Of Vessel	Names of the		
				Vessels	Masters	Owners
1776						
March	9th	Liverpool	[Brig]	<i>Mermaid</i>	Davd Bray	Wm Freeman
April	24 21	" Port Metoon	[Schooner] ["]	<i>Ebenezer York</i>	Jno Clemons Robt Down	Jno Pedrick " Johnstone
January	23	At Sea	Brig	<i>Hibernia</i>	Saml Avery	Thos & James Cochran
Febry	25	At Cape Fear Harbor	Do	<i>Two Friends</i>	Dougl Magrigror	Robt Campbell Dougl Magrigror
March	8th	At Sea	Sloop	<i>Adventure</i>	Fras Beardman	Wm McKane and the Master
April	18th	"	Schooner	<i>Martha</i>	Josh Brownlow	Abram Eve
March	2d	Gravesend Bay N. York	Sloop	<i>Ranger</i>	Thos Dobbs	"
	8	"	Do	<i>Betsey</i>	Alexr Gardner	"
	17	"	Brig	<i>Diligence</i>	" Robinson	Mr Barnard
	20	"	Do	<i>Mary</i>	Anty Shoemaker	Jno Ellis
	22	Cranbury Inlet	Sloop	<i>Wanton</i>	Jno Mount	Saml Burling
	28	Elizabeth Town	Ship	<i>Lady Gage</i>	"	"
April	5th	Gravesend Bay	Sloop	<i>Betsey</i>	Chrr Bradley	Rd Westcott
	5	"	Do	<i>Hannah</i>	Isaac Buck	Jas Howell
	10	Gravesend Bay	Do	<i>Sukey</i>	"	"
April	15th	Gravesend Bay	Sloop	<i>Diana</i>	Jonn Haddon	Jonn Haddon
	17th	Do	Do	<i>Industry</i>	Wm Roach	Jas Wells
	17th	Do	Brig	<i>Amazon</i>	Jno Clark	"
Febry	6th	New York	Sloop	"	" Murray	" Murray
March	19th	New York	Do	<i>Elizabeth</i>	Jas Woglum	Jas Woglum
	19th	Do	Do	<i>Mary</i>	"	"
April	21st	Do	Do	<i>Hetty</i>	Jno Hortwick	Jno Hortwick
May	1	Off Block Island -	Schooner	<i>Lyon</i>	Moses Barlow	

Duplicate

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MAJOR FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND ¹

[Extract]

Halifax May 23d 1776

We have now ships arriving dayly from London, and have got in this Week agood Supply of Provisions, but not yet a Sufficiency for so large an Army to depend on - . . .

We had yesterday a Man of War from New York, with a prize the Ship *Lady Gage*, one of the London traders, which Captn VandePut, cut out of the North River where she was laid up. They left New York 15 days ago, and bring a report which prevailed there that, about the 4th of April last, Arnold made another unsuccessful attack on Quebec, and was beat off with

IN NORTH AMERICA RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST ACCOUNT WAS TRANSMITTED.”¹

From Whence	Where Bound	By what Ship Taken	To what Port Sent for Security	Cargo	How disposed of
Dominica	Liverpool	<i>Senegal</i>	Halifax	Melasses, Rum, Flour and Coffee.	
Yarmo N. Scot[i]a	Do	Do	Do	Wood	
Old York	Fishing	Do	Do	Some Salt and 6 Weeks Provisions	
Hispaniola	Halifax	<i>Falcon</i>	Cape Fear	Melasses, Sugar and Coffee.	
Philadelphia	Cape Fear	Do	Do	Ballast.	
George Town	Salem	Do	Do	Rice, Indigo and Skins.	
Bermuda	Cleared for St Augustine but bound to the Rebels	Do	Do	Salt.	
New York	Egg Harbor	<i>Phoenix</i>	“	Ballast	Sunk
Philadelphia	Do	Do	“	Do.	Sunk
New Providence	New York	Do	Halifax	Melasses, Fruit & ca	
St Christophers	Said to be bound to Cork	Do	at New York	One hundred and Seventy two Hhds of Rum	
Cranbury Inlet	“	Do	“	Ballast	
Cut from a Wharf	“	Do	Halifax	Do	
Egg Harbor	“	Do	Do	Melasses and Sugar.	
St. L[u]cia	“	Do	“	Melasses and Brandy.	
Blackpoint	New York	Do	“	Oysters.	
Barnigatt	Amboy	Do	“	Cedar Rails	
Do	Stonington[n]	Do	“	Lumber	
Guadalupe	Said to be bound to Saint Peters	Do	Halifax	Ballast	
Jerseys	North River	<i>Asia</i>	“	Pig Iron	
Do	New York	Do	“	Flour	
Do	Do	Do	“	Pig Iron	
Long Island	Jerseys	Do	“	Sand	
Cape Francois	Rhode Isl[and]	<i>Cerberus</i>	Halifax	Arms, Ammunition &c	Sunk

Chatham, Halifax Harbour 23 May 1776.

M: Shuldham

the loss of Eight hundred Men; there is no Confermation of this News, nor have we any account as yet from Genl Carleton, surely a Small Vessel might get down the River, and a Communication of intelligence between the two Commanders wou'd be useful. –

Washington Commands at New York, Lord Stirling a Brigadier under him, they have twelve thousand Men, fortifying the town Expecting we will pay them a Vissit – the *Asia* and *Phenix* Men of War with the Governors Ship are lying at the Hook, and have now no Communication with the town, Captn Kennedys house and several other tory houses, are fited up for Barracks for their troops. –

The transports have orders to get ready for Sea, and the heavy baggage is ordered to be put on board, which gives us reason to think we shall not be here many days longer. our destination is not known, but Imagened to be New York. its Generaly thought that Numbers in that Province will de-clear for Government, on the landing of the Army – which its said, the Rebels will use their utmost Efforts to prevent, as their fate in that Province will depend upon it; and by the best information we can get, there is great discontent amoung them – . . . We have heard nothing of Hopkinses fleet since his affair with the *Glasgow*, they say he is gone to the River Delawar, the Rebel Account of that affair, is much to the Credit of Captn How [Tyringham Howe] who Commands the *Glasgow*

We are in daily Expectation of Lord Howe with the fleet, time grows precious, as the Season advances, and its full time the Campaign was opened, if we hope to finish the matter this Year, the Expence the Nation is at, demands every Exertion. – it has been a good War for this Army, the Soldier is well taken care off, and the Officers have more promotion than ever before happen'd in the same Space of time. . . .

The Army Is under orders for Embarkation on Monday next 27th Instt and belive we will Sail the day after. I hope we shall meet with the foraign troops that are to Join us, as we shall not take from hence above Six thousand five hundred Men. . .

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

ADMIRALTY COURT TRIAL OF THE AMERICAN BRIG *Amazon* ¹

	Cause
Nova Scotia	Hyde Parker and George Vandeput Esqr.
Court of Vice	vs
Admiralty	Brig <i>Amazon</i>
Monday 20th May	Libel filed and entred Order made as on file
1776	

23 May 1776 James Alms being duly sworn Deposeth as follows that the Brig *Amazon* was taken by a Tender belonging to the *Phenix* on or about the 18th or 19 of April 1st at Sandy Hook no loading on board, that the papers produced in Court are the papers that were taken out of her, and that no other were found on Board that she was from Cyan ² in Ballast bound to New York –

Ja^s Alms

[Endorsed] 8th June 1776 Court opened by making Proclamation as usual Decree Pronounced as on file whereby the Brigantine *Amazon* was Condemned as lawful Prize – no Claimers appearing

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

2. Shuldham's prize list of May 23, 1776, lists the *Amazon* as from Guadeloupe.

CONTINENTAL BOND FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SLOOP *Yankee* ¹1776 *Yankee*, Sloop. Guns, 9; Men, 60.

May 23 Commander: Henry Johnson.

Bond: Continental, \$5,000.

Bonders: Paul Dudley Sargent and Henry Johnson, mariners, both of Boston, and Nathaniel Crafts, merchant of Watertown.

Owners: Paul Dudley Sargent & Co.

Witnesses: Perez Morton, Benjamin Hichborn.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 7, 342. An abstract from the bond.

MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO THE CONCORD COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE ¹

Gentn

Boston 23 May 1776

Genl [Artemas] Ward desires you would provide proper boarding and lodging for Mr. John Aleaster, a Midshipman who is a prisoner of war, he is to be confined to the town of Concord until further orders, and the expence of his decent support is to be charged to the Continent and paid by order from the commander in chief of the Continental Troops at Boston I am &c.

Joseph Ward A.D.C.

1. General Ward's Orderly Book, Joseph Ward Papers, ChHS.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BOSTON INHABITANTS ¹

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston duly Qualified & legally warned in public Town Meeting assembled at the Old Brick Meeting House on Thursday the 23d day of May Anno Domini 1776 –

The Town took into consideration the expediency of sinking Hulks in this Harbour, at present – and the Question being put – vizt Whether it be the sense of the Town, that it would be expedient that Hulks should be sunk at present – passed in the Negative

Voted, that Samuel Barret

Perez Morton

Benjamin Hitchborne

Benjamin Kent Esqrs

Henry Bromfield

be a Committee in behalf of this Town to present a Petition to the Honble the Great & General Court

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 181, 36.

MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO WINTHROP SARGENT ¹

Sir

Boston 23 May 1776

Yours of the 18th Inst. the General received this day, in answer to which I am to inform you that when you want provisions for the Continen-

tal Privateers, you may draw upon the Commissary who will be ordered to supply you. The General wants a particular account of the prisoners under your care who are supported by the Continent, and what the expence of their present support is?

Capt [Daniel] Waters ² applyed to the General by a verbal order from you for provisions, and had an order on the Commissary for 12 Barrels Pork, & 12 Barrels Beef – I am &c.

Joseph Ward A.D.C.

1. General Ward's Orderly Book, Joseph Ward Papers, ChHS.

2. Commander of Washington's schooner *Lee*.

New-England Chronicle, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1776

Boston, May 23.

Early last Friday morning [May 17], the *Franklin* schooner, one of the Continental cruizers, commanded by Capt. James Mugford, of Marblehead, fell in with one of the enemy's transport ships from Cork, bound directly into this harbour, the Captain not knowing that the place had been evacuated by the British fleet and army. Notwithstanding she appeared to be an armed ship, and was in sight of the enemy's men of war laying in Nantasket, Capt. Mugford resolutely bore down upon her, and took her without opposition. She mounted 6 carriage guns, a number of swivels, and had on board 18 men. The *Franklin*, at that time, had only 21 men. Capt. Mugford, determining to bring her into this harbour, the inhabitants, on leaving their respective places of worship after forenoon's service (it being the day of the Continental fast) had the pleasure of seeing the most valuable prize, taken since the commencement of the war, entering the harbour. But it being ebb-tide, she run ashore in Pulling-Point gut, where she lay till the ensuing night. As her cargo was of almost inestimable value to these colonies, it was thought prudent to bring up to town the greatest part of it in boats; and a large number being immediately dispatched, the same was soon safely landed and properly deposited.

The ship [*Hope*] is about 300 tons burthen, Alexander Lumsdale, Master. She had 5 weeks passage; and sailed from Cork in company with 12 or 13 other transports, all bound to this place, from which she parted a few days before she was taken. The others, it is concluded, hearing of the evacuation of the town from one of their cruizers, steered for Halifax. The Captain brings no material advices.

The following is an inventory of the cargo of the above-mentioned prize ship, taken and brought in here last Friday, viz.

Carbines, with bayonets, scabbards and steel rammers	1000
Carbine cartouch boxes	1000
Slings	1000
Spare travelling carriages – 24 pounder, heavy,	1
12 do – light	4
Traversing han[d]spikes for do.	8

Handsaws	84
Sand bags – bushel 5000, half bushel 5000,	10,000
Mantelets of cured hides	100
Broad axes	144
Hand hammers	50
Grindstones, with troughs	15
Felling axes	300
Hand hatchets	500
Hand bills	500
Barrows – wheel 268, hand 150	418
Spades – common 1000, ditching 250	1250
Shovels – shod 750, iron 250	1000
Carpenters tools – sets	6

Handsaws, whet and set, 6; tennant do. 6; turning do. 6; broad axes, helved, 6; adzes, h[e]lved, 6; penmauls, helved, 6; hammers, claw 6; rivetting 6; chizzels, broad-helved 6, scribing 6, heading 12, paring 6, firmer 36, mortice 24, and large 12, Gouges, helved, f[lo]rmer 36, p[ac]king 6, and trunnion 12; piercers or pads, stocks and springs, 6; bitts for do. 72; draw borers, helved, 24; pairs of pincers 6; iron squares 6; brass chalk line, rolls 6; chalk line, knots 12; iron compasses, pairs 6; engineers augers, 8 to a set, sets 6; thrifts for do. 48; two feet rules 6; black lead pencils, dozens 6; stones, rub 6, rag, 6, Turkey oil 6; rasps 12; saw sets 6; files for do. 18; gimblets, sorted 124, large spike 12; glue 12 lb. copper glue pots 6; fish skins 6; mallets 6; betties, or small iron crows, 6; planes of all sorts 132; Hambro' line, skains 50; spikes, from 5 to 8 and an half inch, 29C. 3qr. 0 lb. nails, 24d. 38,500; pick-axes with helves 500; hammers with helves, sledge, 25; augurs with thrifts 75:

Rope, tarred, from 2 to 4 ½ inch, coils	5
Ditto, white, from 1 ½ to 3 ½ inch, coils	4
Powder, copper hooped, whole barrels,	1500

Office of Ordnance, 4th Nov. 1775.

The enemy, on board the men of war below, intolerably vexed and chagrined that the above ship should be taken and unloaded in their open view, formed a design of wreaking their vengeance on the gallant Capt. Mugford, who took her.¹ The Sunday following [May 19], Capt. Mugford, in company with Capt. [Joseph] Cunningham, in the *Lady Washington*, a small privateer armed with swivels, blunderbusses, and musquets, fell down in order to go out in the Bay. The enemy observed their sailing, and fitted out a fleet of boats for the purpose of surprizing and taking them in the night; and the *Franklin's* running aground in the Gut, gave them a good opportunity for executing their plan. The *Lady Washington* came to anchor near Capt. Mugford; and between 9 and 10 o'clock he discovered a number of boats, which he hailed, and received for answer, that they were from Boston. He ordered them to keep off, or he would fire upon them. They begged him, for God's sake, not to fire, for they were going on board him. Capt. Mugford instantly fired, and was followed by all his men; and cutting

his cable, brought his broadside to bear, when he discharged his cannon, loaded with musquet ball, directly in upon them. Before the cannon could be charged a second time, two or three boats were along side, each of them supposed to have as many men on board as the *Franklin*, which were only 21, including officers. By the best accounts, there were not less than 13 boats in all, many of them armed with swivels, and having on board, at the lowest computation, 200 men. — Capt. Mugford and his men plied those along side so closely, with fire arms and spears, and with such intrepidity, activity and success, that two boats were soon sunk, and all the men either killed or drowned. But while the heroic Mugford, with out-stretched arms, was righteously dealing death and destruction to our base and unnatural enemies, he received a fatal ball in his body, which in a few minutes put a period to a life, from which, had it been spared, his oppressed country would undoubtedly have reaped very eminent advantages. After our brave men had maintained this unequal contest for about half an hour, the enemy thought proper to retire. The carnage among them must have been great; for, besides the two boat-loads killed and drowned, many were doubtless killed and wounded on board the others. Great execution was done by the spears. One man, with that weapon, is positive of having killed nine of the enemy.

The number of boats which attacked the *Franklin* was about 8 or 9. The remainder, to the number of 4 or 5, at the same time attacked Capt. Cunningham, in the *Lady Washington*, who then had on board only 6 men, besides himself. This brave little company gave the boats such a warm reception, that the enemy were soon glad to give over the contest, after suffering, it is thought, considerable loss.

The body of one of the Marines, killed in the above engagement, and one of the enemy's 13-oar'd barges, have been taken up at Chelsea.

The remains of Capt. Mugford have been carried to Marblehead for internment. No other life, on our part, was lost.

1. There is no indication in the journals of the *Renown* and *Experiment*, whose boats participated in the attack, that the British were aware of the identity of the ship which had been taken, or of its captor. See journals of May 19, 1776.

STATUS OF NICHOLAS & JOHN BROWN'S ACCOUNT WITH THE SECRET
COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Providence, May 23] ²

Amount of the Cargo &c of the Severil Vessills Fitted out on Acct of the
Contentent by Nicks & John Brown — Viz

Sloop <i>Polley</i> Benja Cumstock	£ 932..1..—
Schooner <i>William</i> Joshua Bunker	4536..8..3
Brigg <i>Happy Return</i> Gideon Crawford	3036..5..3½
Schooner <i>Salley</i> Saml Avery	4067..11..6
	£ 12572..6..0½
Commn 5 PCt	628..12..3½
	£ 13200.18..4

First Contract 20,000 Dolls is
2d do - 24,000 do - is

£ 6000 -
7200 -
£ 13200..0..0

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

2. *Ibid.*, the date is based on the departure of the last of the four vessels, schooner *Sally*, which was cleared from the port on May 21, and upon the instructions to Captain Samuel Avery, May 23, 1776.

INSTRUCTIONS OF NICHOLAS & JOHN BROWN TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL AVERY ¹

Sr/

Provid May 23d 1776 -

You being Master of the Schooner *Sally* fitted by Us with your Cargo onbord, on Accot & Risque of the thirteen United Colonys In consequence of a Contract with the secret Comte of the Honbl Contentental Congress, Our Orders are that you proceed with all possable Dispatch Consistant with the Graitest Prudence & Care to Avoid the Enemy, to Nantes in France or to Some safe Place at the Entrance of the River that Nantes is Upon & proceed there by Land & Apply to Messrs Pliarne Penet & Compy ² At Monsr Grove [*sic* Gruel] Mercht In Nantes and Enquire of them the Market, for your Cargo and if no Vessel with the same Article for Cargo be there & the Market Suits to Value your Self upon that House, provided they will do the Buisness of the Voyage on as Reasonble Terms as others But in Case that Market should be supp[ly]d & not so likely to Ansr for the Good of the Voyage As some Other, you may take the Advise of sd House & proceed to Rotchel or Any Other port In the Bay of Biskey that Will best Ansr In case Any Vessel Should be there from America its Most likly the Market Wont Answer Well, to take of yr Cargo & supply such things as Wanted fer Return with Dispatch - We mention that House aforesaid As being Recommended to them by Monsr Pliarne, one of the Co now in Phia, Our Letters to Sd House You Will first Delr - You Are to bring in Return Abot 6000 Good Stript Blankets for Soldiers @ Abt 4/6, or 5/. stg for each Blanket Abot 6000 yd 6/4 Broad Cloth the Coullers to be Brown & Blew for Officers Soldiers Uniforms, & About, 800 yd 6/4 Bd Cloth, of Different Coullers suitable to face them, the Graitest part of the Cloths being for Privats to be Abot 4/. stg, yd that for the Officers Abot 6/. stg p yd 6 Tons of Lead, 200 stand of Good Arms such as are us'd by the Infantry of France, 500 Good Double Bridl Locks, & 50 bbls of 100 lb Each of Gun Powder, If Any of these articls enumerated Are not to be had, then a Graite proportion of such of them as Are at Market to give the prefference to the Cloths & Blankets if to be got and in default of these to purchase a Qty of Brimstone Ravens duck fit for Sailors & Soldiers use Course Woolen Cloths, Ticklenburg Ozenbrig or Other Course Linnen, and of such of these As May Come Cheepest So as to fill up, & properly Load Yr Vessel

Your Whole Commissions Including all That You give or Allow to the Merchants or Brokers that Assist you or do your Buesness is to be 2½ Pct

for sale & 21½ for Return, You are to Use your Utmost Indeavour to get into the said port you'l do yr Busns in And if in the Buisness to make dispatch & on Return Most Safe Harbore you Can Any Where in the United Colonys Eastward of N York, and Send Us an Express by Land givinge emediate Advice of What you have onbord & Situation &c If any thing Shod Happen to Render you Unable to do the Buesness of the Voyage Your Mate Mr Ashbel Hemrick Is to Act in your place & observe Our Orders – The last accot from London spermaceti Oil was £48 stg. p Ton & hope you'l be Able to get as Much for yours Wherever you sell it – And We doubt not but you'l fall in to a Good Market for the Spermaceti, as Its an Arti[c]le Much Wanted for Medecine, But May be Made up in spermaceti Candles by Running into Mould in the same Manner as Tallow is But if it should so happen you should not find so Good & Ready a Market for yr Cargo as Could wish we hope you'l be Able to get your Merchant to Advance the Value th[e]reof that there Maybe a Time for sale, especially the Spermaceti wch Will not Waste or Spoil by keeping, & to take in the Artcils in return with Dispatch, As no Doubt but we shall Continue our Trade with the same Mercht if this Buisness be done to satisfaction You will get every Information in yr Power as to Trade for Any future Voyage –

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

2. Captain Avery carried a letter of this date from Nicholas Brown to Penet and Pliarne stating that the *Sally* was coming to Nantes because, "Your House at the Havre being So Dangerous to be Come at On Accot of the Crewsers in the English Channel," *ibid*.

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF PRIZES AT PROVIDENCE ¹

Notice is hereby given, that on Wednesday the 29th Day of May inst. at Nine o'Clock in the Forenoon, at Col. Daniel Tillinghast's Wharff and Store, in Providence, will be sold at public Vendue, to the highest Bidder, the Brigantine called the *Georgia Packet*, Burden about 90 Tons, with all her Appurtenances and Cargo, consisting of Flour, Sea Bread, Bisket, Rum, Porter, Bar-Iron, &c. &c. Also the Sloop called the *Speedwell*, Burden about 80 Tons, with her Appurtenances and Cargo, consisting of Salt, Coffee, Rum, &c. pursuant to a Decree of a Court of Justice held at Providence, on the 21st Instant, by the Honorable John Foster, Esq; Judge of said Court.

Paul Tew, Sheriff.

N.B. The Salt will be sold in Lots.

Providence, May 23, 1776.

1. *Providence Gazette*, May 25, 1776.

GENERAL ORDERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

New York, May 23, 1776

The Sail Makers in the different Regiments, are all to parade in front of the General's Quarters, tomorrow morning at six o'clock.

All those men of the following Regiments (Vizt:) Colonel Person's [Samuel Holden Parsons], [Charles] Webb's, [Loammi] Baldwin's, [John] Nixon's, [Samuel] Wyllys's and [James] Read's, who have agreed to serve in the Whaling Boats with Lieut: Col. [Benjamin] Tupper, are to repair immediately to him, and take their orders from him.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V, 78.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Die Jovis, 9 HO. A. M.

[New York] May 23d, 1776.

General Putnam, attending, was admitted. He produced a letter from General Washington, containing extracts of a letter from Major-Genl. Schuyler, requesting intrenching tools, rigging, sail cloth and sailmakers, and lead, desiring General Putnam to request the aid of this Congress to procure those articles, or spare any of those articles, if they have them in store.

General Putnam was informed that sail cloth, rigging and blocks have lately been sent up, in pursuance of a request of General Schuyler, of which he shall be furnished with a particular account.

Ordered, That Mr. McKesson call on Colo. Curtenius, and obtain a copy of the particulars of sail cloth and rigging lately sent to Albany, and acquaint the General therewith. That he inform himself as to lead, duck and intrenching tools to be obtained in this city, and acquaint the General with the information he may obtain.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 458.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, May 23, 1776

Resolved, As the opinion of this Congress, that James M'Knight ought to restore to the owners the money found on board the sloop *Sally*, and also all the effects, or the money he received for the effects, on board the said sloop, at the time she was run on shore, and for the wreck, tackle and furniture of said sloop; which effects, wreck, tackle, and furniture, were sold or pretended to be sold, or secreted by him, the said James M'Knight.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 383-85.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO CAPTAIN THOMAS RIDLEY ¹

Sir. —

[Baltimore] 23d [May]

With the Brig *Rogers*, now Under Your Command (being Ready for sea since the 11th of this Month) we desire You may directly get Under way, & proceed with her to Annapolis, and there go on shore & wait on the Coun-

cil of Safety, for their Orders where You are to proceed & Deliver your Cargo, and when You Receive their Orders, let us know to what Place you are Bound that we may send further Orders to You (if Necessary). we now Inclose You a Coppy of Your Charter by which You will Regulate Yourself about Yr Discharge & freight, we also Inclose you Mr [John] Pringles former Orders to You, by which You are to Regulate Your future Conduct, Except in the Place of Thos Bell or Messrs Stevenson, You are to Apply to Wm Patterson of St. Eustatia & follow his Advice in Case You go there or any Island near that, Say Martinica St Martins &c but in Case You go to Hispaniola You must Apply to Mr Pringles friend that he Directs in his letter, in Cape Nichola Say Messrs Musules & Randemian, let us hear from You by Every Opportunity, Also Write Mr Pringle.

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore the 23d May 1776

the bearer Capt Thos Ridly of the Brig *Rogers* will Deliver this to you, and I make no doubt you will give him orders to Sail Directly. Indeed I have allredy been at a Considerable Expence by the Dalay the Vessell has met for the benefitt of the Publick, but I make no doubt of Being Reimbursed on Applycation. I would have gon down with the Captn but neither my health, nor Business will permitt me, therefore would have been obliged much if you had paid my order for the ballance to Mr [Hugh] Young the first opportunity Shall Send you a Second Invoice and the Valuation of the Vessell, and am Gentlemen [&c.]

Geo: Woolsey.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION ¹

[Annapolis] Thursday, May 23, 1776.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to examine into the expenditures of the money placed in the hands of Mr. William Lux, as agent for the ship *Defence*; and Mr.[Thomas] Ringgold, Mr. Beall, Mr.[William] Richardson, Mr. [James] Murray, and Mr. Turbutt Wright, were elected by ballot a committee for that purpose.

1. *Maryland Convention*, 19.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MAJOR [JAMES] HENDRICKS TO GENERAL [ANDREW] LEWIS, DATED HAMPTON, MAY 23." ¹

I wrote you this morning that 30 sail of the enemy's fleet were moved down the river, since which it appears that their whole fleet is in motion. From our church steeple I can see 60 or 70 sail of vessels of differ-

ent kinds, hovering about the mouth of James's river. What they mean is impossible to tell.

1. *New York Packet*, June 6, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

May 1776 At a Single Anchor in Hampton Road, Virginia
 Wednesday 22d Fine pleasant weather, dried Sails, and exercised the Ships company at Great Guns and small Arms; at Noon Sent the Barge and Cutter to assist getting down the fleet from Norfolk, who were at this time under certain apprehensions of being destroyed by the Rebels.
 Thursday 23d Ditto weather, this afternoon many of the fleet came down, the Boats employed as yesterday giving the fleet assistance, and bring[ing] down those without rigging or furniture. Moderate and fair weather; the *Fowey* and Several of the fleet came down, and anchored here.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

SAMUEL JOHNSTON TO JOSEPH HEWES ¹

Hayes [Edenton] 23d May 1776

[Extract]

I have not lately heard from Cape Fear nor do we know with any kind of certainty what number of Troops may be there, by the last advices there were about seventy sail of Vessels in the River of different Burthens, some of them large Transports, it was likewise said that two large Ships supposed to be Men of War of fifty Guns lay without the Bar. It is difficult to conjecture their meaning or what they propose to themselves should they succeed, a circumstance which appears to me very improbable, but you know the great contempt Governor Martin has for American Armies and American Councils.

Our want of a proper supply of Arms and Ammunition throws a damp on all the Operations of our Military and the immense price that the Dutch and others make us pay for the little we get is really alarming a Vessell that arrived here a few days ago with a little Cannon Powder paid at the rate of 6/ [illegible] for it in 'Statia – the dreadfull expence at which we pay & supply our army is truly alarming . . .

. . . I am afraid Commodore Hopkins will make a poor figure on our Coast at this time, had he called at Cape Fear on his return from Providence he might have done essential Service; Governor Martin, Genl Clinton and a fine parcel of Military Stores would have fallen into his hands, almost without firing a Gun, and he would have given a deadly blow to the Expedition against this Province by nipping it in the bud, but he wanted intelligence and it was impossible for us to convey it to him.

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Sphinx*, CAPTAIN ANTHONY HUNT ¹

- 1776 May [Off the coast of South Carolina]
 Sunday 19 A M saw the land from NbE to WNW dist 6 Lgs latttr part fresh gales & squally in all reefs T sails, and handed F T sail, wore ship
 First part fresh gales & thick Wr, with rain, sett F T sail @ 5 P M Chas town beacon NbW $\frac{1}{2}$ W dist 7 or 8 miles TKd ship & fir'd a Gun for the schr ² to come under our stern, middle & latttr part light airs, wore ship out 2 reefs T sails, land from NE to NW dist 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ leags. soundgs from 16 to 7 fm
- Monday 20 First part light breezes, P M @ 2 saw 3 pilot boats, but they got over the Barr, @ 8 came to with the Bt Br in 5 fm verr'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a cable Sullivan's Island WNW 5 or 6 miles,
- Tuesday 21 a m pretty modt @ 3 hoisted out the Boats to reconnoitre the harbr. & Rebellion road, @ 5 perceived a privateer brig with her prize standing in for Chas town Barr, fir'd 2 guns. for the Boats, @ 7 they return'd, made sail, @ 11 prize run aground
 Modte Gales, @ 2 pm came to with a spring on our bt Br in $\frac{1}{4}$ less 4 fm, mann'd all Bts & the schr with seamen and marines commanded by lieuts Bowen & Popple, who boarded her, & set her on fire, takg 2 Rebels & 3 of the Ship's Cr out of her, she was the *St James*, of Bristol, from Jamaica, @ 5 weigh'd, & @ 7 came to in 5 fm
- Wednesday 22 AM @ 3 veer'd away a whole cable, @ 10 came on bd a boat with 4 deserters from the Rebels, *Comet* schr gone in chace of the sailg boat in shore.
 First & middle part modt. & clear P M @ 5 came to with the Bt Br in 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ fm @ 6 the schr came alongside with her prize, an open Bt with 11 casks of Turpentine, turn'd her adrift, & sett fire to her, Latttr part light airs & clear,
- Thursday 23 empld occasionally, sent the boats to sound the Channels in over the Bar Sullns Isld NWbN
 First part modt & clear, the boats returned from Soundg the Bar found 19 foot on it, hoist'd them in & came to sail, *Comet* schr in [company] ³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/922.

2. The schooner tender *Comet*.3. This brief cruise of the *Sphinx*, which had sailed from Cape Fear May 15 and returned May 27, 1776, was an exploratory one to determine the depth of water over the Charleston bar for the proposed passage of Sir Peter Parker's Squadron.

24 May

CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹*Isis* before Quebec the 24th May 1776

Sir I conceive your early knowledge, of the possession of this principal key of all North America, being effectually secured to His Majesty, to be of such immense importance, to the public weal, that I cannot excuse myself, from sending, the herewith inclosed duplicates, in the Ship *Hope*; she being a Transport, which we can very well spare. On the 22d General Carl[e]ton sail'd upwards, in His Majesty's Arm'd Schooner the *Maria*, (retaken the 6th from the Rebels) with the two arm'd Ships, Troops &c, Captn. [Thomas] Pringle superintends the whole embarkation, & Mr Butler late Master, now third Lieutenant of this his Majesty's Ship, whose Zeal, perseverance, skill and Activity during our whole Voyage from the Nore, & our toilsome struggles thro the ice, cannot be to[o] much commended, is therein subordinate to him, as are also two Midshipsmen. Mr Berkely my second Lieutenant; commands for the time being, during Captn Pringles Absence, the *Lord Howe* arm'd ship to be Station'd off Point Platon, with Captn [Skeffington] Lutwidge of the *Triton* frigate; And the *Bute* is to be Station'd at point aux tremble: Both the said arm'd Ships have their Complements augmented, with stout, zealous, Voluntier Canadian Boatmen. Captn Harvey having the first division of Troops, consisting of the 47 Regiment, with the Grenadier and light Infantry companies of the twenty ninth, under his guidance, in three large Transports; and the *Magdalen*, & province arm'd Schooners, under his command, being already at point Platon, will pass the rapids of richlieu, the very first opportunity, and proceed towards Trois Rivieres. By thus possessing the river, and moreover, the most important post upon Earth: of Quebec: the Canadians are satisfied to whom the province belongs; and I am misinformed, if many among them, stung with the keenest resentment do not wish to expiate, were it even to blood, their late stupid credulity, in having swallow'd the falshoods, so highly injurious to the nation at large; which the rebel Agents of New England, traducing the old one, on every occasion, have so long, & so industriously, circulated among them by letters, hand bills or word of mouth, of which credulity, I beg leave to give the following instance. Three Canadians, who had been with the rebels, went on board the *Surprize*, in her way up, after she had passed the Traverses in the Idea, of her being a Ship of War, belonging to an expected New England fleet, which they had taken from Old England. Wou'd to God, the ambitious views of the rebel ringleaders and their disaffection, towards Great Britain, had been as well known on the other side the Atlantic, as they are notorious here! I am happy in sending this, with the duplicates above alluded to, by Lieut Fooke, late of the *Lizard*, who during the seige performd'd much to his honor, and the Good of His Majesty's Service, the painful duties of a Captain of infantry, in the Brave naval battalion; so



Charles Douglas.

much to the Satisfaction of General Carleton, that his Excellency, honors him, with the duplicates of his late dispatches also. I have appointed Mr Stone, Master of this his Majesty's Ship, (late of the *Hunter*) as Lieutenant of the *Lizard* in his stead, hoping, that my Lords Commrs may be pleased to acquiesce in and confirm, his being thereby rewarded, for his praiseworthy services, render'd to his King and Country, in the same cause, in the same rank and in the same glorious defence, of this inexpressibly important post so very important that had the Navies of France been superior to those of England during the last War, there would have been probably, few of English extraction, remaining in New England, at this day to have rebell'd against the most indulgent Parent State that ever rear'd a Colony. Every ~~days~~ fresh intelligence, from above, every days further informations from this neighborhood, gives us reason to be thankfull to heaven, for the very opportune arrival here, of His Majesty's Ships under my command on the 6th as also for the amazing rout and Confusion, communicated, to the very considerable rebel reinforcements, on their March hither, by the fugitives from before Quebec. It is even reported & believed, that they have evacuated, the important post of Trois rivieres, in great Consternation which if true we impute, to some account they may have had, of the preconcerted approach, towards Montreal, of the 8th regiment, several Nations of Indians, and the Canadians of Detroit from the upper lakes, having Colonel Caldwell, of the said regiment, for their leader. From this intelligence, we flatter ourselves, that the hourly expected Transports, with the regiments from Ireland, will join General Carleton at Trois revieres (for they are not to stop at Quebec) and possibly, shortly rendezvous at Montreal. So soon, as we shall have the happiness to be in possession of the latter, their Lordships, as well as the fleets, and Armies, employ'd on the eastern Shores of this continent, shall have the Earliest Account thereof, as they shall of any other important events, that may happen, wherewith, I trust the residue of this Campaign, is happily replete, for Great Britain. The Seamen, and Soldiers, are in the most perfect health, and animated with the same patriotic fire, which glow'd in the late defence of this Capital.

Be pleased to communicate the foregoing to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. And believe me to be Sir [&c.]

Cha^s Douglas

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 96b.

"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS IN NORTH
AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL SHULDHAM." ¹

Rate	Ships	Commanders	Disposition
4th	<i>Chatham</i>	V. Admiral Shuldham Captn John Raynor	Moored off the Yard
6th	<i>Lively</i>	" Thos Bishop	Under Orders to proceed with the <i>Levant</i> Victualler to New York and the Delaware, and from thence to Cape Fear and Saint Augustine
"	<i>Scarborough</i>	" Andw Barkley	Refitting
"	<i>Greyhound</i>	" Archd Dickson	Intended to accompany the Convoy to New York.
Sloop	<i>Savage</i>	" Hugh Bromedge	Alongside the Jetty preparing to heave down.
"	<i>Swan</i>	" Jas Ayscough	Intended to accompany the Convoy to New York.
Store Ship	<i>Adventure</i>	Lieutt Jno Hallum	To accompany the Fleet.
Brig	<i>Diligent</i>	" Edmd Dod	Under Orders to proceed to the Island St John to bring away Ordnance Stores.
Schooner	<i>Halifax</i>	" Wm Quarmer	Refitting.
"	<i>Tryal</i>	" Jno Brown	Lying at the entrance of the Harbour to ex- amine all Vessels.
"	<i>Dispatch</i>	" Jno Goodridge	To accompany the Convoy.
Sloop	<i>Merlin</i>	Captn W. Chr Burnaby	At Annapolis in the Bay of Fundy, Ordered to Halifax with a Con- voy laden with Forage.
"	<i>Viper</i>	" Saml Graves	In the Bay of Fundy Cruizing.
"	<i>Tamer</i>	" Chrr Mason	At Windsor in the Bay of Fundy to Convoy Transports with Troops to Cumberland.

	" <i>Senegal</i>	" Wm Duddings- ton	Cruizing between the Isle of Shoals and Penobscott Bay.
	4th <i>Centurion</i>	" Richd. Brath- waite	Cruizing between Cape Sable and Cape Anne in the Longitude of Saint Georges Bank.
	" <i>Renown</i>	" Fras Banks	Cruizing and rendezvousing occasionally in Boston Bay and Nantas- ket Road.
Sloop	6th <i>Milford</i>	" John Burr	Do – under the Command of Captain Banks.
	<i>Hope</i>	" Geo. Dawson	Cruizing in Boston Bay and off Piscataqua under command of Captain Banks.
Brig	<i>Bolton</i>	Lieut Edwd Sneyd	Supposed to be taken by the Rebels.
	4th <i>Experiment</i>	Capt Alexr Scot	Supposed to be in Nantasket Road, Ordered to join Sir Peter Parker.
	6th <i>Rose</i>	" Jas Wallace	Ordered to Cruize between Cape Cod and Cape Anne, Stretching off to the North part of St. Georges Bank.
	" <i>Cerberus</i>	" Jno Symons	Cruizing between Martha's Vineyard and the East end of Long Island.
	5th <i>Orpheus</i>	" Chas Hudson	Stationed between Long Island and Cape Henlopen.
	5th <i>Phoenix</i>	Capt Hyde Parker	} at New York
	3d <i>Asia</i>	" Geo. Vandeput	
	5th <i>Roebuck</i>	" A. S. Hamond	in the River Delaware.
Sloop	6th <i>Fowey</i>	" Geo. Montagu	Sent to the Delaware, to be under the Command of Captn Hamond.
	<i>King's fisher</i>	" Alexr Graeme	On his passage to the Delaware, to put himself under the Command of Captain Hamond
Sloop	6th <i>Liverpool</i>	" Henry Bellew	} At Virginia
	<i>Otter</i>	" Mattw Squire	
"	<i>Cruizer</i>	" Fras Parry	} At North Carolina Ordered to Boston by Vice Admiral Graves.
"	<i>Scorpion</i>	" Hon. Jno Tolle- mache	
	6th <i>Sphynx</i>	" Anty Hunt	} At Cape Fear
	" <i>Syren</i>	" Tobias Furneaux	

	" <i>Mercury</i>	" Jas Montagu	} Supposed to be Cruizing off Cape Fear, General Clinton on board the <i>Mercury</i> .
Sloop	<i>Falcon</i>	" John Linzee	
"	<i>Raven</i>	" Jno Stanhope	} At Savannah, in the Province of Georgia.
Armed Ship	<i>Cherokee</i>	Lieut. Jno Ferguson	
Schooner	<i>St Lawrence</i>	" Jno Graves	At Cape Fear.
"	<i>Hinchinbrook</i>	" Alexr Ellis	At St Augustine
Sloop	<i>Nautilus</i>	Capt. John Collins	Sent to Bermuda, for the protection of the King's Ordnance Stores
Schooner	<i>St John</i>	Lieut. Wm Grant	At St Augustine
6th	<i>Lizard</i>	Capt. Jno Hamilton	} At Quebec.
Sloop	<i>Hunter</i>	" Thos Mackenzie	
Brig	<i>Gaspee</i>	Lieut. Geo. Wilson	} Sent to Convoy the 47th Regiment to Quebec.
5th	<i>Niger</i>	Capt. Geo Talbot	

Chatham in Halifax Harbour the 24th May 1776.

M: Shuldham

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SLOOP *Hope*¹

May 1776 Remark's &c off Boston Light house
 Fridy 24th at 8 AM Boston Light house WBN 3 Leags at 1½ Past 9 Joind
 his Majst Ship *Centurion* Saw 3 Sail to the Nowd
 Chaced Fired 3 four Pounders Shoted at a Schooner Do
 Schooner Ran on Shore mand & armd the Longboat & Sent
 the Master to take hir. upon the aproach of the Boat the Reb-
 els Quited hir towed off, Proved to be the *Resolution* Loaded
 with Coals Bound to Boston, at Noon Nahant Head No 3 Miles
 Fresh Breezes and Hazy, at 4 PM Anchord in the Light house
 Channel with the Sl Br in 6 fms and Vrd to 1/3 of a Cable.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1794.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1776

New London, May 24.

Wednesday se'nnight one of the new Continental Ships was launched at Providence.¹

We hear that Capt. [Seth] Harding in the armed Brig belonging to this Colony,² a few Days since took a Vessel loaded with Tories, bound from the western Part of this Colony to Long-Island; who are since properly secured.

1. Continental frigate *Warren* launched May 15, 1776.

2. Brig *Defence*.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Fort George, May 24th: 1776

Dear Sir On the 22d I was honored with your Excellency's Favor of the 17th Instant, and the same Evening the Nails and Lead arrived here, 31 Boxes of the latter I gave in Charge to Colonel Wynd [William Winds], who left this with his Regiment Yesterday Morning. the Remainder is gone with General [John] Sullivan who sailed hence with [William] Irwin's and [Anthony] Wayne's at 8 this Morning. — [Elias] Dayton's is not returned from Tryon County, nor have I heard what is doing there — I have Batteaux sufficient to move him, but shall construct fifty more to be employed on Lake George and Lake Champlain in transporting provisions &c for the Army.

Mr McNeil [Hector McNeill], who left St John's on Friday last informs me that the 8th Regiment, and a Number of Indians were coming down the St. Lawrence and that a Reinforcement was ordered to Colo: [Timothy] Bedel, who is at the Cedars, and that [Seth] Warners Green Mountain Boys were also to go up there.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters N York: May 24th. 1776

I Received yours of 22d from Amboy and waited immediately on the

Provincial Congress they gave me the inclosed Invoice of Articles they had forwarded on for Albany. – Most of the articles General Schuyler wrote for I have already ship'ed – and will this day proceed up the River. – Col: [Henry] Knox has sent Two Conductors to Kings Bridge to pick out 12 Cannon suitable for the Vessels and have them ready by the time the vessel get's up

We have no lead to spare in this place . . .

The Express is just setting off for Albany by him I shall advise General Schuyler of what I have sent forward to him . . .

[Enclosure]

Plan for General Putnam's Consideration to employ the Armed Vessels under his Command and which will prevent the Kings Ships being supplyd with fresh provision by the Enemies of America – Likewise being very usefull to protect the Vessels Bound here with Ammunition and distress those Bound here with Stores from Great Britain and West India Islands which are now on their way for this port. –

First Coln Tupper Commanding the sloop *Hector* [*Hester*] with a Number of Whaleboats to protect the Western shore from Amboy down to Sandy hook –

Second the Arm'd Schooner *Mifflin* with four Whaleboats to attend Barren Island, and hog Island Inlet – near Rockway

Thirdly the Arm'd Sloop *Genl Schuyler* with two Whaleboats to attend the Inlet at fire Island where Vessels of 10 feet Water may go in and which Lay's near about, the Middle of the South Side of Long Island –

Fourthly the Armd schooner *Genl Putnam* to proceed down to Shroesbury [Shrewsbury] Inlet Shirk River, and Cramberry Inlet even down to Egg Harbour on the Western shore near 140 Miles Range from Sandy hook which will protect the Western Coast and having several Inlets to run the Vessel in case they are over Matchd and which will be verry usefull to the Vessels now Expected there with Ammunition –

[Endorsed] Genl Putnam in Conference with the [Provincial] Committee & Colo Tupper approves of the within plan

S.B. Webb, A.D.C.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GENERAL ORDERS OF MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM ¹

[Extract]

Head Quarters, New York, May 24, 1776.

The following Sail Makers are to embark this day on board a Vessel, in order to proceed to Albany, and from thence to Genl: Schuyler, and receive his further orders – Vizt:

Francis Howard	} of Col [Jonathan] Wards Regiment
Samuel Holmes	
Ebenezer Durkee	
Daniel Van Der Pool	

Lewis Lamb of Col [Moses] Little's Regt.

George Lemot of Col [John] Bailey's Regt.

They are to be furnished with ten days provision a man. Capt. [Peter] Harwood's Company is to join Lieut. Col Tupper, and do duty on board the whaling boats &c, &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V, 79, 80.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, May 24, 1776

The committee appointed to confer with General Washington, Major General [Horatio] Gates, and Brigadier General [Thomas] Mifflin, brought in their report; which, being taken into consideration, was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the commanding officer in Canada, be informed, that the Congress are fully convinced of the absolute necessity of keeping possession of that country, and that they expect the forces in that department will contest every foot of the ground with the enemies to these colonies; And, as the Congress have in view the cutting off all communication between the upper country and the enemy, they judge it highly necessary that the exertions of the forces be particularly made on the St. Lawrence, below the mouth of the Sorel:

Resolved, That Mr. R[obert] R. Livingston be added to the committee [of conference] who brought in the foregoing report; and that they be directed to confer with General Washington, Major General Gates, and Brigadier General Mifflin, touching the most proper posts, and measures to be taken for effectually preventing the enemy's communication with the upper country from Canada, and such other measures as shall tend to secure the frontiers.

General Washington, ~~being arrived from New York~~, agreeable to order, attended in Congress, and, after some conference with him,

Resolved, That he be directed to attend again to morrow.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 385, 387-89.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety

[Philadelphia] 24th May [1776].

Resolved, That Mr. [Thomas] Wharton & Mr. Sam'l Morris be a Committee to direct the properly fitting the Four Flats, to be purchased as Hulks for a cover to the Armed Boats in time of action, at or near Fort Island.

Robert Morris, Esq'r, produced to the Committee a Copy of his Instructions to Mr. [Stephen] Caronio, dated 12th Feb'y & 1st March, respecting the

sale of a Cargo of Provisions shipped by order of this Committee per the Brig't *Dolphin*, Capt. Prole, for St. Thomas's, consign'd to said Stephen Caronio, with orders to invest the Neat proceeds of said Cargo, the balance arising from her freight, and the Neat proceeds of a Cargo shipped to Porto Rico p the *Nancy*, Capt. [Hugh] Montgomery, in Powder, Arms, &ca., all which he was directed to Return by the Brig't *Nancy*, Capt. Montgomery, for account of this Committee.

Mr. Morris also produced a letter from Mr. Caronio, dated at St. Thomas's, 30th April last, whereby it appears he had sold both Cargoes, and was receiving pay part in cash and part in produce of the West Indies; Therefore,

Resolved, That the whole Value of cash and goods shipped on Board said Brig't. *Nancy*, by Mr. Stephen Caronio, for account and Risque of this Committee, shall be accepted for the public account, and are at their Risque; and that said Mr. Caronio's bills for amount of what he so ships more than the Neat proceeds of the Brigantine *Dolphin*'s Cargo, shall be accepted and paid.

Lieut. George Ball, belonging to the *Roebuck* Man-of-war, taken in a Pilot Boat at Cape Henlopen some time past, and now brought to this City, this day gave his parole, and was sent to Germantown to reside; a Letter at same time was wrote to Doct'r [Charles] Bensell, desiring him to provide proper boarding for said Lieut. Ball.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 579, 580.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

May 1776 [Off Delaware Bay]

Wednesday 22 at 5 A M came too with the best Bower in 7 fm empd Barrackading the Quarter Deck

Light airs and fair at 9 P M sent 2 Boats mann'd and arm'd in Shore to destroy a Schooner of the Rebels

Thursday 23 at 1 A M the Boats return'd with 9 Prisoners having set fire to her she being aground

Modr and fair 4 P M saw a sail weigh'd and gave chase at 6 fir'd a shot to bring her too 1/2 past stood in shore at 10 came too with the Best Bower 7 fm

Friday 24 at 7 A M seiz'd a Snow from the Havannah bound to Philadelphia took out of her 12000 dollars ²

Fresh Breezes and Cloudy. at 3 P M weigh'd and came to sail in Compy. the Snow at 6 Lighthouse SWbS 2 Leagues bore for the Road with the Snow at 9 came too -

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. The Spanish snow *St. Barbara*, D. R. Gomalez, master. See Appendix B.

HUGH YOUNG TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Sirs

Baltimore 24th May 1776

Two days before I went to Anapolis, I had the Schooner *Ninety two* valued at £500. by four men chosen by the Owners, (Cravath & Dugan) & which agreement they seem'd well Satisfied with, having at the Same time agreed to find her two Sails, which I promised to add to that Sum with any other repairs might be thought necessary after this Valuation; however on my return they chose four other Men to Value said Schooner, which they did at £750 tho' I believe they have not given her £50s Repairs since the first Valuation, Such proceedings I think unjust & do not think it right to put up with. I Shall be glad to have your orders what to do in this case, as they have Stopt the Vessell 'till I agree to allow the latter Valuation, these Circumstances I can prove by two Creditable Merchts a Master Builder & Sailmaker. I am Gentn [&c.]

Hugh Young

P.S. I would not willingly pretend to dictate to your Board, but would beg leave to mention it as my opinion that you would give the Owners some orders about her – The two Brigs I suppose will get down to morrow – I Shall be glad to hear from you on this subject by Return of the bearer Mr Tolly's Servant who Just now waits for this.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION ¹

[Annapolis] Friday, May 24, 1776.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention, that upon the evidence before them of the correspondence which his excellency governor Eden has, from time to time, held with administration, it does not appear that such correspondence has been with an unfriendly intent, or calculated to countenance any hostile measures against America.

Whereas by a late intercepted letter from lord George Germain, one of the secretaries of state, to his excellency the governor, it appears that a great armament of land and sea forces was in readiness to proceed to the southward, in his lordship's expressions "in order to attempt the restoration of legal government in that part of America," but in effect to invade and subdue the southern colonies; which armament was to proceed in the first place to North Carolina, and from thence either to South Carolina or Virginia, as circumstances of greater or less advantage should point out; if to the latter, it might have very important consequences to this province; and therefore in the said letter his excellency is called on well to consider of every means, by which he may, in conjunction with lord Dunmore, give facility and assistance to the operations of the said armament. – And whereas the governor must, if he remains in the exercise of his powers of government, fulfil and

execute the instructions of administration, or hazard the displeasure of the king, which it cannot be expected he will do. – And whereas by act of assembly of this province, the powers of government, in the absence of the governor, devolve upon the president of the council, and therefore the governor's departure cannot occasion a dissolution or suspension of the present established form of government within this province, which this Convention doth not think ought now to be changed, therefore *Resolved*, That it be signified to the governor, that the public quiet and safety, in the judgment of this Convention, require that he leave this province, and that he is at full liberty to depart peaceably with his effects.

Upon the last resolve, the yeas and nays being required, they were as follow:

[Carried, 12 counties to 4.]

Resolved, That a committee of five persons be appointed to wait on the governor and deliver him copies of the said resolutions, together with the following address, to wit.

To his Excellency Robert Eden, Esq; governor of Maryland
May is please your Excellency,

We are commanded by the Convention to wait upon your Excellency, and to communicate to you the resolutions they have this day entered into; and we are instructed to assure your Excellency, that the Convention entertains a favourable sense of your conduct, relative to the affairs of America, since the unhappy differences have subsisted between Great-Britain and the United Colonies, as far as the same hath come to their knowledge, and of their real wishes for your return to resume the government of this province, whenever we shall happily be restored to peace and that connection with Great-Britain, the interruption and suspension of which have filled the minds of every good man with the deepest regret. From the disposition your Excellency hath manifested to promote the real interests of both countries, the Convention is induced to entertain the warmest hopes and expectations, that upon your arrival in England, you will represent the temper and principles of the people of Maryland with the same candour you have hitherto shewn, and that you will exert your endeavours to promote a reconciliation, upon terms that may be secure and honourable both to Great-Britain and America.

Mr. President,² Mr. [William] Paca, Mr. T[homas] Johnson, Mr. [George] Plater, and Mr. [James] Hollyday were elected by ballot a committee accordingly.

Post Meridiem.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a court of admiralty be erected, for the purpose of determining upon such captures and seizures of vessels as are or shall

be made according to the late resolves of the Continental Congress upon that subject, and brought into this province.

1. *Maryland Convention*, 20-23.

2. Charles Carroll, Barrister.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Tuesday 23rd May 1776.

An Order having heretofore passed this Board for weighing the Vessels sunk in the Channel of the River Potapsco near Whetstone Point and that Captn James Nicholson with the Ship *Defence* and her Tenders should assist in executing the same. – which Order hath not hitherto, we are informed been complied with, by Reason of the necessary Absence of Captain Nicholson and one or both of his Tenders. – we therefore being desirous of having said Vessels weighed with all convenient speed Do request that Messrs Jesse Hollingsworth, Isaac Vanbebber, and Benjamin Griffith, – or any two of them would cause said Vessels to be weighed up at the public Expence and do hereby authorize and impower them, or any two of them to employ proper Vessels and Labourers for that Purpose, and to call to their Assistance the Ship *Defence* or her Tenders, when they return to the harbour of Baltimore Town. – and further to cause said Vessels to be re-appraised on Oath rigged and otherwise put in same state they were in, when sunk as near as may be – and return an Account of said Reappraisement and of Expences from Time to Time to the Council of Safety.

Friday 24th. May 1776

Ordered That Treasurer of Western Shore pay to Wm Neile for Use of Hugh Young fourteen hundred and eighty five Pounds, eight shillings, and eleven Pence for Amt of Cargo of Brig *Beith*. –

Ordd that said Treasurer pay to Messrs Lux & Bowly eight hundred and thirty two Pounds, fifteen Shillings and three Pence, the Balance of their Genl Acct of Ship *Defence*. –

Ordered That said Treasurer pay to Captn James Tibbitt thirty nine Pounds, six Shillings and five pence for Wages and other Disbursements when on Board the *Wicked Dick* [*Wild Duck*].

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

JAMES TIBBETT'S ACCOUNT WITH

Dr The Brig *Wicked Dick* [*Wild Duck*]

1776

March	To Cash paid Seamens Wages P Ships list and Slops delivered them included	123..7..6
	To Cash paid at Statia to Thos Piggot, Simon Black, John Nighland, & Thomas Lacock as Advances, who deserted the Ship the Night we Sailed	4.19: 0
	To ditto paid for 12 Water Casks & bringing off a 7/6.	3.19 6.
	To ditto paid for Stores Vizt 2 Hogs	3: 6: 0.
	20lb Candles 30/6 lb Twine 18/	2. 8: 0.
	1 Trumpet 6/ Time Glasses 6/	12.
	Junk	1.13. 6
	To ditto paid for putting up 3 Butts a 12/	1.16..0.
	To ditto paid for 63 Galls Rum	4/6 14..3..6.
	To ditto paid for a Horse for the Express to Maryland on my Arrival, and his Expences.	2..5..0
	To ditto paid the Butchers Bill at Philadelphi[a]	4.11.11½
	paid Pilotage up Delaware	5.15..0
	paid Me[a]de & Co 5 days Wharfage	0.15..0
	paid Committee 7/6 Notary Public 3/6	11
	paid Portorage of the Goods to the Ware House	2..3..6
	paid ditto down to the Shallop	1.12. 6
	paid ditto of 13 Rolls lead to ditto	19..6
	To ditto paid two Weeks board in Philadelphia	2..-..-
	To my Wages 1 Month & 23 Days at 20 Dollars	13..5..0
	To 6 lb Powder my private Adventure used on board 7/6	2..5..0.
	To 2 Cases of Clarrett expended on the Voyage Cost	1.10..0
		<u>£196.18..5½</u>
	To Balance of Contra brought down	33.13.11½
	To Primage on 15 Ct Powder	5.12..6
		<u>39..6..5</u>

Recd 24th May 1776 from Council of Safety an Order for above Bala on
W[est] S[hore] Treas[ur]y

James Tibbitt

THE MARYLAND BRIG *Wild Duck*¹

in Account with James Tibbett	Cr
By Amot of Slops supplied the Seamen as P list	66..0.6.
By Cash Recd for 290 Bushels of Salt sold at Philada by Order of the Honble Maryland Delegates	58..0.0.
By Freight recd of Mr.Custin P Agreement	30..--
By ditto recd of Mr.Ernest P ditto 20 Dollars	7:10.0.
By difference of Exchange on £ 18.14..0 Statia Currency paid P Contra at 10 PCt	1.14.0.
By Balance due J Tibbitt	33.13.11½
	<hr/> 196.18..5½

Errors Excepted James Tibbitt

1. MdHS. *Wild Duck* was sold to Congress and became the Continental brig *Lexington*. See Volume 4.

RICHARD LEE TO LANDON CARTER ¹

[Extract]

Wmsburgh May 24. 1776

... Ld D[unmor]e has left Norfolk & burnt all his small Vessels & flung 45 thousand Bushels of Salt into the River. 55 Sale of his Fleet were in Hampton Road yesterday evening I refer you to Mr Page for News I am Sr [&c.]

Richard Lee

Dunmore since the Resolution for Independence said he has no business here

1. Phillip Lee folder, VHS.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO THOMAS JEFFERSON ¹

[Extract]

Wmsburg May 24th. 1776

Genl. [Charles] Lee is in North Carolina, where it is uncertain what number of the Enemy's Troops are arrived. The Genl. is of Opinion they will not stay there longer than to take an Airing, and to go to So. Carolina or Virginia. He means to stay at Newburn to Watch the determination and meet them at either place. He thinks rage and revenge may prompt them to Attack Wilmington, but hopes Brigr. [James] Moore is sufficiently prepared for them. We have had repeated Accounts lately from Norfolk by deserters that Dunmore and his Fleet were reduced to half allowance and were preparing to depart. A Letter from Colo [William] Woodford at Norfolk informs Us they were all Sailed on Wednesday and had got below Crainy Island, except four which were under Way below the New Distillery; they had taken on board the Shattered remains of the Ethiopn. regiment and abandoned the Intrenchments which our Troops are destroying. A deserter from the 14th. Regiment and 5 Sailors, who left them at their departure said they were going to Cape Fear and had the small Pox on board ² By Letter from Hampton yesterday we are informed they were Collecting just below the Mouth of James River and they expected an Attack. Brigr. [Andrew] Lewis sent off a reinforcement last night and is gone himself this morning. If they land, I think you'll have a good Account of them.

1. Julian P. Boyd, ed., *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* (Princeton, 1952), I, 296, 297. Hereafter cited as Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers*.

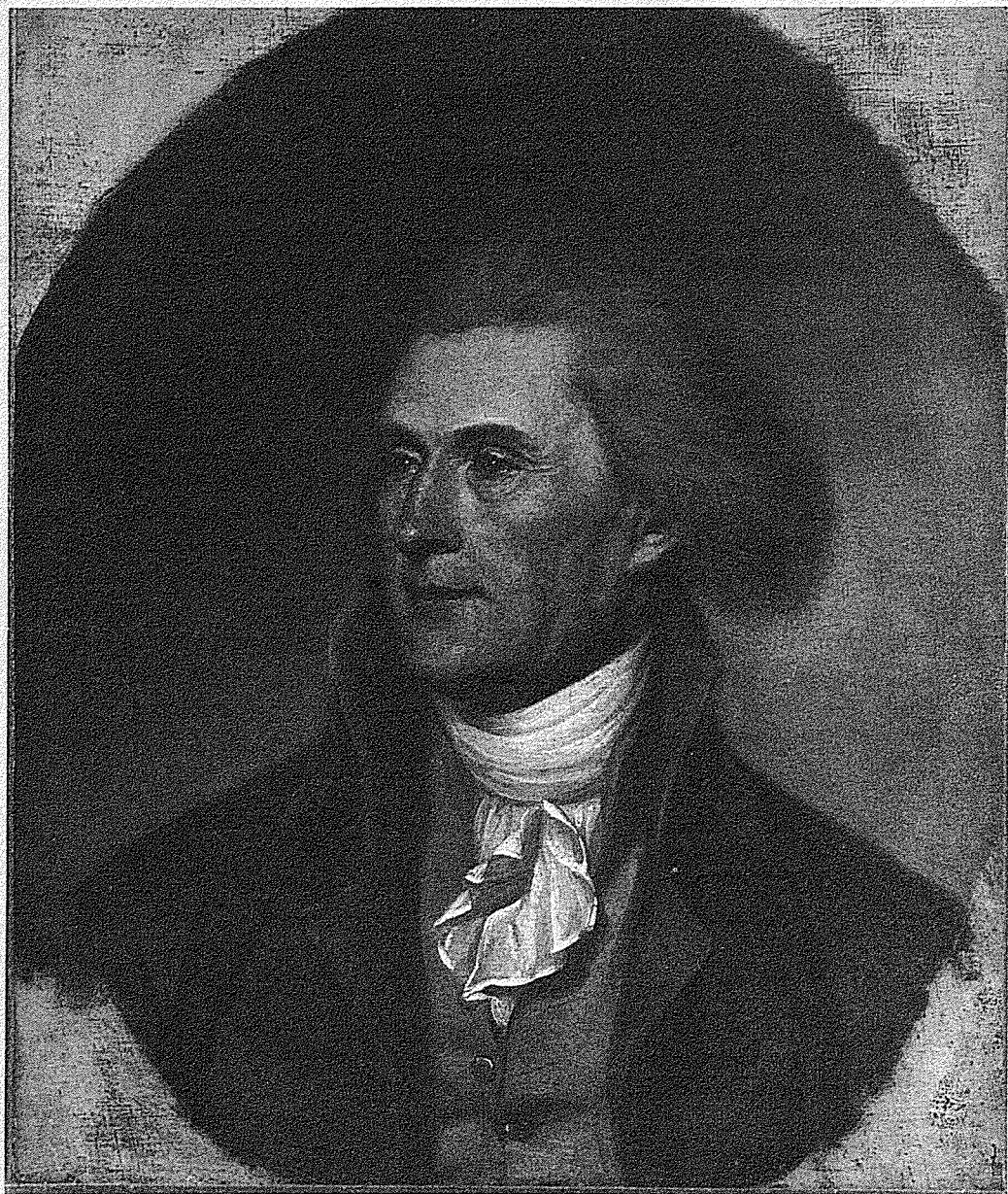
2. For Colonel Woodford's letter, see "Extract of a letter from Col. [William] Woodford to General [Andrew] Lewis, dated Norfolk, May 22."

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1776

Williamsburg, May 24.

Last Sunday morning [May 19] our guard at Norfolk took a couple of lads belonging to the *Otter*, regaling themselves ashore with strawberries; also a little boy, whom, after asking a few questions, they suffered to go about his business.

Last night an express arrived from col. [William] Woodford, at Kemp's landing, with advice that lord Dunmore's motley army, after dismantling



Thomas Jefferson.

their intrenchment at the mills, and setting fire to the barracks and other buildings they had erected there for their convenience, had retired on board the fleet, which, to the amount of 70 odd sail, were in motion yesterday morning, and appeared to be bound for sea. They supplied themselves with wood, from a number of houses at the distillery, which they demolished for that purpose; and it was given out, that they intended for Halifax in Nova Scotia, with intent, it may be presumed, to enjoy the free exercise of their limbs, and a vegetable diet, and undergo a complete scouring from the filth in which they have been involved for a long while past. — They destroyed between 40 and 50 sail of small vessels, after taking out what they deemed to be valuable, but suffered all the salt on board to go to the bottom.

The same night an express arrived from major [James] Hendricks, at Hampton, advising, that Lord Dunmore's fleet had just appeared in the road, and seemed to be bound for sea.

By a gentleman from Philadelphia, who left that city the 11th instant, we learn . . . that capt. Bellew, having lately asked permission of the Congress for his lady to visit her relations in New England, they despatched a gentleman with a carriage to conduct her to Philadelphia;¹ but upon his going on board the *Liverpool*, which happened to be just after her engagement with our row-gallies, he found the captain in a very bad humour, who told him he had altered his mind, and that mrs. Bellow should not now go amongst them, as their damn'd gondolas had treated him so ungenteelly. The gentleman who went on board was fully convinced, from what he had an opportunity of being witness to, that the captain had very good reason for his chagrin; for his ship had her quarter rails entirely carried away, and a number of plugs were in her side, which makes it highly probable that he lost many of his crew. The *Roebuck* also was in sight, at Reedy island, and had stages out repairing her sides.

1. Captain Walter Stewart.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU¹

May 1776 Cape Fear So 35.16 W Distance 82 Leags
 Friday 24 at 6 A M saw a Schooner to Windward, gave Chace, at 8 boarded her, from Virginia bound to Santa Cruze, Laden with Corn, sent an Officer and 4 Men on board her, at Noon Squally Close Reeft the Topsails.
 Little Wind and Cloudy at 11 lost sight of the Prize

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

25 May

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA¹

Copy LaChine 25th May 1776
 Gentlemen One of our Men this Moment came in, who was taken at the

Cedars. He made his escape this morning & says we have lost only ten Privates & [no officers] killed. the rest are Prisoners at St Anns & the Cedars. the enemy lost double that number. they were last Night within three Miles of us with 300 savages 50 Regulars & 250 Canadians with our two pieces of Cannon. but on hearing we had a large body of Men here, they made a Precipitate retreat he left them above point Claire they have only 21 Canoes, which will carry Eight or Nine Men on an Average. I intend to send off 400 Men in Battoes immediately to proceed to the Isle Perot and endeavour to Cut off the enemys retreat. I expect they will make some stay at Fort St. Anns, by which it may possibly be effected. Pray hurry on the Men as fast as possible I shall push them on from this immediately. We have so much water Craft, that we can always keep up a Communication between those on Land, & those on water & be able to Act in Concert I am Gentn [&c.]

signed B Arnold

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, 72, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM THOMPSON TO THE CONGRESSIONAL
COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA ¹

[Extract]

Copy

Camp at Sorel May 25th 1776 –

Colo [William] Maxwell with his Party arrived here yesterday – He is very unhappy in being ordered up, & thinks that he could with the few Troops he had with him have kept his Post at Deschambault 'till a reinforcement of both Men and Provisions could have been sent to him. He believes that with two Gondolas and a small Battery on each side the River opposite to them the Pass can be supported against any number of Troops or Ships that the Enemy can send for some weeks – And it is probable that our reinforcements both of Men and Provisions will arrive before that of the Enemy. –

Mr [John] Bondfield says that about three or four Miles below the Three Rivers the Channel runs within Musquett Shot of the North Shore, that the Banks are high, & indeed every thing in our favour, to engage us to take Possession of that Spot, which would be taking a great & necessary Step towards our going further down the River, and by leaving a few Boats in the Mouths of the Rivers under a small Guard a safe Retreat can be made to this Place, at any time if we are reduced to that Necessity, but I hope it will not be the case. . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 159, 282–84, NA.

CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Isis before Quebec May the 25th 1776

Having, after finishing my Letter of Yesterdays date, had it confirm'd, from the mouth of an Eye Witness, I can now, with unutterable Satisfaction, congratulate my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, on the certainty, of

all the Rebels, who were, at Trois Rivières, amounting, ('tis said) to about One Thousand, having left that important Post, (where they were casting Shot Shells &c) with precipitation on the 21st in the afternoon, And with out particulars, we learn in general, but with certainty, that a Body of forces, of from four, to Six Hundred Men, which they had posted, at a place, call'd the Cedars, in the neighbourhood of Montreal, had just been Surprized and destroy'd, by the expected loyal Succours, from the upper lakes, To which event, and the News of our preparations, here, to move upwards by Water, their hasty retreat from the late important Post in question, to their New One at the Mouth of the Sorel, has plainly been owing where it is said, their scattered parties, have made a Stand, and are making defensive preparations, with some peices of heavy Cannon, which preparations we presume are making, with a View to their final retreat, out of Canada. And the said heavy Cannon, to be mostly such, as were originally intended for the more effectual reduction of Quebec; relanded there, from the Batteaus, which were to have brought them down this River, on the News of the dispersion of their Army before this place. Be the disposition of the Rebels at the Mouth of the Sorel, as they may it is presumed, by many who know the Country well, that their first Stand, after the arrival of His Majesty's Forces, from Ireland, which are hourly look'd for (the Wind being Easterly) will be if they make any stand at all, at St Johns, which but 'tis even believed, they will find themselves unable to support. The Wind blowing fresh & favourable, I make no doubt of General Carleton in the *Maria* Arm'd Schooner, Captain Harvey in the *Martin* Sloop, Lieut [Joseph] Nunn in the *Magdalen* Arm'd Schooner, with the three Transports, having the 47th Regiment on board, with the Grenadier & Light Infantry Companies of the 29th passing the Rapids of Richlieu; with the Flood; Nor of the Residue of the Whole embarkation, doing so tomorrow, if this Wind continues, of which there is the strongest appearance. Nor do I doubt of the whole being assembled, at Trois Rivières (weather permitting) by Monday evening. Besides the Ships, or Vessels of War, already named, and going upwards, there are two arm'd Transports, the One carrying Ten Nine Pounders, and the other Six Six Pounders, and Men in proportion to their Guns, so that it will be impossible, for the Rebels to shew their faces, on the Water, any where between this and Montreal, – Be pleased to communicate the foregoing to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. I have the honor to be &c

Cha^s Douglas

P.S. I have this moment, received the following authentic particulars from above Vizt That His Majesty's Troops, Canadians and Indians, alluded to in the foregoing, utterly destroyed a body of 400 Men, which the Rebels had posted at a strong Pass called the Cedars, about 8 Leagues from Montreal, and opposite to the upper end of the Island, bearing that name, with the Loss only one Man kill'd, and two Wounded on our side: That they made sure, of cutting off another Guard, of 90 Rebels, on the Island itself, And, that all the able Countrymen of the said Island had upon the News of the above defeat, and of General Carleton's intended motions (now in agita-

tion) unsolicited thereto, taken up Arms; and embodied themselves for His Majesty. We learn Nothing for Certain, from the Town of Montreal, but it is believed, that the Rebels, will not continue long there. From whence if my information be true, A Triumvirate, consisting of Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin and other Members of the Rebel Congress, went away in a great hurry, on hearing of the flight of their Army (of 3000 Men) from before Quebec. Upon the Whole, I trust that before November next, the native rights of Mankind, will have been so far restored in North America, that one shall dare to speak his Sentiments; And do his duty as in old England; without any danger of being Tarr'd and feather'd.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/124, 96d.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX
SHULDHAM ¹

Copy

Halifax 25th May 1776.

Sir, From the present very extensive Business in the Transport Department, and the certainty of a large encrease of Shipping in the course of this Campaign, I humbly apprehend His Majesty's Service in that Line does require an Officer of Superior Rank, to have the Command and direction of the other Agents: I am therefore induced to make Application to you, to appoint Lieutenant [John] Bourmaster to be Master and Commander in the Navy, being at the same time hopeful, this is not an improper request, and that you will believe my Intentions are to Submit the Propriety of the Measure entirely to your better Judgment: Neither should I recommend Lieutenant Bourmaster were he not an old Officer, in addition to his laborious good Services during his employment in this Department, which done, will, I am confident entitle him to your favor. I have the Honor to be, Sir, [&c.]

W. Howe ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. *Ibid.*, Shuldham indicated his agreement in a letter to Howe this date, "tho' I do not recollect any Precedent for Such a Measure, . . . I heartily wish my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will be pleased to Confirm."

MACHIAS COMMITTEE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

May 25, 1776.

These may inform your Honors: that whereas Stephen Parker went from Machias with Letters of Recommendation from the Chaireman of the Committee to procure if possible for Machias aforesaid being then in great want & he preseeded to Philadelphia as he informes and proves by Letters brought and with out any suckses and on his Return back being at Nantucket he met with one Mr Timothy Fitch with whom he says he agreed to send provisions to Machias and take Lumber there for in Case that Liberty Culd be obtained for the said Fitch to send the Lumber from Machias to the West Indies -

On Account of Which he the said Parker Says that he went from Nantucket to Water Town in order to obtain Liberty of Your Honors for to

trade to the West Indies but was advised not to Mention it and then he the said Parker Returned back to Nantucket and Ingaged to take a Brig belonging to the said Fitch and proceed with her to Capepersue In the Province of Nova Scotia and there to sell off[f] the Provisions and b[u]y a load of fish for the sd Brig and procure a Nova Scotia Register Which he Says he Went to Halifax and obtained and then ordered the said Brig to proseed to Jamaca –

But as there was some Dispute about provisions being Carrayed out of Nantucket with out a permit from some of the Committee on the Continen[t] Said Parker applyed as we have ben informed to the Committee of Falmouth for a permit which was Granted accordingly for the said Parker to bring Provisions to Machias aforesaid and then he proceeded to Capepersue as aforesaid and Delt as afore said with out as he sayeth any intent of Bring[ing] the said provisions to Machias Exsept his Commissions on the Cargoe which he has actually Brought in the Whole or in part –

And for the afore said Reasons we have thought proper to take the said Parkers Notes of hand which he had by him in to our possession and them safe to keep for Security that he shuld Not Depart this pla[c]e until your Honers pleasure is Known and therefore we take this oppertuneyty to In form your Honors of our proseedng and hoop your Honers will Give us further Directions as you in Your Wisdom shall think Best for the peace and Wellfare of the United Coloneys – The Securitys taken amounts to £ 187: 5–9. we thought best to Inform Your Honors and Not to send the person without it is Required and we shall be always Readey & Will Cheerfully Obey your Honers Commands and any advice your Honers may think fit to Give us will be greatly Acknowledged by your Humbel Sarvents

By order of the Committee

W^m Tupper Clerk

[Machias] May 25 1776

[Endorsed] In Council June 10th 1776

Read & sent down John Lowell Dpy Secy P T

In the House of Representatives June 21st 1776

Read & committed to the Committee on the Petition of Stephen Parker Sent up for Concurrence Tim^o Danielson Spr p Tem:

In Council June 21st 1776

Read & concurred.

John Lowell Dpy Secy P T

1. James Phinney Baxter, ed., *Documentary History of the State of Maine* (Portland, 1910), XIV, 350, 351. Hereafter cited as Baxter, ed., *History of Maine*.

The Freeman's Journal, SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1776

Portsmouth, May 25, 1776

On Tuesday the 21st inst. the Continental Frigate of thirty-two guns, built at this place, under the direction of John Langdon, Esq; was Launched amidst the acclamation of many thousand spectators. She is esteemed by all those who are judges that have seen her, to be one of the compleatest ships ever built in America. The unwearied diligence and care of the three Mas-

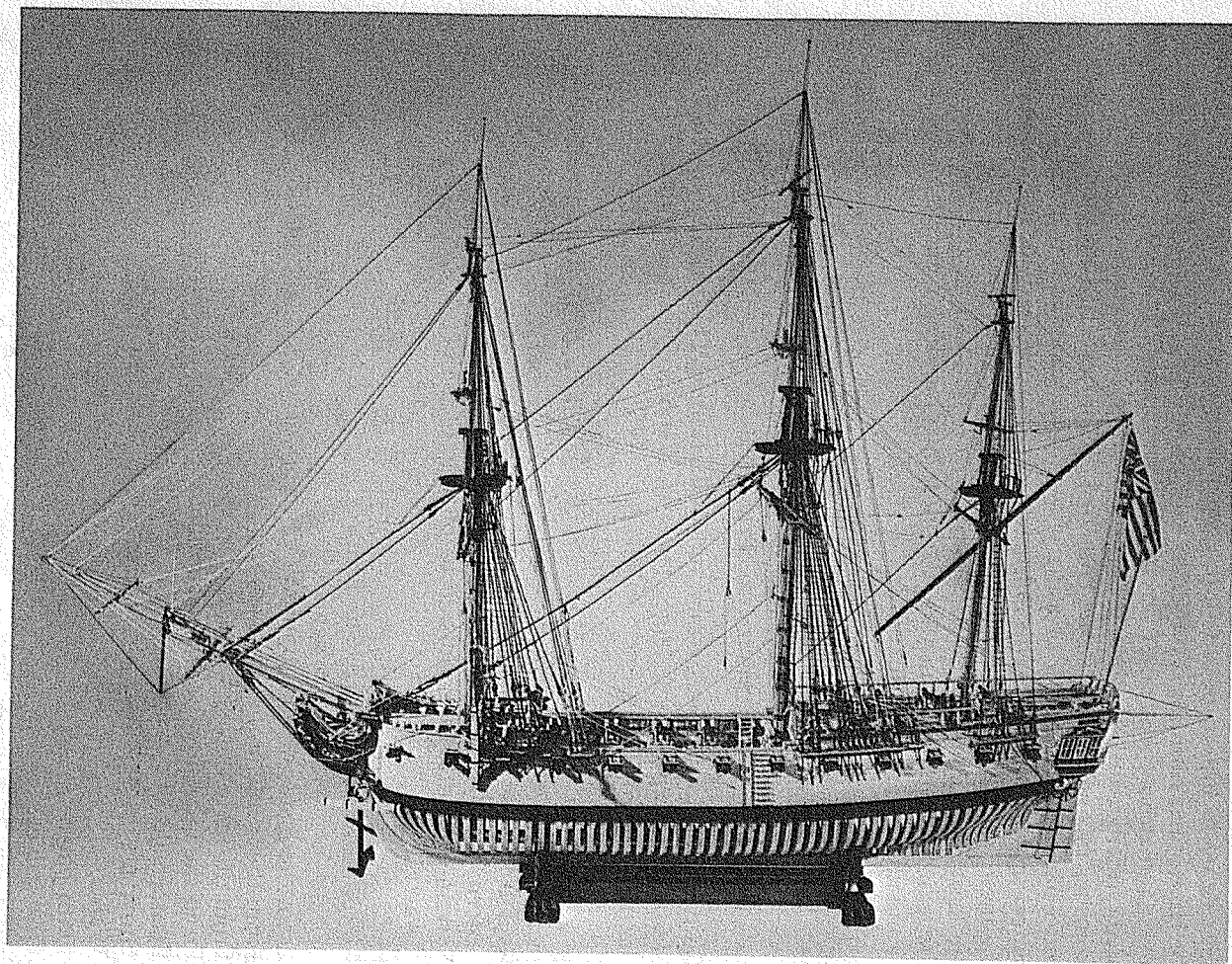
ter-Builders, Mess. Hacket, Hill and Paul, together with Mr. Thompson¹ under whose inspection she was built, and the good order and industry of the Carpenters, deserve particular notice; scarcely a single instance of a person's being in liquor, or any difference among the men in the yard, during the time of her building, every man with pleasure exerting himself to the utmost; and altho' the greatest care was taken that only the best of timber was used, and the work perform'd in a most masterly manner, the whole time from her raising to the day she launched did not exceed sixty working days, and what afforded a most pleasing view (which was manifest in the countenances of the Spectators) this noble fabrick was compleatly to her anchors in the main channel, in less than six minutes from the time she run, without the least hurt; and what is truly remarkable, not a single person met with the least accident in launching, tho' near five hundred men were employed in and about her when run off.

1. The master-builders were James Hackett, James Hill, Stephen Paul, and the superintendent, Thomas Thompson. M. V. Brewington, "The Designs of Our First Frigates," *American Neptune*, January, 1948, 13.

PLANS OF THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE BUILT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE¹

Built under the particular care and inspection of Thomas Thompson Esqr. Master-Builders, Messrs. James Hackett, Stephen Paul, and James Hill, by the direction of John Langdon Esqr. A.D.1776

	length	br'dth	dep.	width
Keel from fore part of stem to after part of stern post	124.6			
Extreme breadth from outside to outside of water		35.		
Hold			11.3	
Lower deck inside to inside midships	128.6	33.9		
do at the foremast		30.		
From the inside of bow to middle of foremast	17.4	measured		
From the inside of fore to mainmast	59.	on the		
From the main to the mizzen mast	30.6	gun		
From the mizzenmast to the transome	28.	deck		
Between decks			5.4	
Gun deck inside to inside midships	136.	29.		
Waist			5.5	
Main hatch	8.11	7.11		
Fore hatch	4.	5.		
After hatch	8.	5.		
Forecastle	23.	24.7		
Quarterdeck, inside to inside aft	58.	15.6		
Quarterdeck, inside to inside forward		24.6		
Quarterdeck rails	58.6			



Continental Frigate Raleigh, 32 guns.

	length	br'dth	dep.	width
Fore channels	23.5			
Main channels	23.8			
Mizzen channels	12.5			
Lower rim of galleries	10.			
Upper rim of galleries	9.6			
Lower stool	6.6			
13 ports each side 2.5x2.8, and 7.2 apart				
Outer part of bow to outer part of head	11.1			
22 lower deck beams			1.2	1. 3½
29 upper deck beams			1.	1. 1½
20 quarter deck beams			.7	.10
6 forecastle beams			.8	.10
Midship gunwale		1.½	.5	
Thickness of side of lower part of ports, 13 inches				

Dimensions of Masts and Yards

	diam.	length	head
Mainmast	3.3	86.	1.
Topmast	1.4	50.	.6
Topgallant mast	.8	28.	.2
Foremast	2.1	79.	.11
Foretopmast	1.3	46.	.5 ½
Foretopgallant mast	.7	26.	.2
Mizzenmast	1.6	74.	.8
Mizzen topmast	.11	37.	.4 ½
Mizzen topgallantmast	.5	18.	.2
Bowsprit	2.2	51.	
Gibb Boom	1.	36.	
Main Yard	1.6	70	
Main Topsail Yard	1.1	54.	
Main Topgallant Yard	.7	36.	
Fore Yard	1.4	64.	
Fore Topsail Yard	1.1	50.	
Fore Topgallant Yard	.6	30.	
Spritsail Yard	.9	45.	
Spritsail Topsail Yard	.7	35.	
Mizzen Yard	.10	66.	
Crossjack yard	.10	50.	
Mizzen topsail yard	.8	36.	

	diam.	length	head
Mizzen topgallant yard	.4 1/2	22.	
Main studdingsail booms	.9	38.	
Fore studdingsail booms	.9	38.	
Topgallant studdingsail booms	.5	25.	
Ensign Staff	.6	30.	
Jack staff	.3	15.	
Lower studding sail booms	.8	40.	
Driver yard	.5	22.	
Driver boom		35.	

Thomas Thompson

1. Josiah Fox Papers, PM. Undated but placed in period of *Raleigh* launching.

"A LIST OF OFFICERS FOR A FRIGATE OF 32 GUNS" ¹

Captain	}	these are appointed by Congress—
3 Lieutts		
Master		
Capt Marines		
2 Lieutts Do		
Surgion		
3. Masters mates		4 Quar Gunners
4. Midshipmen		Sail Maker
2. Surgions mates		Cooper
Boatswain		Armorer
2 Mates—		Coxswain
Carpenter		Steward
1 Mate		Cook
Gunner		Cpts Clerk
1 Mate		

1. Langdon Papers, HSP. While the list is undated, it falls logically in the period of the launching of the frigate built under John Langdon's direction.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford* ¹

May 1776

Cape Ann Wt 10 Leagues

Saturdy 25 at 4 AM saw a Sail to the S E gave Chace fir'd 3 Shot at the Chace 1/2 past 8 Spoke the Chace sent the Boat onboard wth an Officer, prov'd to be an American Sloop in Ballast got the Prisoners & her Tackling onboard at Noon in 2d Reefs Top-sails.
Fresh Gales and Hazey with Rain Unbent the Prizes Sails and Scuttled her at 4 Hoisted the Boats in made Sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

JOSIAH BATCHELDER, JR. TO RICHARD DEVENS ¹

Sr

Beverly May 25th 1776.

please to deliver to Mr Joseph Wyer or Order four Bolts of Russia Duck, for the Use of the Colony Sloop Called the *Tyranecide*. I have the honor to be [&c.]

Jose, Batchelder jr
one of the Committee for Building & fixing out
Ten Armed Vessels for the Service of this Colony.

1. Mass. Arch., NA Photocopy.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD ¹

Sir I Beg Leave to acknowledge the Reciept of yours of the 16th Inst your Honours Instructions I have Strictly Comply'd with, the Ship *Jenny* sold for so great a Price that with the Advice of my friends did not think prudent to give so much for not thinking her fitt for a Ship of Warr and not sold for but Very Little under her Real Value being 1950 £ the Brig *Hannah* from Antegua I have purchased for the Continent at the Prise of 520 £ and I think will make a Very Pritty Vessell of Warr being a very good Salior I have not as yet finish'd the sails but shall as Soon as possible when I waited upon your Honour Respecting Capt [James] Mugford you no doubt Remember the discourse, he apply'd in my absence to Collo [John] Glover for men which was Imediately Granted him and in Less than 12 hours Sail'd therefore had no Oppertunity of delivering your Letter, Providence has most Miracalously work'd for us in this perticular Instance Your Honour will now see the Great advantage arrising from having this most Valiant Regiment here being Allways Ready to man the Vessells when Calld for, which is Very often, and your Honour will I pray take the same into Consideration and not Remove them from this Town there being so many off them Employ'd in the Vessells that the small Number Left, would make but a small addition to the Forces now in Boston the Cargos Belonging to the Brigts Carryd into Lynn we have Got down Here which Togather with the Brig *Hannah* purchased for the Continent will be a Considerable Interest of the Colonies to be Protected,

if your Honour in your known Wisdom and Zeal for the Welfare and Prosperity of the Colonies, Should think it best to Continue Collo Glovers Regiment at Beverly The Committee think it very Nessesary to have a Small Fort Built at the Exterative part of the Town which will Command not Only the Enterance into the Harbour but also the Town of Manchester being just within our Islands pray your Honours Leave or Instructions to Collo Glover to Erect it – I am with the Greatest Respect [&c.]

Beverly 25th May 1776

William Bartlett

1. Ward Papers, MassHS.

2. Washington had directed that the ship *Jenny* and the brig *Little Hannah*, which had been

taken by John Manley in the schooner *Lee* in December, 1775, be purchased and converted to vessels of war, to be commanded by Manley and his lieutenant. Manley turned down the General's effort to supply him with a suitable cruiser, claiming the *Jenny* was unfit for such service. See William Bell Clark, *George Washington's Navy* (Baton Rouge, 1960), 140, 141.

3. The vessels carried into Lynn were the brigs *Jane* and *William*, taken by Captain Samuel Tucker in the schooner *Hancock*.

WILLIAM BARTLETT'S ACCOUNT OF SALE OF THE PRIZE SLOOP *Sally*
AND CARGO ¹

Account sales of Sloop *Sally* and Cargo Retaken by Capt Windborn
Adams Commander of the Schooner *Warren* sold at Publick Auction—

153 full Quarter Cask Lisbon wine a £ 8.4/1d	£ 1255..4..9
The Sloop and Appurtenances	220..—..—
	<hr/> £ 1475..4..9

Charges deducted

Messrs Glover & Bartletts acco	£25.13..9¾	} 122.13..[2]
Collo John Glovers acco	5.12..9	
Capt Joseph Lees acco	1.18..3	
Capt John Van Emburgh acco	52.10..9	
Commis on £1475.4.9 at 2½ PCt	36.17..4	
	<hr/>	£ 1352.11..7

2/3d Given to the Owners by the Court of Admiralty £901.14..4½²

1/3d Given to the above mention'd Schooner *Warren* 450.17..2½

Beverly 25 May 1776—

£ 1352.11..7

Errors Except
p William Bartlett

	450.17..2½
⅔ to the Continent	300.11..5½
⅓ to the Captures	<hr/> 150..5..8¾

1. Bartlett Papers, No. 5682, BHS.

2. *Ibid.*, John Van Emburgh, for the owners, acknowledged receipt of this sum on the same day.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE ¹

May 1776 Cape Codd So 75°W 28 Leagues. —

Saturdy 25 At 4 AM Saw a Sail to the Eastwd, out 1st Reef, at 11 A M
Tack'd Fresh Breezes and Cloudy, fir'd 2 shot and took the
Schooner *Mary*, Nathl Parley Mastr from Bedford bound to
the Wt Indies with Fish, Lumber, & Staves,² In 2d Reefs.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

2. According to the *Rose's* journal, she took the schooner in tow on May 27, and cast her off the next day. There is no further record of her.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, May 25, 1776

Resolved, That the arms, ammunition, and military stores, taken by the armed schooner *Franklin*, or any other of the armed vessels in the pay of the United Colonies, be at the disposal of the General or commander in chief of the American forces.

The committee to whom was referred the letter from Charles Miller to the commissary general, brought in their report, which was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the commissary general be directed to order so much of the provisions stored in the continental magazines in Massachusetts bay, to be delivered, for victualling the five ships of war, now building at Portsmouth, Newburyport, and Providence, as the Marine Committee shall direct; and to keep the residue for the use of the continental army, that are or may be stationed in the eastern department.

The committee appointed to confer with his Excellency General Washington, Major General Gates and Brigadier General Mifflin, touching the most proper posts and measures to be taken for preventing the enemies communication with the upper country from Canada, and such other measures as tend to secure the frontiers, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration, Whereupon,

Resolved, That it is of the highest importance that post be taken at Dechambeau and that the same be fortified; that works be likewise erected on the islands in the river St. Lawrence at the mouth of the river Sorrel, as well to keep open the communication between Dechambeau and St. Johns, as to prevent the enemy's passing to the upper country, should the forces of the United Colonies be compelled to retreat from Dechambeau.

That it is highly expedient to engage the Indians in the service of the United Colonies.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 390, 393, 394, 395-60.

COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE
OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen: -

Philadelphia 25th May, 1776.

The appointment you were lately pleased to honor me with of Commodore of the Naval Armaments on this River, was accepted on my part from the same motives, which now induce me to resign - The service of an Injured Country.

Confined to my bed by a severe Illness, I am wholly disabled from executing the duties of such an important trust. The preservation of this city depends on the defence of the River, and as there is reason to believe that the Enemy will shortly return, with an addition of force, to accomplish their Hellish purposes of Murder and distruction, I should consider myself as in-



Robert Eden.

juring the Public cause, were I to delay at this time, the resigning an office, which tho' proud to be honored with, and anxious to discharge, I am not now able to perform.

The House will [be] pleased to accept this as my resignation of the office of Commodore, the commission for which is inclosed herein, and if on the return of health there should be any service which I can render to so just a cause, I shall ever conceive it an honor to be called upon for that purpose.

I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

Andrew Caldwell. ²

P.S. The money I received from you is disposed off as underneath, for the recruiting service, for which the Captains will account with you:

Committee of Safety with A. Caldwell

Dr.

To Cash pd. Capt. [John] Hamilton	£ 30 0 0
Paid Capt. [Hugh] Montgomery	30 0 0
Paid Capt. [Nathan] Boyce	30 0 0
Paid Capt. [Thomas] Moore	30 0 0
	<hr/>
	£ 120 0 0

Cr.

By your order on Mr. Nisbitt [John Maxwell Nesbitt]	£ 120 0 0
	<hr/>
	£ 120 0 0

To the Honorable the Committee of Safety.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I 380-81.

2. This date the Committee accepted Caldwell's resignation. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 580-82.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR MARINE DESERTED FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA
PRIVATEER BRIG *Hancock* ¹

Philad. May 25, 1776

Four Dollars Reward

Deserted, from Capt. William Shippin's company of marines, belonging to the brig *Hancock*, lying at Bright's wharf, Philadelphia, a certain Joseph Bamford, about thirty years of age, five feet seven or eight inches high. He had on, when he went away, an old blue coatte, a check shirt, old leather breeches, an old felt hat, is remarkably near sighted, and has formerly been a fisherman. Whoever apprehends the said deserter shall have the above reward.

William Shippin

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, June 1, 1776.

GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER ¹

Sir:

[Annapolis, May 25]

On a perusal of the address to me yesterday,² I don't find it requires any answer; not do I understand that any was expected. Anything I could say

might be thought too little here, and would be thought too much elsewhere. I just trouble you with this to mention a circumstance or two that have occurred to me, to which some attention may prevent disagreeable occurrences.

I am going to send down the bay to inquire after a vessel for England, and my boat, with Mr. S. [Smith], will, in that account, sail with the first fair wind. I must request a pass, to protect her from the Provincial and Virginia cruisers.

Another of the circumstances above alluded to is, the present situation of those cruisers; any sinister accident from the King's ships arising at this time to them, or soon after my sending down, would, in the phrensy of men's minds, be imputed to intelligence from me, notwithstanding my assurances of my confining Mr. S. and the boatmen solely to the errand I send them on. This you might remedy, by ordering them up the bay till I am gone; and in that case will pledge myself that such man-of-war that may come to escort me through the Virginia part of the bay shall commit no hostilities in this Province. But if they must remain below, I cannot be answerable for what may happen to them.

The forces are at the Capes, and I propose writing to Captain George Montagu, and giving him the trouble of me, till I take my departure from the Capes. One of your look-out boats might sail with mine, and carry instructions to Captain [James] Nicholson, or my boat shall deliver your despatches, if she can see them in her way down the bay. I am the more solicitous to settle this point, as I am desirous to leave the Province on the most friendly terms, and in as much peace as the times will admit.

Requesting your sentiments on these matters, and the pass above-mentioned for the *Friendship* schooner boat, George Wilkes, mulatto, skipper, I am.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, VI, 738.

2. See Proceedings of the Maryland Convention, May 24, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION ¹

[Annapolis] Saturday, May 25, 1776.

The Convention took into their consideration the report from the committee appointed to devise a proper establishment for a court of admiralty, for the trial of such captures and seizures as are or may be made pursuant to the late resolves of the Continental Congress on that subject, and brought into any port or district within this province, and thereupon came to the following resolutions, to wit.

Resolved, That a court of admiralty be established for the trial of such captures and seizures, with full power to take cognizance of all libels on account of such captures and seizures, and to proceed to a final determination and decree thereupon. Which court shall consist of a judge to hear and determine, a register to record the proceedings, and a marshal to call the said court and execute the several processes thereof; the said judge to be nominated and commissioned by the Convention, or in the recess thereof, to be

nominated and commissioned by the Council of Safety for the time being; and the said register and marshal to be nominated and appointed by the judge of the said court; the commission of the said judge, and the nomination and appointment of the said register and marshal, to be during the will and pleasure of the Convention for the time being; the process and form of proceeding to be as usual in the courts of admiralty: but if either libellant or defendant, on any controverted material fact between them, demand a trial of the said fact by a jury, in such case [the judge] shall order and direct the marshal to summon out of the neighbourhood where the court is held, a jury of freeholders, to find and say the truth of the said fact on oath, and upon the verdict of the said jury, shall pronounce his decree accordingly: the first determination and decree of the said judge to be subject to such appeal, and in such manner, as recommended in the resolutions aforesaid of the Congress. The fees for proceedings in this court to be the same with the fees heretofore allowed the court of admiralty, by an act passed in 1763, entitled, "An act for amending the staple of tobacco, &c." the said fees to be paid in money at the rate of 12s.6d. common money per hundred; and the allowances to juries and witnesses to be the same as heretofore made to juries and witnesses in the common law county courts of this province. This court to be held at such place as the judge shall think convenient for the trial of such captures and seizures as are or shall be made as aforesaid.

William Hayward, Esq; was unanimously elected judge of the said court of admiralty.

The committee for that purpose appointed, bring in a passport for his excellency governor Eden, and a draught of a letter to the Committee of Safety of Virginia, which were read and agreed to.

1. *Maryland Convention*, 24-26. The Convention adjourned this day.

CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, TO EDMUND PENDLETON ¹

Sir

Annapolis 25th May 1776

I am instructed by the Convention now sitting to communicate to your Committee the enclosed Resolve. Our Governor having no other Opportunity of procuring a Passage to great Britain than by some Packett or Ship from the Fleet in your Colony, has Requested this Convention to give a Passport for a Boat to go down to the Fleet on an Enquiry for a convenient passage. This Convention has thought proper to comply with the Request and has furnished a Passport, a Copy of which you have enclosed. The Governor in case a Ship of War should come up for him has pledged himself that no Hostilities [should] be committed by her in coming up or going down as far as he can prevent it, and to prevent any disagreeable Occurrences, we have directed the Commander of our Ship *Defence* now down the Bay to come up. As the Governor leaves the Province at the request of the Convention, they wish to give every facility to his seasonable departure, confident that he has no hostile Designs against America and we request that

you will take proper measures to prevent any interruption being given to the passage of his Boat on her present errand or to such Ship of War as may come up for him I am Sr [&c.]

1. Hollyday Papers, MdHS.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL
OF SAFETY ¹

No. 159.

Gentn We are informed by Mr Hugh Young that 500 wt of Powder belonging to this Province ar[ri]ved at Newbern in No Carolina from St Eustatia shipp'd by Captn Abraham Van bebbber on Board of Captn Luce – you will probably want the Powder, – therefore we have given him no Orders for it's Removal, but will exchange, if you think proper for the same Quantity to be delivered us by your Delegates at Philadelphia. We are [&c.] [Annapolis] May 25th 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Saturday May 25th 1776

Ordered That Western Shore Treasurer pay to Wm Neile of Baltimore Town fifteen hundred and forty five Pounds, ten Shillings and four Pence for the Schooner *Nancy* and the Amount of her Cargo, insured by this Province, and captured at St Eustatia. –²

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

2. This payment was agreed to on November 25, 1775, when Charles Carroll, Barrister, and Robert Alexander accepted William Neill's proposal for the voyage. See Volume 2, 1135–36. His receipt, attached to the proposal reads: "May 25 1776 Received from Council of Safety an Order on Western Shore Treasr for fifteen hundred & forty five pounds, ten shillg, & four Pence on Acct of afsd Contract William Neill." Executive Papers, Box 2, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE ¹

May 1776

At an Anchor in Norfolk Road Virginia

Tuesday 21

A M the Troops & People quitted the lines, & embarked on-board the Vessels.

Mode & fair. Unmoored & hove short on the best Bower.

Wednesday 22

At ½ past 11 A M weighed & run down off the Millpoint, & anchored with the best Bower in 5 fam Towed 3 Schooners & a Sloop upon the Flatts, cut away their Masts & scuttled them.

Little wind & cloudy.

Thursday 23

At 5 weigh'd & came to sail, the Boats ahead. At ½ past 8 Anchored off the Western Branch in 5 fam Fired 2 Shot at 2 Boats crossing the western Branch. Getting ready for Sea. The first little Wind & fair, the middle & latter fresh Breezes. At 6 P M HMS *Fowey*, & his Lordship of Dun-

more's Vessel sailed into Hampton Road. Do weighed & came to sail. Five Sail of the Fleet in going down got aground in the Narrows. At 7 anchored near to assist & protect them.

Friday 24 Sent Boats to their Assistance. Do got them afloat & anchored them in a fair way.

Mode & foggy At 2 P M sent a Boat & got some of the Vessels under weigh. At 5 weighed & came to sail. At 6 anchor'd in 3½ fam off Sewells point.

Saturday 25 At ½ past 8 A M loosed the Topsails p Signal, At 9 do furled them.

Mode & fair At 4 P M The *Roebuck* & at 5 do the *Fowey* got under weigh with great part of the Fleet who had Families onboard for protection. At ½ past 5 P M sent our Boat onboard a Sloop scuttled & set her on fire, she having neither Sails nor Men. At 6 PM weighed & came to sail. The Signal at ½ past 7 onboard the *Roebuck* to tack. At ½ past 8 anchored with the B Bower in 16 fam without Point Comfort.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

26 May (Sunday)

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

May 1776 At Anchor Church at Pt Ecureuil NSbN 1 Mile

Saturday 25th ½ past 4 AM, made the Signal and weigh'd with the Convoy – at 6 the *Martin* Sloop got under way and at 7 I anchor'd at Portneuf in 5½ fms at 11 moor'd a Cable each way – at Noon the Convoy in Sight about 4 Leagues up the River, with the *Magdalen*, *Maria* and Province Schooner in all 11 Sail & 3 more coming up the River –

P M, Anchor'd here the *Lord Howe* Arm'd Ship, the *Charlotte* provincial Arm'd Ship – *Thomas & Richd* Transpt, with Artillery, an Engineer & a Detachment of the 29th Regimt, at 8 P M, a Boat with 5 Indians from Montreal came onbd who gave an Account of the Action at Cedres [the Cedars].

Sunday 26th A M, at 10 recd an Order from the Commodore at Quebec to send down all the Pilots I cou'd meet with & also those on bd the *Triton*, *Bute* & *Lord Howe* – the *Bute* being at Pt au Tremble – Sent on Bd the *Charlotte* a Detachment of Marines to assist the General up the River – 1 Officer, 1 Sergt, 1 Corpl. 1 Drum, 26 private.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.

CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

Isis before Quebec May the 26th 1776

Sir Having Omitted it, till my dispatches were sealed up, I beg you may be pleased to communicate to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, my having appointed Mr William Jackson Masters Mate, to be Master of this His Majesty's Ship, which I hope their Lordships will approve . . .

Ch^s Douglas

The letter of which the following is a Copy, I have this Moment received from Lieut. Governor Cramahe

Quebec 26th May

Sir The General informs me, he has received an express from Captain Forster, acquainting him, that he with a Detachment of the 8th, Some Canadians and a number of Indians, had the 19th Inst. taken a Fort at the Cedars, two Pieces of Cannon, and 390 Rebels, Prisoners at discretion: The day following, a party crossed over, from Montreal, of 120 who were defeated and taken.

The General desires that all the Transports, Storeships, and Victuallers, shou'd press after him, without coming to an Anchor. And all the Batteau's be sent up. I am [&c.]

H. T. Cramahe

The General had passed the Richélieu, and was left between Grondines & St. Ann's

Two Indians from the Cedars by Water inform me, that Eleven Sail in all of the 13 which Sailed upwards passed the Rapids of Richlieu yesterday.

(a true Copy Witness my hand,)

Ch^s Douglas

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1706, I, 26.

ACCOUNT BOOK OF JONATHAN GLOVER ¹

[To] William Bartlett

Dr

May 26	To Wharfage 17 Cord wood Capt Leach	6-9½
	To Wharfage Sloop takeing by Capt Burk	5-12-9
	21 weeks & one Day a 5/4	
	To Wharfage Sloop <i>Betsey</i> takeing by	6- 4-2
	Capt Manly 23 weeks & 2 Days a 5/4	
	L Q lb	
	To 2 barrels flour Neat 4-1-8 a 22/	4-15-3¾
	pr his act in old book (page 2)	

1. Glover's Account Book, Colony Ledger, MarbHS.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Fort George May 26th 1776

. . . By the inclosed Return your Excellency will see that I have only 91 - Rank and file fit for Duty, twenty eight of these are constantly employed in the Batteaus that bring the Timber for building others: eight in

the large Boat; and ten in various other Services, so that I have only 45 – left for Duty, and all raw & undisciplined. – a Force so trifling that it leaves us exposed to the Insults of any very inconsiderable party who may destroy our Boats and Buildings, and thereby greatly distress if not actually render useless our Army in Canada: permit me therefore to beg your Excellency to order me a Reinforcement the soonest possible, and should I find myself hereafter in a Situation to dispense with them – Colo: Van Schaick will then be immediately sent into Canada.

I forgot to mention to your Excellency that the small Note I enclosed you this Morning I received with the other papers, but do not know whether intended for the Commissioners or me, if for me I am not in a Condition to comply with it, as I have not a person here that understands the Construction of Gundaloes.² I wrote for such persons to the Congress in the Course of last Winter but if I had proper persons here it would be needless to build them as the Waters in a few Days, if not already are too low to get Vessels of that Construction down the Falls of Chamblé.

I shall try to procure Batteauxmen at Albany and its Vicinity, they are cheaper at eleven Dollars and a Quarter per Month than Soldiers with the additional pay of one Shilling per Day, because they are more to be depended on.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. *Ibid.*, Schuyler wrote to Washington the next day having determined that the note was intended for him: "I have ordered a row Galley to be sent from Tyonderoga to be Converted Into a Gundalo, she served as Such last year when In possession of the Enemy."

GILBERT JONES'S REPORT OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIONS OF A SLOOP IN OYSTER BAY ¹

[Oyster Bay Township]

On the 26 of May 1776 Siting with a prospect glass and Looking out of a Chamber [wi]ndow Saw a Small Sail moving Eastward which appeared to me to be without the beach, immediately after I perceived She Came about and run westerly at which time I Saw another Sail that appeared to be at a greater Distance and Directly Come about and passed each other two or three times and then the Sail first Discovered Stood to the Eastward and Came into the Inlet opposite to fort Neck and Came Directly up the bay within about half a mile of the said Neck and there grounded on a Sand bar as soon as [the] Sails were down I Discovered seven [men] that I Could Count by looking through the glass—being Dissatisfied with seing more men than Common in So small a Sloop tho large to Come into our bay I Set out about sun set with a boy to roe me aboard and see who they were and what there Business was when I Came Near I hailed her and after asking my Business Several times without my giving a Direct answer I went aboard they Appeared much Surprised when Seeing but three men on board I asked where the other men were. they told me they were gone ashore for Lodging but they knew not to what Landing that they came from Elizabeth town and wanted to get a Load of Clambs that they Saw no Sail without the beach and that they made no turns nor tacks until they Came into

the Inlet and that they were not obliged to go within Sight of the men of war to Come from Elizabeth town here and that the[y] intended to the Next morning themselves on Shore to hire men to get Clambs for them.

Gilbert Jones one of the Committy for the Township of oyster bay
1. Washington Papers, LC.

EXAMINATION OF THREE MEN FROM A SLOOP IN OYSTER BAY ¹

May the 26th - 1776. the Examination of - 3 prisonners taken nea[r] against Sylas Carmon att oyster bay South - & their Sloop - 7 Men they Sot ashore the night before, Which they give but little account of

(1) Nathan gyer inhabitant att Blewpoynnt, upon his Examination Says, he Sot With his Sloop & Carryed With him about - 12 Bushels of Clams about a week ago & went to the jerseys & past the Man of War in the Night Without being Stopt he, Made [a] Harbo[r] Came to ankur Sold his Clambs to the Jersey People as he Seposd & took in - 7 Passangers as they Came aboard of him att Differant times Sum in the Day & Sum in the Night in Small Craft they payd him their passage When he Sot them a Shore in oyster bay South att fort neck poynnt they left, five guns with him but the persons Names he Dont Remember, Except 2 - 1 Was umpstad the other - platt - Both from Newengland, umpstad a taylor by trade from Litchfield, the Said gyer - Says his Design Was When he Sot out from blew poynnt to go Round to New england to Collect Sum Debts - but When he Came to Jersey he understood that att New york they took all the Botes that pased & for that Reason he Returnd Back to go home & took in these 7 Pasengers -

2[n]d Lazareth gyer, Says Son to the first 20 - or 30 Bushels of Clams & that the Man of Wars Barge haild them & Brought them tew took about a peck of their Clams the passengers which they took a bord & Sot ashore Came aboard All together in one Bote in the Day time he New None of them Except - 1 they Cald Patcher a taylor by trade, but he Sepos'd Sum of the - 7 Passengers Part of them Belong to New england & part Upon long island he after said in pasin the Man of War the *fenux* [*Phoenix*] haild them & Brought them tew -

3rd Benj Scribner - 3 months ago from new england Norwock Saith 30 Bushels of Clams - Past the Man of War Clear Went to the Jersey in tew a harbour up to a landing along Side of a Dock Where they Sold their Clams to the Jersey people & these passangers Came to them by land to the Dock & Stept aboard - he further Says he agreed With the first Nathan gyer - att blew poynnt & Was to give him 8/ for his passage to Carry him to Egg harbour

further Says they lay - a week fast to the Dock att the Jers[ey]s they None of them Can Remember What part of the Jerseys they Went to
Examind before us

Joshua Ketcham one of the Commi[ttee]
for the township of huntingtown
Benjamin Birdsall one of the Com-
mi[ttee] for the County of Queens

1. Washington Papers, LC.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER ¹

Wmsburg May 26th 1776.

Sir. On Wednesday last Lord Dunmore and the Fleet at Norfolk, quitted that station and fell down into Hampton Road, where they remained 'til yesterday evening, when they got under way, apparently intending out to sea, but this morning were discovered by our look outs to have turned up the Bay and had passed the mouth of York River. I this moment received the intelligence and thought it might be useful to communicate it to you by express, that you might not mistake it for some other armament. We have reason to believe they are much in want of Provisions and also that they are but weakly mann'd, as they burnt several small vessels before they left Norfolk and three of a large size just before they quitted the Road. The *Roe-buck* is returned from Delaware & is with this fleet. I have Honr to be Sir [&c.]

Ed[m]^d Pendleton

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

27 May

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lizard*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

May 1776 Laid up in the Coude Sec [Cul de Sac, Quebec]
 Monday 26 A M Arrived here, & sailed up the river 27 sail of Transports
 [Sunday] with Troops from Ireland
 Tuesday 27 Arrived here his Majesty's Ship *Carrisfort* & *Pearl* with a Con-
 [Monday] voy of 12 Transpts

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/550.

JOHN LANGDON TO NICHOLAS BROWN ¹

Sir

Portsmouth May 27th 1776

Your favo'r of the 15th Instant is now before me to which I answer, that I've receiv'd a Letter from Capt [Jeremiah] Stamford informing me the Duck has come safe to hand & that he had paid the Waggon, as pr our Agreement. I am much Obliged by your kindness, in forwarding the Canvas with such dispatch, am sensible of the difficulty at this time of procuring teams as I've been Oblig'd lately to have many things hauled at an Extravagant price – I am in great Want of light duck, as I've not a single bolt, should any of yours be such, shall be glad of Fifty or Sixty bolts – I thank you for the kind tender of your Services, should any thing, turn up this way, thats in my power to serve you, none would be more ready then Your [&c.]

John Langdon

P S. Our Frigate was Launched with great Success last Thursday the 21st Instant.

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

JOHN LANGDON TO CAPTAIN JEREMIAH STAMFORD, IPSWICH ¹

Sir –

Portsmouth 27th May 1776

Your favo'r of post I've recd: am glad the Canvas is come, to hand, shall send Capt Partridge up directly for the Anchor, and the Canvas, as also some yarns which are to come from Mr Henderson Inches you did very right in paying the Carter – Your most [&c.]

John Langdon

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

JOHN LANGDON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE ¹

[Extract]

Portsmouth 27th May 1776

I've sent by several Opportunities a List of Men for Officers, I hope to hear by return of Post, of the Appointment, and Explicit Orders for me to appoint the remainder, and the Blank Warrants or Commissions sent down I hope Peter Shores, will be Lieut by all means and also John Roche which I mentioned, who is now on board one of the Continental Schooners a Lieut and what I know and can learn he is very gentell good Man –

I inclose one of our Newspapers (for your Approbation) by young Dearbourn who I've endeavoured to put into the Business that we might have some Channell of Intelligence besides Tory printers, by that you'll see a few Lines I threw into the paper relative to our Launching the Ship, which are only the Facts, if any bad Grammer you'll Excuse it, my Education was not what they call Liberal. ²

We were highly favour'd Sons of Liberty, in building as well as Launching; nothing going Cross the Expence has been great but that could not be help't, I dont know of one Man of having even his Finger hurt in Launching, we were very regular the whole Yard guarded, to keep people off, strict Silence, orders properly timed, and well Executed, about three Minutes to her Anchor from the time she run, not even touched the Shores Since – Expect to get her Masts in this Week – I've just sent [Captain] Partridge to Ipswich for the Canvass; where shall get light [canvas] I know not, I Expect to meet with much difficulty in Compleating our Hands and intirely for want of Orders to ship them, in Season, not a Man can I ship untill the Officers are appointed and Explicit orders to Ship furnish Provisions &c. – I hear nothing of Guns, have no idea where they are to come from, Swivels, Shot, and such Articles we want – I think there is some mistake in the Regulations, (no proportion of Prizes to the Lieutenant and Captain Marines) I know not where rum is to be had the price now is only One dollar by the Hogshead, pray let me know if I am appointed the Agent if any one Else should be appointed, I should be glad to be appointed Agent of prizes, if that should be an separte Department but as I hope you have taken Care to get me appointed Agent for the Navey (or say one of the Lords Commissioners that will be let alone as to Prizes – If there is an Agent for Prizes separte from the agent for the Navy, which I supposed I shall and do

recommend Mr Joseph Whipple, than whom none can do better. Mr [Josiah] Bartlett may easily say that I've recommended Mr Whipple this is for the Continent – Mr [Joshua] Wentworth is for the General you know – I should be very glad to have Liberty of coming to Congress if its only one Week just to desire Independence might be declared and Guns sent on, and few such trifles as these, which are Essential and must be done, and that immediately and after these material matters are done the Continent may act with some propriety for every thing now (in the Eyes of the weak) class [*sic* clash] with Perogative, the King or the Devil; our Ships would also go to Sea, which would help us much –

Nothing in the Government way material we are a Building a Battery on the heights of Jerrys point – I am with Friendship [&c.]

John Langdon

P S John Jackson will be an Excellent hand for Surgeon if one is not Appointed, let him in for it by all means –

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

2. The first issue of *The Freeman's Journal*, May 25, 1776, containing an account of the launching of the frigate *Raleigh*. Langdon claims authorship of this item in this letter.

JOHN LANGDON TO JOSIAH BARTLETT ¹

Dear Sir

Portsmouth May 27th 1776

There has been nothing material in Government turn'd up, since you left us, the glorious News of the Capture of the Powder Vessel and Galliant Behaviour of our Men in the Privateer, no doubt you'll have e'er this comes to hand

Our Frigate was launched last tuesday being the 21st Instant we were Exceeding fortunate in Launching, you may say with Safety that she is a good Ship, as has been built on the Continent, to say no more of her – when we shall have Guns, Orders to Ship Men, and furnish Provision &c I know not, had we the Guns, & had the Honble [Marine] Committee sent me Orders to have Enterd the Men, Officers appointed the Ship might been at Sea in all June, but how it will be now, I know not, the Orders come much Slower then I can build the Ship, I have wrote every Week since I left Philadelphia almost, Guns & Liberty to ship Hands, as I could as well Employ them as, others, but am Sorry to say, can form no Idea where the Guns are to com[e] from, and have refused a Number of Men, who would have gone, but are now otherwise Employed. I hope to be appointed Agent for the Navey here, on some terms or other Excuse haste Your [&c.]

John Langdon

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

JOHN LANGDON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

Portsmouth 27th May 1776

On tuesday last we Launched the Frigate belonging to the United Colonies, which I had the Honour to Superintend the building of at this

place, we were fortunate enough not to meet with the least Accident, the Ship was compleatly to her Anchors in three Minutes from the time she run off –

No pains has been spar'd, nor reasonable Expence to do the work well & give dispatch, she's Esteemed by Judges to be a very compleat piece of Work –

I've discharged great part of the Men from the Yard, her Masts are all Compleated in the best manner and hope to have them in, few Days, her Rigging is also fixed, the Sail Cloth I hear is on the Road, shall have the heavy Sails made immediately, what shall do for light Canvas I know not, a considerable Quantity of which will be wanting, not only for Sails but for Hammocks

The Guns we wait for, as we cannot compleat our Carriages without them

I hope to have Orders immediately to Enter men, otherwise shall be detain'd, as many Sailors are dayly going from us, had I the Guns here on the Spot, and seasonable Orders for Officers & Men and Provision, think could have got the Ship to Sea in all June – I am with all due Respect [&c.]

John Langdon

To The Honble John Hancock Esqr

Chairman of the Marine Committee Philadelphia

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

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford*¹

May 1776 Cape Ann Wt – 8 Leags

Monday 27 Fresh Breezes and Hazey latter Light Airs, at 1 PM saw some Privateers standing in for Cape Ann made Sail and gave Chace 1½ past lost sight of them shorten'd sail and Brought too

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 27, 1776.

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, Plimouth, ss.

A Libel is filed before me against the sloop called the *Sally*, burthen about 75 tons, commanded by Cornelius White, and said to be improved in supplying the Fleet and Army employed against the United Colonies, and brought into the county of Plimouth. And the court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea coast of America, and brought into either of the counties of Plimouth, Barnstable Bristol, Nantucket or Dukes county, will be held at the court house in Plymouth on Thursday the 13th day of June 1776 at the hour of ten in the forenoon, to try the justice of the said capture, of which this notice is given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid to all persons claiming property in said

vessel or cargo, or any ways concerned therein, that they may appear and shew cause (if any they have) why the said vessel, with her cargo and appurtenances should not be condemned.¹

N. Cushing, Judge of said Court

1. *New-England Chronicle*, June 6, carried the same notice.

MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO WILLIAM BARTLETT¹

Sir

Boston 27 May 1776

Capt [John] Bradford of Boston having represented to the General that he has directions from a member of Congress, Robert Morris, Esqr one of the Marine Committee, to provide a good Vessel for Continental Service, you may therefore let him have the Brigantine you purchased for the Continent,² to be fitted for the intended Voyage as soon as may be I am &c
Joseph Ward A.D.C.

1. General Ward's Orderly Book, Joseph Ward Papers, ChHS.

2. The brig *Little Hannah*, which had been taken by Captain John Manley in Washington's schooner *Lee*, December 8, 1775. She was purchased by Bartlett, at Washington's direction, to be used as a vessel of war, but Manley decided the brig was not suitable for that purpose. Bradford subsequently named her the *Dispatch*.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

Boston, May 27, 1776

I am to inform your Excellency that Mr Bartlett the Agent at Beverly has purchased the Brigantine [*Little*] *Hannah* for the Continent, at five hundred and twenty pounds. Captain [John] Bradford of Boston having represented to me that he had an order from Robert Morris Esqr of Congress, and one of the Marine Committee, to provide a good sailing Vessel for Continental Service and that the Brigantine would answer the purpose, I have directed Mr Bartlett to let Capt Bradford have the Brigantine to fit her for the use of the Continent, as Mr. Morris writes that a Vessel is wanted to go a voyage upon particular business immediately.

In the late account I transmitted respecting the attempt the Pirates made upon the two armed Schooners in this Harbour, I mentioned that Major [John Gizzard] Frazers Schooner cut her cable and came up; Since I have learnt more particulars I think it appears that the little Schooner was bravely defended. The *Franklin* had twenty one men Officers included; the *Lady Washington* had seven, Captain [Joseph] Cunningham Commander, she was attacked by five Boats which were supposed to contain near or quite an hundred men, but after repeated efforts to board her they were beaten off by the intrepidity and exertions of the little Company who gloriously defended the *Lady* against the brutal Ravishers of Liberty. – I am your Excellency's [&c.]

Artemas Ward

1. Washington Papers, LC.

ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

[Braintree, 27 May 1776]

I took a ride last week and ventured just as far as the Stump of Liberty Tree. Roxbury looks more injured than Boston, that is the Houses look more torn to peices. I was astonished at the extensiveness of our lines and their strength. We have taken a most noble prize the inventory of which you have in the paper.² The poor Captain has since lost his life in a desperate ingagement with 13 Boats from the Men of War which attacked him and attempted to Board him, but by a most brave resistance they sunk four of the Boats and fought so warmly with their spears and small Arms as to oblige them to quit him, tho he had but 27 men and they 5 times his number. he unhappily fell and was the only one who did.³ Many dead bodies have since been taken up among whom is an officer.⁴ -We have now in fair sight of my unkells the commodore, a 36 Gun frigate, an other large vessel and 6 small craft. I hope after Election we shall have ways and means devised to drive of these Torments. Providence seems to have delivered into our Hands the very articles most needed, and at a time when when we were weak and not so well provided for as we could wish. We have two Row Gallies Building, and Men of Spirit to use them I dare say will be found. One engagement only whets their appetite for an other.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 415-18.2. The powder brig *Hope*.

3. Captain James Mugford.

4. Lieutenant Josiah Harris of the *Renown*.NICHOLAS BROWN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir.

Providence May. 27th 1776.

I received yours of the 17th Instant covering a letter from Robert Morris Esqr Chairman of the secret Committee of Congress, for the forwarding Fourteen Muskets in our hands belonging to the Continent in the most safe and Expeditious manner, ten of said Muskets with some swivels we had before put on board two valuable Vessels and Cargoes we lately Fitted for France on the Continental Service by which means we hope to prevent their being taken by any small boat or Barge as several have been for want thereof - The othe[r] four now send you by way of Norwich to the care of Christr Liffingwell Esqr to be Forwarded Immediately - this is the First Opportunity we could get to send them - I am for myself & Brother Jno Brown Your Excellency's [&c.]

Nich^{os} Brown

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, II, 21, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] Monday Evening May 27th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment -

Voted. That Capt John Hopkins write a letter to Capt Adams of Bos-

ton offering him to be first Lieut of one of the Ships buil[t] here and desire his answer as soon as may, or if Capt Ho[pkins] is well enough to go to Boston to Transact this Business the Committee will defray his Expences, If Capt Hop[kins] declines writing that Coll Bowen write him as Recom[']d to the Coll by Admiral Hopkins. –

Voted That Mr James Eldred of South Kingston be appointed Midshipman for one of the New Ships –

Voted That the sum of Eight pounds five shillings be paid Mr Joshua Hacker for 26 Water Casks –

Ord. Grantd.

Voted. That the sum of Fourteen pounds sixteen shillings & [illegible] pence be paid Mr Nathaniel Gilmore out of the Treasury Blacksmiths Work done for the ships Boats –

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS ¹

May 1776 Light House [on Montauk Point] WbN 1 Miles
 Tuesday 21 at 4 A M sett Top Gallt sails at 6 Block Island NW 6
 Leags Got the Spare Sails up to Air found a Bolt of Can-
 vas No 1 very well Six Yards of it entirely rotten and decay'd
 Block Island N5W 11 Leagues
 Mode & Clear at 4 P M saw a Sail to the SW gave Chace
 Wednesday 22 at 4 A M lost sight of the Chace handed Top Gallt sails at
 10 in 2nd reef Topsails
 Do N5.45E 29 Leagues
 Do Wr at 4 P M saw a Sail Gave Chace fired 15, 3 pdrs
 shotted to bring to the Chace 1½ past 8 spoke the Chace a
 Sloop from New London to the West Indies wth Flour and
 fish, 2 md Sail prize in Co
 Thursday 23 at 4 AM saw a Sail in the NE Gave Chace fired 5 3 pdrs to
 bring too the Chace at 8 Brot her too a Sloop from New
 York bound to the West Indies wth Flower Bread &ca. ³ at
 12 md Sl Prizes in Co
 Do No 3.46E 16 Leagues
 Light Breezes at 1 P M Brot too at 3 md Sail took one of
 Prizes in tow punished Geo. Corbett & Pete Elder (Seamen)
 with 12 Lashes each for theft.
 Friday 24 at 2 A M [out 1] reef Topsls 8 the Prizes in Co at 11 Fired a
 Swivell Shotted for the Sloop to bring too ½ pt repeated
 do with a 3 pd & 9 Pdr
 Do No 24.47E 20 Leags
 Modt and Cloudy at 2 P M TKd Prizes in Co
 Saturdy 25 at 4 A M wore Ship at 5 out 2nd Reefs at 11 Stay'd the
 Mast
 Do No 1.18W 23 Leags

Modt and Clear at 4 P M sounded 23 fm at 8 In 2nd reef
Topsails
Sunday 26 A M out reefs and sett Top Gallt Sails at 10 in Top Gallt
Sails
Block Island N40. 58W 21 Leags
First pt Modt and hazey Mid Foggy Latter fresh Breezes &
Rain at 3 P M brot too at 4 saw the Land at 6 in 2nd
reef Topsils & md Sail
Monday 27 at 6 A M out reefs at 12 parted Co with the prizes ⁴
Do N13,23W 23 Leags
Modt Breezes and Clear at 3 P M sett Top Gallt sails at 8
Brot too M[ain] sail to the Mast

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.
2. The sloop *Macaroni*, owned by Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. Testimony of Ebenezer Colefax: "That on the 22d of May last he was taken a prisoner in the sloop *Macaroni*, commanded by Captain John Arthur, belonging to Mr. Nathaniel Shaw, of New London, of which sloop he was mate. . . . That the vessel in which he was a prisoner arrived at Halifax on or about the 10th of June last . . . Does not know that any ship of war was left at Halifax, except the frigate which took him, called the *Cerberus*." Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th, I, 197, 198. In the Shaw Papers, Ledger No. 4, 107, YUL is a list of the *Macaroni*'s outward cargo, dated "1776 May." It lists 140 barrels of flour, 14 hogsheads of fish, 4.225 lb bread, 2½ barrels of pork, five barrels of beef 11½ m. of Shingles, and 3 Ct Staves.
3. The sloop *Annabella*, William Cook, master and owner, from Amboy, rather than New York, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
4. Neither the *Macaroni* nor the *Annabella* reached Halifax; at least there is no record of them in the Vice Admiralty Court there, where other prizes taken during the same cruise by the *Cerberus* were condemned.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Hartford 27th May 1776 –

Sir On consideration of the Advantageous Situation, and natural provisions & circumstances of the Harbour of New London, to render it a place of Safety for the Shipping of the Colony, as well as of the Continental fleet, We were induced to set ourselves to fortify it, at Mamacook, Winthrop's Neck and on the Rock, and height on Groton Side, places fit for the purpose, & were seeking the Cannon necessary, – At the time that other help failed – Providence smiled on our endeavours, – a Supply of Cannon & Stores was bro't into that harbour from New Providence by Commodore Hopkins – On receiving your Letter of the 17th of April last – enclosing one to the Comodr – after observing the Contents, sealing and enclosing it I transmitted the same to him – and early returned you intelligence of his proceedings relative thereto – In pursuance of the resolve of Congress – I directed twenty four of the Cannon left at New London to be mounted on Carriages, this work is accomplished, ten of them are put into their births on Groton Rock & Height ready for Use, the rest will be soon carried to Mamacook & the places where they are to be used – There are not eno' of them, yet so as to answer very good purposes, with them that we had before – I thought it my duty & necessary to write to the Comodore concerning the Cannon & such other of the Stores as are not necessary for the fleet and were

to be landed & left at New London – To my very great Surprise received for Answer the Comodore's Letter of the 21st instant & an Order by Messrs [Levi] Hollingsworth & [Thomas] Richardson to deliver them twenty of the heavy Cannon &c – whereof Copies are enclosed – Mr [Samuel] Huntington passing thro' this Town from Congress, informed me that the Order to the Comodore by those Gentlemen mentioned twenty of the heaviest Cannon he brought from New Providence to New London & had since carried to New Port – and that it was not intended to remove from us any of the Cannon left at New London – An Answer is returned by those two Gentlemen – with a denial to deliver the Cannon on his Order being sensible that the Honble Congress would justify my non compliance with his Order – not having even a Copy of theirs to him – That on a Candid consideration, he would approve my conduct. I do gratefully Acknowledge the Goodness of your Body In directing me to employ those Cannon in the defence of that Harbour & trust the same will not be taken from thence considering the Necessity and the Advantage they will be of for the Interest & safety of the united Colonies, as well as of this – to secure their fleet and the Navigation of the Sound are both obvious & important Objects –

Colo [Samuel] Mott an Experienced Surveyor, and Engineer employed in that Service the last War – at St John's the last Year & now in Erecting the works at New London – Whose Skill & integrity may be relied on – hath lately made a Map of the Harbour which is inclos'd – I flatter myself On Consideration of this Harbour in comparison with others it will meet the approbation & encouragement of Congress, to be fortified at a general Expence –

1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers), 66, I, 167, NA. Draft letter book copy is in Trumbull Papers XXIX, Letter Book IV, 48–49, ConnSL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Hartford, Monday, May 27th, 1776.

Col. Isaac Sears, who had been employed by this Board to purchase many articles of iron, cordage, rigging, for the use of the Colony brig *Defence*, a row-galley at N.Haven, and a ship building at Saybrook &c., had delivered his account for settlement. The same is examined and allowed, amounting to the sum of £ 776 3 6, L.money, and voted that an order be drawn on the Pay-Table for that sum. ²

But note: It appeared that he had sent to the Governor a further account containing the foregoing and other articles purchased since, so that this is to be considered as part, and his Honor having left the other at home, it is to be settled another time. *N. The rest allowed*, p. 47.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 403, 404.

2. Conn. Arch., 1st series, IX, 528, ConnSL.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

[Extract]

Ticonderoga May 27th 1776.

... The Cagnuaga Indians have sent an Express to our army demanding

assistance and threatning if they had not immediate Relief to join the Enemy. This being a true state of facts I beg you would send Coll. [Elias] Dayton, with his Regiment on as fast as possible. I beg you to write General Washington for more Troops and that you would please to order the armed vessels here to sail to the other end of the Lake immediately to keep command of the water I am this moment embarking at this place. The weakness of the Teams and badness of the weather has prevented our getting the Boats accross as soon as we expected. D General I am with much respect [&c.]

Jn° Sullivan

1. Washington Papers, LC.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER, FORT GEORGE ¹

Dear General,

New York, May 27. 1776

We arrived here safe yesterday Evening in your Post Chaise driven by Lewis. I was unwilling to give so much Trouble, and would have borrowed your Sulkey & driven my self; but good Mrs Schuyler insisted on a full Compliance with your Pleasure, as signify'd in your Letter, and I was oblig'd to submit; which I was afterwards very glad of, part of the Road being very Stoney & much gullied, where I should probably have overset & broke my own Bones, all the Skill & Dexterity of Lewis being no more than sufficient. Thro the Influence of your kind Recommendation to the Inn-keepers on the Road, we found a great Readiness to supply us with Change of Horses. Accept our Thankful Acknowledgements; they are all the Return we can at present make. – We congratulate you on the very valuable Prize made at Boston. They threaten us with a mighty Force from England & Germany. I trust that before the End of the Campaign, its Inefficacy will be apparent to all the World, & our Enemies become sick of their Projects, and the Freedom of America be established on the fir[m]est Foundation, its own Ability to defend it. May God bless & preserve you for all our Sakes, as [well as] for that of your dear Family. Mr. Carrol ² joins me in every hearty Wish for Prosperity & Felicity to you & yours. With the highest Esteem & Respect I am, Dear Sir [&c.]

B Franklin

1. Schuyler Mansion Documents, No. 7, NYSL.

2. Rev. John Carroll.

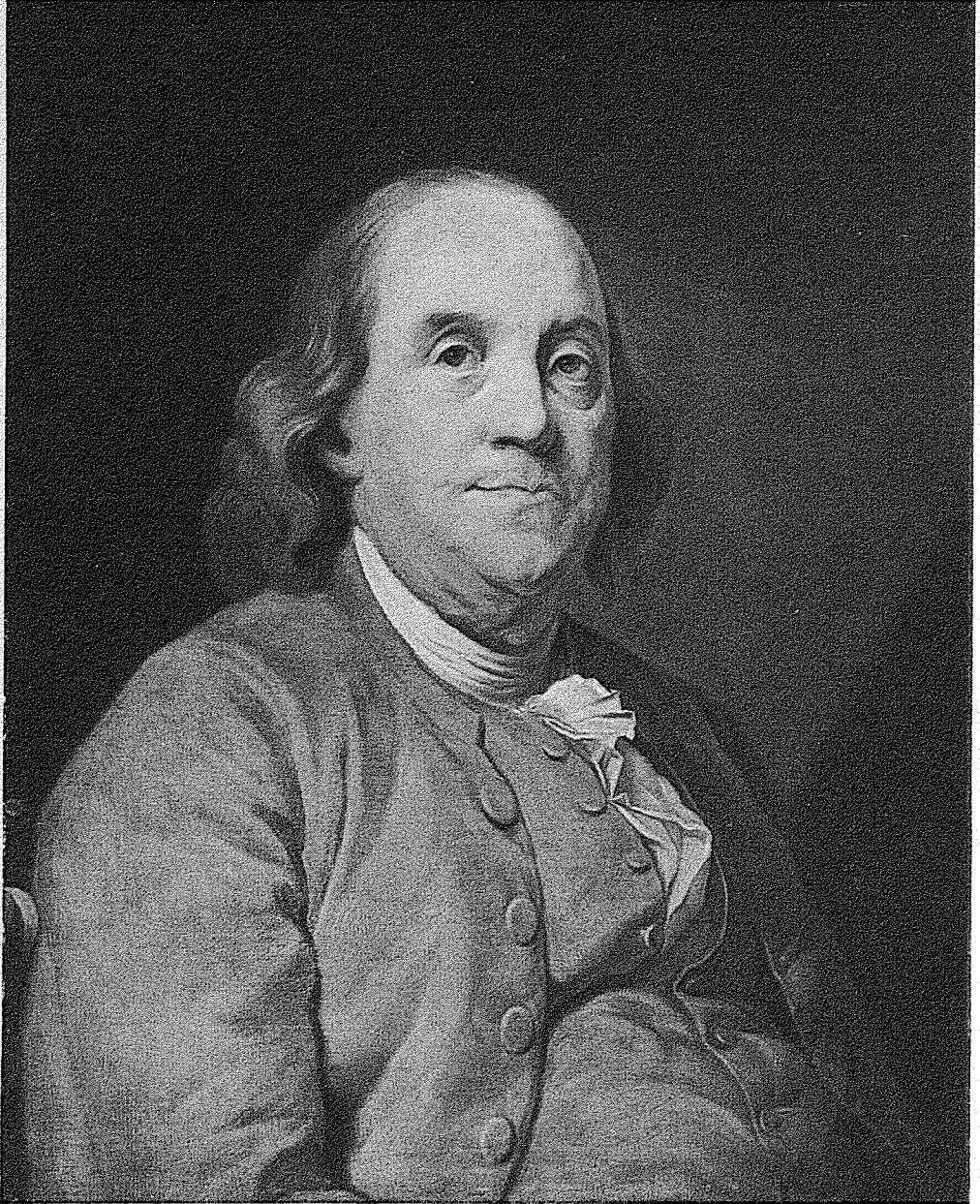
GENERAL ORDERS OF MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM ¹

[Extract]

[New York] May 27, 1776.

Capt. [Peter] Harwood is not to take any other men more than his own company, at present, from Col [Ebenezer] Learneds Regiment, to serve on board the whaling boats &ca – except by the consent of Lieut. Colonel [William] Shephard; whose Consent, the General imagined Capt. Harwood had obtained, when he gave him the order this morning.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V, 84, 85.



Benjamin Franklin.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 9 HO. A.M.

May 27th, 1776.

It was suggested to the Congress that some gentlemen are of the opinion that it would be advantageous for the defence of this Colony to impede the navigation between Redhook, on Nassau island, and Bedlow's island, if the same can be done. Therefore,

Ordered, That Colo. [William] Malcom and Capt. Daniel Shaw, and such persons as they shall think proper to take to their assistance for the purpose, be and they are hereby authorized to sound the depth of the water between Red Hook, on Nassau island, and Bedlow's island, and make report of their doings to this Congress; and that they apply to the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental troops in this Colony for permission to perform the said service without interruption or molestation from the troops on board.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 462.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, MAY 27, 1776

New York, May 27.

Two of the Continental Fleet sailed from Newport last Week, in Order to cruise in Boston Bay. ¹

The *Cerberus* Frigate watered at Block-Island on Sunday the 12th Instant, and chased some Fishing Boats into Newport this Day Week.

The Brig that was Consort with the *Cerberus* is said to be sailed for Halifax, with three prizes; ² some of them said to be from France.

1. The Continental brigs *Andrew Doria* and *Cabot*.

2. H.M. Brig *Diligent*.

THOMAS FITZSIMONS AND JOSEPH MOULDER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gent.,

Phila., May 27th, 1776.

Agreeable to a resolve of your Board, we have purchased two Vessels, one of which is now fitting up for an ammunition Vessel, the other undergoing some little repair, to make her fitt for a Victualler, both will be ready in three days.

Your directions are to man and fitt them, but it might be necessary to ascertain what Number of men you judge proper, and the Wages to be allowed to the commanders and men. We apprehend six men will be necessary for the Ammunition Vessel, as well on acc't of filling cattridges when wanted, as to carry ammunition to the boats during the time of action, on which acc't we apprehend this Vessel should be provided with a good Barge; we think it proper to wait the Committees determination on these points, which as soon as we are advised of, we will conform to. Martin

Wirt is well recommended as a Master for the Ammunition Vessel, & Jas. Simpson for the Victualer.

Thos. Fitzsimons.
Joseph Moulder.

Directed, To the Hon'ble the Committee of Safety.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 763.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 27th May, 1776.

The following Memorial to the Assembly was this day approved of, signed by the Chairman, & sent to the House:

To the Honorable the Representatives of the Free Men of the Province of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly Met:

The Memorial of the Committee of Safety of the said Province, Shewing:

That about the beginning of this Month, this Committee being advised that two of the King's Ships which for some time before, near Cape Henlopen, infested the trade of this Colony, had alter'd their stations there, and were proceeding up the River Delaware, they Issued orders to the officers of the armed Boats or Gondolas to stop their Progress; that in the engagements that succeeded it, some are of opinion that it was in the power of the Gondolas to have taken or destroyed the *Roebuck* of 44 Guns, one of the said Ships; but this was not done, and she return'd down the River to her former station. In a Variety of Opinions respecting the causes of the miscarriage, the Commanders of the Boats have, in a publication, attributed it to the Misconduct of this Committee, in not furnishing them with sufficient quantities of ammunition; by this accusation, the Committee have been in some Measure, rendered parties, Request your Honourable House will take the premises into consideration, and promote such an enquiry as shall satisfy the public where the blame & Misconduct is justly chargeable, and whatever shall be the determination respecting them, they will cheerfully acquiesce in it.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on John Nixon and others, the Committee of Accounts, in favor of Capt. Wm. Richards for four hundred pounds, to be charged to his account.

Resolved, That William Watkins be appointed Captain to one of the Guard Boats, &ca.

Resolved, That Robert Tatnall be appointed Captain to one of the Guard Boats, &ca. and his appointment to take place to-morrow.

Resolved, That the Committee meet to-morrow Evening at 7 o'clock, to consider of a proper Person to be appointed Commodore to the Fleet, and to take under consideration the Naval Armaments of this Province.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 582, 583.

PROTEST OF RICHARD JAMES, MASTER OF THE SNOW *Champion*¹

By this Public Instrument of Protest be it made known and Manifest unto All who shall See these presents or hear the same read that on the Twenty Seventh day of May in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred & Seventy Six Before Me James Humphreys Esquire Notary & Tabellion public of the province of Pennsylvania by lawful Authority duly Admitted and Sworn dwelling in the City of Philadelphia in the said province And One of His Majestys Justices of the peace for the City & County of Philadelphia personally Appeared Richard James Master of the Snow *Champion* now in this port of Philadelphia and being Sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God did Depose and say in manner following that is to say

That on the Twenty first day of May Instant, he Sailed in and with the said Snow, then having a Cargoe of Flour & Barr Iron on board, the Flour on Account of the province of Massachusetts Bay and the Iron on Account of Jonathan Glover from this Port of Philadelphia Bound to the first port in New-England he Could get into with Safety, and proceeded down the River delaware as low as Bombay Hook, where he Joined the Fleet then Outward bound Under Convoy of the Continental Brigantine of War *Lexington* John Barry Commander, the Ship *Reprizal* Lambert Weeks [Wickes] Commander and Armed Sloop; under whose Convoy he was to proceed out of the Capes of delaware, And there Came to an Anchor and lay One Tide, and on the Twenty third day of May They Sailed from Bombay hook and proceeded down Delaware bay Near as low as the Brandywine, And there Came to anchor that same Evening; That about Midnight a Boat from One of the said Armed Vessells Came along side the said Snow and informed this Appearer that Two English Men of War were then lying in the Road and 'twas Captain Barry's Orders, that All Vessells which drew too much water to go into Morris's River, should proceed up the River delaware as soon as possible, that this Appearer Acquainted the said Captain Barry, who was then lying near to the said Snow, that he was to go out thro' the Cape May Channell and was to Sail under his, the said Barry's Convoy, That Barry Replyed Unless the said Snow Could go into Morris's River it was his Order She should immediately proceed up the River Delaware. Upon which this Appearer was under the Necessity of immediately Weighing the said Snow's Anchor, She drawing too much Water to go into Morris's River, and Proceeding with her up the River delaware, and he Accordingly Came up the said River as high as Chester and there Came to anchor with the said Snow Yesterday, and from thence Came up in his boat to this port of Philadelphia, where he Arrived this Evening Wherefore he the said Master Richard James hath Protested and by these presents doth for himself his Owners Freightors, Merchants, Mariners and All Others Interested in the said Snow or her Cargoe, Solemnly Protest against All Losses damages, Costs, Charges, breaches of Bills of Lading, Contracts, Covenants and Agreements whatsoever Sustained and to be Sustained by reason of the Said Snow's being obliged to Return back and Proceed up the River delaware as aforesaid, and against

All Incidents and Consequents thereof. And persisting in the said Protest he the said Master hath set his hand hereunto dated the day & Year first within Written Thus done and Protested at Philadelphia aforesaid in the presence of James Humphreys Junr & Richard Baker

Richard James
Quod Attestor Manuel Sigillo Rogatus –
Ja^s Humphreys Notary Pub[lic] 1776

1. Privateers – Protests, MarbHS.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Lewistown, May the 27, 1776

In my last Letter to you, I acquainted you of *Roebuck* and *Liverpool* being in our Road, but on sixteenth they made sail and went to sea, and on Wednesday morning the 22, the *Liverpool* returned into our Road; on Friday 24, there came in sight a Snow, which the *Liverpool* took, altho' we gave her all the Signals that we could, she appears to be in ballast, and I think she does not belong to your Port, she had a White Ensign, with a Bunch of Red or Yellow Strips in the middle; ² on Saturday afternoon came over from Cape May, the *Waspe*, Capt. [Charles] Alexander, but soon returned; and on Sunday morning, the *Liverpool* and her prize made sail and went to sea. I am perswaded that the *Liverpool* was scar'd away from her Station. Capt. [John] Barry & Alexander were over in our Road in a few hours after she went out. I went on board to give them the best information that I could in regard to the *Liverpool*, upon which they went over to Cape May for the rest of their fleet, and now they are all over under our Cape in quest of the Pirate, and I am in hopes that in a short time they will give you a good acc't of her. I think it would not be amiss if you would send down one of your small Barges that carries a four Pounder, such a craft would be of Service here to Attack their Barges, when they are in chase of our vessels. Mr. Phill Moore, who this letter goes by, will inform you what I mean to doe with the Boat, and where I would have stationed. Having no more to add, I Remain, [&c.]

Henry Fisher

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 762–63.

2. The Spanish snow *St. Barbara*. See Appendix B.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

May 1776

Cape Henlopen W $\frac{1}{2}$ So 3 Legs

Monday 27 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 A M gave chase to 3 sail to the S W. fresh Gales and hazey made the chase to be [a] Ship a Brig and a sloop arm'd Vessels belonging to the Rebels ² 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 they hove too, cleard Ship and stood toward them. at 11 the Rebels made sail and stood in for the shore Shoal Water off Cape May. Do gave chase –

First and midle parts fresh Gales and hazey, at 1 gave over

chace and Wore Ship the Rebels having got into Shoal water where we could not follow them, being then in 4 fm Cape Henlopen WSW. 4 leagues Shortned Sail.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.
2. The Continental ship *Reprisal*, Lambert Wickes; Continental brig *Lexington*, John Barry, and Continental sloop *Hornet*, William Hallock.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE JR. TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Extract] In Commee Baltimore 27 May 1776.
Gentlemen. Captn John Sterrets Company of Militia being appointed an Independant Company, and Capt George Wells compy consisting chiefly of Ship carpenters employed in working on the continental frigate² having petitioned to be formed into an artillery Compy which we presume will be granted. . . .

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.
2. Later to be named the *Virginia*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹

May 1776	At a Single Anchor in Hampton Road, Virginia
Saturday 25th	Light airs and hazey, at 4 in the afternoon made the Signal for the fleet, weigh'd and made Sail, as did the <i>Fowey</i> and <i>Otter</i> with the fleet amounting to upwards of Ninety Sail: employed turning thro' Lynhaven bay:
Sunday 26th	at 11 AM 90 Sail in Company. Moderate and hazy weather, at 1 in the afternoon anchored off Gwins Island in 19 feet, and made the Signal for the fleet to run into the Harbour and Anchor, . . . at 10 weighed and dropped into deeper water, Anchored in 4 fathoms, and
Monday 27th	at 4 in the Morning sent the whole detachment of Marines on Shore to effect a landing on Gwin's Island, as well from the Sickly State of Lord Dunmores people, [as] to do Garri-son duty for the protection of the place.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

ROBERT WILLIAMS TO CORNELIUS HARTNETT¹

[Extract] Newbern May the 27th 1776.

Quere, If one company of Soldiers is sufficient to guard old Topsail Inlet, the Town of Beaufort and the Salt Works?

May not General Clinton after Securing his Landing at Cape fear, Send a Number of men in Transports to Core Sound in 24 hours Destroy the town of Beaufort and the Salt works, then march up And Secure Newberns &c witht opposition Secure the Numerous herds of Cattle on the Sea Coast while all the provincial Troops are kept at bay and doing of nothing at Cape Fear.?

1. Secretary of State Papers (Correspondence of Council of Safety), NCDAH.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES ¹

May 1776 in Willmington River Cape Fear No Caroline
 Wednesday 22 discharg'd the Highlanders to the *Glasgow Pacquett* & 16
 negroes Refugees by order of Sr Peter parker commodore
 Sailed down the River the *Glasgow Pacquett* and Watering
 Sloop
 Thursday 23 sent the boat at 9 to Row guard
 Friday 24 at 6 P M fired 4 four pounders at the Rebbels who seem'd
 to be Very [many] on shore Kept the Hand[s] at
 Quarters sent the boat to Row guard
 Saturday 25 at 9 P M sent the boat to row guard
 Sunday 26 at 5 P M weigh'd and came to sail down the River at 8 Do
 came too Anchor of[f] Brunswick near the *Falcon* Captn
 [John] Linzee the Church WBN
 Monday 27 At 9 A M fired 8 four pounders at a party of the Rebbels
 who was firing at us from Behind a breast work

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

RICHARD HUTSON TO ISAAC HAYNE ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town May 27th. 1776

The Town affords little news more than is contained in Well's Gazette wh I make no doubt you have received before this. The Diabolical Man of War, wh has been in our Offing for some time & wh did us the enormous Injury of burning the Prize has at length disappeared. It is generally imagined that she was sent from the Armament at North Carolina & that she has now returned to make her report.² If that was the case she has obtained ample means of information as Capt [Thomas] Moultrie's Five Bargemen went aboard her in his barge. The Barge was observed to be hoisted with the sails standing athwart the Bowsprit of the Man of War. & to hang there for a Whole day. I suppose by way of Bravado or perhaps as an innuendo of what they would do with the Owner if they could lay their hands on him – I have less & less opinion of our Soldiery & I expect that when it comes to the push we shall be obliged to do all ourselves – Most People seem to imagine that we shall have a Visit from the generals [Charles] Cornwallis & [Henry] Clinton, the latter end of this week on the Spring Tides. But I am rather inclined to think that they will suspend their Operations till the Result of the Consultation with the Commissioners is known.

To Isaac Hayne Esq at Hayne Hall, favored by Mr Clottworthy

1. Charles Woodward Hutson Papers, 1765–1777, UNCL typescript.

2. H.M.S. *Sphynx*, whose mission was as Hutson surmised.

28 May

American Gazette, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1776 ¹

Halifax, May 28.

Wednesday last was sent in here by the *Orpheus* Frigate, Capt. Ham-

mond [*sic* Charles Hudson], a French schooner, which by her course when taken was bound to Block Island near Connecticut.

Friday afternoon sailed the *Lively* man of war, Capt. [Thomas] Bishop.

The same evening sailed the Ship *Adamant*, Capt. Wilson, for London.

Saturday arrived the *Senegal* Sloop of War, Capt. [William] Duddington.

Sunday morning arrived the *Merlin* Sloop of War.

Sunday evening arrived the Brig *Elliot* Capt. Squires in 4 weeks and a few days, from London.

Since our last several Transports and Victuallers arrived here.

By the above vessels we hear, that a number of Transports with German Troops in his Majesty's service, on board, were seen going up the English Channel, the latter end of April ult. to join Admiral Howe who was expected to sail for America, about the middle of this month.

Sunday last arrived his Majesty's ship *Swan* from Newport, Rhode Island.

His Excellency Molyneux Shuldham, Esq; Rear Admiral of the White and Commander in Chief of the Navy in North-America, is appointed Vice Admiral of the Blue.

His Majesty has been pleased to make the following Promotions in the Land Forces now in America.

Major-General [Guy] Carl[e]ton, to be General in America only

Major-General [William] Howe to be General in America only, 1st Jan. 1776.

RICHARD HART TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE ¹

Dear sr

Portsmo May 28th 1776

I now acknowledge the rect of your favour observe what you say respecting the resolves of the Congress – I have Just heard, that the Gentn who had goods aboard the Brign,² have petition'd the congress – for an abatement of the Continental part of the salvage – if they have done it, & it is before the congress, (as the resolves say after four days possession the salvage is half) their goods was on board the Brign I think about ten days or more before she was retaken if there is any abatement, I hope the Brign & her cargo will be on the same footing, all the difference being she was Longer in the possession of the Enemy, but never Condemned, or even brought to tryal – however shall submit it to their Wisdom – & am wishing you your health &c. & am with sincerity [&c.]

R^d Hart

We have a fine ship, at her moorings. wish we had the Cannon &c –³

1. USNAM.

2. The *Elizabeth*, retaken by Washington's schooners *Hancock*, *Franklin*, *Lee* and *Lynch* and carried into Portsmouth April 3, 1776.

3. The Continental frigate recently launched.

NEWBURYPORT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO TRISTRAM DALTON ¹

Sir

Newburyport 28 May 1776

The Committee of Correspondence Inspection & Safety for the Town of Newburyport, would Beg Leave to Inform the Honble General Court, By you, that the Bearer of this Letter, one Mr Dalton was sent up to this Town by the Committee &c of Falmouth, with a Desire that he might be Sent down to the Honble Court, they Inform us that he was a Midshipman On board of the *Milford*, Was Taken in a Sloop that he was on board of Bound up to Boston, by one Capt Drinkwater, and Carried in to Falmouth. – he will Come down under the Care of Mr Davis, We are with Respects [&c.]

By Order of the Committee

Mich^l Hodge

To Tristram Dalton Esqr
Or any of the Representatives }
for the Town of Newbyport }

[Endorsed] In Council June 1st 1776. Read & order'd that the above named Philip Dalton be sent to Co[n]cord Goal, and that the Keeper of sd Goal be directed to grant sd Dalton the liberty of the Goal Yard on his giving his parole in writing that he will not pass without the limits of the same till the further order of the Council, or he be otherwise discharged by the Course of Law.

Perez Morton D Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 195, 19.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford* ¹

May 1776

Do [Cape Ann] Harbour No 4 or 5 Miles

Tuesday 28

Sounded 28 fam Coarse Sand & Stones

Fresh Breezes at 3 PM saw a Sail to the Etward made Sail and gave Chace ½ past 4 the Chace stood towards us, Brought too and clear'd Ship for Actn Chase proved to be His Majs Arm'd Ship *Canso* ² from Eng[land] for Boston.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. The diary of Dr. Thomas Moffat reads: "28th saw a sail and soon after the Land, it was the Ship of War *Millford* Captn [John] Burr who commanded Captn Mowatt to proceed to Halifax. The Land was Cape Anne. Took departure and observation at sunset wind contrary E N E." Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

JOHN FOSTER TO THE TOWN SERGEANT OF PROVIDENCE ¹

Colony of Rhode Island

Providence ss To the Town Serjeant of the Town of Providence
in the County of Providence Greeting

Whereas the General Assembly of said Colony have erected a Court to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coast of America and brought into said Colony: – and have ordered that such Vessels shall be tryed at said Court by a Jury to be drawn and empannelled in the same Manner as Jurors are directed to be drawn and empanelled to Serve at the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas in said Colony: – And Whereas the

Sloop called the *Two Friends* with her Appurtenances and Cargo are taken and brought into Providence in the County of Providence and are libelled in said Court and said to have been used or employed against the United Colonies of America: – And Whereas Monday the 17th Day of June AD 1776 at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon is the Time appointed for the Trial of said Vessel at said Court then to be holden at said Providence

Therefore pursuant to the Act of said General Assembly You are hereby commanded and Required forthwith to warn a Meeting of the Inhabitants of said Town of Providence on Monday the 3d Day of June next to draw Petit Jurors out of the Box to serve at said Court at the Time and Place appointed as abovesaid in such Manner as is provided for Returning Jurors to serve at the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas: – And you are hereby further required and commanded as soon as may be to give Notice in Writing to the Persons so drawn of the abovesaid Time and Place set for their Appearance at said Court and to make Return to Me with your Doings hereon at or before the abovesaid Time of Trial with the Names of the Jurors so drawn and Notified upon the Penalty of Ten Pounds for Failure herein – Given under my Hand and Seal in Providence this Twenty Eighth Day of May A.D. 1776 –

Jn^o Foster Judge of Court

1. Admiralty Papers, vol 9, 1776, R. I. Arch.

COLONEL HENRY BABCOCK TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Stonington 28th May 1776

Sir I should be extremely obliged to you, if you would please, to lay before the Honble the Continental Congress; the following Proposal; That I have leave to raise two Battalions of Marines, to consist of 500 Men each; and each Battalion to consist of 6 Company's, with a Capn Lieut to each Battalion. 4 Officers to a Company. – Make not the least Doubt, provided I have leave to name the Officers, that I raise the Men in two months; would recommend the paying two Months Pay advance, but that I leave to the Wisdom of the Congress –

I should expect the Rank of Brigadr Genl as the last War I had the Rank of Colo in the Years 58 and 59 – and 1,000 Men in my Regt; in the Glorious year 1759 Genl [Jeffrey] Amherst unsolicited, wrote Govr [Stephen] Hopkins the following Paragraph (viz/ "Whereas Colo Babcock has throughout the whole Campaign continually manifested his great Zeal for the Publick Service; I should not do him Justice, were I to omit giving him, this publick Testimony of it, and desiring You, to return him my particular Thanks for the same."

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, II, 185–86, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Hartford, May 28, 1776.

Voted, that orders be drawn in discharge of the following orders drawn

by Cap. Seth Harding of the brig *Defence*, presented and delivered in by the following drawees, viz:

One drawn by said Harding on Cap. Samll Squier in favor of Lt. [Samuel] Smedley of said brig, for so much as necessary to pay the marines their first months pay, dated N. Haven March 22, 1776, being as per indorsement received by said Smedley, of said Squier,	£	61	0	0
One do. of do. on said Squier, favor Thad. Burr Esqr, for beef, &c. for the brig		2	8	5¼
One do of do on do. favor of Edmund Barlow, for a drum for said brig, 7½ Dols. 6 May '76		2	5	0
One do. of do. on do. favor Hez. Sturgis, for plank and work for said brig, 28 April		2	10	3
One do. of do. on do. favor of Ebr Hubbel, for 4 days work at 6s.		1	4	0
Total	£	69	7	8¼

Order given 29th, delivered Capt. Squier

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 405.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Martis, 9 HO. A.M.

May 28th, 1776.

Colo. [William] Malcolm came into the Congress and reported the soundings between the Red Hook and the Pest island. The report was read.

Ordered, That it be returned to Colo. Malcom to be amended and reduced to a scale.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 464.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM¹

Sir:

Philadelphia, May 28, 1776

I received yours of the 24th Inst with its several Inclosures, & the Letter and Invoice from General Ward, giving Intelligence of the fortunate Capture made by our armed Vessels, on which Event you have my Congratulations.

I have wrote Genl Ward, as you will see by the inclosed Letter, (which having read, you will seal & send by Post) to send forward to New York, Colo [Rufus] Putnam's Demands, and also such Articles as Colo [Henry] Knox may apply for, out of the Cargo taken. In like Manner I have directed him to send me as soon as possible, Part of the Powder, & eight Hundred of the Carbines which will greatly assist in making up the Deficiency in this Instance. As to the Plan for employing the Armed Vessels, I have no Objection to it's being adopted, provided it will not frustrate the main Design for which they were fitted out. That I would by no Means have injured, as it is a Matter of much Importance to prevent a Correspondence between the disaffected & the Enemy & the latter from getting Sup-

plies of Provisions; but if this End can be answered, & the other Advantages in the plan mentioned, it is certainly an eligible one.²

The great Variety of Business in which Congress are engaged, has prevented our settling what I was requested to attend for, tho' we have made several Attempts, & a Committee has been appointed for the Purpose Day after Day, nor can I say with Precision when I shall be at liberty to return. I must, therefore, pray your Attention & Vigilance to every necessary Work and further, if you should receive, before I come, certain Advices and such as you can rely on, of the Enemy's being on the Coast or approaching New York, that you inform me thereof by Express, as early as possible. I do not wish an Alarm to be given me without Foundation; but as soon as you are certified of their coming, that it be instantly communicated to me, & Orders given the Express who comes, to bespeak at the different necessary Stages on the Road, as many Horses, as may be proper for facilitating my Return, & that of the Gentlemen with me, with the greatest Expedition. I am &c.

G. Washington

P S I desire you'll speak to the several Colls, & hurry them to get their Colours done.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. See plan under May 24, 1776.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON¹

[Extract]

My Dear Sir

Philadelphia, May 28, 1776

Your two favours of 11th and 12th current came duly to hand: I rejoice to find your ship the most forward of any except those at Providence, but I very much fear you'll still wait for guns if they are not to be had at Providence as I mentioned in my last. I have still kept off the appointment of an Agent in hopes of fixing the appointmt to your mind. I have nominated the Captain² who is unanimously accepted by the Committee, but the sanction of Congress is still wanting which I think there is no doubt of. the attention of Congress has been taken up for some days in conference with General Washington, as [to] the plans of operations for this campaign – so soon as that is finished and the conference with the Chiefs of the Six Nations, who are now there, naval matters will be attended to, but I shall be glad of an answer to one of my letters wherein I wrote freely of those you proposed for officers, before I nominate them.

I observe there is a number of sand bags on board the prize carried into Boston – will they not make hammocks? Bread and salt, salt provisions, will be furnished from Boston.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. Captain Thomas Thompson, to command the frigate built by Langdon at Portsmouth.

SURGEON WILLIAM ADAMS TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

To the Honourable the Delegates of the thirteen united Colonies in Congress assembled –

The Petition of William Adams Surgeon in the Continental Naval Service
Humbly Sheweth

That Your Petitioner had the Honour to be appointed Surgeon in the Service of this Continent on Board the Armed Sloop the *Hornet* . . . That he Conceives he could afford more Considerable Services to his Country in a fighting Capacity That anxious to Contribute his Assistance, towards Repelling the hostile Invasions of the Enemies of America, he was an Early Associator in the third Battalion of this City; in one Company of which Battalion he acted as an Officer – That he hath a very large and extensive Acquaintance in this Province and notwithstanding the present Scarcity of Men is firmly persuaded that he Could in a very Short Time raise a Company – That your Petitioner understands that some Companies of Marines are now to be raised for the Frigates building for the Defence of this Continent and as he begs Leave to resign his Commission of Surgeon Requests that your Honours would be pleased to appoint him to the Command of One of said Companies And he begs Leave to assure your Honours that if in Case of any Engagement his Assistance should be wanted or required by the Surgeon he will ever be ready to afford it and hopes his Conduct in either Capacity will be serviceable to his Country and merit the Approbation of your Honours –

Philada May. 28. 1776 –

William Adams

I. Papers CC (Petitions addressed to Congress), 42, I, 11–12, NA.

VOTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY ¹

[Philadelphia] May 28, 1776.

A Memorial of the Committee of Safety ² was presented to the House and read, setting forth, that, about the Beginning of this Month, being advised two of the King's Ships laying near Cape Henlopen, infesting the Trade of this Colony, were proceeding up the River Delaware, the Committee issued Orders, to the Officers of the armed Boats, to stop their Progress: – That, in the Engagements that ensued, some were of Opinion, it was in the Power of the Gondolas to have taken the *Roebuck*, one of the said Ships, which was not done. In a Variety of Opinions, respecting the Cause of this Miscarriage, the Commanders of the armed Boats have, in a Publication, attributed it to the Misconduct of the Committee, in not furnishing them with sufficient Quantities of Ammunition. They request the House will promote such an Enquiry, as will satisfy the Public, where the Blame and Misconduct is justly chargeable. *Ordered to lie on the Table.*

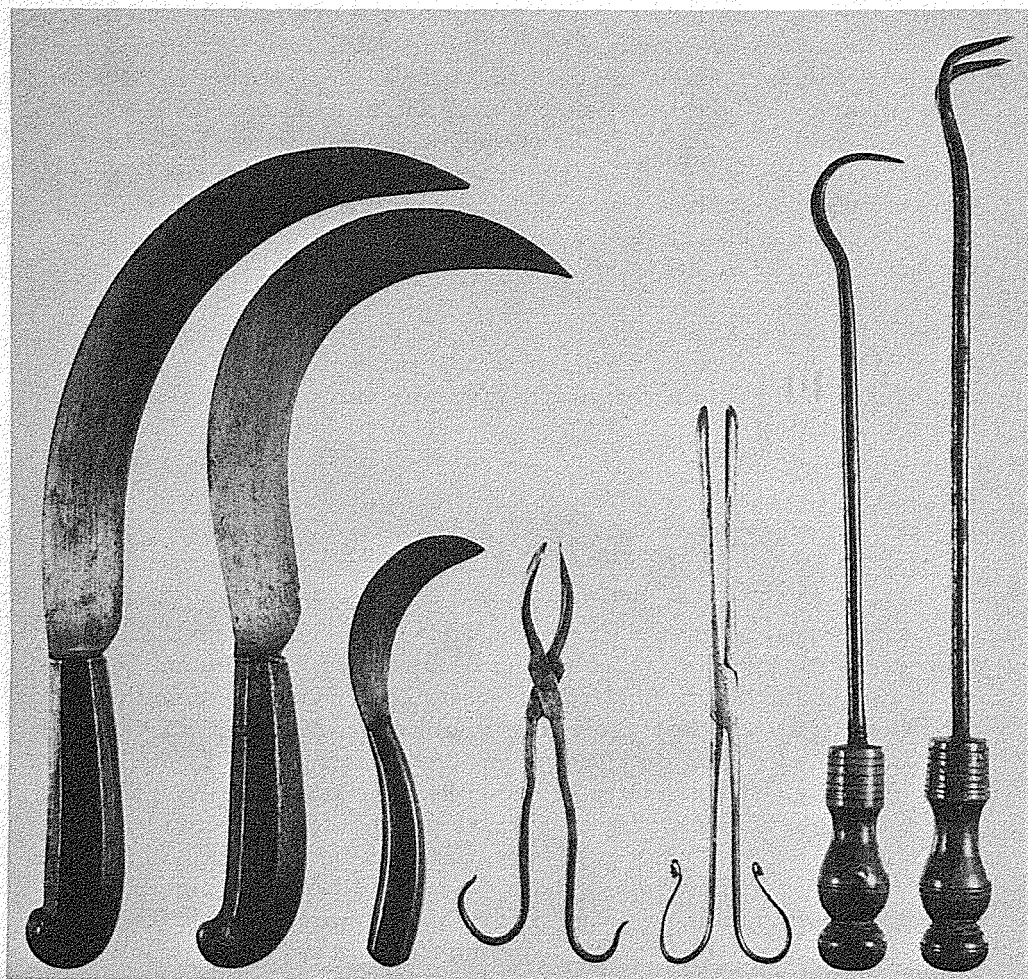
Upon Motion,

Resolved, That the Committee of Safety be directed to lay before this House, as soon as possible, an Account of the Preparations of every Kind, already made or now making by them, for the Defence of this Colony.

The House adjourned to Three o'Clock in the Afternoon.

The House met, pursuant to Adjournment.

The House resuming the Consideration of the Memorial of the Committee of Safety presented in the Morning,



Revolutionary War surgical instruments of Dr. Benjamin Treadwell. (Left to right) Three amputation knives, forceps, bullet extractor and two traction hooks.

Ordered, That Mr. [Thomas] Potts, Mr. [Jonathan] Roberts, Mr. [William] Rodman, Mr. [Gerardus] Wynkoop, Mr. [John] Foulke, Mr. [Benjamin] Chapman, Mr. [David] Twynning, Mr. Brown, Mr. [Thomas] Jenks [Jr.], Mr. [Isaac] Pearson, Mr. [Charles] Humphreys, Mr. [Joseph] Pennock, Mr. Pyle, Mr. Porter, Mr. [Bertram] Galbreath, Mr. [James] Ewing, Mr. [Samuel] Eddy, Mr. [James] Rankin, Mr. [Jonathan] Hoge, Mr. Whitehill, Mr. Chreist, Mr. Haller, Mr. [John] Leshner, Mr. Kachlein, Mr. James Allen, Mr. [Jacob] Arndt, Mr. [James] Potter, with the Speaker, be a Committee to enquire into the Conduct of the Committee of Safety, respecting the Charge made against them, by the Captains of the armed Boats, and other Matters relative to the Engagement between the said armed Boats and the King's Ships, in the River Delaware.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 8th series, VIII, 7521-7524.

2. See Memorial in minutes of the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, May 27, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety

Philad'a, 28th May, 1776.

By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Jno. Nixon, Esq'r, & others, the Committee of Accounts, in favour of Timothy Shaler for two pounds, being the amount of his account against some of the Prisoners taken by Capt. [John] Barry, which is directed to be Charged to account of Congress.

Resolved, That Martin Wert be appointed Master of the ammunition Vessel, at five pounds per Month & two Rations.

That James Simpson be appointed Master of the Provision Vessel, at five pounds p Month & two Rations.

That Mr. Fitzsimmons & Capt. Moulder, be requested to cause the said Vessels to be immediately equip'd for service, & Man them with one Mate to each, at 12 doll'rs p month, & 1 Ration of Provisions, who is to do the Duty of a Clerk, and keep an exact account of all Stores receiv'd on Board and deliver'd out, and to whom; and five Men to the ammunition Vessel, and three to the provision Vessel, at Seven Dollars per Month and one Ration each, and to provide a four Oar'd boat for each of the said Vessels.

Resolved, That the Fire Sloop be manned with

1 Captain, & that he be allowed 26 $\frac{2}{3}$ Dollars p month & 3 Rations.

1 Lieutenant, & that he be allowed 18 Dollars p mon. & 2 Rations.

2 Men, to be allowed 7 Doll'rs p mon. & 4 doll'rs bounty each.

That in time of Service the said Sloop be manned by Volunteers from the Fleet.

That the Officers & Men belonging to the Fire Sloop and Guard Boats & Fire Rafts, draw their Rations from the Commissary.

That each Guard Boat be manned with

1 Captain, & that he be allowed 26 $\frac{2}{3}$ Dollars p month & 3 Rations.

1 Gunner, & that he be allowed 19 ditto p month.

11 Privates, & that they be allowed 7 ditto p. do. & 4 doll'rs bounty each.

proper to send them before or should they be already Sail'd, You may depend upon my Utmost care of them. I am, Gentlⁿm [&c.]

James Nicholson

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.
2. Former first lieutenant of the *Defence*, who resigned to accept the position of commodore in the Virginia Navy.
3. The Wicomico River, running into the Potomac not far from its mouth.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Off Wecomoco Mouth May 28th 1776

Gentlⁿ

Two hours since I wrote you, Since which have discovered five Sail of Topsail Vessels which had been at An Anchor off Windmill point one of them Wears A broad pendt suppose the Commadore. She & another Capital Ship is now under way Standing up the Bay, we apprehend there may be a Fleet under Windmill point at anchor as we heard the Commadore fire A Gun the Signal for Weighing. I am now halling my Wind down the Bay, to make all the discovery I can & expect momentarily to be chas'd but depend on my heals, Shall as soon as Satisfied [of] their Number & the Course they Steer make the best of my way up. I am Gentlⁿ yrs to Commd

James Nicholson

Since Writing the Enclosed have discovered the Ships under way. I have stood into floods Bay. the Commadore still continues at an Anchor If I find it Necessary the Country shou'd be Alarmd I will fire A Gun every 15 Minutes as I [come] up the Bay without which they need not [torn.]

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE, R.N. ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr &ca

You are hereby required and directed to proceed to Sea, without loss of time with his Majesty's Sloop under your command and cruize off of the Capes of Virginia, and from thence to Hampton Road, taking care to place your ship in the Best situation for speaking with all Vessels bound in or going out.

And whereas his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore has acquainted me that, he is in daily expectation of the arrival of a Brig laden with Provisions from the West Indies for the use of the Troops under his Lordships command, and as it is of the highest consequence that she should be informed of the removal of the Fleet from Norfolk; You are to keep a particular look out for the Said Vessel, and if you are so fortunate as to meet with her, you will conduct her safe to this place.

You are to remain on this Service for fourteen days, unless I should find it necessary for his Majesty's Service to recall you sooner –

Given under my hand on board his Majestys Ship
the *Roebuck* off of Gwins Island, Chesapeak bay -
Virginia 28 May 1776

A S Hamond.

N B. Deld the new Private Signals same time
To Captain Squire commander of his Majs Sloop the *Otter*

1. Hamond, Orders issued, 1776-1777, UVL.

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF WEST FLORIDA ¹

[Extract]

Pensacola 28th May 1776

His Excellency ² informed the Board that since he had met them last together he had received a Letter from Sir Basil Keith the Governor of Jamaica an Extract of which is as follows, to wit - "Tho' I think the Rebel Ships under Hopkins will not venture into the Gulph of Mexico and that you certainly have had information of them - and of their transactions at the Bahamas Nevertheless for fear of Accidents I send you Copies of Captain Barkleys Letter to Admiral Gayton - [Andrew] Breedon's information and a List of their Ships with a description of them as also Letters from Admiral Gayton and Governor Tonyn confirming the Said Reports["] ³

His Excellency the Governor then desired to know if there was any thing farther to be done for the support of this place than was mentioned last Council day -

The Gentlemen of the Council were of opinion that the Howitzers Mortars the twelves Nines and six Pounders should be brought up from the Red Clifts Tartar Point and Rose Island with a proper Quantity of Powder and shot for each Gun and when those are all brought here then to bring up four or six of the Large Guns, And that the Commanding Officer of the Troops be requested to give directions to the Commanding Officer of the Artillery to have the same put into Execution without delay As also that the Store keeper of the Board of Ordnance do give his Attendance and Assistance upon the Occasion -

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/634, LC Photocopy.

2. Governor Peter Chester.

3. See Barkley to Gayton; Volume 4, 443-45.

29 May

GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON TO CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N. ¹

Duplicate/
Copy

Off Champlain May the 29th 1776

Sir As soon as I can form a Magazine, or have up victualling Ships sufficient for the Army, I purpose marching the Troops by Land, at least such of them as are in Ships of too great a Draught of Water, or who may not have favorable Winds: for this Purpose a number of boats will be absolutely necessary, both for Transporting their Baggage, and passing the Troops across from one shore to another as the Service may require, You will perceive that to carry on these operations at our ease, it will be necessary to have the

entire command of the River, I think what force we have already would be fully sufficient was it not for the different Channels in the Lake, & the Difficulty of passing from one to the other; I shall therefore be much obliged to you if you will assist us, in those two points: first in sending up some Ships of force, of a draught of Water easy enough for Lake St Peter, and one that might lie near Trois Rivières, also in equipping our Boats and forwarding them with the Troops as they may arrive for where the Wind fails them, they must quit their Ships, I am with much regard &c

(sign'd) Guy Carleton

P.S. As a large force is at hand, I shall move beyond three Rivers, which I have mentioned to Captain [Henry Harvey] Hervey he appears very desirous for forwarding the Service but thinks it regular that you should enlarge your Instructions to him tho' he does not mean to delay the Service on that account, should the Wind favour us.

G C

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125, 15d.

CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Carysfort, Quebec, the 29 May 1776

My Letter of the 8th of April off Cork, (sent onshore by the Pilot) informed you of my having sailed thence with the fleet under my Convoy – I have now the pleasure to inform you of our safe arrival at Quebec, and of our finding that important place in possession of his Majestys troops –

On the 23d of May we were joined off the Isle Bic by a Sloop with Pilots, and on the night of the 27th all our fleet (except five sail which parted company in a fog off the S E part of Newfoundland) had reached Quebec, and several of the head most ships had by that time advanced, with the East wind which then blew, to a considerable distance above it – for their subsequent proceedings I must beg leave to refer you to Captain [Charles] Douglas of his Majestys ship *Isis* whom we found here. I am Sir [&c.]

Rob^t Fanshawe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1790, 22, 16.

PETITION OF WILLIAM GREENLEAF TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL COURT¹

To the Honorable the Council and to the Honble the House of Representatives of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in General Court Assembled at Watertown the 29th day of May 1776

The Humble Petition of William Greenleaf, Sheriff of the County of Suffolk in said Colony, sheweth, That on the twenty first day of May instant, "a Court erected to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the sea-coast of America," was held for the trial and condemnation of a certain Snow named the *Industry*, Laden with Rum, Sugar, Coffee &c design'd for a supply of the Enemies of the United Colonies in America, which was brought into the said County of Suffolk, by certain Boats fitted out for that purpose from Cohasset; That the said Snow with her Cargo &c was then and their by the Decree of the Honble Timothy Pickering, Junr Esqr Judge

of said Court, Condemned as Lawful Prize. — That on the request of your Petitioner to the said Judge, for his Warrant to impower him to sell the said Snow and Cargo at Public Vendue as the Law directs; your petitioner was promised, that a Warrant should be given him for that purpose. That on the twenty second day of said May, your petitioner waited on the said Judge, for his Warrant, when, to his great surprize, he was informed that, Nathaniel Tucker the Agent who was employed by the Captors of the said Snow and Cargo having applied to the said Judge for his license to dispose of the said prize himself, he had granted said request, and therefore could not deliver to your petitioner, the Warrant which he had promised him, and which your Petitioner apprehends he had by Law undoubted right to claim. That your petitioner apprehends the denial of the Warrant to him, and giving it to said Tucker, who has disposed of the Ship and Cargo with the Appurtenances; not only unjustly, deprives your Officer of his lawful fees; but also reflects much dishonor upon him, and opens a door for great fraud. Your Petitioner therefore prays, that your honors would take this case into your Consideration, and condescend to make such further explanations of the Law, as shall exclude all possible doubt, and your petitioner be paid by the said Tucker the just and lawful fees, which he would have had, if the sale of sd Vessel and Cargo had been sold by your petitioner according to Law — And as in duty bound &c.

W^m Greenleaf

I. Mass. Arch., vol. 181, 39, 40.

MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Boston 29 May 1776

Sir Yours of the 16th Instant inclosing a Resolution of Congress to withdraw all allegiance from the British King, I have received; and thank you for them.

You request that I would strain every nerve to fortify the Harbour — I have done it to the utmost of my power, — but you know my power is small. —

You ask, Sir, if fire Ships and fire Rafts cannot be employed to drive the Ships to Sea? — and whether Gallies would not be useful? — I have contemplated the subject with great attention ever since we entered the Town, — fire Ships and Rafts I think would not answer, the current is not rapid enough; Gallies of a proper construction with heavy cannon & Howits I believe would answer admirably well; — but my plan is to plant Cannon upon the Islands within reach of the Ships, and drive them from Island to Island until we force them out of the Harbour. — This plan I would have pursued long since, if my superior would have permitted.² Perhaps it is best as it is, — but from the first entering the Town I have been zealous for such a movement, and intended to have had the honour of directing it. — Shells would be the best things to attack the Ships with, but we have no proper Mortars for that purpose. A man from Halifax informed us that he learned there that the Enemy threw a good Mortar into a well in this Town,

and I have had a number of wells, which were tho't to be most likely, searched, but can't yet find it. The reasons urged for not attacking the Ships now, are, the Castle not being sufficiently fortified, and other works must be neglected in some degree, by turning our attention to this enterprize; – that we ought not to waste any time in other pursuits until the great object of securing the Town & Harbour is accomplished, lest a formidable armament should arrive before our works are ready to give them a proper reception. The Pirate Ships have not yet done any great damage by lying in Nantasket, but it is very disagreeable to see them there, and insulting to our navigation and to our Dignity.

I think the Resolution of Congress which you inclosed, brings us within one step of Independence, the next step I trust will be taken in due time.

[Endorsed] Ward, May 29. 1776

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. Ward was secretary to his relative, Major General Artemas Ward.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

May 1776	Latitude In 38. .59	Longitude In 62. .34
Sunday 26	Fresh Breezes & heazy Weather, with a Swell from the Eastward Under Close Reef Topsails, At 12 MN the Barge got out of the Chocks & had like to kill one of the Seaman that was Sleeping under it	
Monday 27th	39. .35	60. .27
	Fresh Breezes & thick close Weather attended, with rain and a Great Swell from the Eastward, At 10 Tack'd to Northward, At Meridian Tack'd to the Southward, Thick Close Weather – At Meridian the Ile Sable Bore N13E Distance 292 Miles by Estimation	
	Moderate Breezes & dark Weather the first part of this 24 Hours, the latter fresh Breezes & thick Weather, accompanied with rain, At 8 P M Tack'd to the N	
Tuesday 28	40. .03	58. .44
	At 4 A M, Sett T G Sails & Steering sails, at Meridian In T G sails & Steering sails	
	Fresh Breezes and Squally with Rain	
Wednesday 29	At 4 A M Saw two Ships to the North'd, Made Sail and Hauld, our Wind to the North'd, At 6 Do Brought the Northermost too, a Ship from Glasgow, bound to Boston with 100 Highland troops on Board & officers, ² made her hoist her Boat out & the Capt came on board, detain'd the Boat, till we Brought the other too, from Glasgow with the same number of troops, ³ went on board and sent the Capt and four Men on board the Brig, receiv'd orders for sending, all the troops, on board the other ship and sent Prize master with Eleven Hands Sent all the Arms on board the Brig from both Ships, two Hundred & odd	

Light airs & Calm all this 24 Hours, At 6 P M gott all the Troops out on board the other Transport, and made sail to the S W, The Brig & ship in Company,

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. For *Andrew Doria* journal see Appendix C, Volume 4.
2. The ship *Oxford*.
3. The ship *Crawford*. James Josiah went on board as prize master. The journal of *Andrew Doria*, kept by Josiah, actually ends and that of the *Crawford* begins.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT JOHN TREVETT ¹

[May 12 to May 29]²

May 1776: – I am now a bout to begin a new cruise in the Continental Brig *Andrew Doria*, Nicholas Biddle, Esq., Commander. we took 3 prizes, 2 of them large transport Ships, bound from Glasgow to Boston; we captured them on the banks of Newfoundland. After we took on board as many of the [prin]cipal officers as we had room for, and all their warlike stores, we took out all the Soldiers, which amounted to 220, besides Sailors, Women and Children, how many, there were, I never knew. Lieut. James Josiah went Prize Master of one of them, and Lieut. [John] MacDougal of New York, the other. I went on board with MacDougal in the capacity of Mate and we had about 300 on board;

1. Trevett's Journal, NHS.
2. The beginning date of May 12, 1776 is surmised. That day Biddle parted with the detachment from the army, which had been serving as Marines.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Wednesday Evening May 29th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment –

Voted. That Mr Saml Shaw of Bridgwater be appointed a midshipman on Board the Largest Ship

Voted. That Mr William Jennison of Mendon be appointed first Lieutenant of Marines for one of the New ships of War fitting hear, on his Inlisting Twenty five good Men in one Month from this date, that shall pass muster by the Committee. –

Voted. That Henry Ward Esqr get Two Hundred of the Continental Congress Invitations to the Seamen Printed on the most reasonable Termes he can immediately.

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

KENNETH MCCLOUD TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir

Providence 29 May 1776

Plese to Let me Know Wheather you Station me ashore in the forte or on Board the Ship if on Board the Ship; I would take the office of Quarter mastr if you Please But i am Content Ether Way for i am Determind to Stay

By you So Long as i Recive the Same Good treatment as i always Have from you But Capt Saltison [Dudley Saltonstall] i will Not Saile with But you i Can Saile So Long is i Live this from your – [&c.]

Ken[neth] McCloud ²

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. He entered in the *Alfred* January 3, 1776 as an able seaman, and is listed in the muster roll as "Kennet McCloud." *Alfred's Muster Roll*, R. I. Arch.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

New London May 29 1776

To Admiral Hopkins
att Providence

Inclosed is an Accot of the Money I have advanced the people who sailed yesterday in the *Providence* £15.1.4 for Providence hope will arrive safe in the Accot sent you by Sargt Hambleton [William Hamilton] of what was advanced their people a p[r] trousers to Richd Owen was omitted Robt Rich of the *Alfred* had a Blanket belonging to John Hannah deceased, Sam Farguson of the *Providence* & Sam Williams of the *Alfred* had each a pr Shoes 7/ & sett out by Land to come on board, at Providence Will Stewart that Sett out with Hambleton had a Shirt that was omitted in that Accot 7/10 – There is now Eighteen in the Hospitle the most of which will in a few days be able to sett out for Providence I am Sir [&c.]

N Shaw Junr

1. Shaw Collection, Letter Book, YUL.

Connecticut Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1776

New-Haven, May 29.

This morning was launched in our ha[r]bour, a Row Galley. She is called the *Whiting*, and the command of her is given to Capt. John M'Clieve.

LIEUTENANT JOHN HOLIDAY TO BRIGADIER GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE ¹

Sir –

Far Rockway May 29th 1776

I Send you three Prisoners, whose testimony, and the circumstances against them, Gives me the Strongest Reason to Believe the[y] came for a supply of provisions or some other Necessarys for the Enemy –

Last Sunday we saw them Come with a Sloop from the west, and go toward the East end of the Island – I sent a sergeant and twelve men after them, to take them if the[y] Came in any of the inlets – about fourteen miles to the eastard the[y] came in sight of the sloop where she was anchored, and the[y] got Boats and went in to where the sloop Lay and took these prisoners and [sixteen] firlocks, which the prisoners say belongs to men that Left them Sunday evening which I suppose to be after Loading for the Sloop – I am Sir [&c.]

Jn° Holiday Lieu

1. Washington Papers, LC. See Gilbert Jones's Report, May 26, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 9 HO. A.M.

May 29th, 1776.²

A letter from William Smith, Esquire, of Suffolk county, of the 25th instant, informing Congress by the request of a meeting of the committee of Brookhaven, Manor of St. George, and Patenteeship of Meritches, and informing Congress that there is a communication kept up between Winthrop's patent and the ships of war at Sandy Hook, and that men, water, oysters and clams, are carried from the inlet at South Bay on board the men of war.

Ordered, That Mr. [Thomas] Randall and Mr. Gelston be a committee to wait on General [Israel] Putnam and confer with [him] on the subject of said letter.

The gentlemen returned and reported that the General had read the letter from Mr. Smith, and was much displeased when informed that the armed vessels had not sailed, and said that he would give immediate orders that they take their stations, but did not say that he would give any particular directions as to that inlet.²

Colo. Malcom brought into Congress a draft containing the soundings of the depth of Water in the channel between Red Hook & Bedlow's island.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 466.

2. This date Putnam ordered one man from each regiment to go on board the armed schooner *Mifflin*: "These men are to be such as best understand the business." Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, May 29, 1776

A petition from Captain W. Budden was presented to Congress and read; Whereupon,

Resolved, That midshipman [John] Draper² be offered in exchange for Captain W[illiam] Budden.

The committee appointed to confer with his Excellency General Washington, Major General [Horatio] Gates and Brigadier General [Thomas] Mifflin, brought in a farther report, which was read:

Whereupon,

Resolved, That an animated address be published to impress the minds of the people with the necessity of their now stepping forward to save their country, their freedom and property.

That a committee of four be appointed to prepare the address.

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, and Mr. [Edward] Rutledge.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Walter Stewart, for his expences in going on board the *Liverpool* frigate, the sum of 8 15/90 dollars:³

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 398-99, 401-02, 403.

2. Midshipman of the captured sloop tender *Edward*.

3. For his fruitless trip to receive Mrs. Henry Bellew and convey her to Philadelphia.

CAESAR RODNEY TO THOMAS RODNEY ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia May 29th 1776

Mr. Ball the Lieutt. is now fixed at Germantown. Since the return of the *Liverpool* into our Capes, there has been another attempt of the Committee of Safety here, to have Ball Exchanged for Captn. Budden, but Totally rejected by Congress –

1. Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney*, 85.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety

[Philadelphia] 29th May, 1776.

Capt. [James] Montgomery appear'd this day, agreeable to orders, and acquaints this Board that the reason of his removing from his Boat was in Consequence of leave obtain'd from the Commodore, and now applies to have such charge confirm'd; Therefore,

Resolved, That he, the said Capt. James Montgomery, take the Command of the *Chatham* in the Room of the *Ranger* Armed Boat.

Upon application of Robert Morris, Esq'r, for the payment of an order drawn on this Committee in his favour, by Stephen Ceronio, and in Consequence of a Resolve of this Board at the 24th inst., By order of the Board, an order was drawn on John Nixon, Esq'r, & others, the Committee of Accounts, for the payment of said order, Amounting to nine thousand Dollars.

The following Instructions to Capt. [Thomas] Read for the better Government of the Navy now under his Command, was this day drawn up, approved of, and sent him:

Sir:

We think it proper to acquaint you that Commodore [Andrew] Caldwell has, by his letter of the 27th Inst., resign'd the Command of the Fleet, as his ill state of health will not admit of his giving that attendance which the critical situation of Public affairs require.

The Chief command of the Fleet, consequently, for the present devolves upon you, and you are hereby directed to see all the orders from this Board or from the Assembly strictly executed. As there is the greatest Reason to apprehend an immediate attack, we think it absolutely necessary that the whole Fleet under your command be in constant readiness.

As the safety of this city & Province depends chiefly upon the armament under your command, we direct you to pay the strictest attention to the duties of your important station, and to establish, such Regulations as will conduce to promote good order and discipline, without which no military establishment can long subsist.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 586, 587.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1776

Philadelphia, May 29.

A letter from Providence, dated the 21st inst. mentions, among other articles on board the transport lately taken by Captain Mugford, a large quantity of breast-plates, said to be bullet-proof; about 300 l. sterl. worth of dry goods, and a quantity of provisions.

LIEUTENANT ISAIAH ROBINSON TO A MEMBER OF THE
BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Sir,

Philadelphia, May 29, 1776,

I should not have deferred writing you so long, had the situation of my health admitted of my so doing; but I have had so severe an indisposition, that it has impaired much the faculties of my mind, so much so, though I have been able to walk abroad for eight or nine days past, yet my memory has been so very bad, that I have not, till within this day or two, been capable of recollecting any circumstance relative to my former transactions, or occurrences in life, except those which had struck my mind very forcibly. I should not now have undertaken to write to you, had I not thought it incumbent on me, to endeavor to rescue the character of a worthy innocent man (my friend, Capt. [William] Stone) from the calumny that has been cast upon it, by the malignant aspersions of a set of scoundrels, who would sacrifice every thing dear to a man, to satisfy the rancorous malice of their infernal dispositions. I can safely take my oath, that I never saw in him the least backwardness nor sign of fear, at any time, whatever, when we expected to engage; and I am confident, had we come to action, he would have shewn as much true fortitude and bravery, as any man in the service. At the time they pretended to say he shewed a backwardness, both he and myself were confined to our beds, and the 2d Lieut. and Master, could with difficulty stand the decks, nor do I think the former was then in his perfect senses, for he brought us down such various and imperfect accounts of the size and situation of the vessels then in sight, that we could gather nothing certain from his report. Besides, our crew were in so miserable a situation, though, as far as I can recollect, we might muster upon decks twenty, or near that number, yet there were not 6 of them capable of doing duty: And I don't at all exaggerate, when I say, that it was then my firm opinion, that a dozen stout and resolute men, apprised of our situation, might have boarded, and would have carried the sloop in spite of all the opposition we could possibly have made. Was it consistent then with common prudence, or with the duty of an officer in command, to attempt, in such circumstances, to engage an enemy? I should ever have held up my hands against such a procedure. I was then as much, or more averse to it, than Capt. Stone, and of course deserve full as much the epithet of coward, an epithet, that I believe, it would not be very wholesome for any one to bestow on me.

I trust, I have said enough to convince you of the scandalous aspersions cast on Capt. Stone's character, and I am convinced from your known candor and integrity of heart, that you will endeavor to wipe off and erase any prejudices that may have taken place in the minds of such, as a man would think it worth his while to have the good opinion of. In every other respect, his character is to those, who have the pleasure of his acquaintance unexceptionable: He joins to the good, devout christian; the humane kind master, and the sincere, steady friend. I am sure, I should be a most ungrateful wretch, did I not acknowledge the many and great proofs I have experienced of his friendship, for to it, under God, I have been indebted for my recovery; he ever, during my long illness, attended me nay oftener than his own state of health would have prudently permitted, and placed me under the care of a family, treated me more like the nearest relation, than a common boarder, and to whose excellent care and good nursing I am obliged for my re establishment to him also, I am well convinced, many of the sloop's crew owe their lives, for our surgeon proved to be in some measure unexperienced in his profession, and rather too indolent to give due attendance to the sick. The Captain gave them due looking after and all in his power relieved their distresses, while his health would admit of it; nay, to his being so much among them. I dare say, he may charge his severe spell of sickness, during which, I for a long time, despaired of his living.

Assure yourself, Sir, that every report to his prejudice, during the cruize, is without the least foundation in truth. I am informed, that, among others, Stephen Simpson, the boatswain, has propagated many scandalous lies; a rascal, that deserved for his behaviour on board the sloop to have been hanged, and is, I believe, as great an enemy to America, as any in it.

In justice to Capt. Stone, I shall be much obliged to you to shew the foregoing part of this letter. I would, at all events, have his character cleared up, though at the expence of exposing my own inaccuracy, for I am really at present not at all in a trim for writing.

Published by Order of the [Baltimore] Committee

George Lux, Secretary

1. *Maryland Journal*, June 19, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP, *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME ¹

May 1776

Cape Henry S45W 76 Miles

Wednesday 29 4 A M fresh Breezes saw 2 Sail out 1st Reefs 1/2 Past spoke his Majesty's Ship *Mercury* hoisted out a Boat & went on Board 6 got the Boat in Parted Co made Sail set Steerg Sails 11 Saw 15 Sail gave Chase
Light Airs & Cloudy saw the Rebel Fleet Consisting of 2 Ships Six Brigs 7 Sloops & Schooners Cape May bearing NBW Barricaded the Ship and got all ready for

Action broke a Large Oil Iron in getting him below Clear
of the Guns ½ after 10 saw theree Sail gave Chase 12
In Gt Sails hauled our Wind

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Ship Defence off point Lookout May 29th 1776 –

Gentlen

Your order of the 25th Inst came to hand Yesterday Noon 3 oClock, I was then off Wecomoco, About an hour after we imagine the Governors boat past us, the Commadore still continued at anchor, but as the Weather was thick imagine the Boat past her (Commadore): The other two Ships that was under way stood into the mouth of Rappahanock & supposed Anchor'd as we stood off and on all the Ebb and did not see them come out again. It blowd very fresh, & imagin'd they woud Weigh again on the flood to Chase me, which woud have given them a great advantage, therefore woud have gone into Wecomoco, but the Governors boat passing me at an Anchor off the Mouth, made me conclude to beat all Night at A Risque, since which have not seen them. I shall make the best of my way up & expect we shall have A southerly Wind, in which case, shoud the Enemy be standing up the Bay, its necessary I shoud have yr orders as early as possible, where you woud have the Ships go to. We did not discover any more Vessels than 3 Ships & A smaller Vessel which Supposed was A Tender. I am [&c.]

James Nicholson

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday May 29th, 1776.

A warrant to Mr. George Abyron for ... £ 4 for a stand of arms for Capt. [George] Muter's rowe Galley.

A warrant to Mr. Thos. Archer for £490. 16. 2, the ball'ce of his acc't this day settled for sundries for the adventure on board the Schooner *Sally*, and the purchase money for the said vessel.

A warrant to Edward Travis for use Geo. Brett for £ 100 up on acc't for building the Galley under his direction. ²

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 181, 182.

2. The *Manley* galley.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BRIGADIER GENERAL [JOHN] ARMSTRONG
TO BRIGADIER GENERAL [ROBERT] HOWE, DATED CHARLESTOWN,
SOUTH-CAROLINA, MAY 29, 1776." ¹

Last Saturday a sloop arrived here from St. Eustatia with ten thousand weight of powder, the Master of which says that a large vessel had arrived

there from Holland deeply loaded with arms and ammunition. He also says that the French ports in the West-Indies are open to us, and that the French men of war have orders to protect our vessels in and out of their harbours, that the French are fortifying Dunkirk which produced a remonstrance from the British Court, but without effect.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, June 27, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Porcupine*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS L'MONTAIS ¹

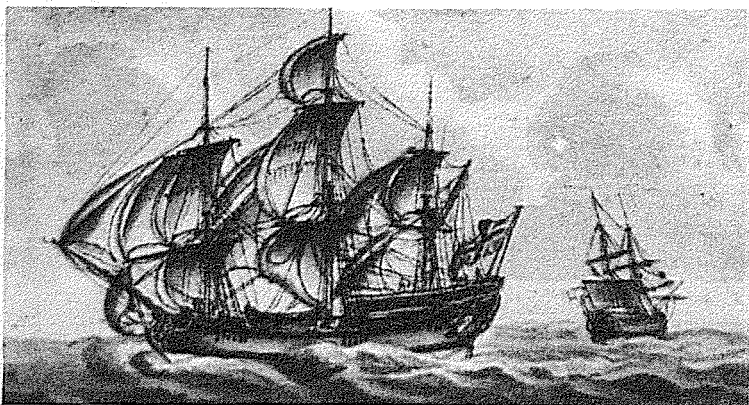
May 1776

Cape Francois SbW.

Wednesday 29 saw a Sail in the NE Q[uar]te[r] gave chase to do fired 2 Shot at the Chace $\frac{1}{2}$ pt short[ene]d sail brot too hoisted out the Boat & sent on board to speak her $\frac{1}{2}$ pt the Boat ret[urne]d with the Mas[te]r & 2 Men belonging to the above Vessell being a Sloop belong[ing] to Rhode Island from Dartmouth in North America & b[oun]d to Cape Nichola Mole do sent a Petty Officer with 4 Men to take possession of the Prize at noon Mt Christ ESE 5 Leags hoisted in the Boat Lig[h]t Breezs & Clear Wr the Prize in Compy ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4293.

2. Sloop *Penelope*, Joseph Meglew, master, with a cargo of lumber, flour and candles, PRO, Admiralty 1/309.



30 May

"PORTLEDG BILL FOR SCHOONER *Nancy* INWARDS FROM THE MOLE ALLEN HALLET MASTER"¹

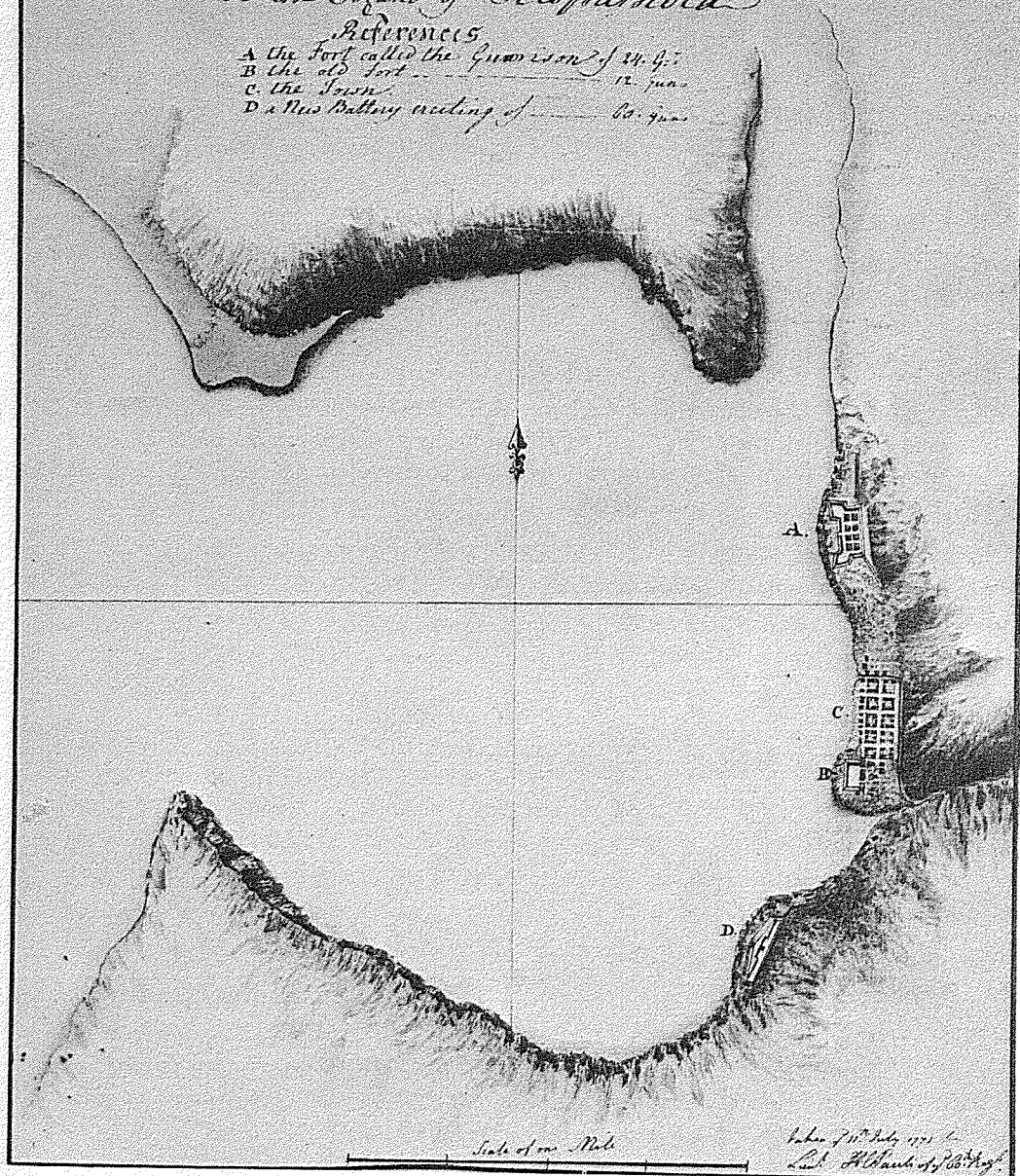
When Shipd 1776	mens	Names	Quality	Wages p month	Advance wages Before Sailg	Adv wages in the west indes	Wages Due	Whole Wages	Time of Servic	When Discharged —
Feby 17	Allen	Hallett	master	£3..6..8	£3..6..8	—	£8..0..0	£11..6..8	3 mon & 13 Days	may the 30
Do 23	Wm	Cazneau—	mate	3..6..0	6.12..0	2.15..6	0..6..1	9.13..7	2 months & 28 days	may the 21
Do 20	Isaac	Wadden.—	Seaman	2..8..0	2..8..0	1..8..3	3..4.10	7.00.10	2 months & 29 days	may the 19
Do 20	Thos	Harten	Do—	2..8..0	2..8..0	1..8.10	3..4..0	7.00.10	2 months & 29 Days	may the 19
Do 20	Richard	Wallies	Do—	2..8..0	2..8..0	1..8.10	3..4..0	7.00.10	2 months 29 Days	may the 19
Do 29	Abraham	mully	Do—	2.14..0	2.14..0	1..8..3	3.00..4	7..2..7	2 months 20 Days	may the 19
					19.16.8	8..9..8	20.19..3	49..5..4		
				[illegible]	-----		2..8	Coffee & Bread &c sold at Casco Bay — 31..9 —		
							18.11..3	2 Captn Over Charged		
						[torn]	.14			
						[torn]	..5..3			
				Errors Exceptd		[torn]	.11.—	Due to Derby — 4.12..9		
							26.16..3	Reced the Pay		
				pr Allen Hallett						
										p E. H Derby

1. Elias Hasket Derby Papers, vol. 3, 38, EI. See Derby to Hallet, February 23, 1776, Volume 4, 42–44.

A Sketch of the Harbour at the Cape St. Nicola on the Island of Hispaniola

References

- A the Fort called the Garrison of St. G.
B the old Fort 12 guns
C the Town
D a New Battery erected of 60 guns



MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO WILLIAM WATSON ¹

Sir

Boston 30 May 1776

General Ward received yours of the 27th Inst this morning, in answer to which I am to inform you the general would have the Vessels and Cargoes ² sold as soon as may be; and as he cannot ascertain the time and place of sail [*sic*] so well as you can he would have you conduct the whole matter relating to them. I am &c.

Joseph Ward, A.D.C.

1. General Ward's Orderly Book, Joseph Ward Papers, ChHS.

2. The sloop *Polly* and schooner *Industry* taken November 5, 1775 by Captain William Coit in Washington's schooner *Harrison*, and condemned in Admiralty court at Plymouth, April 15, 1776.

New-England Chronicle, THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1776

Boston, May 30.

The frigate ordered to be built at Portsmouth, for the Continental service, was launched last week. She is said to be a very fine ship, and will this week be ready to receive her guns and men.

Yesterday se'nnight were interred at Marblehead, the remains of Capt. James Mugford, jun. who has left this honour to embalm his memory, that he made as brave and vigorous a stand in defence of American Liberty as any among the living can boast of. His funeral was attended with suitable military honours, by a detachment of the 14th regiment.

JOHN BRADFORD TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Sir

Boston 30th May 1776

Your much Esteem'd favour of the 8th Inst I recd but four days Since it having pass'd me on the Road to Newbury when I was on my return from thence here, It gave me great pleasure to see the Signature of a Gentleman with whome I had the pleasure of a former Acquaintance, and one who is filling so important a Station in the Grand Council of the Grand Empire now in Embrio -

The day I Recd yr Ltr. I set out for Beverly where I fix'd on Just such a Brig as you describ'd, sent in by Manly some time Since.² She's not a year off the Stocks and Said to be the fleetest Sailing vessell in America. twas with some little difficulty I perswaded Gen Ward to order the Agent to d[e]liver her to me, I am now providing every small Sail that is needfull, and shall see she wants nothing

I have Also Agreed with a Master who is so Recommended by the Salem Gentlemen that he Appears to have every Qualification you required a master of that vessel to have, if his face is an Index to his mind he must be a fine fellow, he is thoroughly acquainted with the bay of Biscay, he is so highly recommended that I've agreed to give him the like wages that the Capts of the Arm'd vessells have,³ I have purchased abot 24 Tuns Sperm

Oil at £ 40 1235 lb Whale Bone at 4/. 400 lb Bees Wax at 2/ to 2/3½ that article is high but could not get it under, about 90 quintalls of fish for the Bilboa market, the Depy Commissary tells me, had he liberty he could furnish a Cargo or two of that Sort of fish out of 8 or 10,000 Quintalls now under his Care, I have sent to plimouth in quest of Fish, and to Attleborough after pot ash. that Article I believe may be come at, if a little time was given to get it. I saw a Ltr from Holland giving an Account of the great Rise of Log wood their, I shall put 10 or 12 tuns of that Article on board if I succeed in getting the pot Ash and Fish I hope to get Ready in ten days for the Sea, if we should fail of either or both those Articles pray say in your next, if I might put on Board 100 bls Flour at 23/ p C

I shall by next post advise you of my Success in the pursuit of pot ash & Fish.

I shall esteem it a favr if you will make my Affectionate Regards to that Amiable Benificent Gentlemn Your worthy president who was kind enough to recommend me to your Notice. my good friends I fear over Rate my Abillities But what is wanting in Abillity I shall endeavour to make up by Application and to honour my Appointment I could wish things were in a Clearer Channell for the facillitating important matters here I hope that will be the Case, when a General comes, Vested with greater powers than the present, I have Stop'd a vessell 24 hours in order to take down part of the provisions for the ships, the commissary wishing to dlr it, and the General undetermin'd, till finally I Recd an Answer in the Negative, we shall launch the 28 gun frigate Saturday next. A finer peice of Mechanism I never saw, she will I think do honor to the Colony, having nothing more Material to Add I Respectfully Salute you and have the honour to be Dear Sir [&c.]

J Bradford

pray give my very kind regards to the Mr Adams's [John and Samuel], pain [Robert Treat Paine] & [Elbridge] Gerry who I personally know, my Duty is due to the whole Congress, I am penetrated with a sense of the honour conferr'd on me by that August Body

1. Papers of Robert Morris, Accession 1805, LC.
2. The brig *Little Hannah*.
3. Captain Stephen Cleveland.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. ¹

Sir

Providence May 30th 1776 –

Should be glad you will let me know by the Post whether your General Assembly have appointed any Court to try Prizes agreeable to Orders of Congress – as it is time we Should do something with the Prizes in New London.

Your answer will oblige Sir Your Friend at Command

E H

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, Captain John Symons ¹

May 1776 Block Island N17.32E 10 Leags
 Thursday 30 at 7 saw a sail to the NE gave Chace fired a 3 pdr Brot
 too the Chace a Brigg from St. Croix with Arms & Ammunition
 bound to Rhode Island.²
 So end of Block Isld North 7 Leags
 Modt and Clear at 1 P M took the Brigg in tow

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

2. The brigantine *Elizabeth* with powder, arms and dry goods. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, N.S. Arch. She was owned by John Brown, and bound for Providence, with Joseph Lippett as master, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Orpheus*, CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON ¹

May 1776 Sandy hook N64Wt 90 Leags
 Thursday 30 Saw a Sail to the SW
 Fresh Breezes & Cloudy Wr
 at 2 gave Chace to the So ward at 5 come up wth & Sent a
 boat on Board the Chace, a Sloop from Nantucket for the
 Whale fishery,² brought her People on Board & sent a Petty
 Officer & 4 men to take Charge of her Reef'd topsails & made
 sail - ³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4279.

2. Sloop *Ranger*, David Wran, master, from Nantucket, in ballast, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO Admiralty 1/487.

3. Journal of Bartholomew James reads: "On the 15th [May] we left this place [Nantasket] and cruised without any success till the 29th [*sic* 30th,] when we fell in with and took the *Ranger* sloop from Nantucket, bound to the northward whaling," Laughton, ed., *James' Journal*.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO CAPTAIN CHARLES DON ¹

To Captain Don A D Q M.General. Fort George May 30th 1776
 Dr Sir

Captains Bradt & Vrooman, with their Companies of Carpenters will leave this to Morrow, they are ordered to Skenesborough - The Moment they land, you will cause the several articles they have in Charge together with their Baggage to be brought over the carrying place as also their Batteaus, unless you can supply them on the other Side.

The Batteaus which Colo:[Philip Van] Cortland[t] carries over, you will send back to this place, with any Men returning from Canada, Sutlers or others - If any Men return from Canada you are not to suffer more than six to come in a Boat, unless you have not a Sufficiency of Batteaus.

If Colonel [Cornelius] Wynkoop should want Batteaus they must be carried [torn] Send back the large Boat as soon as she is unloaded She must not be detained, as we shall otherwise fall short in the article of provision. I hope to see you in a few Days. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler.

1. Schuyler Papers, Letters & Orders, 18 April, 1776-29 June, 1777, NYPL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, May 30, 1776

An extract of a letter from a gentleman in Bermuda, dated the 26th April, and continued to the 1 May, 1776, to a gentleman in Philadelphia, was presented to Congress, and read.²

Resolved, That it be referred to the committee appointed to examine the most proper ports to be fortified.

Resolved, That six of the heaviest cannon at Newport, and fourteen of the heaviest cannon at New London, belonging to the continent, be transported to Philadelphia as soon as possible:

That a copy of the above resolution be transmitted to the governors of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Resolved, That the General [Washington] be authorized to direct the building as many fire rafts, row gallies, armed boats, and floating batteries as may be necessary, and suitable for the immediate defence of the port of New York, and Hudson's river.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 404, 406-07.

2. Silas Deane's first letter to Robert Morris from Bermuda. Volume 4, 1274-79.

SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO WILLIAM HODGE ¹

Sir

Philadelphia 30th May 1776 -

As you are now bound on a Voyage to Europe ² with a view of procuring sundry articles that are wanted here, and have expectations that your friend Mr Jean Wanderwoordt will supply such as we may desire provided he is assured of being duly paid the Cost with Interest for the Time he remains in advance. We the Subscribers being a Quorum of the Secret Committee appointed by the Honble the Continental Congress and authorized to procure from foreign Countries Supplies of Arms, ammunition and other Articles on the best terms we can being Sensible of your deserving Character and knowing that your attachment to the liberties of your Native Country entitled you to our confidence have concluded to Authorize and empower you to contract with any Person or persons in Europe for Ten thousand Stands of good Soldiers Muskts well fitted with good double bridled Gun Locks, and good Bayonets, Ten thousand good double bridled Gun Locks, 200,000 Gun Flints, One thousand barrels of the best Pistol Powder, One thousand Barrels of the best Cannon Powder and for two fast sailing well armed Cutters such as you may think best calculated for a good and safe passage to this Country and for making good Cruizers on this Coast afterwards. You are to make your Contracts in writing, stipulate the prices not to exceed the Current rates for each Article, and make it your business to be well informed on this point. We are sensible that it is difficult to extract arms, and ammunition from many parts of Europe and that penalties are inflicted on such as are detected in doing it, consequently a premium beyond the first cost & Common Commissions must be allowed to those that

undertake it, and in this respect we are rather at a loss how to limit you, being willing to allow what might be a reasonable compensation but unwilling to submit to extortion. However as it is not in our power to judge of this point with precision we exhort you to make the best bargain you can for the Continent and we conclude to allow you a Commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ Per Cent on the amount of the Invoice of the goods, and on the cost and outfit of the Cutters, but you'll observe this Commission is the whole of what we are to pay you being the only compensation you are to expect for transacting this business, and expect and hope it will afford you a very handsome reward for your services.

Our design is to pay for those Goods & Cutters by remitting to the Consignation of those that supply them Cargoes of the Country Produce such as Tobacco, Rice Indigo Skins, Furs, Wheat, flour, Lumber, Iron &c. and we hereby pledge the Thirteen United Colonies for the punctual discharge of the debt or debts you may Contract in virtue of and in conformity with these orders, we agree to allow such rate of Interest as you may agree for not exceeding 5 Per Cent on the amount of the debt or debts from the Time the goods are Shipped until payment is made, and this Interest to cease on such partial Payments as may be made from Time to Time. In confirmation of these orders we deliver you herewith a Letter to your friend Mr. Jean Wanderwoordt attended with a Certificate of our being a Quorum of the Secret Committee properly authorized to transact such business for the Public, which you may avail yourself of with Mr Wanderwoordt or any other Person necessary for the effecting this purchase. —

It is our understanding that the goods you Contract are to be at the risque of the Contractor until they are Shipped on board and bills of Lading granted for them after which they become our risque and if the risque from that Time to the ending of the voyage can be covered by Insurance at a Premium not exceeding 20 p Cent we would wish to have such part Insured as is to come from Europe direct out for this Coast the Insurance to be against all risques what ever at and from the Shipping Port to any place of delivery in the Thirteen United Colonies of America. When you have accomplished the business so far as to make the Contracts and purchase the Cutters you must cause to be shipped 3000 Stand of Arms, 600 barrels of Powder, 3000 Gun Locks, & 60 M Gun Flints on board each Cutter — take bills of Lading deliverable to us in any part of the United American Colonies and dispatch them for this Coast. These Cutters must be well armed and manned. You should procure if possible Masters that are acquainted with the Sea Coast of America, Men of intelligent understanding and firm minds well attached to the American cause Many such there are in Europe pining to return and serve this Country in the present glorious Contest.

You will also pick up as many American seamen as possible, and if sufficient of those dont offer at compleat the Number with the best you can get, and in fitting these Vessels it will be well done to put on board each 3 or four Tons of Muskets Balls suited to the bore of the 10,000 Stand of

Arms. As the operations of our enemies are uncertain it is hard for us to point out what part of the Coast these Cutters should push for – we believe the Inlets between New York & Virginia may be as safe as any. They must get into the first place of Safety they can and give us immediate advice by express of their arrival, and by these Vessels you'll transmit us any Public News or any useful intelligence in your power. The remainder of the goods we think it most prudent to order out in foreign bottoms to some of the Foreign Islands in the West Indies, where we can send for them with ease and tollerable security.

You will consult with your friends what Island may be safest to make use of, and also obtain recommendation to a proper house for receiving & re-shipping the goods, transmitting us the name & address by the Cutters, and we shall send them funds to pay the freight and Charges. These goods going in neutral bottoms need only be insured against the Common risques of the Sea &c. We are Sir &c &c &c

1. Papers CC (Other Reports of Committees of Congress), 37, 1–3, NA.

2. Hodge took passage in the brig *Polly*, Captain Philip Lacey, then lying in Maurice River, New Jersey. See Memorandum Book of William Bradford, Jr., May 18, 1776.

JOHN ADAMS TO DR. SAMUEL COOPER ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] May 30th 1776

You have given me great Pleasure by your Account of the Spirit and Activity of our People, their Skill and success in fortifying the Town and Harbour: But there are several Things Still wanting, in my Judgment. I never shall be happy, untill every unfriendly Flagg is driven out of sight, and the Light House Island Georges and Lovells Islands, and the East End of hog Island are secured. – Fire Ships and Rafts, will be of no service without Something to cover and protect them from the Boats of the Men of War. Gallies are the best Engines in the World for this Purpose. – Coll [Josiah] Quincy, has the best Idea of these Gallies, of any Man I know. I believe he has a perfect Idea of the Turkish, and Venetian Gallies. – some of these are large as British Men of War. but some are Small (I Sincerely wish, that at this Time he was a Member of one or the other House, because his Knowledge and Zeal, would be us[e]full. – This however is none of my Concern. – But his Knowledge in naval, and marine Affairs is not exceeded by any Man I know) – Gallies might be built, and armed with heavy Cannon 36 or 42 Pounders, which wou[ld] drive away, a Ship of almost any Size, Number of Guns or Weight of Metal. – The Dexterity of our People in Sea Matters must produce great Things, if it had any person to guide it, and stimulate it, a Kind of dodging Indian Fight might be maintained, among the Islands in our Harbour, between such Gallies and the Men of War.

Whether you have any Person, Sufficiently acquainted with the Composition of those Combustibles, which are usually put into Fire Ships and Rafts I dont know. – if you have not, it would be worth while to send some one here to inquire and learn. – at least let me know it, and altho I have a de-

mand upon me for an Hour, where I have a Minute to Spare, yet I will be at the Pains, tho I neglect other Things of informing my self as well as I can here, and send you what I learn. . . .

P.S. Gallies to be used merely in Boston Harbour, the less they are the better provided they are large and Strong enough to sustain the Weight of the Guns and the Shock of the Explosion. The Gallies first built in Delaware River, were too large to be handy and too small, to live and work in a sea We are building two of a different Construction. They are to carry two large Guns in the stern and two in front – and five or six 8 Pounders on each side besides swivells, they are built to put to sea, live and fight in a swell or a Storm – they are narrow but almost 100 feet long.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

CAPTAIN HENRY DOUGHERTY TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF
SAFETY ¹

Gentlm'n: –

Philad'a May 30th, 1776.

By a decree of Court marshell held yesterday on Thos. Moore, found him guilty of mutiny and calling the officers of the fleet a set of Rebels, & threatening his entering on Board the first King's Ship he can get on Board of, the court have decreed him thirty Nine lashes, & to Be Impson'd during your pleasure. Gentlm'n, I Remain, [&c.]

H. Dougherty, President.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series I, 601.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON ¹

No 2.

Sir You will please to proceed to Baltimore and wait our further orders, – we send this by Mr Middleton, whose boat you may keep with the ship 'till you come off Annapolis, presuming you will not want her further – if however it should not be necessary for her to attend you, you will order down the bay, to gain what intelligence she can, of the ships you left below.

[Annapolis] May 30th

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN ¹

Roebuck at Gwins Island

Virginia the 30th May 1776.

Dear Sir

I have received your letter of the 26th instant by Mr. Smith, and am very Sorry, tho not Surprized to learn that you think it necessary to leave Annapolis. The Province of Maryland has hitherto been looked upon as having acted with a degree of moderation in the present unnatural Rebellion subsisting in the Colonies, and I confess I had great hopes from your continuing in your Government, that you might have been able to have convinced the people, of the impossibility of their succeeding in the plan they

are now pursuing (the only motive I fear that will have any weight with them in bringing them back to their allegiance) but as you certainly have now given it a very fair Tryal, and it is become apparent that the matter can only be Settled by force of Arms, I confess that, I think your remaining longer among them, would only be exposing yourself to insults, and would answer no good purpose to His Majesty's Service. I shall therefore very Soon Send one of the Kings Ships to receive you on board, and will give orders that she shall commit no hostilities at Annapolis whilst on that Service: But as no officers in his Majesty's Service can be supposed to allow of the smallest insult being offered with impunity to the British Colours it will be necessary for you to inform the persons that assume the Government of the people; that if the Peace is not very Strictly observed on the part of the Rebels, with regard to the Boats, as well as the Ship, during the time it may be necessary for her to Stay on the Coast of Maryland, that any orders that I may issue for the purpose, will not restrain the Captain of the Ship from Acting as he shall think proper upon any such occasion.

Had I not received your letter you would certainly have heard from me in a few days, to have acquainted you, that His Excellency Lord Dunmore Governor of this Colony and myself with the joint forces under our command, left Norfolk the 23d instant and put into this harbour on the 28 in Order to complete our wood and water, where we at present remain. I have the honor to be Dr Sir [&c.]

A S Hamond

1. Hamond, Letters and Orders, *Roebuck*, 1775-1778, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HENRY
BELLEW, R.N. ¹

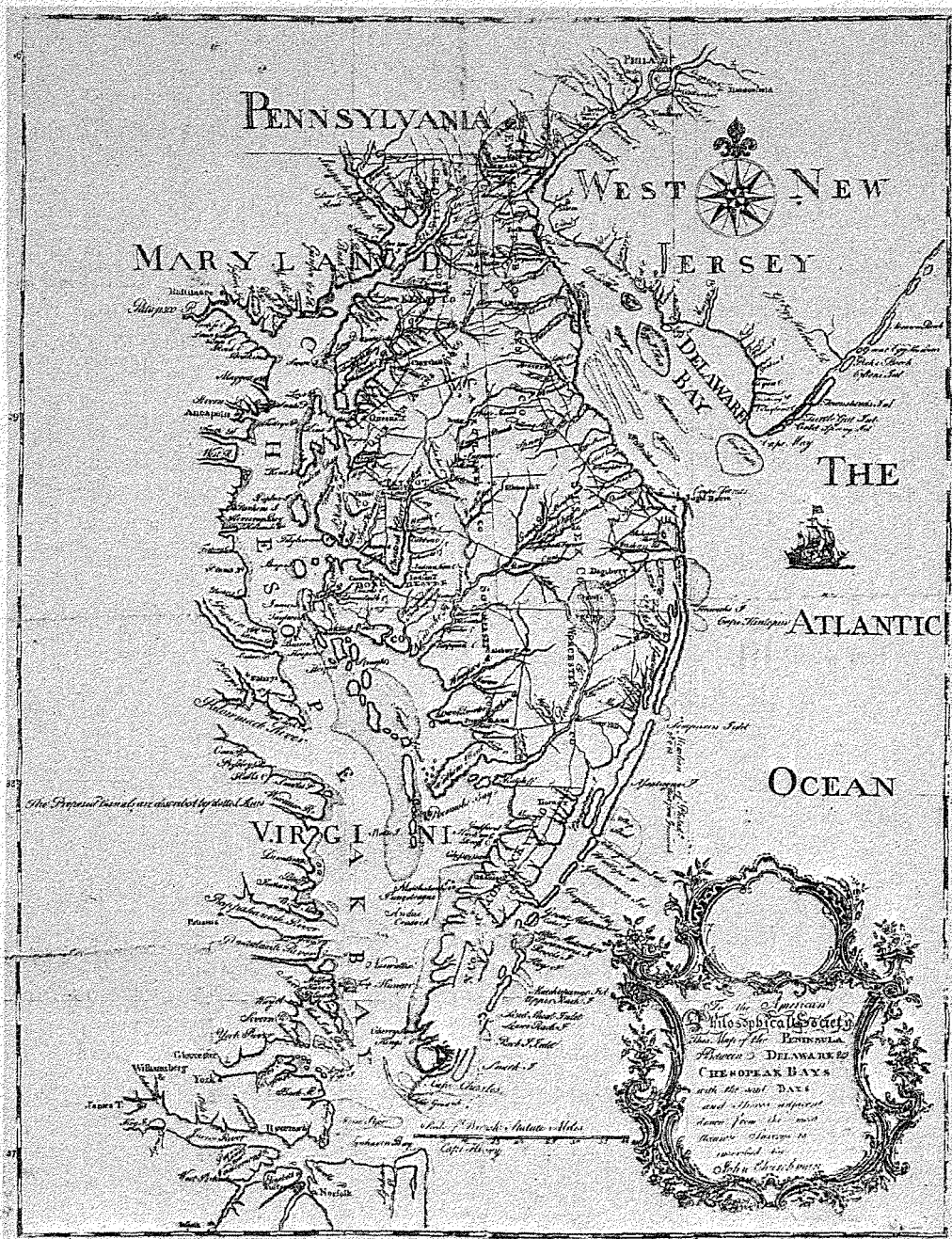
Roebuck at Gwins Island Cheseapeak

Dear Sir

bay in Virginia 30th May 1776

The reason you have not heard from me Sooner, is owing to our having taken the resolution of moving the Fleet from Norfolk to this place, which was effected on the 27th I believe, without the loss of a Single vessel, except three or four that were obliged to be destroyed for want of materials to bring them round. For a description of the Island, the Harbour, and what we are about, I refer you intirely to Mr Goold, who will inform you of the particulars in a much fuller manner than I could write them; as also of every thing that has happened (which I believe is soon related) since you left the fleet at Norfolk. He would have come to you soon after my arrival in Virginia, but I judged it necessary to keep him, in order to inform you of our movement.

I hope to hear you have had great Success on your cruize, and that you have been joined by some other Ship. When I first came here, and learned by Mr Parker, that Captain Wallis [James Wallace], instead of blocking up the Rebel Fleet at New London, had Sailed (he believed) to Halifax, I confess I was in some pain for having left the Delaware; but the day after, my



Tender (who I had sent for Stock at Chinkateague Island) arrived and told me, he saw a Single ship which he took to be a Man of War, standing in for Cape Henlopen, which I have Sat down to be the *Experiment*, and hope soon to hear I am not mistaken; should that be the case, as soon as your water grows short, I would have you come here and leave her cruizing upon that Station.

Governor Eden can no longer stay with safety to himself at Annapolis, and has Sent his Secretary to me to beg I will send for him, which I intend doing very Soon. In short I begin to find more employment for the *Roebuck* in Virginia than I expected.

It was reported Strongly at annapolis on Sunday that 60 Sail of Men of War & Transports were Arrived at Sandy Hook. You will Also see by the papers (If I can get them to send to you) how strong the presumption is that the Commissioners are arrived with 12 thousand Hessian Troops. The People of Virginia and Maryland all believe it most firmly: and the report of it, prevented Maryland from declaring Independancy, as Virginia and North Carolina have done formally; by instructions to their Delegates in Congress to Vote for it.

To day they talk of opening a market on the Island for provisions, should that be the case, I hope we shall be able to send you something.

I intended to have sent Mr Goold round in my Pilot boat, but was obliged for want of small Tenders to station her inside the Island with 2 others.

Captain [Matthew] Squire and his Tenders are cruizing off the Capes to give intelligence of our removal to our friends coming in, and to protect us from the invasions of our enemies.

If Captain [Alexander] Scott ² is with you, present him with my regard, and I desire I may hear from you both imediately.

Wishing you all Success and happiness. I remain my Dear Sir [&c.]

A S Hamond

Captain Bellew Commander of his Majs Ship
Liverpool River Delaware

1. Hamond, Letters and Orders, *Roebuck*, 1775-1778, UVL.

2. Captain of H. M. S. *Experiment*.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM WILMINGTON [NORTH CAROLINA] MAY 30." ¹

This day Capt. Alfred Moore came from Fort Johnston, and says all the English forces are gone on board, and upwards of 30 sail gone over the bar. They left behind them some blankets, with an intention, it is thought, of spreading some infectious disorder among us.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, June 22, 1776.

EXTRACT FROM MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON'S REPORT OF HIS
CORRESPONDENCE WITH SIR PETER PARKER ¹

Commodore Sir Peter Parker.

May 30th 1776 [Cape Fear].

Time presses. As the Wind is fair I submit to You, Sir, Whether it would not be right to go to Sea immediately, Each Transport having Sealed Orders to proceed to, or Rendezvous at Bull's Bay.

Commodore's

Answer.

Verbal.

That he was afraid the Masters would not go over the Bar without Pilots.

My Opinion, That they should be indemnified, and offered to do it. We sailed. All safe. I press'd continuing under Sail. he brought to. said he wou'd Sail about Ten o'Clock, but did not till Five next Morning.

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

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO CAPTAIN THOMAS DUMARESQ,
H.M.S. *Portland* ¹

(A Copy)

Whereas the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have directed me to appoint Convoys to the homeward bound Trade from these Islands; You are hereby required and directed to Compleat the Victualing &c of his Majesty's Ship *Portland* under your Command to three Months, and proceed to Basseterre at the Island of St Christophers, and make known to all such Merchant Vessels as are bound to Great Britain or Ireland, that you are appointed to Convoy them; and direct the Masters of said Vessels to put themselves under your Command and obey such Orders and directions as they may receive from you, and to take the utmost care they do not loose Company with His Majesty's Ship *Portland* under your Command, you are to Sail from St Christophers the 8th June with all such Merchant Vessels as are then ready, and on no Account to remain longer there; You are to proceed with said Convoy on their way to Europe Eighty Leagues clear of the Island of Anguilla, and are then to open the Secret Orders you will receive herewith, for your farther proceedings, and are Strictly to Comply therewith, for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand at English Harbour
Antigua the 30th May 1776

Jam^s Young

[Enclosure]

Secret Order.

Whereas I have directed You by my Order of this date, to take charge of the homeward bound Trade from these Islands, and Convoy them from St Christophers on their way to Europe, 80. Leagues clear of the Island of Anguilla, and then have recourse to these Secret Orders for Your farther proceedings.

You are hereby farther required and directed to proceed with said Convoy, until You are 120. Leagues clear of the Island of Anguilla; and then leave them to proceed on their Voyage, transmitting a List of all the Vessels which came under your Convoy to the Secretary of the Admiralty, and deliver me a Copy of the same when you return. You are afterwards to Cruize near such places as you think the most likely to meet with American Vessels; all which You are to take as Prize, agreeable to former Orders: taking care to return to Prince Ruperts Bay Dominica to compleat the *Portlands* Wood & Water so as to join me at English Harbour Antigua by the 20th July next, for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand at English Harbour
Antigua the 30th May 1776.

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/390.

31 May

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Fryday Evening May 31. 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment –

Voted. That the Balance of Mr Francis Brindly's Acct be paid out of the Treasury, provided the quantity Charg'd has been Received on Examining the Clerks Books. –

Voted. That Capt James Sellers of Dartmouth be appointed third Lieut of one of the Ships of War fitting here on his Inlisting 12 good Seaman to go in the Ships within 20 Days. –

Voted. That all the Rigging that Messrs Brindly & Maudsly have to spare be engaged for the Ships at 16 Dollrs p Hundd –

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Hartford May 31, 1776, Friday Evening.

Moved by his Honor,² that proper measures be taken to man and fit our three row-galleys, now nearly ready, for immediate service; and the matter was largely discoursed &c., and

Voted, That Messrs. Jno. McCleave, Theo. Stanton and Jehiel Tinker, who are appointed captains of them, be notified and desired to attend this Board at Hartford on Wednesday next, to receive further orders respecting manning, officering and fitting out said vessels, and also such moneys as may be necessary to enable them to pursue the proper business of their departments, having first executed bonds to be sent them, with sureties, for the faithful and due performance of their duty as pay-masters &c.

And Mr. [Jabez] Huntington desired to prepare letters accordingly.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 406, 407.

2. Governor Jonathan Trumbull.

INVOICE OF STORES RECEIVED BY NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. AS AGENT
FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT¹

State of Connecticut
By Nathl Shaw—

Cr

1776

May By 2030½ lb Lead -----	@ 6d -----	£ 50..15..3
By 3255 lb Powder -----	@ 5/4 -----	862..13..4
By 100 Bls of Pork -----	@ £4 -----	400.. - . -
14 do Beef -----	50/ -----	35 . - . -
40 do Corn -----	3/ -----	6 . - . -
By 10 Muskets from the <i>Defence</i> -----		30 . - . -
360 Flints ____ do -----		0..15 . -
By 2 Yoke of Oxen -----		19 . - . -
By 150 lb Powder of Killingworth -----		40 . - . -
By 2423½ lb Flax P T: Burr @ 1/ -----		121.. 3..6
By 6 Bls Powder for Brig <i>Resistance</i> }		138..13..4
& <i>Trumbull</i> Ship - @ 5/4 }		
By 25 Tierces of Pork Mr Elliott £ 16		400 . - . -
15 do Beef ____ £ 10.- . -		150 . - . -
80 Bags of Bread 80..0..0 @ 30/ -----		120 . - . -
		£2374..0..5
By 10 Muskets from Genl Huntington }		
d[elivere]d <i>O. Cromwell</i> }		30 . - . -
		£2404..0..5

[Endorsed] Invoice of sundry Stores recd by Nathl Shaw Esqr and credited
in his A/c No 6 £2404..0..5 Cur[renc]y £2289..0..5 Specie

1. Nathaniel Shaw Accounts, ConnSL.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1776

New London, May 31.

Last Friday the armed Brig belonging to this Colony, commanded by Capt. [Seth] Harding,¹ arrived here from the western part of the Colony.

While the above Vessel was coming up the Harbour, one Robert Dunlap, a transient Person, by Trade a Leather Breeches Maker, attempted to swim from Groton Shore, on board said Vessel, for a Wager; but he sunk before he reached her, and was drowned.

Last Wednesday Afternoon, Capt. [Robert] Niles, in the *Spy* Privateer, being out on a Cruize between Montauk-Point and Block-Island, came across the *Cerberus* Frigate, who chased him as far in as the Race, and then left him: Capt. Niles lost his Top-mast in the Chace. Capt. [John Paul] Jones, in a Privateer, (one of the Continental Fleet),² and Capt. [Lemuel] Brooks, in a New-Haven Privateer,³ who sail'd from this Port in Company with Capt. Niles, put into Newport.

1. Connecticut colony brig *Defence*.

2. Continental sloop *Providence*.

3. Connecticut privateer sloop *Gamecock*.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Fort George May 31st 1776

This Morning thirty Carpenters left this to repair to Skenesborough, by the way of Ticonderoga in Order to construct Gundaloes, altho' Nothing is prepared for building them – I hope nevertheless to finish one in a short Time, at least, I will do every Thing in my power to compleat it the soonest possible, and for that purpose; I shall leave this to Morrow to put all in Train . . .

I wish a person that understood the Construction of the best Gundaloes was sent up Express to me, for – altho' they should not be able to get down the Falls of Chamblé, yet they will be of Service on Lake Champlain should our Army be obliged to retreat – The Vessels we have there (except the *Royal Savage*) are of very little-Force.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Fort George May 31st: 1776

Ten in the Evening

I have been long and deeply impressed with a just Sense of the Importance of maintaining our Ground in Canada: It was therefore a most pleasing Circumstance to me to see General [William] Thompson's Brigade followed by that of General [John] Sullivan. If possible, I wish to see another succeed the last – I have thought it prudent to prepare for its Conveyance across the Lakes, having built since General Sullivan left me on the 24th Instant sixty Batteaus, which are now in this Lake, nor am I under any apprehensions of supplying the Army in Canada with provision, provided it is sent up to Albany in sufficient Quantities: for altho' it is an arduous Task; perseverance, Close attention and hearty good Will can surmount a Variety of Obstacles. As soon as I return from Skenesborough, whither I am going to give Directions about the Gundaloes I shall proceed to Albany and employ proper persons to purchase whatever I think the Army may stand most in Need of . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, 11, 179–82, NA.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO COLONEL CORNELIUS D. WYNKOOP ¹

Dr Sir

Fort George May 31st 1776

The Bearer is going with a Number of Carpenters to Skenesborough you will please to furnish him with what Hand Jacks are at Tyconderoga and with a Grind Stone – please also to send with him a Black Smith, if you have any that can be spared from your post I am Dr Sir [&c.]

PH: Schuyler.

1. Schuyler Papers, Letters & Orders, 18 April, 1779–29 June, 1777, NYPL.

REPORT OF PERSONS EMPLOYED AT FORT CONSTITUTION ¹

Fort Constitution May 31st 1776

Commissioners & Superintendents at the works carrying on at Fort Constitution

2 Commissioners. William Bedlow & John Lawrence

1 Clerk of the checke Johnathan Lawrence. Junr

1 Steward – Adolph Delprove

Mechanicks at Work

4 Carpenter

2 Black Smiths

1 Overseer

1 Cook for the Commissrs

1 Do for the Artificers

1 Waiter on the Commissrs

2 Seamen, in c[h]arge of the Barge

The Sloop *Liberty*, Henry Palmer. in the Service of Fort Constitution & Fort Montgomery. Master and two hands –

William Bedlow

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Head-Quarters, N York May 31st 1776.

... The Signals on Staten-Island – Green Bluff & Govenors Island are compleat, Our troops have taken a small Sloop for going on Board the *Asia* – there was ten Men on Board seven of which have escaped the others are under Examination, – The Vessels I mentioned are out cruising on the back of the Island I think they will be of great use to Us. I am driving on the Works with all possible dispatch and shall pay Particular Attention to your Excellency's Directions in regard to sending an express – in case of a Fleets appearing in the Coast, – I shall write Capt [Daniel] Putnam to see the things forwarded from Boston to N London as soon as possible. I have the Honour to be Your Excellency's [&c.]

Israel Putnam

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 9 HO. A.M.

May 31st, 1776.

One of the members informed the Congress that some of Captain [Alexander] Hamilton's company of artillery have deserted, and that he has reason to suspect that they are on board of the Continental ship, or vessel, in this harbour, under the command of Capt. Kennedy.

Ordered, That Capt. Alexander Hamilton, or any or either of his officers, be and they are hereby authorized to go on board any ship or vessel in this harbour, and take with them such guard as may be necessary, and

that they make strict search for any men who may have deserted from Captain Hamilton's company.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 468.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, DATED MAY 31." ¹

Gen [Israel] Putnam has just shewn me a letter from a gentleman in Salem, which very much concerns your place. The writer informs the General that Capt. Chapman is arrived there (Salem) from St. Croix, who says that on the tenth instant in latitude 54, longitude 67:24, he fell in with a brig, the Capt. of which told him that he sailed in company with a fleet of seventy sail of transports, under convoy of two sixty-four, four forty-gun ships, and two bomb ketches, from which he parted the fifth in a hard gale of wind. The fleet had on board a large number of Hessians, Brunswickers and English troops, all bound to Philadelphia, in order to disperse (as the Capt. expressed himself) that hornets' nest the Congress, after which they were certain the continent would become a very easy prey. God grant that you may be prepared to receive this armament. Gen. Putnam thinks that some troops will immediately march from here to your assistance.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, June 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, May 31, 1776

A letter of the 22 from Esek Hopkins, Commodore of the continental fleet, enclosing the proceedings of two courts martial on John Hazard, commander of the sloop *Providence*, and Abraham Whipple, commander of the *Columbus*, was laid before Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the said letter be referred to the committee appointed the 8th of May on the instructions given to Commodore Hopkins.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 407.

JOHN MACPHERSON TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Honourable Gentlemen

Be pleased to spare me one Quarter cask of powder, to prove four Howitz, and four sets of Organs, which I have prepared for a Vessel, that I do not doubt will be of service to this country.

Be pleased also, to order my Salary paid from the seventeenth of October last, as first Naval Commander in the American service, which station I obtained by the consent and Agreement of the Honourable Gentlemen, who were appointed to treat with me. I have recieved only since in the service, four Hundred and twenty Dollars.

The great expence I am runing to for the benefit of my country, is the reason of this Application at present. I am Honourable Gentlemen [&c.]

John Macpherson

Philadelphia May 31st 1776

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XV, 53.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO LEVI HOLLINGSWORTH
AND THOMAS RICHARDSON ¹

Gentlemen

In consequence of your recommendation to have part of the Cannon brought from New London, and from a desire that the defence of America be equally distributed we have procured an alteration in the first Order of Congress to Commodore Hopkins for transporting to Phila twenty of the heaviest Cannon which he had taken to New Port, – You will have enclosed the Order of Congress with the alteration and have no doubt but you will exert yourselves to have it carried into execution with all possible dispatch – We are assured by Congress that the President will forward Copies of the resolve to the Governors of the respective Colonies & Commodore Hopkins if that should not be done, you are desired to shew them the one inclosed – ² We are &c

[Philadelphia] May 31st 1776

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

2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, May 30, 1776.

MEMORANDUM BOOK OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

The following applications for vessels to pass down the River & Bay of Delaware was granted on the owner & others giving their words that no Pilot should be taken on Board going down the river & Bay from Chester.

Schooner *Mars*, Norris Copper, qualified.

[Philadelphia] May 31.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 501–02.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN DUNCAN HILL ¹

No 3

Sir You are immediately to return to your Vessel and convey at the expence and risque of this Province, across the Country to the first Inlet to the Northward of Cape Charles such of your Cargo, as you may find necessary, and proceed round with the residue in yr said Vessel between Smith's Island and Cape Charles upon your arrival in that Inlet you [are] to take on board what you send across by land, and with the utmost diligence proceed on your Voyage agreeable to former instructions. ²

[Annapolis] May 31st 1776

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

2. Executive Papers, Box 3, *ibid.*, the previous day the Council had authorized Captain Hill "L15. . . on W. T. T: for defraying the Expences of Carriage of Flour across Northampton County from Cherry Stones for a Vessel going to W. Indies on Acct of Province."

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[H. M. S. *Roebuck*, May 16 to May 31]

16th May. I Parted Company with the *Liverpool* and stood to the Southward. the same Evening I fell in with the Pilot boat from Virginia, by which I recieved letters from Lord Dunmore

acquainting me, of his having recieved certain intelligence that the Rebels intended attacking the lines at Norfolk; that they were bringg down Cannon, and preparing fire rafts to destroy the Fleet, and assembling in large bodies in the neighbourhood; therefore most earnestly entreated me to return to his assistance. This caused me to alter my Course for Virginia, flattering myself however that his Lordships apprehensions might be premature.

17th In my way, I sent two Tenders to Chingoteage Island, and took off a dozen Bullocks, and some other Stock for the Ships Company.

19th When I came to Norfolk, I found Lord Dunmore's expectations of an Attack, not the least abated; having certain intelligence that they waited only for Cannon from Williamsburg, which they expected would arrive in two days. At this time the small Pox made its appearance among the Black Troops, and in order to save them, the Surgeons recommended that the whole should be inoculated. This was likely to be a great reduction of our force; Therefore on considering every circumstance, we thought it most adviseable to move the Fleet immediately; for had we waited untill the Enemy had planted Cannon at certain places on the River side (which is not $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile wide) it would scarce have been possible to have got the Vessels down the River, and they must have fallen into the hands of the Rebels, and many of them had very valuable cargoes on board.

22d Accordingly on the 22d at day break in the Morning the Troops evacuated the entrenchment, and embarked onboard the Transports, and Orders were given for the Vessels to move down to Hampton Road; but as most of them were without seamen this could only be done by assistance from the Kings Ships: It therefore became rather an arduous undertaking, and it was three days before they could all be got down to the road, where they amounted to upwards of 90 Sail.

25th Gwins Island, at the mouth of Pianketank River, in Chesapeake bay, being reported to be inhabited by many Friends of Government, that it formed an excellent Harbour, had plenty of fresh water on it, and could easily be defended from the Enemy, was fixed upon as the most proper place to repair to; accordingly, as soon as the wind became favorable which was on the 26th, we left Hampton Road and arrived the next afternoon at the place of our destination with the whole Fleet except 3 or 4 small ones, which the *Otter* (who brought up the Rear) was obliged to destroy for want of materials to Navigate them.

27th

The next Morning, at day break we landed & took possession of the Island, with our whole force, which with the Marines of the Squadron, did not amount to more than 200 effective Men, so great had been the mortality among the Negroes while at Tuckers Mills; However, we met with no opposition, and after marching quite thro' the Island, returned to the point nearest to the Main land, (where it is not above 200 yards across) encamped the Troops, and began to erect a Fort against the Enemy, who began to gather from all quarters: and fired with musquetry upon the People at work but without doing us the least mischief: Being covered by the *Foweyes* Guns on one side, and by two small Tenders (which I had sent into the Haven) on the other. The *Otter* & her Tender immediately returned to cruize off the Capes, to prevent any of the Rebels Vessels from getting in or out, and to give notice to Vessels coming to us of our removal from Norfolk.

31st

The *Liverpool* sent in a Spanish Snow which he had met with in Delaware bay going to Phila with 13. Thousand hard Dollars onboard which they had brought from the Havannah. ²

1. Hamond, No. 5, UVL.

2. *St. Barbara*. See Appendix B.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

May 1776

At a Single Anchor at Gwins Island in Virginia

Thursday 30

at 5 in the afternoon the *Otters* Tender arrived from a Cruize, and conducted in here with her, a Spanish Snow, taken by the *Liverpool*, to take her Tryal; ²

Friday 31st

In the morning begun to Hog Ship and to put the Ship in all readiness for Sea.

Fresh gales and hazy weather, at 4 in the afternoon the *Otter* returned, with a victualing Brig from Antigua, long expected, for his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. *St. Barbara*.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

In Convention [Williamsburg] Friday May 31. 1776.

Resolved unanimously that the Committee of Safety be directed to write a letter to the President of the Convention of Maryland in answer to his Letter of the twenty fifth instant expressing the deepest concern at the proceedings of that Convention respecting Governor Eden and our reasons for not becoming accessory thereto by giving him a passport through this Colony or the Bay adjoining: That we would with reluctance in any case intermeddle in the affairs of a Sister Colony but in this matter we are much interested and the Convention of Maryland by sending their proceedings to

the Committee of Safety here, have made it the duty of this Convention to declare their Sentiments thereon.

That considering the intercepted Letter from Lord George Germaine to Governor Eden in which his whole conduct and confidential Letters are approved, and he is directed to give facility and assistance to the operations of Lord Dunmore against Virginia We are at a loss to account for the Council of Safety of Maryland their having neglected to seize him according to the Recommendation of the General Congress and more so for the Conventions having promoted his passage to assist in our destruction under a pretence of his retiring to England which we conceive from the above Letter, he is at Liberty to do. That supposing he should go to Britain, It appears to us that such Voyage with the address presented to him will enable him to assume the Character of a Publick Agent and by promoting division and disunion amongst the Colonies produce consequences the most fatal to the American Cause. —

That as the reasons assigned for his departure “That he must obey the Ministerial Mandates while remaining in his Government” are very unsatisfactory when the Convention declare “that in his absence the Government in its old form will devolve on the Presiden’t of the Council of State[’]” who will be under equal Obligation to perform such Mandates, We cannot avoid imputing those proceedings to some undue Influence of Governor Eden under the Masque of friendship to America, and of the proprietary Interest in Maryland whereby the Members of that Convention were betrayed into a Vòte of fatal tendency to the Common cause and we fear to this Country in Particular and feel it an Indispensable duty to warn the good people of that Province to guard against the Proprietary Influence.

Resolved that the foregoing Resolution be forthwith published in the *Virginia Gazette*.

Edm^d Pendleton Presidt

1. Naval Papers, Miscellaneous Vertical File, MdHS.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1776

Williamsburg, May 31.

Last Sunday lord Dunmore, with his whole fleet, left Hampton road, and came up the bay to Gwynn's island, in Gloucester county, where we understand he has landed his black and white troops, to the number of about 500, and is intrenching. This island contains about 2000 acres, occupied by several families, who are possessed of a considerable quantity of stock, and is well watered. A body of regulars and militia, to the amount of 2000 men, quickly assembled, and are watching their motions; and, if opportunity suits, will very likely attempt to beat up their new quarters, very delightful it should seem, to those pirates and renegades in their present sickly, starving, and dirty situation, from their amusing themselves, on the evening of their landing, with a promiscuous ball, which was opened, we hear, by a certain spruce little gentleman, with one of the black ladies. ¹

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, June 1, 1776, also carried an account of Dunmore's action.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY ¹

- May [1776] [Moored off Fort Johnston, Cape Fear River]
 Thursday 30 Modr and Cloudy wear Sailed his Majestys ship *Solebay* *Thunder* bomb and all the Transports & Anchord without the bar
 Friday 31st AM saild his Majestys Ship *Syren* and *St Lawerence* Schooner at 7 saild Commodore Sir Peter Parker with the *Flett*, . . . Remain here his Majesty's Sloops *Falcon* *Scorpion* and *Cruizer*, Came on board the Lieut with the Men and Stores from the *Terrable*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Bristol*, CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS ¹

- 1776 May Cape Fear NEbE $\frac{1}{2}$ E – 2 Leagues
 Thursday 30th A M at 8; 5 Sail in the S Wt Quarter at 9 fired a Gun & made Signal to the Commodore for seeing them.
 First part fresh Gales latter Moderate and Cloudy At 2 P M the Commodore fired a Gun & made the Signal for the Fleet to come out of the Harbour $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 Do came out the Commodore & Fleet, At 5 Do unmoord – Do the Commodore hoisted his broad pendant on Board ² At 9 fired the Evening Gun, came alongside the Sloop with Water Do Empld clearing the Sloop
 Friday 31st $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 made the Signal to Weigh At 3 sent away the Sloop with part of our Cask – At Noon 40 Sail in Company Moderate Breezes and Clear Weather $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 P M join'd Company His Maj's Sloop *Ranger* & Saluted us with 13 Guns Do return'd 11,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/137.

2. Because of her deep draught, the *Bristol* had been compelled to anchor outside the bar, and Sir Peter Parker had transferred his flag to the *Solebay* during the stay at Cape Fear.

“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 [HENRY] CLINTON AND COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER.—” ¹

They returned to Cape Fear on the 26th ² and from their Report; and a proposal from the Commodore, it is presumed the resolution was formed to proceed on the expedition to the Port of Chas Town

Immediate orders were given to the *Sphinx* and *active* Frigates to sail forthwith for that place in order to cut off all further communication by water, and as soon as the rest of the Men of War and Transports had compleated their Water, the whole Fleet sailed out of Cape Fear River & anchored without the Bar on the 30th of May in the evening.

31st May The next morning the fleet weighed with a fair wind, and were this day joined by the six missing Transports under convoy of the *Ranger* Sloop of War; and in the evening the General received his dispatches from England by the *Ranger*.

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

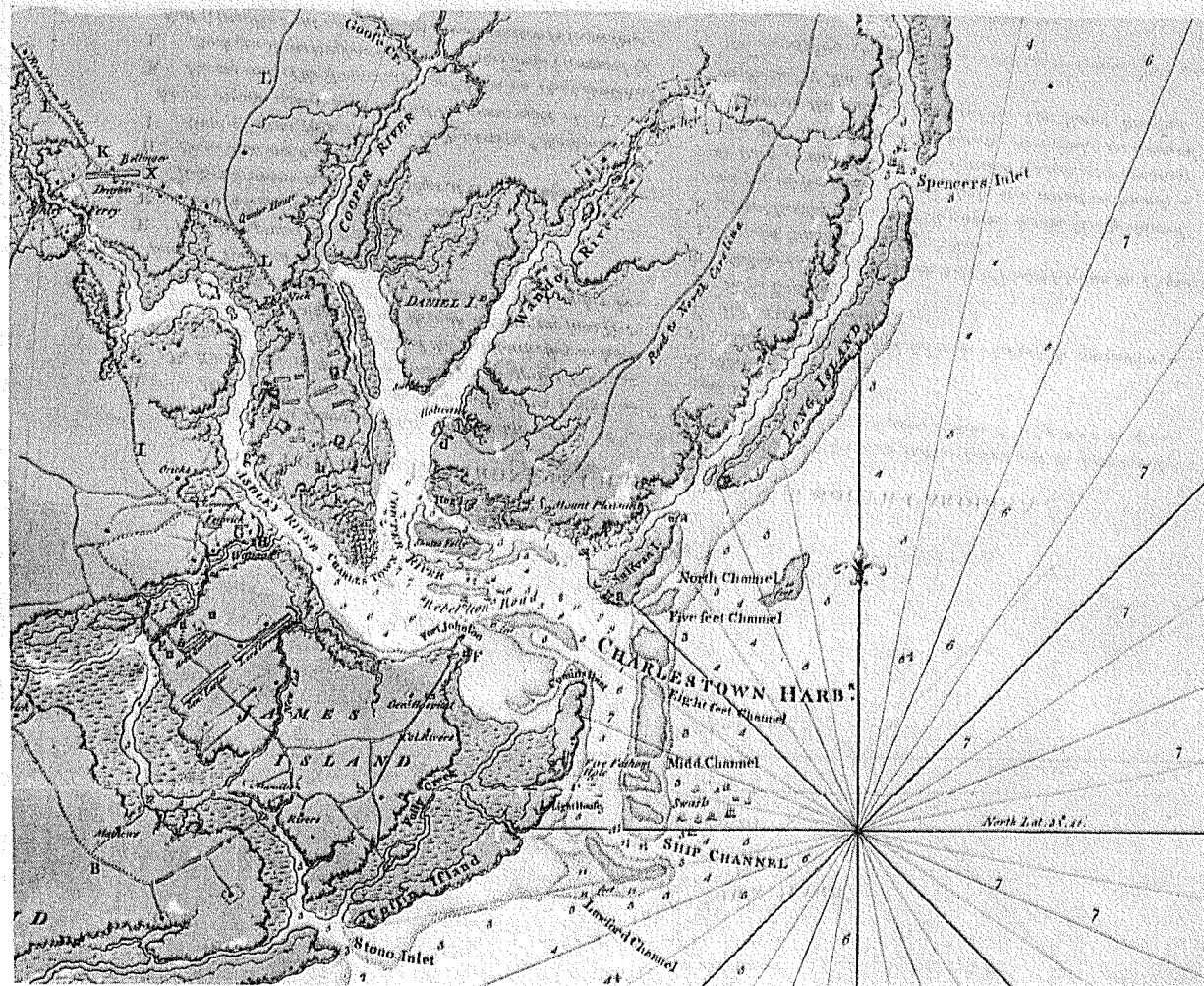
2. H.M.S. *Sphinx* and a small schooner.

NARRATIVE OF MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

[April 18 to May 31, 1776]

On the 18th of April the first Transport of the Irish Fleet joined me; and they continued to drop in every day after this by single Ships to the 3d of May, when Commodore Sir Peter Parker with the Bulk of his Fleet at last made his appearance. It seems he did not leave Cork before the 13th of february – and the Reasons for this extraordinary delay he can best explain; but Sir Wm Howe was assured by the Minister the Armament should sail from thence by the first of December. There were however several Ships still missing, nor did the last of them join us before the 31st of May.

Our first Care after the arrival of the Fleet, was to land the Troops, who stood much in need of that Refreshment after being so long cooped up in Transports, particularly the 46. Regt which was very sickly. But how to employ them afterwards to the best advantage for the Kings Service was a Subject which required much Consideration. The advanced Season of the Year and the depressed State of the Kings Friends in the two Carolinas, forbade our looking to the Southward; and as I was expecting every moment to receive the Commander in Chiefs Summons to join him I became apprehensive that I should not have time to put my Chesapeak Scheme into any Sort of Train. I proposed however, as soon as the Fleet could be got in readiness for Sailing, to proceed to Virginia, and there wait Sir Wm Howes ultimate Directions. But Sir Peter Parker having in the mean time procured Intelligence from whence it appeared the Rebel Work on Sullivans Island (the Key to Rebellion Road & Charles Town) was in so unfinished a State as to be open to a Coup de Main & that it might be afterwards held by a small Force under Cover of a Frigate or two; and [I] having about the same time received a private Letter from Sir Wm Howe, in which he seemed to intimate a Wish I could get possession of Charles Town, without expressing any Hurry for my joining him; I was tempted to accede to the Commodores Proposals for a joint attempt upon that Island. For tho' neither the Season of the Year, the orders under which I acted, the short Time allowed me, nor the Number of Troops I had under my Command, would warrant an Expectation of suddenly getting hold of Charles Town and keeping it afterwards with the small Garrison I was at liberty to leave there; yet I thought Sullivans Island, if it could be seized without much loss of time, might prove a very important acquisition and greatly facilitate any Subsequent Move we should be in a Condition to make in proper Season against



Charleston harbor, South Carolina.

that Capital. Preparations were accordingly made for reimbarking the Troops, and on the 31st of May the Fleet sailed to the Southward.

Within a few Leagues of Charles Town Harbour we were joined by the remaining Transports, which having separated from Sir Peter Parker were driven into an English Port and sent after him under Convoy of the *Ranger* Sloop. I received a Letter by this Ship from the Secretary of State dated the 3d March; signifying to me His Majesty's Commands "not to engage in any attempt whereby the Troops under my Orders might be exposed to great Loss, or the Service to the northward disappointed; and to proceed immediately to join Major General Howe with my whole Force, if, upon the arrival of the Armament at Cape Fear, I should be of opinion (upon mature Consideration of all Circumstance) that Nothing could be soon effected that would be of great & essential Service and advantage." However the Commodore and General officers, whom I consulted on this occasion, agreeing with me in opinion that the Object before us promised very great advantages & was likely to be accomplished without much delay, we determined to proceed upon it, now we were so near the Port.

1. Manuscript history of the Revolution by Sir Henry Clinton, CL.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, MAY 31
TO FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1776

Charles Town, May 31.

On Tuesday afternoon, in a violent thunder-storm, the Colony Brig. *Comet*, lying in the harbour, was struck with lightning whereby her mainmast was shivered, and one of the sailors on board killed.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT ¹

- May 1776 Anchor'd the Inside St Augustine Barr
- Monday 27. At 2 AM weighed, and gote over the Barr the Sloop and pilot Boat in Company – Gote the Boats in and discharged the pilot Set the Topsails and Square sail – Sloop & pilot boat in Company Standing along Shore.
Light airs & Clear Weather – Tacked to the Westward til 7 (PM) came to anchor Sloop and Schooner in Company – The North end of Cumberland Island SWbW distance about 2 Leagues
- Tuesday 28. found the Currents to set to the Eastward
Fresh breezes & Cloudy Wr Veer'd away to 1/2 our Cable – Light breezes & Cloudy with Thunder Lightning and rain –
- Wednesdy 29 At 7 weighed and came to sail working over the Barr of St Marie's.
Light airs & Clear weather – at 1 (PM) tack'd and stood over the Barr, Sloop in Company – At 3 Anchor'd in St Maries River in 7 fathom water gote the Boat out and carried the

- Troops on board, the Governt Sloop to go up the River to intercept the Rebels—² Sent our Cutter mann'd & armed wt a Midshipman to assist them in Landing
- Thursdy 30 Fired two Swivels and brought to a boat along Shore—Sent the Boat to bring her on board found her to be a Canoe from Jackel Island with two Barrels of Indigo wt Mr Leake in her, the owner of both, with a pass from one Thread Croft a Rebel Captain
- Fresh breezes and squally with rain—Recd a Tun of Water p Cutter—Cutter return'd from landing the Troops—Sent an Officer on Shore to seize the 2 Barrels of Indigo belonging to the before mentioned Leake for saying it was provisions.
- Friday 31 At 7 brought to a small Sloop from Georgia who inform'd us he had been forced into the Service of the Rebels to Carry ammunition—Fired 2 three Pounders to bring her to All hands at quarters.
- Fresh Breezes and Cloudy Weather Read the Articles of War &ca to the Schooner's Co The Rebels came down the River and carried off one Jollie a Planter & intended to board us with 200 in No dispatched an Express to Capt Graham, that he might be able to intercept them on their return and crossing the Ferry Weighed and dropt further down to stoppe the Passes of Boats and moor'd—

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. *Ibid.*, a detachment of the 16th Regiment which had been placed on board May 21, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Porcupine*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS L'MONTAIS ¹

May 1776 [Off Cape François]

Friday 31 saw a Sail in the S:W gave Chace to do & made sail Mt Christ SdW 3 Leags lig[h]t Breeze & hazy Wr the Chace bearing N $\frac{1}{2}$ E got out the sweeps towed in order to get up with the Chace at 12 shortd sail boarded the chace & found her to be a schooner from Cape Francois belong[ing] & bound to Philadelphia loaded with Powder & small Arms ² took the Master & 3 Men out of her & sent 4 Men on board in order to carry her to Jamaica Mt. Christ SoW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 5 Legs the Prize in Compy.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4293.

2. Schooner *Mary*, John Green, master, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS UNDER THE COMMAND OF JAMES YOUNG ESQ. VICE ADMIRAL OF THE RED &c. AT BARBADOES, AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.—ENGLISH HARBOUR ANTIGUA, THE 31ST MAY 1776." ¹

No 9	Ships	Commanders	Where Stationed &c.
	<i>Portland</i>	Vice Admiral Young	} In St John's Road Antigua, re- turned from a Cruize. Ordered to
		Capt Thos Dumaesq	

Argo Wm Garnier

Seaford John Colpoys

Hind Henry Bryne

Hawk Robt P. Cooper

Pomona Thos Eastwood

Sail with the Convoy for England.

In English Harbour Antigua, Careening alongside the Wharf.

Sailed hence the 19th May for Dominica to Complete her Wood and Water, then to proceed and Cruize off Curassou and the Islands adjacent &c. to the 30th June, then return to English Harbour

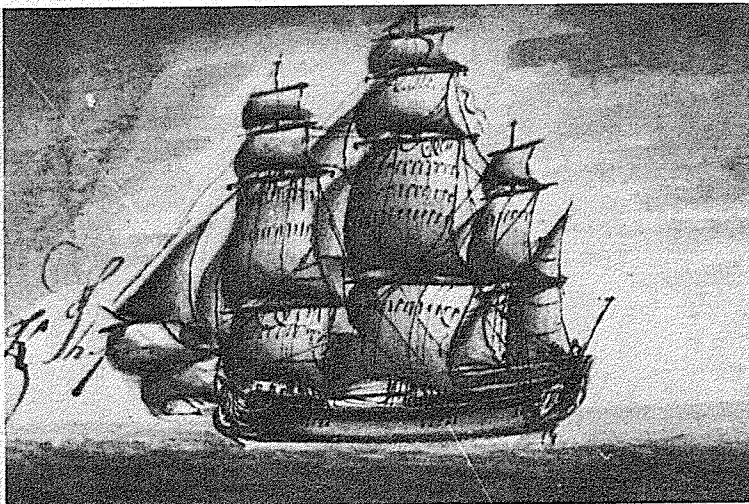
In English Harbour Antigua, refitting, returned from St Augustine.

Sailed hence the 25th April, on a Cruize between the Islands Guadalupe, Martinico, St Lucia, &c.

Sailed hence the 8th May, with Circular Letters to the Governors of the Islands Dominica, Barbadoes, and Grenada, afterwards to Cruize between St Eustatia St Croix, and the Islands adjacent, to the 20th June, then return to E. Harbour.

Jam^s Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Enclosed in Young to Philip Stephens, May 31, 1776.



"AN ACCOUNT OF SHIPS AND VESSELS TAKEN AS PRIZE OF WAR BY A SQUADRON OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS COMMANDED BY VICE ADMIRAL YOUNG, AT BARBADOES, AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS, AND IN THE SEAS ADJACENT, SINCE THE ACCOUNT SENT BY THE *Lynx* THE 7TH, APRIL LAST, TO THE 31ST, MAY 1776." ¹

No 7

By What Ship taken.	When taken.	Where taken.	Name of the Vessel.	Master.	To what Nation or Province belonging.	Sort of Vessel.	From Whence.	When last Sailed.	Where bound.	Lading.	Number of Tons. Men. Guns.	If any other Ship of War in Company when taken, her Name &c.	To what place sent to be tried.	Whether Condemned or Acquitted.
<i>Pomona</i>	1776 12th March	off St Eustatia	<i>Sally</i> .	Nathl Packard.		Sloop.				Staves and Provisions. }		None	St John's Antigua	Condemned.
<i>Viper</i>	1. March	At Sea	<i>Sawney</i>	Fras Skinner.		Brig.				Staves, Hoops, Rice and Indigo. }		Do	Do	Do
<i>Hawke</i>		St Johns Road } Antigua }	<i>Harriot</i>			Brig.				Corn.		Do	Do	Condemned. as Droits of the Admiralty.
<i>Argo</i>	2. March	At Dominica	<i>Dolphin</i>			Sloop.				Oil.		Do	Roseau, Dominica	Condemned.
<i>Portland</i>	24 March	Barbadoes	56 New Negroes									Do	English Harbour Antigua. }	
<i>Portland</i>	22 March	Barbadoes.	No Name			Schooner.				Ballast.		Do	English Harbour Antigua }	Condemned.

<i>Argo</i>	31st March	At Sea.	<i>Falmouth</i>	John Martin	Brig.	Falmouth New England }	<i>Barba- does</i>	Ballast.	Do	St John's, Antigua	Do.
<i>Pomona</i>	30th March	off St Kitts	<i>Bumper.</i>	Thos Cheney.	Schoo- ner			Mahogany and Logwood }	Do	St. John's Antigua	Do.
<i>Pomona</i>	31st March	At Sea	<i>Elizabeth</i>	John Chace	Sloop			Staves, Tobacco, and Provisions }	Do	English Harbour Antigua }	Do.
<i>Argo</i>	9 April	Off Dominica	<i>Dolphin.</i>	Abm Nowel.	Schoo- ner	Georgia	Dominica	Staves and Lumber	Do	Roseau, Dominica	Do.
<i>Portland</i>	10	At Sea	<i>Nancy.</i>	Saml Hinck- ley				Fish and Oil	Do	English Harbour Antigua. }	Do.
<i>Pomona</i>	20	off Antigua	<i>Neptune.</i>	Hugh Russel.	Brig			Ballast.	Do	St John's, Antigua	Do.
<i>Experiment</i>	15 April	At Sea	<i>Speedwell</i>	Thomas Davis	Sloop			Flour &c.	Do	St John's, Antigua	
<i>Hawke</i>	19th May	off Barba- does	<i>Elliot</i>	Wm Hallock.	Brig.	New York		Oil.	Do	English Harbour Antigua. }	
<i>Hawke</i>	19th May	off Barba- does	<i>Fair Haven</i>	Nathl Delano	Brig.	Rhode Island		Oil.	Do	English Harbour Antigua. }	
<i>Portland</i>	19th May	At Sea	<i>Nelly & Nancy</i>	Danl Robins	Schoo- ner	Virginia	25th April	Mar- tinico	Do	St Chris- tophers.	
<i>Pomona</i>	24th May	off St Bartho- lomew	<i>Duff</i>	Anty Knap	Brig.	New- found- land	23d May	New- found- land	Indian Corn 60 6 Melasses, 50 5 Sugar and Coffee.	St Chris- tophers.	

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Enclosed in Young to Philip Stephens, May 31, 1776.

1 June

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lizard*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

May 1776 Laid up in the Coude Sec [Cul de Sac, Quebec]
 Friday 30 Fresh Gales and cloudy weather Arrived from up the river
 [Thursday] the *Maria* Armed Schooner with Lieut Genl Carelton on
 board employed Occasionally the Commadore made the
 signal for disembarking the Troops
 Saturday 31 Arrived here several sail of Transports with Troops on board.
 [Friday]
 June [17]76 Arrived here his Majestys Ships *Juno* and *Blond* with several
 Sunday 1 Transpts
 [Saturday]

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/550.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN HENRY DEARBORN ¹

[On board H.M.S. *Niger*, May] 30

This morning we enter'd the mouth of Halifax, Harbour, as we pass'd up the Town has a very handsome appearance, at 12 O Clock we came to anchor near the Town & at Two, we went on shore. the land on which this Town is built rises gradually until it forms a beautiful eminence, call'd the Citadel-Hill, the Town is handsomely laid out, the building[s] are but small in general, at the upper end of the town there is a very good Dock yard, handsomely built with stone and lime, in which there are some handsome buildings, Major [Return Jonathan] Meigs & I waited on his Excellency Genl Howe this afternoon, with some dispatches from Genl Carleton.

June 1 Genl Howe after some Conversation desir'd us to wait on him again, on Monday Next, & he promis'd us he would inform us when and how we should have a passage to New England, I visited some officers, and others who were prisoners in Halifax. Vizt Capt Mortingdell [Sion Martindale], of Rhode Island, who was taken in a privateer,² Lieut [William] Scott who was taken at Bunker Hill, the 17th of June last and a number of others amounting in the whole to 20 persons – this day we took lodgings at one Riders Tavern.

1. *Dearborn Journal*.

2. Captain of Washington's brig *Washington*. He had recently been returned from England in H.M.S. *Greyhound*.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN ¹

Sir.

Portsmouth June 1, 1776

I adress'd you last of 22d April (& previously of 15) on the Captor of a Brig *Elizabeth* bro't into This Port by Com. Manly &c since which I have not been favr with your answer – I can easily conceive of your Engagements on matters of much greater concernment Yet I shall be much oblig'd (if a leisure moment) by a reply to the letters Quoted above, with the Continental resolves, respecting my department they not appearing this way The

Sufferors of Boston have sent forward a Memorial to the Congress, desiring their particular attention to this Captor. – The Captor's expect their full Quota of the neet proceed of Vessel & Cargo, wch no doubt will be the resolution of Congress; but a difculty arrises how I shall come at that, unless the whole is sold at Auction If Each claimant is to receive the 2/3ds of the proceeds, the difculty will be aleviated; but if the 2/3ds of the Goods that may be proved, the difculty will still remain. Those Good[s] that are not fully proved will be sold for the Continental acct Your advice & direction will be exceedingly usefull to the mode necessary for me to persue – Remaining very assuredly Sir [&c.]

Josh. Wentworth

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOHN LANGDON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE ¹

[Extract]

My dear Sir –

Portsmouth June 1st 1776

Your Esteem'd favour of the 20th & 21st Ulto is now on the table, am much Oblig'd by your close attention in procur[ing] Money, and forwarding all matters, in your power, I am sensible of the trouble you have, to get things done, as I've had some Experience of it myself, I Observe what you mention about the 1st Lieutenant & [John] Roche, I've mention'd the matter fully in my Letters since, therefore shall leave it to you, I am not anxious, have not mention'd the matter, only to Roche, who desired me, to mention his Name. Your Reason Roches has wait [weight] therefore shall say no more, dont forget Peter Shores for one of the Lieuts I've mention'd to you in my Letters Doctor John Jackson, for Surgeon, he will be just the thing therefore dont forget him. I hope to hear of [Thomas] Thompson's appointment, soon, as I shall make no Appointment of Petty Officers till then – I am very sorry the Guns are so backward We compleated getting our Masts in Yesterday without the least misfortune, most beautiful Sticks, compleately checked and Launched with Oak and Woolded [sic], shall discharge all the Carpenters next Week, except 8 or Ten to compleat matters – I believe shall take your Advice, and set out for Providence next Week to see after Guns, I hope as this Ship is so ready we shall have the first Guns –

I shall see after the Powder soon, agreeable to the desire of the Chairman, you have not mention'd the Quantity for each Ship, say, Three or Four tons, as the Powder, that was taken lately belongs to the Continent, shall endeavour to get it there. should be glad the Congress, would order some of that to be appropriated to this use which will be in time, as this at Newbury is at the high price of One Dollar p lb –

The Conduct of Pensylvania is now glorious. I could not say so few Weeks ago, I believe in my Soul the whole Continent will turn Yankees – I thank you for the firms of the Houses but beleive shall not make use of them I cannot at any rate get a Cargo thats worth sending, therefore shall wait the Orders of the [Secret] Committee I shall thank you to ask the

Chairman of the Secret Committee whither I may pay for that Brigantine taken, Captain [Josiah] Shackford, as P Agreement, after which I can make out the Accounts, and wait their Orders for the Ballance in my Hands (I've receivd no Orders) for the Specie in my possession, from the Chairman. —

I'm waiting for the appointment of an Agent, something must be done immediately, if I should be appointed Agent and thereby Oblig'd to quit my Seat at Congress, I would take the Command of this Battallion, while here, and would charge the Continent nothing for my Services . . .

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

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Saturday — June 1st 1776

A Letter from the Committee of Newbury Port Informing the Honble Court that one Mr Dalton was sent up to that Town by the Committee of Falmouth with a desire that he might be sent to the Honble Court that he was a Midshipman on board of the *Milford* & was taken in a sloop that he was on board of Bound to Boston, by One Capt Drinkwater and Carried into Falmouth—

In Council Read & orderd that the above named Phillip Dalton be sent to Concord Goal and that the Keeper of sd Goal be directed to grant sd Dalton the Liberty of the Goal yard on his giving his Parole in writing that he will not pass without the Limits of the same untill the further Order of the Council or he be otherwise discharged by due Course of Law — and that a Mittimus go out accordingly

Perez Morton D Secy

Mittimus to the Keeper of the Goal at Concord — You are hereby Order'd to take into your Custody Phillip Dalton late a Midshipman on board the *Milford* Man of War, who was taken in a Sloop bound to Boston with Supplies for the Enemies of America & sent here by the Committee of Newbury Port — and you are directed to grant him the liberty of the Goal Yard on his giving his Parole in writing that he will not pass without the limits of the same untill the further Order of the Council or he be Otherwise discharged by due Course of Law, hereof fail not at your Peril —

on the Name & by the Ordr of the Major part of the Council —

signed Richard Derby junr Presdt

Council Chamber June 1st 1776

Order to the Committee of Watertown Vizt —

Gentlemen The Council have Order'd one Mr Phillip Dalton to be confined within the Limits of the Goal yard at Concord and whereas there is no executive Officer in this Town, they have requir'd you to see their Order aforesaid carried into Effect by causing the said Dalton to be sent to the said Place of his Destination under Custody of some faithful Person. —

By Order of the Council [illegible] Dpy Secy

Petition of James Furse of Bristol in the Kingdom of great Brittain Mariner humbly Shews That about two months since he was taken with his Vessel & brought into the Port of Cohasset since which his Vessell and

Cargo have been Condemned in the Court of Admiralty² He has [experienced] largely of the Generosity of the Captors for which he feels himself under the most gratefull ties – On application to your Honors the thirteenth of April last you saw fit to grant him Liberty with the rest of his Crew to return to their respective homes – giving their Paroles of Honor not to Act Offensively against the United Colonies in their present contest with Great Brittain—This Order your Petitioner has been ever ready to comply with, as the Condition of it Corresponds with his own Determinations, in Confidence of this Order he expended all the Monies that were the proceeds of the Bounty of his generous Captors in purchasing a small Vessell to transport him to Bristol and just when he had got ready to Sail, he was told by the Committee of Cohasset that the Council of War has prohibited his putting to Sea and he is inform'd that an Order has passed the Honble Board in Confirmation of the order of the Council of War. He prays your Honors to Suspend forwarding the last Mentiond Order, and most earnestly begs you to enter again into the Consideration of the Matter desiring your Canded Attention to his Circumstances – that he is far distant from his home his Connections and his Family, that he has no means of Subsistance here that his all lays in the Vessell he has purchased for his transportation And that his Men have been on pay for some time past and that his Provisions for his Voyage are purchased and are on hand. Under these Circumstances he thinks it most peculiarly hard to be detained, more especially as he put himself to all this trouble and expence me[re]ly on the Strength of your Honors kind Order before refered to. – tis objected that he will Communicate Intelligence on the other Side of the Water. He knows of no other Intelligence, that it is in his power to Communicate but that this Country are making every Military Preparation and is now in the most respectable posture of Defence, and that the Inhabitants thereof are Generous, humane and brave, if the relation of these truths may be thought to disserve the Country, your Petitioner is ready to promise to be Silent even as to them³ If it is suggested that He intends for Hallifax, rather than be retarded he will endeavour to procure Bonds that He will not touch at any Port in America unless taken or drove in by Stress of Weather, at the same time he hopes your Honors will not put him to this Necessity as he is ready most solemnly to promise that he will use his Utmost Endeavours and Skill, to avoid every Casualty and Circumstance that may Subject him to a Possibility of Stopping at that Port And your Petitioner as in Duty bound shall ever pray

Saturday June 1776

Jas. Furse

Ordered that the Prayer of the foregoing Petition be granted and that the Secretary be directed to advise the Committe of Cohasset thereof, and to direct them to see that no Letters containing Politicks or Remittances be Suffered to be sent by him, and that no other persons be permitted to go with him but Mr Thompson and his Crew.

A Letter to the Committee of Cohasset Vizt.

Gentlemen

I am directed by the Council to Acquaint you that they have again taken

into Consideration Capt Furse's going to England and have orderd that he be permitted to Sail in the Vessell he has purchased for that purpose, without Delay you are required however to pay the Closest Attention to what he takes on board. You are to Inspect all Letters and see that they contain no Remittances or matter of Politicks, if they do you are to detain them You are also required to prevent any Passengers or Persons whatsoever embarking on board said Vessell except Mr Thompson and the Navigators of the Vessell being the Persons mention'd in your Letter to the Council.
by Order of the Council —

Perez Morton Depy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 2-4.

2. *Boston Gazette*, April 15, 1776: "Last Thursday [April 11] three Boats with 26 Hands, took a Snow bound from Grenada to Boston, James Fuz [*sic*], Master, and carried her into Cohasset."

3. Captain Furse did not keep his promise to be silent. *Public Advertiser*, London, July 12, 1776.

ADVERTISEMENT OF LIBEL AGAINST BRITISH SLOOP *Two Friends*¹

Providence ss

Colony of Rhode-Island

At a Court erected to try and condemn all Vessels, that shall be found infesting the Sea Coast of America, and brought into said Colony, to be holden at Providence, in the County of Providence, on the 17th Day of June, A.D. 1776, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon, will be tried the Justice of the Capture of the Sloop called the *Two Friends*, late commanded by Abraham Copeland, laden with Salt, Rum, Sugar and Melasses, brought into said County of Providence, and said to have been employed in supplying the Fleet and Army now acting against the United Colonies; and therefore the said Sloop, her Appurtenances and Cargo, are libelled in the Court aforesaid, and will be tried at the Time above appointed. This Notice is given pursuant to the Law of said Colony, that the Owner or Owners of said Sloop, or any Persons concerned therein, may appear at said Court and shew Cause, if any they have, why the said Sloop, her Appurtenances and Cargo, should not be condemned.

John Foster, Judge of said Court.

1. *Providence Gazette*, June 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Hartford] June 1. At the Council Board.

The letters and bonds to the captains of the row-gallies being to be forwarded &c., and names not being given to two of them, is concluded to call Cap. [Theodore] Stanton's built at Norwich, the *Shark*; and Cap. [Jehiel] Tinker's, at E. Haddam, the *Crane*.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 407.

DENNIS & DAWSON TO BARNABAS DEANE¹

Sir

New York June 1st 1776

We are duly favor'd with yours of the 27th Ulto and have Observed the Contents. The 16 Inch Cable which you say you have had Offer'd to you at

75 PCt would recommend for you to Accept it – the Other shall be forwarded agreeable to your desire – As to the Hemp it is engaged and was in expectation of its being delivered at this place in this, however are now promised to have it down some time in the Ensuing Week – And as Soon as it comes to hand you may be assured it shall be immediately forwarded – by whom shall endeavor to send the other Articles Wanting² – In the Interim We are with much Esteem Sir [&c.]

Dennis & Dawson

Mr Bars Deane at Wethersfield

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.
2. For the frigate building in Connecticut.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

[New York] Die Sabatti, 9 HO. A.M.

June 1st, 1776.

A letter from Capt. James Smith, late commander of the armed sloop *Schuyler*, dated yesterday, was read and filed.²

He therein encloses his late commission as commander of the sloop *Schuyler*, in order to cancel the bond given for his punctual observance of his instructions; and returns his sincere thanks for all past favours.

Ordered, That the said bond be cancelled and that the said commission be also filed.

A petition of the prisoners in jail belonging to the ship of war *Phoenix*, dated the 22 d ult. complaining of their allowance, was read and considered. Thereupon,

Ordered, That the said prisoners be respectively allowed 14d. per day for their subsistence.

Saturday, P.M. June 1st, 1776.

A letter from Captain [Richard] Varick, requesting that two tons of oakum be forwarded to Albany, was read.

Ordered, That Col. Broome and Mr. Glenn wait on General Putnam, and inform him that this Congress are about closing their accounts, and it being out of their department, they request him to execute said order.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 469, 470.

2. *Ibid.*, II, 207.

MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Head Quarters N York June 1st. 1776

... I wrote you yesterday but was too late for the post, shall forward it on wt this – since which five Ships arrived Att the Hook three of which I suppose to be Men of War, –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOHN ADAMS TO ISAAC SMITH, SR.¹

Dear sir

Philadelphia June 1. 1776

Your favours of May 14. and 22d. are now before me. The first I

shewed to Mr. Morris, as soon as I received it. The last contains Intelligence, from Hallifax of the Streights to which our Enemies are reduced, which I was very glad to learn.

I am very happy to learn from you and some other of my Friends that Boston is securely fortified; but still I cannot be fully satisfied untill I hear that every unfriendly Flag is chased out of that Harbour.

Cape Ann, I am sensible is a most important Post, and if the Enemy should possess themselves of it, they might distress the Trade of the Colony to a great Degree. For which Reason I am determined to do every Thing in my Power to get it fortified at the Continental Expence, I cant be confident that I shall succeed but it shall not be my Fault if I dont.

I am very glad you gave me your Opinion of the Utility of that Harbour and of the Practicability of making it secure, because I was not enough acquainted with it before to Speak with Precision about it.

Your Observations upon the oppressive severity of the old Regulations of Trade in subjecting Ships and Cargoes to Confiscation for the Indiscretion of a Master or Mariner, and upon the Artifice and Corruption which was introduced respecting Hospital Money, are very just: But if you consider the Resolution of Congress, and that of Virginia of the 15th. of May, the Resolutions of the two Carolinas and Georgia, each of which Colonies, are instituting new Governments, under the Authority of the People; if you consider what is doing at New York, New Jersey, Pensilvania, and even in Maryland, which are all gradually forming themselves into order to follow the Colonies to the Northward and Southward, together with the Treaties with Hesse, Brunswick and Waldeck and the Answer to the Mayor &c of London; I believe you will be convinced that there is little Probability of our ever again coming under the Yoke of British Regulations of Trade. The Cords which connected the two Countries are cutt asunder, and it will not be easy to splice them again, together.

I agree with you, in sentiment, that there will be little Difficulty in Trading with France and Spain, a great deal in dealing with Portugal, and some with Holland. Yet by very good Intelligence I am convinced, that there are great Merchants in the United Provinces and even in Amsterdam, who will contract to supply you with any Thing you want, whether Merchandize or military Stores by the Way of Nieuport and Ostend, two Towns which are subject to the Empress of Austria, who has never taken any public Notice of the Dispute between Britain and Us, and has never prohibited her Subjects from supplying us with any Thing.

There is a Gentleman, now in this City, a Native of it, and a very worthy Man who has been lately in those Towns as well as Amsterdam, who informs me that he had many Conversations there, with Merchants of figure, and that they assured him they should be glad to contract to furnish us with any Supplies, even upon Credit, for an Intrest of four Per Cent.

Other Intelligence to the same Purpose, with Additions of more Importance, has been sent here. But the Particulars may not be mentioned.

Europe seems to be in a great Commotion; altho the Appearance of a

perfect Calm is affected, I think this American Contest will light up a general War. What it will end in, God alone knows, to whose wise and righteous Providence I cheerfully submit, and am with great Esteem and Respect for the Family, your Friend & Servant.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 1-2.

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn

Philada June 1st 1776

The Sloop *Peggy* Capt [Thomas] Patton is loaden for acct of the Continent & as the *Hornet* Capt [William] Hallock is Stationed at Cape May & the *Wasp* Cruizing in the Bay they will be able to protect her against Tenders or give Notice of greater danger. I hope therefore you will grant her a pass & Pilot [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

1. Roberts Autograph Collection, HCL. Morris was writing as chairman of the Secret Committee of Congress.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety

Philad'a, 1st June, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. John Hazelwood construct and immediately employ Persons for building an additional Guard Boat, for the use of this Province.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 592, 593.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO HENRY FISHER ¹

In Committee of Safety

Sir

[Philadelphia, June 1, 1776]

Agreeable to your Request we send you by Capt. [Charles] Lawrence one of Our Guard Boats, ² and as we understand from Mr Philip Moore that you proposed both to officer and man her from your place, we have directed Capt. Lawrence to return immediately with his Crew. The Committee being clearly of Opinion that it would be dangerous to Suffer any Pilot to Cruize in Our bay, you are hereby enjoin'd on no Acct to admit any of those People to go on board the boat. Be good enough to send by Capt. Lawrence a Return of all Stores which you shall receive with this boat.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 765.

2. *Ibid.*, the Committee directed Captain John Hazelwood to make the boat available "under the care of Capt. Laurence."

MEMORANDUM BOOK OF WILLIAM BRADFORD, JR. ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday June 1st

After breakfast I went down town & searched all the most probable places I could hear of, for seamen: but without any success. However I met one

who belonged 1/r.Y U l O.- 31 Y. but I resolved to search further before I took him & appointed him to meet the next morning In the afternoon I renewed my search but in vain: ²

1. Colonel William Bradford Papers, HSP.

2. Bradford was in search of seamen to replace three who had left the brig *Polly* in Maurice River. The cryptogram, if such, has not been deciphered. On June 2, Bradford noted: "I set out again this morning; & lit on one who went with the Pilot to find one of his comrades. In the afternoon I met the Lad I saw yesterday morning & giving him a letter to Capt. [Philip] Lacey sent him over the River to go down by Land." And, the next day he added: "The greatest part of the day was spent in running after sailors which I At length found." *Ibid.*

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 1." ¹

The Brig *Hetty*, Don Mole, is arrived here with three tons and a half of powder, one hundred and forty stand of arms, and some lead. Our ships of war, and several vessels under their convoy, went out from Cape May, last Wednesday evening [May 29]. Our ships were at some distance from the Cape, when they fell in with the above brig, and brought her safe in.

1. *Constitutional Gazette*, June 5, 1776.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO JOHN PRINGLE ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] June 1st

. . . the Brig *Rogers* now Returned from Annapolis and what will be done with her we Cannot tell, as there are three men of war in our Bay as high as Rappahannock & by Express from Williamsburg we learn that all the Norfolk fleet is in Our Bay, and above York River, – but what their Design is we Cannot tell, however Your Brig Cannot go Under the present Situation of things, at the same time we shall do all in our Power to have the Necessary Justice done You, the Cloaves &c Cost 30/ p lb . . . ²

Under the Present Situation of things the Loss of Capt Mugford is Ir-reparable to his Country, however he Died Nobley, and Left such a Car-rector behind, that we should Endeavour to Arrive at, and though we are Sorry, for the Death of Such a man, Yet the Cause he died in makes us believe that he must Be happy, no more Bills yet, –

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Woolsey & Salmon wrote to Pringle again on June 4 complaining that they could not get an accounting from Captain Ridley of the *Rogers* and concluded "upon the whole we do not think him fit for You . . .," *ibid.*

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

No 8.

[Annapolis, June 1, 1776] ²

Gentn We send Mr [Stephen] Steward to Philadelphia to take a View of the Gondolas built at that city, we expect to contract with him for building most of those, that are ordered to be built for our province – the difference of tide in our Bay from that in Delaware will, we apprehend, necessar-

ily occasion some alteration in the manner of building and rigging our Gondolas from those of Pennsylvania – we wish to have your sentiments on this subject after conferring with Mr Steward. –

All is quiet at Annapolis, the Governor's boat is just returned from Virginia with Secretary Smith, and brings a letter from Commodore Hamond of the *Roebuck* to the Governor, which we have seen, he is to be sent for shortly. – the letter is dated at Gwinn's Island, which we take to be near Pianketank between the mouth of Potowmack and Rhapahannock, the letter informs they came there to compleat their wood and water; private intelligence says the Island is of some miles extent and has stock of Cattle, Sheep &c thereon; and that they are casting up intrenchments to defend themselves against the militia; how long they will remain there, is uncertain, our Islands will probably be plundered next, and they will move, we conjecture, up the river Potowmack, or our Bay – we should be exceedingly glad to have our military stores, particularly Cannon and small arms lent the Congress for fitting out the *Wasp* and *Hornet*³ – inclosed we send you copy of the particulars, and wish you would apply, when there is probability of Succeeding. –

Mr Smith informs that a vessel under Spanish colours was lately taken in Delaware Bay with 14000 Dollars on board, the boxes, that contained them are marked W M from whence he thinks they belong to Willing & Morris, and that there may be more money on board. –⁴ he confirms the report of Stock on the Island and says a Commissary is appointed to see that the people are paid Mr Smith also says that Commodore Hamond and Lord Dunmore both assured him that they had certain intelligence Commissioners were coming over & that he inferred from their discourse they were to treat with the Congress, he also says they told him a very powerful fleet was expected with the troops from England that [Jonathan] Hudson's ship was with the fleet now at Gwin's Island, that she was not yet condemned, a witness being wanting that was on board the *Liverpool* Frigate, whom Dunmore told Mr Smith could prove, that the Congress had papers on board concealed in a log of wood, which probably would condemn her we wish to hear from you by every good opportunity, and are Gentn [&c.]

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

2. "Copy of Letter No 8 was sent to the Deputies of Maryland in Congress," Minutes of the Council, June 1, 1776, *ibid.*, Council of Safety Journal.

3. The Continental schooner *Wasp* and sloop *Hornet* which sailed from Baltimore in January to join the fleet at the Delaware Capes.

4. *St. Barbara*. See Appendix B.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Ship *Defence* off Annapolis June 1st 1776

Gentln I Received yours this Morning pr Middleton, and ordered him down on the Lookout, I have not discovered any thing of the ships since I left them off Windmill point but apprehend should they intend up the Bay you will certainly hear of them this Evening; I am now proceeding with the

ship up to Baltimore, where shall expect your further orders, I am Gentlemen [&c.]

James Nicholson

1. Correspondence of Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO THOMAS JEFFERSON ¹

[Extract]

Wmsburg June 1. 1776.

. . . We build our Government slowly, I hope it will be founded on a Rock. Dunmore with 400 half starved motly soldiers on Gwyns Island, and 2000 of Our men on the Main are looking at each other as two Tenders are in the thoroughfare between Milford Haven and Piankatank to stop the Passage and the Fleet in the River to Protect the Island. . . .

1. Boyd., ed., *Jefferson Papers*, I, 297-98.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday June 1st, 1776.

Mr. John Herbert, a master shipbuilder, is empowered by this Comm'ee to engage any number of ship carpenters he can procure upon reasonable terms, and he is directed to view and examine all such places upon James River or its branches as he may think proper and convenient for erecting ship-yards at, and report to this Comm'ee.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 183, 184.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND TO CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
H.M.S. *Fowey* ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond &ca

Whereas his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore Governor of Virginia has represented to me, that he has hired Several Vessels to act against the Enemy, and has made application for a few Men and Ordnance Stores, to Arm the *Lady Charlotte* Tender for annoying the Rebels, as well as the Protection of his Excellencies Camp on Gwins Island.

You are therefore hereby required and directed to send without loss of time on board the *Lady Charlotte* Tender, one of your Quarter Deck Petty officers and Seven Seamen with the quantity of Ordnance Stores following for that purpose: vizt

Iron Ordnance of 2 Pounders	Two
Apron of Lead Small	Two
Wadhooks of 2 prs-Complete	One
Ladle do	One
Musquets Bright	Eight
Half Pikes	Seven
Carth Boxes, frogs & Belts	Five
Powder Horns	Two
Swords Scabbards & Belts	Six
Hand & Crow leavers of 5 feet	Two
Powder	Thirty pounds

Musquet Shot -----	Twenty
Cartridges of 2 prs -----	Thirty
Round Shot of do -----	Thirty
Grape do do -----	Thirty

For which this shall be your Order –

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Roebuck*
at Gwins Island in Virginia the 1st June 1776.

A S Hamond

1. Hamond, Orders issued, 1776–1777, UVL.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES
CORNWALLIS ¹

Major Genl

Earl Cornwallis

On board the *Sovereign*

Saturday the 1st June 1776

These Sea worthies plague me to death upon a Subject I must not pretend to understand – I have proposed that Your Lordships Ship, Your humble Servants, & such light Transports as can go in should proceed immadiately to Bull's Bay, which place for many reasons I prefer – our only [reason] I shall trouble you with, which is the proximity of that place to the Continent from whence alone I can expect to get intelligence – The Commodore seems to approve it and says that he with the rest of the Fleet will remain here or without the Bar of Charles Town till our Plan of operations is settled, but he gives me broad hints, as they do all indeed, that the Ships so anchored will not be in safety.

The Object is certainly worth an ending to but I must make the Commodore the best Judge, all I can say is that I will not attempt any thing blindfolded. I must reconnoître the Object before I attempt it – If there fore most of the Ships cannot be placed in safety at Bulls Bay, and the Commodore be satisfied with the Situation of the rest, I shall propose to him that the whole Fleet go over the Bar of Charles Town and there lay till the Plan of Attack can be formed. I am &c

H Clinton

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

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

Dear Sir

Bristol June 1st 1776

I agree entirely with You, that it is not worth while from the Report we have had, to go into Bull's Bay, and that it will be necessary in order to form a Plan of Attack to go over the Bar of Charle's Town. I shall therefore give Directions accordingly, and Hope the Fleet will be under Sail early to Morrow Morning.

I intend to Dispatch immediately the *Sphynx* and *St Lawrence* Schooner to examine the Bar, and to Endeavour shou'd there be any Obstructions to remove Them, before Our Arrival. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

P: Parker

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

English Harbour, Antigua, 1st June 1776 –

Sir

Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that pursuant to their Orders to me of the 19th February last I caused publication to be made for Tenders to be delivered from such persons as might have Vessels to dispose of which on due Survey and examination should be deemed fit to be made armed Vessels for the use of His Majesty; and that I have inclosed for their Lordships inspection the reported Condition and Valuation of a Brigantine purchased the 30th May; for which I have directed the Naval Officer at Antigua Yard, to draw Bills on the Navy board for £650 Sterling the appraised Value of said Brigantine.

The 31st May I caused said Brigantine to be Commissioned and called the *Endeavour*, and have appointed Lieutenant Francis Tinsley from the *Seaford* to Command her, and have also appointed Mr George Anson Byron to be Lieutenant of the *Seaford* in his room, which I hope their Lordships will approve. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2 June (Sunday)

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

June 1776

Moor'd at Port Neuf

Saturday 1st

at 4 A M, sent the Master in the Long Boat to sound from Pt Lawson down to the Ship to know what kind of Channel there was in Case it was necessary for a Frigate to proceed up – Heel'd the Ship to boot Top the Starbd Side at 8 A M, a party of Soldiers marching up.

1st part light Breezes, mid rain, latt, fresh Breezes – at 7 P M, the Mastr returnd in the Long Boat, having found a good Channel & sufficient Water for a large Ship from Port Neuf to Dechambeau & 6 Leags above at Midnight the Schooner returnd with a Letter from the Commodore

Sunday 2d

at 7 A M recd a Letter from him by Express, that no Ship of more than 13 feet shoud pass the Rapids of Richlieu – that the lighter Ships were to take in the Baggage & Stores of the heavier Ones – Sent an express by Lieut Edger to the Commodore –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Duplicate.

Chatham, In Halifax Harbour, June 2d 1776.

Sir, I am to acquaint you that the *Canceaux* arrived here Yesterday and that I have received the following Orders and Letters, with the Several pa-