

# **Naval Documents of The American Revolution**

**Volume 6**

**AMERICAN THEATRE: Aug. 1, 1776–Oct. 31, 1776  
EUROPEAN THEATRE: May 26, 1776–Oct. 5, 1776**

**Part 2 of 8**

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Their Lordships I presume will perceive by the Governor of Martini-que's Answer to my Letter that any further Correspondence with him (or indeed with any of the Governors at the other Islands) will be useless. I therefore hope they will be pleased to give me such farther Instructions as may be thought proper, and necessary on the present occasion, as by the Kings late Instructions We are so very strictly enjoyned to Observe the exactest Neutrality towards the Foreign Ports. – I likewise wish to receive their Lordships farther directions about that part of the Kings Instructions relating to the keeping the American Prisoners, as they will soon increase here to a considerable Number; and there is no place of Security provided to keep them on shore, neither can it be proper in this Climate to Croud the Ships with them, as that would undoubtedly cause great Sickness to happen onboard, and thereby very much distress the Service. – I have just now received a Letter from Governor [Valentine] Morris of St Vincent, Copy of which, marked No 4 is inclosed; by it their Lordships may perceive I have not been mistaken in the Surmise I mentioned in the beginning of this Letter. I shall send the *Pomona* to Sea to morrow, with directions to Cruize between Port Royal Harbour and the Island of St. Lucia, to endeavour to intercept said Vessels, and will write at the same time to Captain Chapman (who was directed by my Orders of the 16th July last to Cruize about those Islands) to assist in the like Service, and I flatter myself they may by keeping a good look out, be enabled to intercept and take the afore-said Armed Vessels. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

11 Aug. (Sunday)

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston, August 11, 1776

. . . I wish I could entertain you with any important intelligence. We have nothing going forward here but fixing out privateers, and condemnation and sale of prizes sent in by them, so many that I am quite lost in my estimate of them, and West India Goods are falling at a great rate. Yesterday arrived a prize taken by a [New] York Privateer with several hundred bags of cotton (a capital article), etc., etc.<sup>2</sup> While all this is going forward, and whole fleets have been here, and might have been taken by your ships if at sea, I can't sufficiently lament the languor, and seeming inattention to so important a matter. A very fine ship lies at Portsmouth waiting only for guns,<sup>3</sup> and I am told there are not yet orders issued for manning those at Newbury Port.<sup>4</sup> This delay disgusts the officers, and occasions them to repent entering the service. . . .

1. *Warren-Adams Letters Being Chiefly a Correspondence among John Adams, Samuel Adams, and James Warren . . .* (Boston, 1917–1925), I, 267–69. Hereafter cited as *Warren-Adams Letters*.

2. The ship *Earl of Errol*, 270 tons, John Bartlett, master, from Jamaica for London.

3. The Continental frigate *Raleigh*.

4. The Continental frigates *Boston* and *Hancock*.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S LIST OF ORDNANCE STORES SHIPPED TO THE  
ARMY IN NEW YORK <sup>1</sup>

[New London August 11, 1776]

Invoice of Warlike Stores Shipt to New York p David Harris & Consigned  
to Ezekiel Chevers Commissary of ordinance Stores viz

2 boxes Conta[ining]	
16 Carcass's	
1 bar Conta	
1 paper Quick Match	
11 Long paper Tubes or fallse fires	} fill'd
300 Tin Tubes	
39 Flannel cartrages	
258 Fusees	
2 papers pitch	
1 pr pinchers	
4 Irons	
1 Spring	
6 Fire Rings	
3 Fire Rings	
16 Sheels fill'd	
1 Brass Howet	} all Returned but these
2 Carriages	
175 Empty Sheels	
To Joseph Trumbull p Harris	
1 box 20 Arms from Baleys	} charged to Gen Washington
1 box 24 do	
1 box 30 do Brass Mounted.	

1. Shaw Papers, Ledger 39, YUL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT OF ORDNANCE STORES SHIPPED TO  
NEW YORK <sup>1</sup>

[New London, August 11, 1776]

1776 The Ordnance Store at N York Ezekiel Chevers Esqr

Apr Recever General

Dr.

23	9 Brass Morters 14. .0. .4 @120/	£ 84. .4. .0
	50 Seven Inch Chells 12. .3. 22	} £ 18
	150 Five & half Inc do 20. .0. 10	
	2 Wooden Beds for the 5½ Inc Morters	} 0. .0. .0
	6 Iron Mounted not apprized	
	1 Brass Howet from the <i>Boulton</i> deld Robt. Coak	40. .0. .0
May	3998 Shells of Different Sizes 22 ton. 15. 2. 24	410. .2. 10
10	1 Brass Mortar 4. .0. .0	} @ 20/
	6 Small do 1. .0. 23	

p Capt [Robert] Niles

30	59 Shels & 1 Shott	5..3..25	@ 18/	5..7..6
	p Capt Hacker			
Aug	1 Brass Howet			40..-..-
11	2 Carriages not apprized	}		£640.14..0
	pr David Harris			
	To pd Davd Harris	f[reigh]t of do		6.10..0

1. Shaw Papers, Ledger 39, YUL.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Tyconderoga 11th August 1776

... Our Fleet since the Arrival of the reinforcement of Carpenters grows daily more & more powerful, inclosed is a List<sup>2</sup> of those Man'd, Armed, & ready for Action at Crown Point a Schooner, a Row Gally & three more Gondolas are rigging here & will this Week Join those at Crown Point when General Arnold will sail with the whole down the Lake - Three fine Row Gallies will be finished in a Fortnight at Skeenesborough & directly Join the rest of the Fleet under General Arnold, this is a Naval Force when Collected that promises to Secure the Comand [of] Lake Champlain

... Captain & Thirty Nine Carpenters, from Rode Island, Hired by the united States, at prodigious Wages, General Waterbury writes me Word, are Inoculated at Williams Town. I beg you Sir to write to Governor Cooke to Dismiss them immediately, pay they do not deserve a penny, they should on no Account be permitted to come to Skeensborough, I am confidently assured we can do without them.

1. "Revolutionary Correspondence of Governor Nicholas Cooke," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* New Series, XXXVI, 332-34.

2. A copy of this letter was sent to Governor Cooke, but the list was not enclosed.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Jersey*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM A. HALSTED<sup>1</sup>

August. 1776

Montock Point NNW. 16 Leagues

Sunday 11

at 4. AM. sounded from 70, to, 50, Fathoms. Do Ground. out 3d and 2d Reefs Topsails. at 6 saw a ship & Brigg to the NW who bore down to us, both fitted for War. we hauled to the Northwd and fired several shot at the Brigg, who attempted to cut off a Brigg in our Company. Gave chase out all Reefs Topsails.

Light Airs and Cloudy Weather. at ½ past 7 PM, finding the Chase gained on us considerably, bore up sounded in 35 faths black Ouze like the former, in 1st & 2d Reefs Topsails

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/493.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN<sup>1</sup>

*Eagle*, off Staten Island.

My Lord,

11th August 1776

Conceiving it of the utmost Importance, in pursuit of the Objects of the

special Commission with which I had the honor to be charged by His Majesty, that the Colonies in Rebellion should have the earliest Information of His Majesty's most gracious Intentions, with respect to the Restoration of Peace, and the granting of Pardons to such of His Majesty's Subjects as, by a speedy Return to their Allegiance, might deserve the Royal Mercy; I thought proper, in the course of my Voyage, to prepare a Declaration to that Effect, together with a circular Letter address'd to the Governors, or, in their Absence, the Lieutenant Governors or chief Magistrates, of the respective Colonies; Copies of which I have the honor to inclose to your Lordship, Ns. 1 & 2. —

I had little expectation that these Letters and Declaration would reach the Hands of His Majesty's Governors. — My Object was, that they should be circulated as much as possible throughout the Provinces; and I hoped to have found an opportunity of landing them soon after the time of their Date, by means of some Vessel I might meet with upon the Coasts; But no opportunity offered till I arriv'd off the Harbor of New York, on the 12th of last Month, when I dispatched the first Lieut of the *Eagle*, to Amboy, with those intended for the Colonies to the Southward of New York, directing him to deliver them to any Person who might appear in Authority, and to desire they might be forwarded by the Post. —

The inclosed printed Paper No 3, which came accidentally to my Hands, will inform your Lordship of the Resolution of the General Congress, upon their Receipt of the above mentioned Packets, which it seem'd were transmitted by Mr (called General) Mercier [Hugh Mercer], the Commanding Officer at Amboy, to Mr Washington at New York, and by him to the Congress. —

Captain [William C.] Burnaby in the *Merlin* Sloop was charged with the Packets for the Colonies of Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, and directed to land them at Rhode Island — On the 28th of last Month he returned, with a letter to me from Mr [Nicholas] Cooke, acknowledging the receipt of my letter & Declaration, and acquainting me that he had communicated them to "the General Assembly of that State" then sitting at Newport, who would transmit Copies of them to "the most Honorable the General Congress of the united States of America, to whom every application ought to be Addressed, and must be referred." A Copy of Mr Cooke's letter to me is enclosed No 4 —

As the issuing of the above mentioned Letters and Declaration, is the only Measure I judg'd necessary to take before I could have a Conference with General [William] Howe, I have nothing further to add in this separate Dispatch but my hopes of being informed by your Lordship, that my Conduct is honored with His Majesty's Approbation. — I am &c.

Howe

#### Inclosures

No 1 — Copy of Lord Howe's circular Letter to the Governors, dated June 20th 1776 —

2 Copy of Lord Howe's Declaration, dated 20th June 1776.

3 – Resolution of the Congress, 19th July 1776

4. – Copy of a Letter from Mr Nichs Cooke of Rhode Island to Lord Howe, dated Newport 21st July 1776.

[Endorsed] Lord Viscount Howe. R 28th Sept

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/229, LC Photocopy.

JOSIAH BARTLETT TO JOHN LANGDON<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] August 11th 1776

Dear Sir. Yours of the 29th ulto is come to hand and I congratulate you on your late appointment. Col Whipple sets off to morrow morning for Portsmouth and takes with him your commission as Continental Agent and will be able to inform you of every thing relative to it. He will be likely to make a little stop at New York and will go by the way of Providence and if possible procure the guns for your ship &c which stops may prevent his being with you as soon as this may reach you, but will no doubt in a few days after. He takes with him sixty thousand dollars for the account of New Hampshire . . .

You have no doubt heard that Clinton and Cornwallis since their defeat at South Carolina have joined General Howe – Governor Dunmore and his ragamuffins it is said have left Virginia and are supposed to be going to join General Howe. I think we may expect that some important event will soon take place at or near New York – God grant it may be favorable to the United American States

August 13th. Col Whipple left us for New Hampshire yesterday 2 o'Clock. I am [&c.]

Josiah Bartlett

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philada August 11th, 1776

Dear Sir I have been so exceedingly harrassed with Public business of various kinds that it has not been in my power to be so good a Correspondent to you as I always intended, but as you know my situation you'l make allowances & excuse it. I am much Concerned that we have been so unfortunate in our Remittances to you. One ship whose Cargo Cost £6000 Curry and upwards has been taken sometime since this Cargo was intended for Cadiz to address of Messrs Duff & Welsh with orders to hold the Nt.pceeds at your disposal but as they will never receive it you need not write to them on the Subject,<sup>2</sup> Since that a Brig *Charming Polly* (first Capt McFaden [William McFadden]) Capt [Philip] Lacey has been taken on this Coast with a Cargo of near £3000 Curry that was bound for Bourdeaux Consd to Messrs Delap with orders to Account with you for the Ntpceeds<sup>3</sup> besides these Genl Washington has unloaded either two or three Vessells that were loaded on purpose to make Remittances to you and their Voyages by this means are broke

up. other Cargoes are & have been necessarily detained by the Men of War on our Coasts and in our Bays &c; hitherto you will think your self unlucky in these untoward Circumstances and you have really been so, but this must not dispirit us for you may depend on it, I will persevere in making you the necessary Remittances with all possible Expedition, and you will in the end be fully Convinced of my attention to you

By this Conveyance I remit sundry bills to Messrs Saml & J. H. Delap Amounting to £2000.0.9 Sterlg with orders to hold the same at your disposal the amount being towards the Indan Contract and you will apply it accordingly, by other Conveyances I shall remit more bills as fast as I can get them – in the mean time I hope you will appear in such a respectable character as to be able to obtain all the Indian Goods on Credit untill the remittances get safely to hand these Goods will be exceedingly wanted and I most sincerely wish you may not have lost one mom[ent] in obtaining & sending them out. . . .

I have in a former letter told you the whole Continent wou'd be in want of Woolen Goods the ensuing Winter and you may depend that sufficient supplys cannot be sent out in time. We have lately got in a most Noble Crop of Flax and every body that understands cleaning & manufacturing of it are employed this will furnish large quantitys of Coarse Linens, but Linens of about 2/ to 3/ Stg p yard, good shirting Linens Table Linen, Ravens or other Duck fit for Tents, Sail Cloth of all sorts, Cambricks, Lawns, Muslin &c will all Continue to be much Wanted, all sorts of Cutlary Ware, Coppers Tin & Lead & every kind of Goods fit for Winter Wear must bring any price I therefore propose that Tom<sup>4</sup> & you shou'd try yours and our Credit jointly and propose to some of the most Wealthy Houses in France to ship out quantitys of suitable Goods to Martinico & Cape Francois to be re-shipped from thence hither, I dont care how much Value you send the more the better especially if you can get Insurance made on the Value from the West Indies here against all Risques we will employ good Vessells in transporting them hither and it will very often be in my power to obtain Convoy as our Frigates will frequently be Cruizing in the West Indies. I wou'd propose that you shou'd immediately send off as large a Value as you can in Winter Goods & an assortment every Month afterwards suitable for the Season at which they may be expected to arrive.

These Goods may if you please come out 2/3ds on account of Willing, Morris & Compy and 1/3d on your Acct You must fix with those that Ship them the length of the Credit and the Interest to be paid for their advances as well as their Commission &c. youl observe that British Manufacturers were before the present Contest shipped from England in the greatest abundance for 2½ pCt Comn on 12 Months Credit, after which 5 pCt Interest to Commencé if the payments were not then made; I am very sensible we cannot expect that Confidence from French & other Foreign Merchants now, that we formerly enjoyed with the Merchants in England, but I know that all Trading People do & must run Risques & that they are content to do so, when paid an equivalent, now when it is Considered that from our late Non



Exportation agreement, and from other interruptions to Commerce, it is not possible we can Remit bills previously or have proper Funds in Europe, it will not be thought strange that we shou'd under such Circumstances seek for Credit, and if our Cause is Crowned with success (which I think must be the case sooner or later) there is little danger in trusting us or indeed none at all, & that on the Contrary if we shou'd be unsuccessfull the Goods may be stopped in the West Indies for you may be sure we will not order them from thence unless we see perfect security in sending. I say when these things are attended to, not half the danger will appear that may at first be imagined, now if the Goods arrive safe we can sell them instantly for ready Money at very high prices and wou'd immediately Invest the Money in the purchase of Tobacco, Indigo, Flour wheat & such other produce as may suit the Fren[ch] Market. If Insurance can be made on these Products against the Risques the Remittances will thereby be Rendered Certain & the payment for the Goods speedy I hope therefore you will exert Yourselves to the utmost to Effect this plan and if any French or Dutch Houses choose to join you in it they may be a third, you a third & we a third or in any other proportion you like better. At Martinico Wm Bingham Esqr & Mr Richd Harrison will Receive & forward the Goods at Cape Francois Mr Stephen Ceron[io] or in his absence Mr Jno Gaignard. . . . You may depend that the pursuit of this plan deserves your utmost exertion & attention so farr as your mind is engaged in the making of Money for there never was so fair an opportunity of making a large Fortune since I have been Conversant in the World And you may assure yourself and all Concerned in this matter that I will manage whatever comes here to the utmost advantage and make the most immediate Returns for the Value, therefore I hope you will execute something Considerable without delay . . . there are many changes in Congress since you left us some for the better & some Worse. Our Frigates are really fine Ships and the Marine Committee have it in charge to Report ways & means for encreasing it and this can be done with great facility & dispatch, so that you may expect these States to become very formidable on the Seas next Summer or Sooner . . .

1. Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. Ship *Aurora*, Captain Getscheus, taken and carried into Gibraltar.

3. The *Charming Polly* was taken by H. M. S. *Orpheus*.

4. Thomas Morris, half brother of Robert Morris.

"COPY OF A LETTER TO CAPTAIN RICHARD SMITH OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lark*,  
DATED *Perseus* AT SEA THE 11TH. OF AUGUST 1776." <sup>1</sup>

Sir

I am sorry to acquaint You that several of the Ships under my Convoy are exceedingly refractory and inattentive to the Signals made for His Majesty's Service, which gives me reason to believe that some of those who sail best incline to make the best of their way, which may occasion detriment to the Service: I therefore humbly represent that if your orders will admit of

joining Convoys and keeping Company, we may be better above to execute the Service intended. I am Sir [&c.]

G. K. Elphinstone <sup>2</sup>

[Endorsed] No 1 In Lord Howes No 25

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

2. The *Lark* had under convoy twenty-four sail of victualers, and the *Perseus*, twenty transports with troops and provisions, Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 123, 130.

12 Aug.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Blonde*, CAPTAIN PHILEMON POWNOLL <sup>1</sup>

Augt 1776 Moored off Point Champlain.

Monday 12 AM Employ'd occasionally, sent a Mate and 20 Men for the Service of the Lakes,<sup>2</sup> work'd the Ventilator.  
Clear Wr and fine, PM nothing remarkable hapned

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/118.

2. *Ibid.*, on the following day the *Blonde* sent "a Midshipman and 20 Men for the Service of the Lakes." On September 4, the journal noted: "past us the *Tritons* longboat with 37 Men for the Service of the Lakes," and on September 7, "the *Isis* Longboat and Two Longboats from Transports pas'd us going to Chamblee with 90 Seamen for the Lake Service."

JOHN LANGDON TO NICHOLAS BROWN, PROVIDENCE <sup>1</sup>

Sir -

Portsmouth 12th August 1776

Your favour P Captain Hawkins I've recd am sorry for the Misfortune of the Masts; on receiving your Letter, immediately orderd our Mast makers to examine the Docks for Masts they have got some of them, and are at work, shall soon have them ready. Capt Hawkins is at Newbury will soon be here with his Sloop to take them round, have order'd some to be hawled for Top Masts &c shall take every care to give every dispatch in my power, we shall, Hew them; and also tounge'd them, that they may be lighter for transporting on deck - Colo [Joseph] Nightingale has been here, with whom I've discoursed fully relative to the Guns; I've desired him to inform the Committee that I depend on the next Guns to your's and therefore if the Contract is wrote & sent down, I will sign it, and send it back, and in that case my Guns will be done (as I conceive) full time for Your second Ship,<sup>2</sup> therefore I cant conceive the least impropriety of your lending me the Guns for this Ship now, as mine will be done in time for you, as I never meant to interfere with the first Contract for Guns, for I understood when there, that the Committee could not cast any more at so low a price; therefore expect to pay more.

If it suites the Committee, should choose to have 26, 12 pounders, 6 Six pounders - 20 Swivels, but should it not suit, the whole Twenty Six to be Twelve pounders, Eight or ten 18 pounders would do, I mean if the Guns can be lent out of those already cast, which I hope they may, as it will most certainly serve us all to get this Ship out - Should the Committee see fit to spare them, pray send teams off immediately with them to Boston to the Care of Messrs Brusk and Hammott who will send them me by Water pray

let me know by return of post if they will spare them, and how soon they will set off, pray send by the first teams, one of each sort. – I am with Respect [&c.]

John Langdon<sup>3</sup>

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

2. Continental frigate *Providence*.

3. *Ibid.*, Langdon wrote a similar letter this date to Jabez Bowen, Providence.

JOHN LANGDON TO CHARLES MILLER<sup>1</sup>

Sir –

Portsmouth 12th August 1776

Your favour of the 8th instant I receiv'd by which I find you have directions to deliver Provisions for this Ship I've wrote to Messrs Breck & Hammott to receive it and send it round P Coaster. I am ordered to lay in Six Months Provisions and to keep that good, therefore you'll be good enough to spare as much as you can to Compleat the same. I gave an order on you in favour of Messrs Breck & Hammott for One hundred barrells beef one Do of Pork One hundred barrells of Flower, Fifty bls of Bread, five Casks of Rice, four or 5 Firkins of Butter &c the whole or as much of these Articles as shall be Convenient youll please forward – I shall be very glad of about Twenty or thirty Hhds Salt, which youll please Order Ship't here for the use of the Continent, or deliver it to Messrs Breck & Hammott who will ship it – I am with Respect [&c.]

John Langdon

To Charles Miller Esqr Commissary Boston

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

ORDER OF MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO REPLACE GUNS LOANED BY  
JONATHAN GLOVER<sup>1</sup>

In Com[m]ittee of Council [Watertown] Augt 12[th] 1776

Ordered – That the Com[m]issary General be and he hereby is directed to deliver Colo Jonathan Glover three four Pounders that are on Cambridge Com[m]on and three four Pounders on Boston Com[m]on; being in lieu of four double fortified four Pounders belonging to Said Coll Glover and one three Pounder to Coll [Azor] Orne which are now on Board the Sloop *Tyrannicide* Jno Fisk Comr – as Also the Sponges & Laddles belonging to the same if there should be any

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy Secy

Ordered – That the Com[m]issary General be and he hereby is directed to deliver Col Jonathan Glover or to his Order five hundred Weight Powder – he paying for the same at the Rate of five Shillings p [lb.]

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 44.

JOHN BRADFORD TO JOHN HANCOCK<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston 12th Augst 1776 –

... Orders are come forward to deliver all the provision that came in

the Ship *Peggy* to the Depy Commiss[ary] and he tells me he cant redeliver any part to me without an Order for that purpose, Will you please to send pr Next post the Necessary directions; Since the Grand prize wch was sent to portsmo; has been sent in here by two [New] york vessells a Ship from Granada with 400 hds Sugar 430 Bales Cotton an Article much wanted,<sup>2</sup> I hope to have the pleasure in my next to Acquaint you Sir, with the Arrival of some of the Continental prizes. The *Hancock* and *Franklin* being on their Cruise in pursuit of Jamaica ships; the *Lynch* is Return'd without success, the *Warren & Lee* Sailed Saturday last.

I shall be glad Sir in your next if you will say who you would have me Appoint as a Deputy, and to do the Duty of Auctioner, as you mentioned no person, and, Sam Elliot Son to Mr [William] Greenleaf. is Agent for the Brig *Defence*. Capt [Seth] Harding, we have spoke to him Greenleaf to Sell the scotch vessells, but I am no more Attached to him than to any other person.

I have not yet been able to come at the Invoices of all the Goods on board the Ship *Peggy*. Mr Glover sending them forward to the General, tho I've wrote to Judge [Timothy] Pickering to know if he had all the invoices, he promised me to bring all that was lodged with him to Boston that I might Copy them. I find he has a Copy of the whole; for he tells me he has Sempels, & Davis<sup>3</sup> and. that mentioned in my former Ltr to you was Reids, Mr Reid says the Wines are good. I know not how you are Supplied shall I send any particular sort forward. for your own use General Ward will be sending some Muskets forward to [New] york soon as I have furnished him with 27. partly out of the *peggy* and some I got Repaired of the former Stock from the scotch ships: , I hope Ere long I shall receive orders to send away the Brig,<sup>4</sup> Fish and Oil being perishing Articles. . . .

Mr [Jonathan] Glover makes fair promises of Settling as Soon as possible I shall use every argument in my power to get his, with the rest of the accounts Settled. tho I am afraid their will be no ballance in favr of the States. I am under a Necessity again to mention the pressing occasion I have for money, having purchased a Cargo of 10000 Dollars for the Brig. you will please to Remember sir as I have sent forward to head Quarters so great a part of the Arms of the Scotch ships, and the Continent having no more interest than 9/16 in one and 11/16 in the other, that no great [amount] will remain with me, if the intercourse was not Obstructed between philaa and this place the Matter would be made Easy but no Excha is wanted. I had Seal'd my last letters before Mr Ellis Grays Bills were drawn for 400 Dollars, therefore did not advise - I have a long time since Advanced all my own money and have borrowed £600 of my friends

1. Walter Fuller Don Collection, SI.

2. The ship *Earl of Errol*, 270 tons burden, *New-England Chronicle*, August 15, 1776.

3. Robert Semple and "the *pious* Benjamin Davis" were among the Tory passengers on board the ship *Peggy* bound from Halifax for New York. She was taken by Washington's armed schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin* on July 28, and carried into Marblehead, *ibid.*, August 2, 1776.

4. The brig *Dispatch*.

JOHN BRADFORD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir –

Boston 12th Augst 1776

I am honour'd with your Excellency's Signature under the 5th Instant, directing me to take the Necessary Care of all the Warlike Stores, and Necessaries. for an Army, till I may receive Orders from proper Authority. your Excellency may rely on the Strictest punctuallity in Complying with any future Orders I may Receive.

I have not Omitted since I have been in this department giving a particular caution to each Commander to prevent any Embezlements, and have furnished them with the resolve of Congress on that head, but it Signifies little, for great Complaints are made, by those who came in the last prize, that they Acted more like pirates than men who were so honorably employ'd. I am taking every measure to Efface that notion of their being privateers, for while they continue in it they will Act like such. Great need there is of a reform in our little Navy which I hope in time may be effected. I have the Honour to be with great truth [&c.]

Jn<sup>o</sup> Bradford

1. Washington Papers, LC.

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF THREE SCOTCH TRANSPORTS<sup>1</sup>

Boston, August 12, 1776.

To be Sold at Public Auction, On Wednesday, the 21st Instant, at the Hon. John Hancock, Esqr's. Wharf,

The Prize Ship *Lord Howe*, about 230 Tons, with her Appurtenances. She is a fine sailing Ship, built by the late Mr. Walker, of this Place, about three Years since.

The Prize Ship *George*, about 250 Tons, with her Appurtenances. A fine burthensome Ship, Falmouth built, about 2 Years old.

The Prize Brig. *Annabella*, upwards 200 Tons, with her Appurtenances, a very swift sailing Brig. and well calculated for a Privateer. – She was built in Virginia, about 18 Months past.

Every Vessel has one Suit of Sails compleat.

The Inventories of the above Vessels may be seen at the Sheriff's Office, in Cornhill, five Days before the Sale.

Wm. Greenleaf, Sheriff.

The Sale will begin at 10 o'Clock in the Morning of Wednesday, the 21st instant. At the same Time and Place, will be sold, about 50 Chaldron of Scotch Coal; with a Number of other Articles.

1. *New-England Chronicle*, August 15, 1776.

“INTERROGATORIES ANSWERED BY GEORGE WEIGHT BABCOCK PRIZE MASTER  
OF THE PRIZE SHIP CALLED THE *Starr and Garter*”<sup>1</sup>

Interrog. 1 When and by whom was the said Ship taken? –

Answr By the private Sloop of War called the *Diamond* Capt Wm Chace Commander, on the Twenty fifth Day of July 1776<sup>2</sup>

- Interrog. From whence was the said Ship bound and what Port was She bound to?
- Answr She was bound from the Island of St Christopher to the Port of London in great Britain. –
- Interrog. Who was Master of the said Ship. –
- Answr Thomas Hamson. –
- Interrog. What are the Contents of her Cargo?
- Answr. By the best information I could get her Cargo consists of about 178 hhd 10 Tierces and 16 Barrels of Sugar, 45 Puncheons of Rum. –
- Interrog. What People have you brought in the said Ship, which belonged to her, when She was taken?
- Answr The second Mate, the Carpenter, 3 Foremast men and a Boy.
- Interrog. Where are the said Ships Papers? –
- Answr On board the said Sloop *Diamond*, Capt. Chace was exam[in]ing them, and said he would deliver them to me the next Day after the Ship was taken, but another Vessel heaving in Sight he immediately pursued after it, and Night coming on I lost Sight of the Sloop, and thought best to proceed with the Ship to the Port of Providence. George W<sup>t</sup> Babcock

Answered upon Oath Aug. 12th 1776 –

Before Jn<sup>o</sup> Foster Judge in Prize Matters

[Endorsed] No 3. Interogatories answered by Capt. Geo W. Babcock

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

2. Captain Chace's libel against the *Star and Garter* is in *Providence Gazette*, August 17, 1776.

*Newport Mercury*, MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 1776

Newport, August 12.

Last evening a drowned man was found at gravelly point in this town; 'tis said he belonged to the *Andrew Doria*, Capt. Biddle, who sailed the day before with the *Columbus*.<sup>1</sup>

1. An odd incident, as the drowning helped to fix the sailing time of the two Continental vessels.

*Connecticut Courant*, MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 1776

Hartford, August 12.

A few days since, the new Ship of War belonging to this State, lying at Say Brook, was struck by Lightning, which did considerable Damage to her Main-Mast and Mizen-Mast.<sup>1</sup>

1. The ship *Oliver Cromwell*.

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

[Lebanon] August 12th, 1776.

Gave an order on Capt. Saml Squire of Fairfield, in favour of Capt. Seth Harding of the brig *Defence*, for forty barrels of pork, forty barrels of beef,

forty bushels of beans and peas, and forty bushels of Indian corn, for the use of the brig *Defence*. *Order delivered to Capt. Harding, August 12th, 1776.*

Gave an order on Capt. Saml Squire of Fairfield, in favour of Mr. Nathl Shaw junr, for sixty barrels of pork, the Colony's use. *Order delivered to Capt. Harding, August 12th, 1776.*

Orders were given to Capt. Harding of the Colony's brig *Defence* to cruise against the enemies of the United American States as soon as fitted to sail, for the space of about eight weeks, and to use every precaution in his power and discretion to cause any prize he may take to be brought into some port of the United [States,] and there secured and condemned; and after said cruise is ended to return to his place of rendezvous.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 499.

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

[Extract]

New York, August 12, 1776.

Sir: I have been duly honored with your favours of the 8th and 10th Instant with their several inclosures. I shall pay attention to the Resolution respecting Lieut. [James] Josiah <sup>2</sup> and attempt to relieve him from his rigorous usage. . . .

This Moment (10. O Clock) report is made by General [Nathanael] Greene, that a Man of War came in Yesterday, and that Sixty Sail of Ships are now standing in; no doubt they are a further part of the Hessian Troops.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V, 416-19.

2. See resolution of August 7, 1776.

### "EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK, AUGUST 12." <sup>1</sup>

We expect to be attacked every tide, the ships have now got their sails all up.

I have just been informed, that the two privateers out of this place, (but now at Fire Island) <sup>2</sup> after an engagement yesterday afternoon, of a quarter of an hour, took and carried in there a brig (cannot tell where she is from or what she contains) the privateers were seen to stand off; so that we hope they have before this another prize.

1. *Dunlap's Maryland Gazette*, August 20, 1776.

2. The Continental sloop *Schuylcr*, Captain Charles Pond, and the New York state sloop *Montgomery*, Captain William Rogers.

### JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE <sup>1</sup>

[On board H. M. S. *Eagle*]

Monday, 12th. [August]

This Morning, as soon as it was light, we were gladdened with the Sight of the grand Flight [*sic* fleet] in the offing. The Joy of the Navy & Army was almost like that of a Victory.

The Fleet came up this Evening to the number of 107 Sail. What is

very extraordinary, they have lost but 8 men in the whole Passage of 14 Weeks; and just before they came to the mouth of the Harbour they fell in with Capt. Davis [Henry Davies] of the *Repulse*, who convoyed the Remainder of the Embarkation from Portsmouth, though he sailed some Weeks after the Commodore [Hotham]. So large a Fleet made a fine Appearance upon entering the Harbor, with the Sails crouded, Colors flying, Guns saluting, and the Soldiers both in the Ships and on the Shore continually shouting. The Rebels (as we perceived by the Glasses) flocked out of their lurking Holes to see a Picture, by no means agreeable to them.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 62.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY <sup>1</sup>

August [1776] Sandy Hook NWbN 3 or 4 miles  
 Monday 12 saw a strange Convoy, made the Signal for a Pilot at 6 the *Repulse* saluted us with 13 Guns ret'd 11. came on board a Pilot stood in for Sandy hook in Company the *Repulses* Convoy  
 Little wind and variable weather, saluted Lord Howe with 13 Guns which he returned Anchored off Staten Island, found riding here the Vice Admirals Lord Howe & Shuldham with a large Fleet of Men of War and Transports, hoisted out the Boats received Water from the *Asia*.<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

2. *Ibid.*, the flag of Commodore William Hotham was on board the *Preston*, which had sailed from St. Helens, England, on May 6, 1776, with the *Brune*, *Emerald*, *Carcass* bomb and *Strombolo* fire ship, convoying a fleet of ninety-two transports.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HUGH MERCER TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract] Woodbridge 12 Augt 1776  
 Sir, Since break of day this Morning upwards of Eighty sail of Ships have been seen standing in from Sea towards N York - And on requisition of Genl Washington - Col [Samuel] Miles' two Battalions of Riflemen have gone on to reinforce his Excellency's Army - also Col [Samuel] Atlees Battalion of Musketry - about four hundred sett off from Amboy this afternoon, and as many of the flying Camp & Volunteers as will make up two Thousand I shall have ready at New ark & Bergen to assist in the defence of N York as required -

I am this Moment informed that since I left Amboy the Number of the Enemies Ships at Sandy hook is upwards of 100 -

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 159, 174, NA.

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

[Philadelphia] Monday, August 12, 1776

Agreeable to the order of the day, Commodore Hopkins attended, and was admitted; when the examination, taken before the Marine Committee,



and the report of the said Committee in consequence thereof, were read to him; and the commodore being heard in his own defence, and having delivered in some further answers to the questions asked him by the Marine Committee, and two witnesses being, at his request, introduced and examined, he withdrew.

The Congress then took into consideration the instructions given to Commodore Hopkins, his examination and answers to the Marine Committee, and the report of the Marine Committee thereupon; and, the farther defence by him made, and the testimony of the witnesses; and, after some debate, the farther consideration thereof was postponed. <sup>2</sup>

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 647-48.

2. In the Hopkins Papers, RIHS, are some fragments of the defense offered in justification of his actions. They read:

I am glad that I am to be tryed by a Court that I Can have no Doubt But will Judge from Maters of fact and not from any Rumer propagated out Dor[r]s With out the Least foundation and that further I am Humbly of opinion that the Reputation of the Navey has Not Sufferd by any misconduct of myne by wante of Discipline or any other way

in answer to the Report of the Comitte that I did During my Cruse S[ou]thwd Did not pay Due Regard to the tenor of my Instructions

A. that my ordors was maid the 5 day of Janarey and I did Not Saile till the 17th of febuarey which alterd the Stacion of the Enemy Priticler as to the Strength of the fleet at Virginia and all the ministeral Ships Living North and South Carlina as appears by Letters from the Navel Comitte as also it aperd to Me they Did not Expect I Should Strictly folow the ordors, But my one Judgment and Prud[ence] according to the Last Article In my odors. And was it Strictly understood I should, the next place by my Orders after South Carolina where it appears there was nothing to do, was to go to Rhode Island -

#### AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOHN ADAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] Monday August 12. 1776.<sup>2</sup>

Commodore Hopkins had his hearing, as in the Journal. On this Occasion I had a very laborious task, against all the Prejudices of the Gentlemen from the southern and middle States, and of many from New England. . . . I thought, however that Hopkins had done great Service and made an important beginning of Naval Operations.

It appeared to me, that the Commodore was pursued and persecuted by that Anti New England Spirit, which haunted Congress in many other of their proceedings, as well as in this Case and that of General Wooster. I saw nothing in the Conduct of Hopkins, which indicated Corruption or Want of Integrity. Experience and Skill might have been deficient, in several Particulars: But where could We find greater Experience or Skill? I knew of none to be found. The other Captains had not so much, and it was afterwards found, they had not more Success.

I therefore entered into a full and candid Investigation of the whole Subject, considered all the Charges and all the Evidence: as well as his Answers and proofs: and exerted all the Talents and Eloquence I had, in justifying him where he was justifiable, and excusing him where he was excusable. When the Tryal was over Mr. [William] Ellery of Newport,

came to me and said you have made the old Man your Friend for Life. He will hear of your Défence of him, and he never forgets a Kindness.<sup>3</sup>

1. L. H. Butterfield, ed., *The Adams Papers, Diary and Autobiography of John Adams* (Cambridge, 1961), III, 405, 406. Hereafter cited as Butterfield, ed., *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams*.

2. While Adams dated his comments on the day that Hopkins appeared before Congress, the entry really covers August 12, and August 15, 16, when the debate continued.

3. Adams added in his autobiography:

More than twenty Years afterwards, the Old Gentleman hobbled on his Crutches to the Inn in Providence, at four score Years of Age, one half of him dead in consequence of a paralytic Stroke, with his Eyes overflowing with tears to express his Gratitude to me. He said He knew not for what End he was continued in Life, unless it were to punish his Friends or to teach his Children and Grand Children to respect me. The President [Jonathan Maxcy] of Rhode Island Colledge [Brown University] who had married his Daughter, and all his Family shewed me the same affectionate Attachment.

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

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] Aug. 12 76

A french Vessel, a pretty large Brigantine, deeply loaden; arrived here yesterday from Martinique. She had 50 Barrells of Limes, which are all sold already, at such Prices, that the Amount of them will be sufficient to load the Brig with Flour. A Trade We see, even now, in the midst of summer is not totally interrupted, by all the Efforts of our Enemies. Prizes are taken in no small Numbers. A Gentleman told me a few days ago that he had summed up the sugar, which has been taken, and it amounted to 3000 Hdds. since which two other ships have been taken and carried into Maryland.

Thousands of schemes for Privateering are afloat in American Imaginations. Some are for taking the Hull ships, with Woolens for Amsterdam and Rotterdam – some are for the Tin ships – some for the Irish Linnen ships – some for outward Bound and others for Inward Bound India Men – some for the Hudsons Bay ships – and many for West India sugar ships. Out of these Speculations many fruitless and some profitable Projects will grow.

We have no News from New York. All is quiet there as yet. Our Expectations are raised – the Eyes of the World are upon Washington and How, and their Armies. The Wishes and Prayers of the virtuous Part of it, I hope, will be answerd. If not, yet Virtues grow out of Affliction.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 88–89.

### GEORGE BRYAN TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

The Port-officer begs Leave to inform the Gentlemen of the Council of Safety, that Anthony Marmajou master of the Brigantine *L'Heureuse Famille* from Martinico has this day entered (inter alia)

5 & ½ Tons of Sulphur.

13 Musquetts with Bayonetts fitted.

15 pairs of pistols

27 pieces of Sail Cloth  
Some Druggs & medicines

[Philadelphia] 12t[h] August 1776

Geo. Bryan

1. Henry C. Van Schaach Autograph Collection, vol. 2, 284, ChHS.

STEPHEN STEWARD TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

[West River, August 12] <sup>2</sup>

In behalf of you I have agreed to give William Waters one hundred & seventy five pounds provincial money for his boat & materials as p Invento-ry, herein for the use of the Province, sent a hand up with W. Waters in order to towe the boat down, I have wrote to John Steel, please to send down by the boat the swivil guns, half a barrel of Cannon powder, & half a dozen pounds of musket powder – If you have any such linen as you made tents of shoud be glad you would send 100 yds of it to make small sails with; & one ream of sheathing paper to secure the Magazine with Mr Waters is well acquainted with the bay and I think would be a very serviceable man for a Captain. I am Gentlemen [&c.] Stephen Steward. –

An Inventory of Rigging & tackle belonging to the boat *Sally*

vizt

1 Main sail.	1 Hair broom.	1 Tinder box flint & steel.
1 Fore do.	1 Brass Compass.	1 Candle Box.
1 Jibb do.	1 Pewter Bason & 3 plates.	1 tin Lanthorn.
1 Top do.	1 Earthen dish & 1 plate.	1 Scraper.
2 anchors.	1 Tea Pot.	1 Scrubbing brush.
1 Cable.	2 Earthen bowls.	1 Axe.
1 Row boat.	1 Tin Jack.	2 Iron Potts
2 Oars.	1 Lead & Line.	1 Combose
1 Water cask.	1 Tallow Brush.	1 Wooden bowl
1 Runner & tackle.	1 Table.	1 pr Hhd Slings
1 Draw bucket.	1 Tin Fender.	1 pr bbl Slings
1 Marlind spike.	4 knives & 4 forks.	1 Harness tubb
1 Hammer	2 Pewter spoons.	

William Waters.

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

2. The date is approximated from the following entries in the Journal of the Maryland Council of Safety for Tuesday, August 13, 1775: "Ordered That Western shore Treasurer pay to Captn Wm Waters one hundred and seventy five [pounds] for a Boat. Ordered, That Commissry of Stores deliver to Stephen Steward ten Swivel guns with furniture, 72 barrels of Cannon Powder & 6 w of Musquet powder." *Ibid.*, Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

English Harbour Antigua 12th August 1776.

I am now to desire you will be pleased to acquaint my Lords Commis-sioners of the Admiralty, that since my last Letters to them of the 24th July last by the *Argo*, His Majesty's Ship the *Hind*, struck the Ground coming

into English harbour; which has occasioned her to Leak so very much that I have thought it necessary to heave her down, and examine into the Damages She may have received by said accident, and I am now preparing her for Carreening at Jumbo point; the *Portland* being employed on said Service at the Capston Wharf. —

I have also the pleasure to acquaint their Lordships that I have now met with another Brigantine, that on a careful Survey, has been reported fit to be made an Armed Vessel for the use of His Majesty, which have directed to be purchased and the Naval Officer at Antigua Yard to draw Bills on the Navy Board for £750 sterling the Appraised Value of said Brigantine; the Reported Condition and Valuation which is inclosed and marked No 1 —

The 10th Instant I caused her to be Commissioned and called the *Pelican* (agreeable to their Lordships directions) and have appointed Lieutenant John Plummer Ardesoif from the *Hind* to Command her, and have also appointed Mr Billy Douglas to be Lieutenant of the *Hind* in his room, which I hope their Lordships will approve.

The inclosed Papers marked No 2 and 3 are the State and Condition, and Disposition of the Squadron, which I desire may be communicated to their Lordships. <sup>2</sup> I am Sir [&c.]

Jam<sup>s</sup> Young

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. Under July 27, 1776. See Volume 5, 1255.

### 13 Aug.

*New-England Chronicle*, Thursday, September 5, 1776 <sup>1</sup>

Halifax, August 13.

Saturday night last [August 10] arrived below, and Sunday morning came up to town, his Majesty's frigate *Liverpool*, from Head-Quarters, and brought in with her a Jamaica ship, and an Antigua brig retaken; also, a Philadelphia sloop bound to some part of New-England.<sup>2</sup> We are informed that General Howe and the Army under his command are encamped on an Island near New-York, called Staten-Island.

We have undoubted authority, that two Thousand Highlanders under the Convoy of three Frigates, and three armed schooners on a new construction for drawing the least quantity of water, have been dispatched by Lord Howe up the Bay of Fundy, to penetrate by that side into the New-Hampshire Government, and that Col. M'Lane with 3000 of the lower country Militia of Canada, with 600 Indians are on their full march to join that Body of Highlanders at the head of the River St. John's, and to cooperate with them.

On the 2d inst. arrived his Majesty's Frigate *Milford*, Capt. [John] Burr, from a cruize, and bro't in a prize Schooner loaded with Fish and Lumber for the West-India Market. — <sup>3</sup> Also, the *Princess Royal*, a home-ward Jamaica ship, (loaded with Rum, Sugar, and other valuable Articles) which having parted her Convoy, fell in (off the Bermuda Islands) with a

Letter of Marque Schooner in the American service of 6 Guns, and some swivels, bound to Santa Cruze who took her and put an officer and 12 men on board. But after they had her in possession 16 days, she fell in with the *Milford*, in Boston Bay, who retook her, but the Prize Master and his men took to their boat and got on shore before the *Milford* came up.

1. Reprinted from the *Nova Scotia Gazette*.
2. The recaptured vessels were the Ship *Nevis*, from Nevis for London, and the brig *Devonshire*, from Antigua for Ireland. The prize sloop was the *Swan*, laden with Indian corn, and taken August 1, 1776.
3. The schooner prize was the *Triton*, from Kennebec River, taken July 20, 1776.

COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT TO CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY,  
H. M. S. *Scarborough*<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Halifax 13th August 1776.

Having just now receiv'd information that the Rebels of New England are preparing to Invade this Province, & that for that purpose, they have made a Road from St Johns River enlong the Coast as far as the River Shepody toward the Head of the Bay of Fundy, and that they propose bringing Cannon in Boats along Shore, for the purpose of attacking the Fort at Cumberland.

I therefore think it necessary for His Majestys Service to desire that you do without loss of time, collect all the naval Force you can, & proceed directly to St Johns River, & there receive what Intelligence you can as to any such designs, or defeat any preparation's within your reach that you may find making; that from thence you proceed up to the River Shepody keeping close in Shore, [ ( ) which I am inform'd may be done with safety) in order to take up any of their Vessels which may be employ'd on this Occasion. When you shall have arriv'd at Shepody, you will then do what you shall think necessary for the King's Service, and so proceed to Cumberland, and co-operate with Colonel Gorham, unless in your way you shall have had an oppertunity of defeating any preparations or attemps for an invasion. I am Sir. &c

(Signd) M<sup>t</sup> Arbuthnot

1. Executive Council Letter Book, vol. 136, N.S. Arch.

JOHN LANGDON TO JOSIAH BARTLETT, PHILADELPHIA<sup>1</sup>.

[Extract]

Portsmouth 13th August 1776

... This will be handed you by Capt [John] Roche who has been the last Season, an Officer on board one of the Continental Vessells and has been of eminent Service to the States, Captain [John] Ayres who commands the Vessell on board of which Captain Roche acted as first Lieut<sup>2</sup> gives him the greatest Character not only of an Officer, but a Gentleman who has it in his Power to do great good in our Navey - I've therefore taken the Liberty to recommend him to you, and the Honble Members of Congress of my Acquaintance as a Gentleman and an Excellent Officer. I think he would support both Characters with Eclat, I've been several Years acquainted with

this Gentleman in the West Indies, where he resided, and always wore the Character given him here, he came to this Country last Year, and immediately Entered the Service not minding in what Station, he served, as he was determined, to serve the Country, which he tho't grocely abused by the Sons of Tyranny being likewise a great Friend to the Liberties of Mankind – I shall thank you to mention this Gentleman to Mr Adams's Mr [Richard Henry] Lee, Mr Rutledge; Jay &c and if any good Opportunity offers, in the Navey pray serve him –

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.
2. Washington's schooner *Lynch*.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Viper*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES<sup>1</sup>

Augt 1776                      Iland Grandmanon NNW 4 or 5 Leagues  
 Tuesday 13                    At 10 A M Saw a sail to the Westwd gave Chase  
    Mode Breezes & Cloudy still in Chase at 4 P M Spoke the  
    Chase A Sloop from Halifax bound to Winsor at 10 in 2d  
    reefs topsls at 11 Saw a sail A head gave Chase out reefs &  
    set Steerg Sails Came up with the Chase & haild her to bring  
    too she not Answering fired several Shot at her we imag-  
    ined her to be a privater seeing her decks A light We fired a  
    broadside into her She hove too & proved to be the brig  
    *Lousia* from Machies<sup>2</sup> made sail in 2nd reefs

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.
2. *Louisa*, J. Colston, master, and S. New, owner, from Machias for Tortola with lumber, shingles, etc., Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Tuesday August 13th 1776

Petition of John Lee in behalf of himself & [in] behalf of Messrs Jackson & Tracy & Tracy Merchts in Newbury Port—

Humbly Sheweth, That they have at their Joint and proper Expencc fitted out and Manned and Armed a Schooner call'd the *Hawke* burthen about Seventy Tons Navigated by Thirty Men, armed with Six Carriage Gun's, two & three Pounders, and ten Swivels, Twenty five bbls Pork & Beef, Flour & Rice, & two Hundred wt Powder, for the purpose of Cruising on the Enemies of the United States of America – And that they have Appointed John Lee to be the Comander of said Schooner, for whose faithfull Conduct in that Capacity your Petitioners are ready to enter into Bonds Therefore, they pray your Honors to grant the said John Lee a Comission or Letters of Marque for the purpose Aforesaid Agreeable to the Resolves and under the Conditions made by the Honble Congress – And your Petitioner for Himself and the concern'd as in Duty bound shall ever Pray—

John Lee

Read and Ordered That the above Mention'd John Lee be Comissionated as Commander of the Schooner *Hawke* – He Complying with the Resolves of Congress –

Bonds being given by John Lee & Jackson Tracey & Tracey a Comission was Issued out to the said John Lee as Comander of said Schooner *Hawke* fitted out by them for the purpose Aforesaid, and Instructions were delivered to him Accordingly—<sup>2</sup>

Ordered that Richard Derby Esqr be directed to forward the papers taken in a Vessell sent into Dartmouth, by John Fisk Commander of the *Tyrannicide* to the Honble Mr Seaver Agent for the Southern District—

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 158.

2. *Ibid.*, vol. 6, 80, a second bond added Martha Lee and Joseph Lee as owners in addition to Jackson, Tracy & Tracy.

HENRY BROMFIELD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston 13th Augt 1776

I am hond with your Excellencie's Favor of 24th June, wch came to Hand at a time that I was Absent on a Journey in the Country, This with a great uncertainty whether to undertake the Task assigned me therein has been the Reason, that I have not returned an earlier Answer, at length however, upon the Consideration of the Delay a Refusal must Occasion, & that the Excuse I might Alledge in my favor might be pleaded by Others who most probable must have been in the same Situation, vitz an Unacquaintedness with the Value of the Various Articles to be Apprizd, has determin'd me to Undertake the Trouble in Conjunction with Mr Willm Davis Mercht of this Town on Behalf of Capt Manly & his Crew, We have spared no Pains to Ascertain the Value of the different Articles; in Order to wch we have Applied to All the Traders & Mechanicks most conversant therein & have from the Information recd from them & Others most capable of giving it, Endeavor'd to make an Estimation as Near to Truth as might be, which however it may deviate I am conscious on my Own part cannot be Attributed to Inattention or Neglect, & hope will be such as to meet the Ap-  
probation of your Excellency & the Honbl Congress—<sup>2</sup> I have the Honour to be with greatest Esteem & Respect [&c.]

Henry Bromfield

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Appraisal of arms and ammunition from the British ordnance transport *Nancy*, taken in November 1775, and which were immediately requisitioned by Washington for the use of the Army. The appraisal was £20,530.18.1. Records Armed Vessels 1775-1776, vol. 2, Book 17, No. 5660, BHS.

PETITION OF JAMES KENNEDY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS' COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

The Petition of James Kenneday Inhabitant of St Georges Parish in the County of Middlesex London & late Master of the Ship *Peggy*—  
Humbly Sheweth—

That your Petitioner left St Vincents in the Ship *Hero* of London for Hallifax in March last for Lumber for that Island to which Island & Grenada Your Petitioner has Traded this Eight Years as Master from London, But as your Petitioner was taken very bad With the Rumatizim as that rendered him unable to walk therefore he was oblidged to send away the Ship for St

Vincent & remain in Halifax. Your Petitioner getting better of this Disorder purchased a small Schooner to proceed after his Ship but meeting with Mr Reed who had purchased this Ship Rigged & bound for Antigua by way of New York gave your Petitioner the Command of sd Ship with Promise not to detain her in N. York but directly Dispatch her for the west Indies & there to Load Sugars for London, but your Petitioner was taken by two Armed Schooners in the Service of the united States<sup>2</sup> & was brought in here the 29th of July Last & Committed to Jail, but as your Petitioner was in a very poor state of Health when Committed that he got the Liberty of Goal Keepers House where he has remained since Your Petitioner Prays that your Honors would take his Case into Consideration & grant him the same Liberty as other Masters of Ships brought In here. As your Petitioner had a Man on Board by the Name of [Benjamin] Davis whose Character he did not know till he was brought into this Place, he beleives is the Occasion of his receiving different punishment from other Masters of Vessells. Your Petitioner likewise Prays that when your Honors shall think it fit for the Masters of other Vessells brought in here to Depart for their own Country that your Petitioner may have leave to accompany them at first for London as your Petitioner has a Wife & Famaly there - Your Petitioner too is at Present in so bad a state of Health as is unable to put off or on his Cloaths - Your Petitioner is very happy that his Case is left with your Honors & rests assured that you will do every thing in your Power for him consisting with your Duty & the good of the Publick. If your Petitioner should have the Prayer of his Petition Granted he assures your Honors that he will not abuse the Goodness of those to whom he will be much Indebted & as in Duty bound will ever Pray &c

Ja<sup>s</sup> Kennedy

Boston August 13th 1776 -

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Augt 15[th] 1776 Read & Ordered - That the Prayer [of] the Petitioner Jas Kenedy be granted and the Goal Keeper at Boston in the County of Suffolk be and he hereby is directed to releas[e] from his Custody the Sayd Kenedy -<sup>3</sup>

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy-Secy<sup>4</sup>

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 59, 60.

2. The *Peggy* was taken by Washington's schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin*.

3. *Ibid.*, 292, Kennedy was still in Boston on September 25 when he again petitioned the Council to depart on board the ship *William*.

4. *Ibid.*, 61, 62, similar petitions resulted in the release of Thomas Pamp, mate, John Whittit, servant of the captain, Patrick Reid and Thomas Fraser, passengers on board the *Peggy*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK<sup>1</sup>

Remks on Tuesday 13th of August 1776

4 [A. M.]	Small breaze tumbling sea
5	down all sails
7	Sat All sails small Airs of wind
12	Ends pleasant Weather
	Lattd in 35d 37m Longd in 59d 35m



- 1 [P. M.] Wore ship stood to the southward saw a sail to windward  
down all sails found her to be a ship standing to the NE  
made sail gave Chaise
- 8 spake with the Chaise a spanish ship from Havannah bound to  
Cadiz 18 days out tack ship stood to the west ward

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

JOHN BROWN TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

Sir Providence August 13th 1776

I the Subscriber of Providence in the State of Rhode Island &c. Merchant, request your Honor to grant a Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal to Joseph Tillinghast Commander <sup>2</sup> of the Sloop *Polly* of which I am Owner, She is burthened about Seventy Tons, carries Six Carriage Guns Four Pounders and Swivel Guns, manned with Twenty Men, and fitted with a suitable Quantity of Small Arms, Pistols Cutlasses, Powder Ball and other Military Stores; She hath on board Ten Barrels Beef and Pork, Twelve Tierces Bread &c. Israel Arnold is Lieutenant and Nathan Westcott Master of said Sloop. I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

John Brown

1. Maritime Papers, Letters of Marque, R. I. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, Tillinghast received his commission this date, as did Captain William Dennis of the privateer sloop *America*.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER <sup>1</sup>

Sir Lebanon Augt 13th 1776

I wrote you yesterday since which Capt Seth Warner one of the Sea Captains you mention came to me, and hath consented to undertake and raise a Company of Seamen for the Lake Service – He informs me that he can soon procure twenty Seamen here and as many more out of the Companies in Colo [Samuel] Mott's Regiment which went from his neighbourhood, and are at or on their march to Skeensborough – I have conferred with him, and on consideration offered the following encouragement to such able bodied Seamen as shall enlist into this Service – to wit –

Bounty — 20 Dollars	£6..0..0
Premium for Blanket	0..12..0
Gun	0..6..0
Cartouch Box Belt and Knapsack	0..2..0
Wages pr Month	2..8..0

They to be held in Service from the day of their enlistment untill the 25th day of December next, unless sooner discharged, and to have the same allowance and marching money as the other Troops in Continental Service – The Premium and first months wages to be paid before they begin their march – <sup>2</sup>

I shall pr next opportunity send you an account of the Cost of the felling Axes, and advance pay to the Carpenters, and an estimate of the Sums necessary to be advanced for premium and first month's wages for the Seamen now to be raised, which I shall hope to receive – The other Carpenters I expect here soon, and trust they will undertake the Service – I am, Sir [ &c. ]

Jon<sup>th</sup> Trumbull

1. Trumbull Papers, XXVI, Letter Book 1, 81, ConnSL.
2. This date the Connecticut Council of Safety allowed Captain Warner £180 to carry out this service. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 500.

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH TO THE NEW YORK CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen –

Esopus, August 13th, 1776.

When Captain Biddle, of the Congress armed vessel the *Andrea Doria*, on the 29th May last took the *Oxford* transport, on board of which was a company of His Britannic Majesty's 42d regiment of foot, Capt. Biddle upon taking the officers out of the *Oxford*, only allowed them to take their bedding and a few shirts with them, and told them that by orders of the Continental Congress, all that was the private property of the prisoners that were taken would be allowed them, and that he would return the officers their swords upon coming on shore.

My reason for troubling you with this, gentlemen, is, as you mentioned, that when any prisoners had any business of any kind they were to apply to you. Now I and the rest of the officers of my company, who were taken on board the *Oxford*, will be glad to be informed whether or not we will be allowed our baggage, and what was our private property that was on board when we were taken. All my clothes and other baggage, and about 60 guineas in cash were on board; as likewise Lieut. Franklin, who is prisoner with me here, and Lieut. Morrow and Ensign Campbell, whom Captain Biddle carried to Rhode-Island with him. Captain Biddle gave command of the *Oxford* to one of his lieutenants, a Mr. [John] McDougal and a Mr. Tribbet [John Trevett]. I should be very much obliged to you, gentlemen, if you will be so kind as let me have an answer to this as soon as it is convenient. I am, with respect, gentlemen [ &c. ]

John Smith,

Captain in His Britannic Majesty's 42d Regt.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 283.

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

August 1776. –

At Single Anchor in Tapan Bay.

Tuesday 13th Light Breezes and fair Weather.

at 1¼ past Noon Weigh'd & came to Sail in Company with his Majesty's Ship *Rose*, the *Tryal* Schooner & the Two Tenders At 2 P M came too with the Small Bower in 6½ Fam abreast Col Philips. The *Rose* in coming too, let go

her Anchor foul of ours Weigh'd the Small & let go the Best Bower, Veer'd to 1/3 of a Cable

At Single Anchor, four Miles above the upper Fort on York Island.

I. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE <sup>1</sup>

August 1776

In Hudsons River New York

Tuesday 13th A M at 1/2 pass 11 Weigh'd and came to sail as did the *Phenix Tryal* and 2 Tenders, Steering down the River.

First and Mide part lights Airs and Clear, latter Do with Rain P M at 1/2 past 2 Anchd off Philliphs farm, 8 miles from the Rebel Fort, Do Anch'd the *Phenix, Tryal* & Tenders, saw several Vessels sunk in the Channel Abrest of the Fort, with 4 Brig's ready to sink.

I. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS EMPLOYED IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE VICE ADMIRAL THE VISCOUNT HOWE" <sup>1</sup>

Rate	Ships Names	Guns	Men	Commanders	Appointments.
3	<i>Eagle</i>	64	520	V. Adl Lord Howe Capt Duncan.	Stationed off of Staten Island attendant on the Operations of the Army. Destined to convoy Transports to bring the 6th Regiment from St Vincents
"	<i>Asia</i>		500		
4	<i>Chatham</i>	50	370	V. A. Shuldham Capt Raynor	
"	<i>Preston</i>		367		
"	<i>Centurion</i>		350	Brathwaite	
"	<i>Renown</i>			Banks	
5	<i>Rainbow</i>	44	280	Sir Geo: Collier	
"	<i>Emerald</i>	32	220	Caldwell	
"	<i>Repulse</i>			Davis	
"	<i>Flora</i>			Brisbane	
6	<i>Greyhound</i>	28	200	Dickson	
"	<i>Solebay</i>			Symonds	
Sloop	<i>Swan</i>	14	125	Ayscough	
"	<i>Tamer</i>	16		Lieut Mason	
F. Ship	<i>Strombolo</i>			Capt Phipps	
Bomb	<i>Thunder</i>			Molloy	
"	<i>Carcass</i>			Dring	
Schr	<i>St. Lawrence</i>				Lieutt Graves
Store Ship	<i>Adventure</i>			Hallum	
Sloop	<i>Senegal</i>	14	125	Curtis	Sandy Hook.
5	<i>Brune</i>	32	220	Capt Ferguson	Under Orders to be stationed in the West Entrance of the Sound to prevent Supplies being sent through that Channel to the Town of New York.
"	<i>Niger</i>			Talbot	
Sloop	<i>King's fisher</i>	14	125	Graeme	
Brig	<i>Halifax</i>			Lieutt Quarme	
5	<i>Phoenix</i>	44	280	Capt Parker	In the North River.
6	<i>Rose</i>	20	160	Wallace	
Armed Vessel	<i>Tryal</i>			Lieutt Brown	
5	<i>Orpheus</i>	32	220	Captain Hudson	To return off the Delaware



"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS EMPLOYED IN  
NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE VICE ADMIRAL  
THE VISCOUNT HOWE"<sup>1</sup>—[Continued]

Rate	Ships Names	Guns	Men	Commanders	Appointments.
6	<i>Liverpool</i>	28	200	Capt Bellew	Off of Boston
"	<i>Milford</i>			Burr	
6	<i>Cerberus</i>	28	200	Symons	Off of Block Island.
Sloop	<i>Merlin</i>	16	125	Burnaby	
4	<i>Bristol</i>	50	367	Como Sir P Parker	Daily expected from South Carolina, as by Report from Sir Peter Parker. Arrived at Sandy Hook August 14th 1776
"	<i>Experiment</i>		300	Capt Caulfield	
6	<i>Syren</i>	28	200	Williams Furneaux	
"	<i>Active</i>	28	200	Hunt	Stationed off Cape Fear, by Report from Sir P. Parker
Sloop	<i>Falcon</i>	14	125	Linzee	
"	<i>Scorpion</i>			Honble J. Tollemache	At Cape Fear.
"	<i>Cruizer</i>	8	80	Parry	
6	<i>Sphynx</i>	20	160	Reid	Stationed off of Savannah, as by Report from Sir P. Parker
Sloop	<i>Raven</i>	14	125	Stanhope	
A[armed] Vessel	<i>Cherokee</i>			Lieutt Ferguson	At Savannah, as by Do
Schr	<i>Hinchinbrook</i>			Ellis	St. Augustine, as by Do Do, as by Letter from Lieutt Grant
"	<i>St. John</i>			Grant	
6	<i>Mercury</i>	20	160	Capt Montagu	At Halifax, except the <i>Hope</i> , which is off Sable Island as by Account from Commissioner Arbuthnot of the 30th of June.
Sloop	<i>Savage</i>	8	80	Bromedge	
"	<i>Hope</i>	8	50	Dawson	
"	<i>Albany</i>			Mowat	
H[ospital] Ship	<i>Jersey</i>			Halsted	
6	<i>Scarborough</i>	20	160	Barkley	In the Bay of Fundy, by Order of Vice Admiral Shuldham.
Sloop	<i>Viper</i>	10	110	Graves	
Brig	<i>Canceaux</i>			Lieutt Schank—	Sent with Dispatches to Quebec by Do
Schr	<i>Dispatch</i>			Goodridge—	Sent by Commr Arbuthnot, to come with the <i>Renown</i> to this port—Not Arrived
5	<i>Roebuck</i>	44	280	Capt Hamond	Supposed to be at Virginia, as by Vice Admiral Shuldham's Report
6	<i>Fowey</i>	24	150	Montague	
Sloop	<i>Otter</i>	14	125	Squire	
4	<i>Isis</i>	50	350	Douglas	In the River St Laurence
5	<i>Pearl</i>	32	220	Wilkinson	
"	<i>Blonde</i>			Pownoll	
"	<i>Juno</i>			Dalrymple	
6	<i>Triton</i>	28	200	Lutwidge	
"	<i>Carysfort</i>			Fanshaw	
"	<i>Tartar</i>			Ommanney	
Armed Ship	<i>Bute</i>			Parrey	
"	<i>Howe</i>			Pringle	
Schr	<i>Magdalen</i>			Lieutt Nun[n]	
Brig	<i>Diligent</i>				Dodd—At the Island of St. Johns
Sloop	<i>Hunter</i>	10	110	Capt McKenzie	Supposed to be sailed from Quebec for England as by V. Admiral Shuldham's Report.
6	<i>Lively</i>	20	160	Bishop	Ordered to St Augustine by V. A. Shuldham
Sloop	<i>Nautilus</i>	16	125	Harvey	Bermuda by Do

*Eagle* off of Staten Island August the 13th 1776

Howe

CAPTAIN HENRY DAVIS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>*Repulse* off Staten Island –  
August the 13th 1776.

Sir/

Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that His Majestys Ship *Repulse* with Twenty five Sail of the Convoy under my Command, arrived here yesterday; I have also great pleasure in acquainting their Lordships, that the Troops are in perfect health, having not lost a man during the Voyage; Inclosed you will receive a Return of the Convoy, that Saild from St Hellens with me, the 26th of May last. and believe me to be – Most Respectfully Sir [&c.]

Hen: Davis

[Endorsed] Recd 29 Sept

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1706.

CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS, R.N., TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

I this morning waited on Adl Shuldham, & asked his opinion in regard to the Freight, for the money brought from So Carolina, he desires me to inform you, that as a receipt was given for the money when rec'd on board the *Solebay*, I stood charged with it, & must have been answerable for any loss, & thinks the offer I have made fore one pr Cent, very reasonable, as it has ever been a custom, for Kings money, as well as Contractors, to pay freight. As you consented in referring it to Adl Shuldham, I hope, to have no occasion to give you any further trouble about it. I have the Honor to be Sr [&c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Symonds:*Solebay* [off Staten Island] 13th Augt 1776:

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT <sup>1</sup>[On board H.M. Sloop *Swan*]

Tuesday Agust 13th Thermometer 70 morning. Came up Yesterday and anchored off of Staten Island 127 Transports with Troops &c. A.M. Four Regiments embarked great motion in The fleet – Evening Thermometer 81

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, LC.

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

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, August 13, 1776

The Marine Committee having recommended William Barnes for first lieutenant on board one of the frigates built at Philadelphia; Thomas Vaughan, (second mate of the ship *Alfred*.) to be third lieutenant of the

*Washington* frigate, commanded by Thomas Read, Esqr and Elisha Hinman, to the command of the *Cabot*,

*Resolved*, That they be accepted, and that commissions be granted to them accordingly; and that Captain [Dudley] Saltonstal be ordered to discharge Mr. Vaughan, that he may repair to the command to which he is now appointed.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 649.

JOHN ADAMS TO COLONEL HENRY KNOX <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia August 13. 1776

Dear Sir Yours of July 29, I duly received. – But had not the Pleasure of seeing Mr Bogart, the Cannon Founder. – Mr [Robert Treat] Paine, who is upon the Cannon Committee, I suppose has attended to him. – He informs me that the Committee of which he is one are taking Measures to procure Copper as well as Sulphur to be made in N. Jersey.

I have obtained from a Gentleman here, very particular Directions concerning Fire Ships and Rafts and Receipt for all the Compositions. – it is long, and will be some trouble to transcribe, – But if it lies within your Department and you have any Curiosity to see it, I will send it you.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

MEMORANDUM BOOK OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] 13th. [August]

Frigate Guard, very hard upon the Associators. Major [Samuel] Nicholas to be requested to employ the Marines in that service.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 488.

*Pennsylvania Evening Post*, TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1776

Philadelphia, August 13.

Last Wednesday was launched the third Continental frigate built here, called the *Washington*.

ROBERT CHRISTIE, JR. TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Baltimore 13th August 1776

I wrote you sometime ago acquainting that I had two Schooners we were sunk at the entrance of this harbor by order of the Committee, for upwards of three months. An allowance has been made me, to put the Vessells into as good order as when they were taken away, but I am told an application must be made to the Council of Safety for payment of the demurrage. I should be glad to know when it will be proper to apply, & what vouchers the Council will require to ascertain the time the vessells were out of my possession? If necessary I can make it appear, that I have paid considerable sums for freight of other Vessells, during the time my own were sunk – I hope you will excuse my being so troublesome to you; I do

not want to come down to Annapolis, untill I am prepared wt the necessary vouchers to compleat the business – You will oblige me very much by giving me an answer at your convenience. I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Rob<sup>t</sup> Christie Jun<sup>r</sup>

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Sirs/

I have Recd your Letter Concerning Skow and Bots which I should answer Sum Time But Was in Pentapsco Neck Getting timber for the Gundelos which I must atend on I Dont No When it Would Bee Got, and the frigat Busines as I have all to Prepare for her With My Own Busines and a Thousand Other Peoples. I am allmost Wore out Butt shall Try My Best to Serve you there is Skows to Bee had I am Offerd Severall shall Purchase One this Day I sopose, So that you May Speek to One of your Bots to call for her I must have the Skow Trimd Before shee is Sent Down Pleas Give the Lingth and Sises of the Bots and How many Will Bee Wanted and How Soon – I Will Make the Best Bargin I Can for you Excuse My Not Writing Sooner as I Was in your Servis and Not at Home – the Frigget Wee Lanst yesterday a fine Lance and a fine Ship <sup>2</sup> from your [&c.]

Jesse Hollingsworth

Baltimore August 13 – 1776

1. Red Book, XI, Md. Arch.

2. The Continental frigate *Virginia*.

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

[H.M.S. *Roebuck*, July 15 to August 13, 1776]

July [15]

George's Island is about 2½ miles long, has an excellent Harbour on the East side of it, and a small Haven on the North, sufficiently open at one end for small Vessels to turn in to it, but at the other is not above 100 yards wide nor has above 3 or 4 feet water. Lord Dunmore Landed his Troops upon it the day after our Arrival, and we searched every where for fresh water, but on Account of the dryness of the season, very little prospect appeared of being able to supply the Fleet with a sufficient quantity for their Voyage from thence. I therefore ordered the different Vessels to send their empty Casks onboard two of the Transports carrying the detachment of the 14th Regt & a part of the Queens; and with them, accompanied by Lord Dunmore in his own Ship, we sailed up the Potomack in order to fill the empty Casks with fresh water; and at the same time harass & annoy the Enemy by landing at different places. The *Fowey* remained with the rest of the Fleet and the *Otter* was sent to cruize in the Bay.

20th

While the Fleet lay at Gwin's Island the Carpenters had



been employed in fitting up one of the Flats, which we found there, to carry a Cannon, and to Row with 14 Oars: I put a Six pounder into it, and kept it constantly employed in the little creeks & Bays about George's Id by being in a great measure covered over, the People were quite sheltered, could go close to the shore with safety, and by that means did great mischief among the Enemy.

July 23d

On our Expedition up the River we kept the shores on both sides in continual alarms, but we saw no considerable body of the Enemys Troops untill we arrived into Fresh water, when a large Number assembled at the House of a Mr Brent on the Virginia side, and seemed to bid us defiance; However we landed about 100 Men at Noon day, under cover of a Tender & the Row Galley, beat the Enemy off (which were double that Number, and very advantageously posted) and set fire to the House and all the buildings: when we returned to our Ships without the loss of a single Man and only one officer & 5 Men wounded

25th

The water being filled, and the wind coming favorable we moved the Ships a few leagues down the River, with an intention of landing in the Morning at day break at a Mr Mercer's House on the Virginia shore, which is a guard House for the Rebels, but as it came to blow hard, and the wind down the River we rather chose to pursue our way to the Fleet. After that time the Ships got so often a ground that the People were too much fatigued to attempt any operation[s] on shore, and we joind the Fleet at St George's Island on the 29th July.

29th July

The *Defence* a Rebel Privatier of 20 Guns belonging to Maryland, hearing of the Fleet's being left at George's Island under the Protection of the *Fowey* only, came with 2 Tenders up the River to attack them, and a Battery from St Mary's was to be opend as soon as she appeared in Sight. The *Roebuck's* return frustrated their schemes, and the Rebel Vessels returned to their rendezvous at Baltimore.

In about three days the Fleet had taken onboard their water from the Transports, when after destroying about 20 Sail of Vessels that could not be navigated we got under way, proceeded down the Chesapeake Bay, and arrived at the Capes the 4th Augst

The next day the *Otter* sailed and convoyed about 50 Sail of Vessels to St Augustine & Bermudas.

6th Augst

The *Fowey* Sailed with about 7 Sail of Vessels bound to England, onboard one of which was Govr Eden, when after seeing them 20 leags from the Coast, she was ordered to return & cruize off the Capes of Virginia.

A violent bilious intermitting fever, together with a most inveterate scurvy had for these two months past raged with [great] violence both in the men of war & Transports, and was so mortal that the *Roebuck* had lost 30 of her best seamen, and had 76 on the Surgeons sick list. The *Fowey* had 35 Men sick, and Lord Dunmore's Army was reduced to about 150 Rank & File, one third of which was incapable of duty. I therefore thought it necessary to consult with his Lordship on the measure the most proper to pursue in our weak situation, the result of which was that we should make the best of our way to New York for the following reasons.

1st The total impracticability of rendering his Majesty any services by remaining, with the very few Men we had left capable of doing duty.

2d The impossibility of landing even to water the ships, (The springs on the Islands being all dried up[ ]).

3d The necessity of the Admiral & General's being acquainted with our situation as soon as possible, to prevent the disgrace His Majestys Troops might suffer when their extream weakness became known to the Enemy.

5th Augst

Accordingly we set sail from the Capes the 5 day Augt with the *Dunmore*, 5 Sail of Transports, two Vessels laden with Rum sugars & dry goods, and 5 Small Tenders & Pilot boats, and arrived off of Sandy Hook the 13th Augt where we joind Sir Peter Parker from the So ward, and saild up to New York in Compy

13th

In our way we saw several Rebel Privatiers; two of which we chaced, but to prevent losing Company with the Convo was obligd to leave them.

Thus ended my Command to the Southward.

1. Hamond, No. 5, UVL.

#### VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CHARLES THOMAS<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Williamsburg August 13th 1776 -

You are desir'd to prepare the above Articles as soon as possible and send them to James Town by the first opportunity, if no immediate opportunity offers You are to hire a Vessel as soon as possible, as these Articles are immediately wanting. I am for the Board [&c.]

Thomas Whiting 1st Commissioner

[To] Mr. Charles Thomas manager of  
the Rope Walk at Warwick

A Memorandum for the Brigantine *Northampton*<sup>2</sup>

Francis Bright Captain  
one Cable 9 Inch about 100 Fathom

one 8 do do  
 one small do about 6½ Inch 120  
 one Shroud Hasser 5 Inch 160 do  
 one do 3½ for Topmast Shrouds & backstays 190 Fathoms  
 do Topmast Stays and Top Sail Sheets  
 one Coil 3 Inch Rope for ties Topenlift &c of 90 or 100 Fathom  
 10 Coil of 2 Inch Cordage  
 5 do 2½ Inch  
 6 or 8 Coil ra[t]lin line 9 Thread  
 5 or 6 do of 6 Thread for [k]nitting  
 4 Quire Worming  
 about 190 Fathom belt rope for finishing coarser Top Sails &c  
 1 Cable 120 Fathom five Inches for three Galleys building at Portsmouth  
 4 Main Stays

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.
2. List prefacing the letter.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO ANDREW LUSH <sup>1</sup>

Sir, Williamsburg August 13th 1776 –

You are desir'd to provide the above things as early as possible when ready acquaint us. I am for the Board [&c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Whiting 1st Commr

To Mr Andrew Lush Cabbin Point

a Memorandum for Mr Lush <sup>2</sup>

Blocks for a Brig about 50 Feet Keel except dead Eyes, two Pumps about 13½ feet long together with Boxes &c –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.
2. List prefacing the letter.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO GRIFFIN STITH <sup>1</sup>

Sir, Williamsburg August 13th 1776 –

Yours of 6th Inst we have receiv'd, the articles of Cordage Blocks &c. which you mention we have given Orders for and expect very shortly to send you except the 5 Bolts of Duck and the suit of Colours which are not to be had here, we are at a loss to know where to send them as you have not mention'd what Harbour the Vessel <sup>2</sup> is fitting in, and therefore desire you will write us by the first Opportunity to what Place and to whose care you would have them directed. I am for the Board [&c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Whiting 1st Commr

To Griffin Stith Esqr Vice Chairman  
of the Northampton Committee

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.
2. The brig *Northampton*.

WILLIAM BULL, JR. TO JOHN PRINGLE, LONDON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Chas Town August 13th 1776.

We are making great Preparations here, in Case of a Visit in the Winter. If Howe shou'd be beat at N. York, I suppose he & his Myrmidons will either go to Virginia, or come here. I hope we [are] invincible to any thing that will come agst us –

We have some Thoughts of Sending a Couple of Thousand Men, to ravage E. Florida, & cut off the Communication between Augustine & the Country.

You see how this Province has exerted itself, altho' we have had some inimical Villains amongst us, we have taken such Steps we keep them in Good Order.

Independence is declared throughout the 13 united States of America. I suppose it will not be long before you see the Declaration of the Congress, as there are Vessells fitting out to trade with foreign Nations, and I imagine before now Ambassadors are sent to treat of Foreign alliances – All the Troops both foreign & domestic that Great Britain can send will [not] be able to hurt America. She bids degenerate Britain Defiance.

P.S. When Administration gets an Acct of the Action of Sullivan's Island; they will be devilishly at a Loss, how to dress it up for the Public. The Day after it, the *Rainbow* Sloop of War was sent to Great Britain with the Accts – <sup>2</sup> Be assured they had near 300 kill'd & wounded in the Action, we took 50 highlanders, & have had abt 50 Deserters, from the Navy & Army, who say that if the Army had been encamp'd on the Main One half at least wou'd have deserted, but it was as difficult for them to make their Escape, as it was for the Seamen. –

The Deserters from the Navy have brought us up several fine Barges – And the whole Fleet & army have been gone ab[ou]t two or three Weeks – With every Lye the Ministry & their Tools can invent upon this Occasion, it must make greatly against them.

We have sent one of our arm'd Vessell's of Eighteen Guns yesterday, to cruise off Augustine, in Hopes of falling in wth two Ships expected from London there, wth Military Stores and dry Goods . . .

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. Intercepted Letters.

2. Dispatches were sent by the *Ranger*, not the *Rainbow*.**14 Aug.**CONDEMNATION IN VICE ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE PRIZE SLOOP *Britannia* <sup>1</sup>

Nova Scotia  
Court of Vice  
Admiralty

Cause

John Burr Esqr Commander of his Majesty's Ship the  
*Milford* VS. a certain Sloop called the *Britania* and her  
Cargo.

26 July 1776

Libel filed and entered order made thereon as on file

29

Edward Shepherd mate of his Majesty's Ship of War

being duly Sworn deposeth that the Sloop *Britania* was taken off of Cape Anne by Captain Burr Commander of the *Milford* on or about the 16th. Instant, that she was Bound to Boston loaded with wood, that he never saw any Papers.

Edward Shepherd,

Sworne to the day and Year first above written.

Charles Morris junr Regr –

Wednesday 14th  
August 1776

} Court opened by making Proclamation as usual.  
} Proclamation again made for all Claimers to appear & Assert their Claims, & defend their rights to the Sloop *Britania* and her Cargo, none appeared. The Advocate General then moved for a decree, which was Pronounced as on file, whereby the said Sloop and her Cargo were Condemned as Lawful Prize to the Captors thereof.

Court adjourned without day in this Cause. <sup>2</sup>

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

2. *Ibid.*, this date the sloop *Success* was also condemned as a legal prize of H. M. Sloop *Kingsfisher*.

SAMUEL AUSTIN'S CLAIM FOR GOODS TAKEN ON BOARD THE  
PRIZE BRIGANTINE *Elizabeth* <sup>1</sup>

State of New-Hampshire } To the honble Joshua Brackett Esqr  
} Judge of the Maritime Court of the  
} state of New-hampshire

Be it remembered, that on the 14th day of August A D 1776 Samuel Austin of Boston in the County of Suffolk Mercht comes into Court and claims the Goods Wares and Merchandizes mentioned in the annexed Schedule <sup>2</sup> against which a Libel is filed, in said Court by Joshua Wentworth Esqr, in behalf of the owners and others concerned in three continental armed vessels, which Goods, wares and merchandizes, are said to be taken on board the Brig named the *Elizabeth* by said armed vessels and to be tried in said Court at Portsmouth on the 20th day of August instant, and the said Samuel says, The said Goods, wares and merchandizes are not forfeited, nor ought to be condemned by said Court – Wherefore he prays the same may be restored to him and for his Costs –

John Lowell Atty to the Claimant

A true copy Examind by Jona M Sewall Cler[k]

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Court of Appeals, 1776–1787, NA. Similar claims with annexed schedules were presented on August 14, in identical language by the following Boston merchants: John Leverett, Robert Ruggles, Samuel Dashwood, Cyrus Baldwin, Edward Keighly, Thomas Drowne, Samuel Whitwell, Adam Rupp, Samuel Parkman, John & Samuel Barrett, Jonathan Williams, John Rowe, William Breck, William and James Jackson, Francis Shaw, Samuel Ruggles, John Lowell, Nathan Frazer, Samuel Partridge and

Richard Hart. Claims were also presented in behalf of the Old North Meeting House, and Mary Williams.

2. Austin's schedule, of four closely written pages, concluded with "Boston 6 August, 1776, The Goods contained in the foregoing Invoice, are my property and were taken from my store by Crean Brush and others by virtue of a proclamation and a written order issued by General How for that purpose, and are now found by me on board the Brigantine *Elizabeth* Peter Ramsay late master and taken by Capt Manly and others and brought into Portsmouth in the Colony of New Hampshire." Similar statements were included by all the other claimants.

### JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Wednesday August 14th 1776

Bond being given by Saml Waters, Joseph Sprague & Samuel Ward a Comission was Issued Out to the said Samuel Waters as Comander of said Schooner *Dolphin* fitted Out by them for the purpose of Cruising on the Enemies of the United States, and Instructions were deliverd to him Accordingly – <sup>2</sup> The Memorial of the Comittee of Correspondence &c of the Town of Salem –

Humbly Sheweth, That a Brigantine now lays at Beverly, fit for Sea and destined to some Port in France, as is supposed, or for some other Port in Europe that she has been fixed & Laded by Order of Congress, and yr Memorialist Imagine on a Secret, or at least a very Important Voyage; that therefore it is highly Expedient that no Person shou'd go in her that might Act the part of a Spy or Informer Nevertheless, Mr. Jonathan Dowse, (Son to Joseph Dowse Esqr of Salem) who lately held a Petit Office in the Customs, has Engaged a Passage in said Brig. & sent His Stores on Board, being, his intention as he says, to get to England to procure payment of his arrears, and find an employment to which he thinks his past Services will recommend Him. Your Memorialists are Also Informed by Capt [Stephen] Cleveland, who goes Master of the Brig. that Mr John Lawless of Salem has proposed to take Passage in his Brig. in his way to England or Ireland – the latter being his Native Country! Now your Memorialists think the Character of both those Gentlemen, (Messrs Dowse & Lawless) too liable to suspicion as Unfriendly to America to be permitted to take Passage in said Brig. if they shou'd be allowed to go in any Other way, in a word your Memorialists fear it may be attended with Mischief if any Other than the Proper Crew of the Brig or passengers of Known good Characters, well Affected to these States, and Furnished with the Necessary Credentials, be Suffered to go in her –

These hints the Comittee beg leave to lay before the Honble Council, and Only add That the Brig was fitted under the care of Capt John Bradford of Boston the Continental Agent – <sup>3</sup> By order of the Comittee –

Timo Pickering Junr Chairman

Read & Ordered, that John Winthrop, & Richard Derby Esqrs be a Comittee to take the same Under Consideration & Report, who reported a Draft of a Letter to sd Comittee that as they suppose the Characters these Gentlemen sustain, make it very Improper for them to Embark for any part of Europe at this time, the said Comittee therefore is directed to use their utmost En-

deavours to prevent these Gentlemen from Sailing in the Vessel Aforesaid or in any Other, Untill the further Order of the Council, – Which was read and Accepted & signed by the  
Chairman –

Petition Jos Batchelder Junr

The Petition of the Subscriber, Humbly Sheweth that your Petitioner with a Number of others are fitting Out a Brigantine, for a Privateer, That He hath a fair Prospect of all the Materials for that purpose, except Powder, that it is not in his Power to procure that Article, Otherwise he would not have troubled your Honors with this Petition And Whereas the Privateering business is the most Likely Means by which we can hope to Annoy Our Enemies, supply Our selves with Foreign Necessarys of life, which we have been Accustomed to, and discipline a Nursery of Seamen by which means we may soon be a formidable Nation by Sea as well as by Land; Therefore your Petitioner Humbly Prays your Honors that you would grant Him an Order on Mr-Samuel Phillips of Andover to deliver Him Five hundred pounds of Powder, he sd Phillips takeing the Cash for the same at the rate of five Shillings Pr. pound or Otherwise Releive your Petitioner as you in your great Wisdom shall think fitt, and your Petitioner as in Duty bound shall ever pray, in behalf of Himself and Company Owners of the Brig *Retaliation*

Josiah Batchelder Jur –

Read & Ordered, that the Comissary General be and he hereby is directed to deliver the said Capt Josiah Batchelder, Five Hundred pounds of Powder out of that in Salem, in the Care of Honble Richard Derby Esqr for the use of a Brig fitted out for a Privateer he paying five shillings pr. pound for the Same.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 159–61.
2. *Ibid.*, vol. 165, 46, *Dolphin* was “burthen about eighteen Tons, to carry One hundred weight of powder and ten barrels of provisions, to be mounted with Eight swivel Guns, and Navigated by twenty five Men.”
3. The brig *Dispatch*, Stephen Cleveland, master. John Bradford to Robert Morris, July 14, 1776, see Volume 5, 1071.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE <sup>1</sup>

No. 15.

[Watertown] August 14th 1776.

Sir. This Court has receiv'd information that the Mail from Providence to Newport, which contains Letters from the Post Office at Cambridge, was intercepted last week by a Man of War's boat in passing Conanicut ferry, and several of the Letters taken out – Your Honor is sensible that it may be of the most dangerous consequence to have Letters from these parts fall into the hands of those who are seeking our destruction. – We therefore request of your Honor that some order may be taken in your Government, that all Letters to or from the Post Office at Cambridge may be convey'd by Land through your Colony as far as it is practicable, and that none be allow'd to be sent over Conanicut ferry.

[Endorsed] Read & Accepted and sent up to the Hon. Board for Concurrence.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 57, 277–78.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN LOWELL TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

To the honble the Councill of the State of  
the Massachusetts Bay Augt 14th 1776

Humbly Shews John Lowell of Newburyport Esqr in behalf of sundry Persons who are Claimants of Goods taken on Board the Brig *Elizabeth* & carried into Portsmouth in the State of Newhampshire by three continental armed Vessells, that on Board the same Brig Crean Brush was taken as a Prisoner & among his Papers are some which are material to support the Claims of your Petitioner's Clients & are now lodged in the Office of the Secretary of this State, these Papers your Petitioner prays he may be admitted to the Loan of for the Purpose aforesd & the same shall be carefully return[ed] & as in Duty bound will pray.

J Lowell

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] August 15th 1776.

upon the Memorial of John Lowell Esq – Read & Ordered that Seth Loring Clerk in the Secretary's Office be directed to accompany the within mentioned Papers <sup>2</sup> to Portsmouth and return them to this Office

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 53.

2. *Ibid.*, 54, papers sent to Portsmouth by Seth Loring:

- |       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| No 1  | { | Thomas Gage's Commission to Crean Brush, to take & receive into his Care sundry Goods &c belonging to the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston dated 1st Octo 1775 – |
| No 2  | { | Genl Howes Order to said Brush to take into his Possession sund[r]y Goods as above – dated Mar 10. 1776   |
| No 3  | { | Crean Brush Rect for an Invo of Goods belonging to John Rowe Esq amo to £2266. .1. .0 stg   |
| No 4  | { | Crean Brush's Letter & Memorial to Genl How advising him of the Names of the Persons he had employd in taking the above Goods                                     |
| No 5  | } | William Jackson's Letter to Genl How  |
| No 6  | { | Crean Brush's Memorial to Genl Robertson<br>2 half Sheets   |
| No 7  | { | Marks & Numbers of sundy packages sent onboard the Brig <i>Elizabeth</i> —mark'd on Cards   |
| No 8  | { | Crean Brush's Directions to take the Goods of sundry Persons  |
| No 9  | { | Genl Howes printed Proclamation relating to Linnen & woolen Goods   |
| No 10 | { | James Jacksons Acct of Goods taken by Crean Brush out of Cyrus Baldwins Store March 10. 1776.   |

JOHN LOWELL TO JOHN ADAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston Augt 14th 1776

. . . A Committee was chosen to devise during the Recess of the [General] Court, some successful Method of making Cannon, & I hope this Matter will be p[ro]p[er]ly forward to Advantage; I have no Doubt that the Manufacture of Small Arms, will at the first Meeting of the Assembly receive every possible Encouragement; We have happily succeeded in the Manufacture of Salt petre, & we have 3 Powder Mills at Work & a fourth erecting; Salt I have no



Doubt will be made as soon as we feel the Necessity of it; hitherto, tho' it has been at an high Price, we have not suffered for the Want of it. I am more ignorant as to the Probability of our getting Sulphur, & Lead; the first I believe we shall be able at some Seasons to import, if the Cruisers of the Enemy are ever so vigilant; they are however both of them Objects that deserve Attention; the mention of the Enemies Cruisers, reminds me of our own; It is an unlucky Circumstance that the continental Frigates are not yet at Sea, had they been many more of the Enemies Vessells, & a Number of their Troops would have fallen into our Hands, I suppose the Delay has been inevitable; it surely is a Matter that will not be neglected; Is it not worthy Consideration whether it will not be adviseable, to order those continental armed Vessells which are ready for Service, in Conjunction with the Vessells of the particular States, & such private armed Vessells as will engage, immediately to Newfoundland; much may be done against the British Fishery, on Shore as well as at Sea, we shall be furnished with a Commodity to exchange for such french Goods as may be bro't us; the West India Islands will be without their Supply of Fish, & the Poole Men, who meant us much Harm, will be rewarded according to their Deeds. . . .

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

*New-England Chronicle*, AUGUST 15, 1776.

Wanted Immediately.

A Doctor to go on a Cruize for three Months, on Board of a fine Schooner mounting 8 Carriage Guns and 60 Men. Any Person applying to the Printers, will meet with good encouragement.

N.B. Said Schooner is private property.  
Boston, August 14, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Independence*,  
CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE <sup>1</sup>

Remarks On Wensday August 14, 1776

att 6 Am all hands imploid a Dancing

Pleasant Middle Part. Smuth sea

att 3 [*sic* 6] am made Sail at 7 saw a sail staning to Wards Us at 11 am Came Up with her, she Being a ship from St Vinsints Brought her two Capt Came on Bord of Us She provd to Be a prise took her in Provision <sup>2</sup> So Ends the Days Work

Lattd 31:51

Longd in 57:45

first part pleasant smooth sea In Company with the prise with the prise Master <sup>3</sup> and 10 men on Bord of her

1. *Independence* Journal, RIHS.

2. The ship *Aurora*, Gregor McGregor, master. Appended to the back of the journal is an endorsement by Whipple. It reads:

Sunderys In Ship *Aurora*. This is a Invorise I have Recd from the Clarence To Say Tow Hundered and Ninety Four Hogsheads Six Tarces and Twenty Three Barrels the Contents Three Hundered and thirety Six Thouseand Three Hundered

Pounds Muscoe Shugar—also Twenty Three Bales Cotton Wool this is in the Clearance and Sundrys not Known one Hundered and Twenty Five Hogsheads Cont Elven Thousand Tow Hundred and Fifety Gallons Rum.

Whipple listed the crew and three passengers:

Patrick Welkey Esqr. Mathew Fizz Gentleman Duncan McFarland young man.

3. *Ibid.*, the prize master sent on board *Aurora* was Edward Woodman.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPT. HENRY BARNES, OF THE *Eagle*,  
BELONGING TO WHITEHAVEN, TO HIS OWNERS, DATED RHODE ISLAND,  
AUG. 14, 1776”<sup>1</sup>

I sailed from Barbadoes the 21st of June. On the 12th of July made a sail astern, she soon came up with us, though we little imagined her to be an American privateer, being then in lat. 32.25. long. 52. At half past eight in the night she fired a gun to leeward – from which we concluded she was an English cruizer – but were too soon convinced to the contrary. When we first made the sloop she appeared large, from the crowd of sail she carried; but on a nearer survey we found her to be very small, painted black, with 10 guns, 50 men, and every necessary for a cruize. She is called the *Montgomery*, Capt. Buckling [Daniel Bucklin]. They took out all the *Eagle's* people but myself, the boatswain, and a boy, and convoyed us to this place.

My people are all well; we are supported at present at the expence of the owner of the privateer, and indulged with the liberty of going about where we please, and are in every respect treated with the greatest kindness and civility. We are the seventh West-Indiaman taken by this privateer; numbers of vessels have been taken coming from the West-India Islands.

1. Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*, IV, 160.

#### ORDERLY BOOK OF BRIGADE MAJOR PETER SCULL<sup>1</sup>

Head-Quarters [Ticonderoga],  
14th Aug. 1776

The Commanding Officers of the Corps are desired to see that all the Sails belonging to the Publick, which have been used as tents, be immediately delivered to Mr Lane Conductor of Naval Stores. –

1: MNHP.

#### DIARY OF ENSIGN CALEB CLAP<sup>1</sup>

[New York]

August 10th a Man Deserted from the *Rose* up the North River, he informs that they did not [lose] one Man Aboard, and that he was not Certain that their was any Killed in either of the Ships or Tenders two or three wounded.

That when our Rowgalleys attackd them that they Lost A Man and two wounded, that they are now much Concernd, for fear of our Row-galley that they have not heard anything from the fleet since they Lay up there, that 5 Tories have come aboard one Ship and Eight the other that 3 Tories Left the ship a Thursday Evening and was gone till the thursday

Evening following, and that those Tories went into the City, and Round our works any where that they was Amind,

August 13th at Evening 9 Rowgalleys have gone up the River supposed to fort Washington, or up the River where the British Ships of war Lays –

August 14th in the morning two fire Ships went up the River, –

1. "Caleb Clap Diary," *The Historical Magazine*, 3rd series, III, 249, 250.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Number 4.

*Eagle* off of Staten Island

August the 14th 1776.

Sir I have the Satisfaction of being able to inform their Lordships by the *Sandwich Packet*, that Commodore [William] Hotham, whose distinguished Abilities gave Room for every favorable Expectation, arrived on the 12th with Eighty five Sail of his Convoy; completing with those few before arrived, the whole of the Hessian Embarkation that sailed from England under his Direction. He was joined off of this Port, by Captain [Henry] David (whose Capacity and Diligence have been particularly exemplified on this Occasion) with all the Transports in his Care, that were able to accompany him out of the British Channel. The Reports delivered by those Officers are herewith enclosed.

The Loss of the Hessian Troops by Sickness is most inconsiderable, Not exceeding ten or twelve, as I have yet heard; tho' for the last fourteen Days of their Passage, the Scurvy began to prevail; But amongst the Crews of the Ships of War in a greater Degree.

I am favored with your several Letters of the 27th of April and the 13th and 22d of May, to the Contents of which I shall have due Regard.

I am also to acknowledge the Receipt of an Order from their Lordships of the same Date with the last, respecting the supposed Situation of the Bahama Islands, founded on the Intelligence transmitted by Governor Tonyn, and Lieutenant [William] Grant Commander of the *St. John* Schooner.

As soon as the Capital Service impending, the permanent Establishment of the Army in this Province, is effected; To which I conceive their Lordships will approve that every Consideration of lesser Moment should give place, And after a Port of Retreat is secured for the Winter-Use of the Fleet; my earliest Attention will be given to provide more amply than my present Means will admit, the other requisite Services comprehended in the Tenor of their Instructions.

Whilst I was preparing to close this Dispatch, the Commodore Sir Peter Parker in the *Bristol*, with the *Experiment* and *Syren*, *Sibella* Store-Ship and two Transports having each three Companies Part of the 28th and 57th Regiments on board arrived here from South Carolina. And soon after the *Roebuck* with the Ships lately attending the Earl of Dunmore, and that in which his Lordship was embarked, from Virginia.

The immediate Departure of the Packet not allowing Time to examine so fully into the State of those Ships as to enable me to form a Judgment thereon fit to be reported immediately, Their Lordships I flatter myself, will

have the Indulgence to dispense with the Receipt of any more particular Returns than those before prepared of the State and Appointment of the Squadron herewith enclosed, by the present Opportunity <sup>2</sup>

I cannot however inform them too soon of the great Want of Ordnance Stores of all Species, for the Ships of this Squadron: particularly Match, Powder, and Ball of 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 lb; Both to supply the past, and probable future Expence of those Articles: as I have no Advice of any adequate Provision having been made thereof. I am Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

2. The Disposition of Howe's Squadron is dated August 13; see under that date.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE <sup>1</sup>

[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*]

Wednesday, the 14th [August].

This morning early, Sir Peter Parker in the *Bristol*, with the *Experiment* & *Roebuck*, and several Transports, appeared in the offing; and a little after Noon came up & saluted the Admiral [Howe]. The *Bristol* has lost her main & mizen Masts in the affair at Charles Town, and is much shattered about the Stern. We have now a gallant Fleet here, consisting of the following Ships:

	Guns		Guns
<i>Eagle</i>	64	<i>Phoenix</i>	44
<i>Asia</i>	64	<i>Orpheus</i>	32
<i>Chatham</i>	50	<i>Emerald</i>	32
<i>Centurion</i>	50	<i>Niger</i>	32
<i>Renown</i>	50	<i>Repulse</i>	32
<i>Preston</i>	50	<i>Brune</i>	32
<i>Bristol</i>	50	<i>Solebay</i>	28
<i>Experiment</i>	50	<i>Rose</i>	28
<i>Roebuck</i>	44	<i>Greyhound</i>	28
<i>Rainbow</i>	44	<i>Syren</i>	28.

Besides Sloops, Bombs, Fireships, armed Vessels, &c. The whole Fleet consists of about 350 Sail. Such a Fleet was never seen together in America before; wch is allowed on all Hands.

We had a great formal Dinner on board this Day. Our Company consisted of Genl. [Leopold von] Heister, two other Hessian Generals, with their respective Suites, Lord [Hugh] Percy, Genl. [William] Howe, Ld. [Charles] Cornwallis, Genl. [James] Grant, Admiral [Molyneux] Shuldham, Sir Wm Erskine, Col. Sheriffe [William Sherriff], Sir Peter Parker, Lord Wm. Campbell, Lord Dunmore, Commodore Hotham, and many other officers of the Fleet & Army, to the number of 34 Persons. They all expressed great Satisfaction at their Entertainment, which indeed was worthy of the truly noble Personage who gave it.

In the Evening, the *Syren* came in from the South, with several Transports under her Convoy.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 63-64.

"WILLING MORRIS & Co ACCOUNT WITH THE UNITED STATES - FOR THEIR TRANSACTIONS WITH THE SECRET COMMITTEE,  
UP TO 14TH AUGT 1776 - " 1

1776.		Dollars Hdths	1776	Dollars hdths
Jany-	To Secret Committee for the following sums received from them this month - Viz -		Febry-	By Adventure to Cadiz, pr Ship Sally Capt. Rallings [Thomas Rawlings] for cost of her Cargo pr Invoice, £3,492.8.4½
	Cash of George Clymer Esqr for the Committees order	4000.		Pennsylvania Currency equal to .....
	Robert Morris order on Geo. Clymer favor E Brown	4000.		Commission thereon at 5 prCt .....
	Ditto " " Ditto Jos Shallcross & Co -	4000.		9313.10½
	Ditto " " Ditto E. Brown ....	4000.		465.59½
	Ditto " " Ditto Ditto ....	8000.		9,778 70
	Ditto " " Ditto Ditto ....	4000.		
	Ditto " " Ditto Ditto ....	8000.		By Adventure to Lisbon pr Ship Hancock & Adams for Cost of her Cargo pr Invoice £3722.11.2 Pennsylvania Currency equal to
	Ditto " " Ditto Ditto ....	8000.		Commission thereon at 5 prCt
		36,000		9926.74
Febry-	To Ditto - for the following this month -			496.30
	Cash of George Clymer .....	2000.		10,423 14
	R. Morris's order on G. Clymer Esqr favor E. Brown	8000.		By Adventure to Ferrol pr Ship King of Prussia Capt. [Thomas] Dowman for Cost - of her Cargo pr Invoice £2950.16.7 Pennsylvania Currency equal to
	Ditto Ditto Ditto .....	4000.		Commission thereon @ 5 prCt
	Ditto Ditto Jos. Simmons ....	3000.		7,868.79
	Ditto Ditto G. Kennedy .....	4000.		893.40
	Ditto Ditto E. Brown .....	8000.		8,262 29
		29,000		
March	To Ditto received of Geo. Clymer Esqr	3972.30.		By Adventure to Lisbon pr Ship Fame Capt. [Hugh] Lysle for cost of her Cargo pr Invoice £4150.19.6 Pennsylvania Currency equal
	R. Morris order on Ditto - favor Wm Hemsley ....	11,027.60		Commission thereon at 5 prCt
	To United States received for 2400 lb powder by them between April & July by direction of the Committee £600.			11,069.24
	Pennsylvania Currency equal	1,600		553.42
		15,000	March	By Adventure to Charlestown pr Brig Dolphin Captn Moore for cost of her Cargo pr Invoice £1236.5.1½ Pennsylvania Currency equal
July-	To Merchandize imported in the Brig Kitty from Hispaniola for proceeds of sundries sold at Vendue £1966.7.11			Commission thereon @ 5 prCt
	Pennsylvania Currency equal to .....	A- 5,323 65		3,296.61½
				104.75½
Augt-	To Secret Committee for a Draft on the Continental Treasurers 15th being the balance due to them on their Account Current dated 14th Inst .....	4,442 66		3,461 47
	Carried forward	Dollars 91,366 41		By Adventure to Cadiz pr Ship Union Capt [Sampson] Harvey for Cost of her Cargo pr Invoice £4057.1.1 Pennsylvania Currency equal
	[Page 2]	Dollars Hdths		Commission thereon @ 5 Pr Ct
	Amount brought forward	91,366 41	April	By Adventure to Dunkirk pr Brig Fanny Capt. [William] Tokely for Cost of her Cargo pr Invoice rendered by Benjamin Harrison Junr who made the Shipment £2187.4.8¼ Virginia Currency equal to Pennsylvania Currency £2734.0.11 or ...
	To Balance due W. M. & Co and carried to New Account	31 61		Harrisons Commission thereon 5 prCt ...
				7,290.71
				364.49
				7,655.30
				Willing Morris & Co Commission on the Amot @ 2½ prCt .....
				191.34
				7,846 64
				Dollars 62,754 88
		Dollars - 91,398 12		

AUGUST 1776

## "WILLING MORRIS &amp; CO ACCOUNT WITH THE UNITED STATES . . ." 1

[Continued]

		<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Hdths</u>
[Page 2]			
1776	Amount brot on .....	62,754	88
June	By Adventure to Martinico pr Sloop <i>Peggy</i> Capt [Thomas] Patton for cost of her Cargo pr Invoice £1139.8.4 Pennsylvania Currency equal .....	3,038.40.	
	Commission thereon a 5 Pr Ct .....	151.83.	3,190. 33
July	By Adventure to Nantes pr Ship <i>Olive</i> <i>Branch</i> Capt. Kennedy for cost of her Cargo pr Invoice £2840.6 Pennsylvania Curr(ency) equal to .....	7,574.12	
	Commission thereon @ 5 prCt .....	378.64	7,952 76
	By Adventure to Bourdeaux pr Brig <i>Dol-</i> <i>phin</i> Capt. Moore for cost of the Cargo shipped on board her by John Dorsius Carolina Currency £21.402.14,10 - Ex- change 433 $\frac{1}{3}$ prCt is pennsylvania Curry £4939.1.10 equal to .....	13,170.82	
	Commission thereon at 5 prCt .....	658.49	13,829 41
	By Adventure to Martinico pr Brig <i>Corn-</i> <i>elia &amp; Molly</i> Capt. [John] Lockart for cost of her Cargo. pr Invoice £1072.15.10. Pennsyla Currency equal to .....	2,860.70	
	Commission thereon 5 prCt .....	143.3	3,003. 73
	By United States paid for 246 Bayonet Scab- bards @ 24/90 ths Pr .....	65.54	
	Commission thereon at 5 prCt .....	3.25	68. 79
	By Contingent charges for the following payments between May & July - Viz - paid freight of Powder in May & June ..... £ 4.5 - paid for a boat going down to the Armed Vessels in June } 3.5 - Paid Jos. Gamble for the hire of his Pilot Boat cruizing at the Capes to give notice if Vessels of War appeared on the Coast 144 days @ 25/- prDay ..... 180.-- Paid for 40 reams Cartridge paper ..... 26.--		
	Pennsylvania Curry ....	213.10 -	
	Commission thereon at 5 prCt	569.30	
		28.42	597. 72
		<u>Dollars -</u>	<u>91,398. 12</u>

1. Willing, Morris, Journal, NYHS.

JOHN ADAMS TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM TUDOR <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia August 14. 1776

We have nothing new, but the Arrival of a large Ship from Havre de Grace with a very valuable Cargo of Duck, Powder, lead, and dry Goods. – This is all which has happened here to distinguish, the anniversary of the 14 of August the Birth day of American Independence.<sup>2</sup>

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. In another letter of the same date, to his wife Abigail, Adams explains the foregoing thus: "This is the Anniversary of a memorable day, in the History of America: a day when the Principle of American Resistance and Independence, was first asserted, and carried into Action. The Stamp Office fell before the rising Spirit of our Countrymen. –" Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 95–97.

*Pennsylvania Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1776

Thirty Shillings Reward. Deserted from Capt. Samuel Shaw's Company of Marines, belonging to one of the Continental Frigates,<sup>1</sup> Angus Cameron, born in Ireland, about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, dark complexion, with short black hair, curled behind, a little pock marked, about 30 years of age; it is said he listed in Capt. Craig's company of Lancaster militia. Whoever apprehends said deserter, and secures him in this city, shall have the above reward, and all reasonable charges, paid by

Franklin Reid, 1st. Lieut.

[Philadelphia, August 14]

1. Frigate *Randolph*.MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY,  
VIRGINIA, COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION <sup>1</sup>

No 133.

Gentn You will be pleased to deliver to Captn Jas Nicholson or order, the powder, arms & ozn[abrig]s imported in the *Molly* Captn [Thomas] Conway & which you were so obliging as to land in a place of Security. We shall be happy in having it in our power to render you the like good Offices, & will most cheerfully repay you every expence that you have been put to, on Acct of this importation. We are [&c.] <sup>2</sup>

[Annapolis] 14th Augt 1776

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

2. This date the Council ordered that Captain Nicholson be paid "one hundred Curr[ency] to defray the expences of Powder imported in Virginia." Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Wednesday the 14th August 1776

The Board having had under their Consideration the Order of Congress for Building six Gallies for the protection of Troops in their Transportation across the Bay and Rivers have this day agreed with Caleb Herbert to Build one of the said Gallies on Mattapony River of the following Dimensions, to

wit, Eighty feet Keel, twenty feet Beam and six feet clear Hold between the upper part of the Kelson and the lower part of the Beam. –

Ordered that Mr James Hunter deliver unto Mr William Frazier four Ton Iron for the purpose of Building the Rowe Gallie on Mattapony River lately undertaken by Caleb Herbert –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Lieut Benjamin Pollard for Two hundred and twenty one pounds two shillings and two pence for Disbursements and pay of his Company of Marines on Board the *Hero* Gallie Capt [George] Muter from the Time of their Enlistment to the thirty first day of July last as pr Account this day settled –

Ordered that Colo William Finnie deliver unto Lieutenant Benjamin Pollard eight flannel Waistcoats and one Drum for the use of his Company of Marines on Board the *Hero* Gallie Capt Muter.

Ordered that Colo William Aylett deliver unto Lieutenant Benjamin Pollard four belt Hatts eight pair of Shoes, ten pair of Buckskin Breeches two pieces of Oznabrigs and some thread for the use of the Marines on Board the *Hero* Gallie Capt Muter. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Mr William Frazier for One hundred pounds upon Account, for the purpose of furnishing Necessaries and materials for Building the Rowe Gallie upon Mattapony River under the direction of Mr Caleb Herbert –

Ordered that a warrant Issue to Charles Herbert for four pounds seventeen shillings and six Pence for sundry days Work done on the *Hero* Gallie Capt Muter as pr Account this day rendered –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to William Herbert for three pounds nineteen shillings and six pence for sundry days Working on the *Hero* Gallie as pr Account this day rendered –

A Letter wrote to Sampson Matthews Esqr desiring him to supply or engage for this Board five hundred Gallons of Linseed Oil for the use of the Navy –

Ordered that Capt George Muter apply to James Anderson Blacksmith, for such Iron Work as he may want done for the use of the *Hero* Gallie who is desired to furnish him with the same. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to James Haney and Richard Horrocks for four pounds ten shillings for Work done on the Brig *Liberty* Capt [Thomas] Lilly –

1. Navy Board Journal, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO WELLS COOPER, SUFFOLK <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg August 14th 1776 –

The Commissioners of the Navy are in want to 220 B'rls Tar. 30 Barrels of Pitch and 50 Brls of Turpentine, to be sent to the care of Messrs Meriwether Smith and Roan, on Piscataway Creek near Hobbs Hole, Rap-



pahannock River relying on your supplying them on the best terms and procuring a Vessel for carrying it up, on the most reasonable freight induced us to apply to you, therefore wish you to use all possible expedition in dispatching it. I am by order of the Board [&c.]

Geo. Webb. 1st Commr Pro. Tempore

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

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

August 1776                      Moored in Savannah river

Wednesday 14 AM Loosed saills to Dry- Do the *Governor Tonym* Privateer Sailed into De Foskey Creek and fired several Guns at a Number of rebels on the Shore who Discharged sev[era]l Volleys of Musquetry at her

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

15 Aug.

NARRATIVE OF COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN <sup>1</sup>

[Prison Sloop in Halifax Harbor, June 23 to August 15, 1776]

I sent letter after letter to captain Montagu [James Montagu], who still had the care of us, and also to his lieutenant, whose name I cannot call to mind, but could obtain no answer, much less a redress of grievances; and to add to the calamity, near a dozen of the prisoners were dangerously ill of the scurvy. I wrote private letters to the doctors, to procure, if possible, some remedy for the sick, but in vain. The chief physician came by in a boat, so close that the oars touched the sloop that we were in, and I uttered my complaint in the genteelst manner to him, but he never so much as turned his head, or made me any answer, though I continued speaking till he got out of hearing. Our case then became deplorable. Still I kept writing to the captain, till he ordered the guards, as they told me, not to bring any more letters from me to him. In the meantime an event happened worth relating. One of the men almost dead with the scurvy, lay by the side of the sloop, and a canoe of Indians coming by, he purchased two quarts of strawberries, and ate them at once, and it almost cured him. The money he gave for them was all the money he had in the world. After that we tried every way to procure more of that fruit, reasoning from analogy that they might have the same effect on others infested with the same disease, but could obtain none.

Meanwhile the doctor's mate of the *Mercury* came privately on board the prison sloop and presented me with a large vial of smart drops, which proved to be good for the scurvy though vegetables and some other ingredient were requisite for a cure; but the drops gave at least a check to the disease. This was a well-timed exertion of humanity, but the doctor's name has slipped my mind, and in my opinion, it was the means of saving the lives of several men.

The guard, which was set over us, was by this time touched with the feelings of compassion; and I finally trusted one of them with a letter of complaint to governor Arbuthnot, of Halifax, which he found means to communicate, and which had the desired effect; for the governor sent an officer and surgeon on board the prison sloop, to know the truth of the complaint. The officer's name was Russell who held the rank of lieutenant, and treated me in a friendly and polite manner, and was really angry at the cruel and unmanly usage the prisoners met with; and with the surgeon made a true report of matters to governor Arbuthnot, who, either by his orders or influence, took us next day from the prison sloop to Halifax jail, where I first became acquainted with the now Hon. [James] Lovel[ly], one of the members of Congress for the state of Massachusetts. The sick were taken to the hospital, and the Canadians, who were effective, were employed in the King's works; and when their countrymen were recovered from the scurvy and joined them, they all deserted the King's employ, and were not heard of at Halifax, as long as the remainder of the prisoners continued there, which was till the middle of October. We were on board the prison sloop about six weeks, and were landed at Halifax near the middle of August.

1. *A Narrative of the Captivity of Col. Ethan Allen . . .* (Albany, 1814), 28-29. Hereafter cited as *Ethan Allen*.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Thursday August 15th 1776 –

The Memorial of Thomas Cushing Esqr – Humbly Sheweth, that One of the Continental Frigates built to carry Twenty four Nine pound Cannon, may Soon be got ready for Sailing, but is destitute of Guns, that your Memorialist was to have been furnished with the Cannon for this Vessel from Philadelphia but by the last Accounts receiv'd from thence he has reason to fear they will not be here seasonably, he has been Informed, that there are a Number of Cannon Suitable for this Frigate, at Newbury Port, which the Town are Willing to part with upon their being furnished with an equal Number of the same weight of Metal by your Honors, or with such a Number of those of a larger Size, as shall be deemed Adequate to them. Your Memorialist has Also been inform'd that there are a Number of Cannon, in and About Boston, suitable for the same purpose. He would humbly request to your Honors that it is of great Importance & will much Conduce to the Public Safety that this Frigate shou'd be sent Out upon a Cruise as soon as Possible to Guard the Coast & protect the Navigation that may be passing from One part of the Continent to the other, as well as to Annoy the Enemies he therefore Humbly prays that your Honors (if you think fitt) would lend these Cannon in and about Boston, to the Continent, till the Frigate can be supplied from Philadelphia, & in Order that the Cannon at Newbury Port may be Obtained for the Frigate beforemention'd that your Honors would furnish the said Town of Newbury Port with a Number of Cannon from those in & About Boston in lieu those, they have at said Town. Suitable for the Frigate abovesaid, by which Means she will be

fully Supplied with all the large Cannon Necessary for such a Ship of War, And your Memorialist as in Duty bound Shall every pray &c –

Thomas Cushing –

Read & Ordered, the Prayer of this Petition be granted, & the Committee for Fortifying the Harbour of Boston, be & hereby are directed: if they Judge they can Possible be spared, to deliver to the Petitioner Thomas Cushing Esqr for the use of the Continent, to be Improved in the Contin[en]tal Frigate Call'd the *Boston* . . .

On Motion Ordered, that Richard Derby & Daniel Hopkins Esqrs be a Comitee to prepare Orders & regulations for the Marines and Seamen on board the Armed Vessels fitted Out by this State –

Bonds being given by Nathl Perley, Richard Derby Junr & Jona Peele Junr a Comission was Issued out to the said Nathl Perley as Comander of the schr *Success* fitted out by them, for the purpose of Cruising on the Enemies of the United States, and Instructions were delivered Him Accordingly –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 161–63.

JAMES WARREN TO SAMUEL ADAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston, August 15, 1776

The Spirit of Privateering prevails here greatly. the Success of those that have before Engaged in that Business has been sufficient to make a whole Country privateering mad. many kinds of West india Goods that we used to be told we should suffer for want of, are now plentier and cheaper than I have known them for many Years.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, II, 438–39.

MINUTES OF THE BOSTON COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE, INSPECTION AND SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

1776. 6 O'Clock P.M: Met according to Adjournment at the Council Chamber, [ Boston].

Aug. 15. Mr. Lesley & Family, Thomas Hayter, Lieutenant in the 14 Regiment, Robert Porter, Passenger, Thomas Collins a Drummer in the 14 Regiment, William Jenkins the Master; Thomas Green a Servant to Lt Hayter, all of whom were taken in a Brig bound from Augustine to London <sup>2</sup> & carryed into Marblehead, from whence they are just arrived – attended and were examined. They inform that they left Augustine the 24 of July last, at which place there was about 700 British Troops, 150 of them belonging to the 14th Regiment, and that they were bound home in order to procure Recruits for their Regiment – they all pledged their honor to the Committee, that they would not leave the Town without liberty for so doing, and that in all respects they would behave as Prisoners on Parole ought to do.

1. *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (Boston, 1879), XXXIII, 23, 24.

2. The brigantine was the *Perkins*, 140 tons, taken by Washington's schooners *Franklin*, Captain John Skimmer, and *Hancock*, Captain Samuel Tucker.

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF THE CARGO OF PRIZE SHIP *Reynolds* <sup>1</sup>

Auction at Bedford, in Dartmouth. On Thursday, the 22d of August Instant, At Ten o'Clock in the Morning, will begin the Sale of the Prize Ship *Reynolds*, from Jamaica, now laying at Bedford, in Dartmouth,<sup>2</sup> and continued by Adjournment, until the Whole is sold; containing as follows, viz. 302 Hogsheads of choice Sugars, 74 Puncheons of Rum; 52 Pipes, 10 half Pipes, 10 Butts and 4 Hogsheads of Wine; 42 Bags of Piemento, 40 Planks and 11 Logs of Mohogany, 16 Tons of Lignum Vitae, and 7 Tons of Fustick. [August 15, 1776]

1. *New-England Chronicle*, August 15, 1776.

2. The *Reynolds* was taken by the Pennsylvania privateer sloops *Congress*, George McAroy, and *Chance*, John Adams. She was condemned in Admiralty Court on August 7.

ADVERTISEMENT OF LIBELS AGAINST SIX BRITISH PRIZES <sup>1</sup>

State of the Massachusetts-Bay, Middle District, ss.  
To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, That the Maritime Court for the Middle District, will be held at Boston in the County of Suffolk, on Thursday the fifth Day of September, 1776, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon, to try the Justice of the following Captures, to wit, – of the Sloop named the *Isabella*, of about Seventy Tons Burthen, lately commanded by one Nathaniel Kirk, and her Cargo and Appurtenances: of the Ship called the *Peggy*, of 240 Tons Burthen. lately commanded by one James Kennedy, and her Cargo and Appurtenances: of the armed Schooner called the *Dispatch*, of about Ninety Tons Burthen, lately commanded by one John Goodridge, and her Cargo and Appurtenances: of the Sloop called the *Hannibal*, of about Sixty Tons burthen, lately commanded by one William Fitzpatrick, and her Cargo and Appurtenances: of the Ship called the *Earl of Errol*, of two hundred and seventy Tons burthen. lately commanded by one John Bartlett, and her Cargo and Appurtenances: and of the schooner called the *Patty*, of about seventy Tons burthen, lately commanded by one John Collins, and her Cargo and Appurtenances. Against which Vessels, their Cargoes and Appurtenances, Libels are filed before me, they having been bro't into the Middle-District aforesaid; and the Owners of the same, or any Persons concerned, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said Vessels or any of them, with their Cargoes and Appurtenances, should not be condemned.<sup>2</sup>

Tim. Pickering, jun. Judge of said Court.

1. *New-England Chronicle*, August 15, 1776.

2. The sloop *Isabella* had been sent into Beverly July 4 by the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Revenge*, Captain Joseph White; the ship *Peggy* had been carried into Marblehead by two of Washington's schooners, *Hancock* and *Franklin*, in late July; the ship *Earl of Errol* was sent into Boston August 10 by two New York letters of marque; the Schooner *Dispatch* was a British vessel of war taken by the Massachusetts state sloop *Tyrannicide*, and sent into Salem, July 18; the schooner *Patty*, another prize of the *Tyrannicide*, had also been sent into Salem. The identity of the captor of Sloop *Hannibal* has not been determined.

*Continental Journal*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1776

Boston, August 15.

Last Sunday was sent in here by the Brig. *Enterprize*, and sloop *Bever*, two Letter Marques, bound from New York to St. Eustatia, a ship from Grenada, bound to London, laden with sugar, rum, cotton, &c. &c. <sup>1</sup>

Since our last the *Tyrannicide* privateer, Capt. Fisk, belonging to, and in the service of this state, sent into Salem, the Brig. *St. John*, with a cargo of 120 Hhds. Molasses, 81 casks Rum, 52 casks Coffee, 14 Hhds. Sugar and 8 casks Cocoa — And into Dartmouth, the Schooner *Three Brothers*, Capt. Smith, from Dominica for Nova Scotia, with a cargo of 50 Hhds. of Rum, 86 casks Molasses, 40 barrels Flour, 10 barrels Pork, and £420 Lawful Money in cash. <sup>2</sup>

1. The brigantine *Enterprize*, Captain Joseph Dwight, and sloop *Beaver*, Captain Stewart Deane, were granted letters of marque and reprisal by the New York Provincial Congress, June 29, 1776. Their prize was the ship *Earl of Errol*.
2. Both prizes were taken on August 4, 1776, but the name of the brig, according to the libel filed against her, does not agree with the name given in the newspaper account. She was not the *St. John*, but the *Betsey*.

*New-England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1776

Boston, August 15.

Yesterday se'nnight was sent into Portsmouth by the *Hancock* Vessel of War, belonging to the State of Pennsylvania, a large three-decked Ship, named the *Reward*, of between 5 and 600 Tons, (She was a 20 gun Ship last War, in the British Service,) now mounting 14 Guns; was from Tortola, bound to London, and had on board between 10 and 1100 Hogsheads of Sugar, 12 Bales of Cotton, and several Pieces of brass and iron Cannon. <sup>1</sup> We hear she was taken by the following Stratagem, viz. Just before dusk the Evening the *Hancock* came across her, the Captain of the Prize taking the *Hancock* to be one of the Tyrant's Pilferer's was very much rejoiced to fall in with her, and doubtless, vice versa, when the *Hancock* at Night threw out a Light for a Signal as a Pilot. At Day-light the next Morning, the Vessels being near together, the Captain of the Ship invited the Captain of the *Hancock* to come on board and take a Breakfast; who replied, his Hands were so few and sick, that he had not enough to man his Boat and work his Vessel, and in his Turn, invited the Captain of the Ship to come on board him, which he readily complied with by ordering his Boat out, when he and about a dozen of his Hands went on board the *Hancock*, and were taken as good Care of, as Men in such Circumstances could allow. The *Hancock* then sent an equal Number of her own Hands on board the Ship, when, alas! she fell into the Hands of the United States of America.

There were on board the above Ship, a Number of Turtle directed to Lord North, with his Name cut in the Shell, the best of which, Capt. Wingate Newman, Master of the armed Vessel, is determined to send to the Hon. John Hancock.

The Prize Master, Mr. [William] Barton, informs, that the *Hancock* had taken a Brigantine from the West-Indies, just before this Ship, and sent her to Egg-Harbour, and was in chase of a Ship, supposed to be a Jamaican, and almost within gun-shot, when he left her.

1. The *Hancock* was not a Pennsylvania owned vessel, but a privateer, commissioned June 15, 1776. Libel was filed against the *Reward* on August 13, *The Freeman's Journal*, August 24, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remarks on Thursday 15th of August 1776

- 2 [A. M.] heavy head sea  
 4 hald down all sails  
 6 Tack ship  
 10 Pleasant Weather I find the Current has Carried us 38 miles south this 24 hours  
 12 Pleasant weather  
   Lattd in 35d 5m                      Longd in 60d 25m  
 1 [P. M.] Saw a sail barring west gave Chaise came up fast  
 6 Spake with the Chaise Capt. Jno Warner in the Sloop *Ranger* from Providance 12 Days out on a Cruze he stood to the S E

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Independence*,  
 CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE <sup>1</sup>

Remarks On Thusday August 15, 1776

att 6 am saw 2 Ships standing to the N E Gave them Chase att 10 saw that one was a Ship of force the wind Blowing frish Reaft the m sail gave them over Bore Up to the Prise got one Dolphin -  
   Lattd 32:25                      Londg in 57:40  
 first part Sqaly Sum Rain a Large Sea at 2 Came up the prise all well on Bord the moderate weather [illegible]  
 Middle part

1. *Independence* Journal, RIHS.

WILLIAM DENNING TO ABRAHAM YATES, JR. <sup>1</sup>

Sir -

[August 15].

The bearer of this is Capt. Exceen, the brig *Friendship*, loaded by me in April last, by direction of a committee of Continental Congress, with wheat and flour for Lisbon. He is returned with his brig to Fire island inlet, with a load of salt. He had orders to apply to the Convention of whatever State he arrived at on his return to this Continent. He now waits your directions. Your most hble. servt.

Wm. Denning.

P. S. He left Lisbon 7 weeks 4 days ago this day. Capt. Exceen says

his cargo consists of 197 moys of salt, on board on account of the Continental Congress; that he had medicines on board (three or four hogsheads) belonging to Thos. Grant, shipped by Long, about or between 3 or £400 sterling

To Abraham Yates, Junr. Esqr. Chairman  
of the Convention of the State of New-York, at Harlem.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 282.

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

[Philadelphia] Thursday, August 15, 1776

The Congress resumed the consideration of the instructions given to Commodore Hopkins, his examination and answers, &c. and, thereupon, came to the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the said Commodore Hopkins, during his cruize to the southward, did not pay due regard to the tenor of his instructions, whereby he was expressly directed to annoy the enemy's ships upon the coasts of the southern states; and, that his reasons for not going from Providence immediately to the Carolinas, are by no means satisfactory.

At the request of [the delegates of] Pennsylvania, the farther consideration of the report was postponed till to morrow.

*Resolved*, That the Secret Committee be directed to deliver to the order of the Marine Committee, such stores by them imported as are necessary for the fleet.

1. Ford, Ed., *JCC*, V, 657, 658-59.

#### MINUTES OF THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS <sup>1</sup>

[Philadelphia] 15th August 1776

The Committee considering the favorable opportunity that now presents for shipping off Produce from this Port and other places to the Southward, the Enemies-Men of War having gone.

Agreed That the sum of eighty thousand Dollars be advanced Mr [Robert] Morris to be by him laid out in produce and exported on the Continental Account. Accordingly an order was drawn on the Treasurer in his favor for that sum.

1. Henry Laurens Collection, SCHS.

#### THOMAS JEFFERSON'S NOTES ON COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS' DEFENSE <sup>1</sup>

Aug. 12. 1783 [*sic* 1776]. <sup>2</sup>

[Philadelphia]

The Commodore's[s] excuse for not going to Souther[n] colonies agreeable to orders.

[Be]fore he left capes of Delaware, he heard the *Liverpool* was joined to Ld Dunmore, wch made enemy an overmatch. & many of his men sea sick.

he did not go to N. Carolina bec. [he] recd intelligce the enemy's force hd

gone from there & from S. Cara to Georgia. (his men recovd as he got to the Southward)

he did not go to S. Carola for same reason & because [he] had no pilots.

he did not go to Georg[ia] bec. enemy's ships as he heard were all there & too strong.

he app[ointe]d Abaco as a rendezvous, & to wait there 15 days for each other; he chose that place because nearer to Geoga than to S. Carolina.

he got there with all his fleet except the *Fly* & *Hornet*, & as he was to wait 15 days for [them] he thought he might as well form [an] expedn somewhere.

he heard from (a whaler I believe) that there was 200 barrels of powder cannon &c at [New] Providce belonging to king. he therefore went there.

but the night he arrived the govr removed the powder. he took the cannon. he dd nt go to Savanna bec while at Providce he heard all the enemy's fleet had assembled there & that [illegible] were too strong for him

on his return North[ward] he took a bomb brig for which [he] recd thanks of Congress.

he carrd [the] cannon to Rhode isld rather than to the Carolinas because [they were] not wanting in the Carolinas & he thot he cd get more safely into Rhode isld

he dd nt delivr them to Govr of Connecticut as ordd by Congress bec. he hd them as ballast, & found he cd nt get ballast at N. Lond[on] witht sendg to N. York, a delay wch he cd not admit as Gen. Washton wrote him he apprehendd the enemy wd attempt to block him up in N. London.

he delivd them to Govr Cook of Rh. isld bec. he offered him pig iron as ballast in lieu of them, & Govr Cook undertook to delivr them to ordr of Congress

after he [returned] from Providce he was not at liberty to go to the Carolinas bec. hs instrns directed him to go to Rh. isld

had nt pilots to carry him into inlets of N. Carolina or over Charles town bar.

Commodore dd nt sent vessel for intelligce into South. col. bec. both *Fly* & *Hornet* parted with him within 2 days after [they] sailed, in bad weather the *Hornet* nevr joined him, the *Fly* not till he got to Providce

a clause in his instrns authorized him to depart from his instrns if in his discretn he thought [it] for the public good. if he was mistaken then it was no [crime.]

instrns are never given positively & it is right they should not be, because of change of circumstances

The Commodore had a premeditated design not to go to the Southern colonies but to Providence

bec. he dd nt send into Chesapk for certain intelligence.

bec. he dd nt send hs vessel of intelligce into N. Carolina but only sais he heard enemy hd left that place whereas in truth the *Cruiser* remd there alone & had above 50 prizes with her.

bec. he dd nt send in to So Carolina for intelligce



he hd better [have] gone there for rendezvous than to Abaco bec. Gadsden hd promd him on seeing signals to sent out Pilot boats.

bec. he might have crossed the bar

bec. it was nearer to Georgia than Abaco was.

bec. 2 days before he got to Abaco he told major Nicholas he was to go to Providence, whereas he ss in his defence he did not intend to go there till he reached Abaco, (the rendezvous appointed) & then finding the *Fly* & *H[ornet]* separated he thought he might as well employ th[e] time of 15 days which was agreed on to wait there, in some expedn

The not meeting the *Fly* & *Hornet* cd not prevent him from going to Savannah bec. they were mere vessels of intelligce not of force, they only carried, one of them swivels, [the other] 3. or 4 lbs

There was no cannon in N. Carola, so wre mch wantg there.

he was furnished wth 2 vessels on purpose to procure sure intelligce to direct his motions. particularly the *Fly* a very swift vessel was [bought] & fitted out on purpose.

after the expedn to Providce why did not he then go to Carolinas or Southern colonies, that being not only the main object of his expedn, but in truth the object of equipping the Navy.

his managemt of engagemt with *Glasgow* shews he wanted skill & activity.

Cannon nt wanting for ballast bec. two of his officers say she had still the ballast with which she had gone to Providce & returned.

He ot to have obeyed Congress in delivg cannon. tho' he was come out of the harbor of New London with the cannon on board; he ot to have retd wth them

objection that he had no pilots to carry him into inlets of N. Carolina & bar of Charles town not good, because he knew that [before] when he set out why did not he inform [illegible] Comme before he went that it [might have] been provided for, or delegates [have] taken proper [measures] besides as to Charles town Gadsden hd agreed wth him

fort Johnston had more king's cannon than Providce; if cannon hd bn his object [he] mt have gone & taken them

at the time he retd from Providce there was the *Cruiser* & a tender wth Govr Martin waiting to join highlandrs & 16 mi. below them were a number of transports [with Clinton's army.]

he had the *Wasp* with him a small vessel proper to send in for intelligce from Ch[arles] to [wn] bar to Savanna bar 70. miles. from Abaco is 3 times as far.

besides it was in Winter season when Northerly winds prevail wch prevent his coming from Abaco to Savanna & facilitate it from Charles town

the objn is [not] that he did not exercise an honest discretion in departing from his instrns but that he never did intend to obey them.

true all instrns have [a] discretionary clause, which proves they have some positive intention, otherwise there was never a positive instruction & never a disobediance of orders, which is not true

since return from Provide the fleet has merely act[ed in] defence of trade of Eastn colonies.

1. Papers of Thomas Jefferson, vol. 9, 1525–26, LC.

2. This document was erroneously dated Aug. 12, 1783 by Jefferson. For explanation see Julian P. Boyd, ed., *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* (Princeton, 1950), VI, 274. Hereafter cited as Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers*.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Sirs

I am Going On a Bout the timber and other thing[s] for the Gundeloes Which I shall Purchase and Bring into the yard as fast as Posible But have made No Bargin With you a Bout it – I shall Charge the Same for My Time as When I Superidentended the Frigat Busines Which Was 22/6d P Day and I had the Liberty of Furnishing her With all the Bar Iron Deliver'd at the Place at £26 pr Toon I Mean Mr Wells Shop, and the Pich Tar & Turpentine at the Market Prise in Baltimore, and Payd all My bill for Mony advanst for all kind of Nesary[es] Such as shee Wants Sirs you May at first Look On this to Much But I have a Good Deall Of My Own Busines to Doe and a Great Number of Other Peoples I have My Self and 2 as Good Clarks as any in Baltimore and We are Early and Late at Our Busines I am On Horsback from Morning till Night Driving amongst the People have another hand Riding after Teems Geting Nesaryes and 2 horses is Not anuf Sumtimes Nor 2 Clarks With My Sellf att the Hed of them, I shall Be from Home in Pertapsco Neck this 2 Weeks Geting Timber With 20 hands from Home Day and Night & 2 or 3 teems, up to My Middell Or Neck in Water Rafting and Freting My Sellf, & a thousand Disapointm[ents] that you No Nothing of – I shall Be as Puntuall as Posible in My Charges and Doe your Busines as Well as I Posibly Can, and Make the Best Bargins I Can for you But I Declare if any Person Will Doe it On Better Terms I should be Pleasd the Timber is purchasd Redy and Most of it Down and I Will Hire them My Carages (as th[e]re is No Other) at a Moderate Rate – if any Person Will Now Bring it into the yard On Better Terms – than the Proposals I Make Wee shall Lay One of the keells this Day and the Other Next Week I hope – But Expect a Line from you On the Before Menshond Matters I have furnisht the Yard With her Rum at Market Prises and My Charges of Every Kind has Been thought Reasonable and a Lowd and th[ey] Beg of Me to Be Redy for them again With all My Teems, carag[e]s and hands – So Pleas Gentellemen to Write Me and if the Rum is to Be furnisht for the yard 2 Drinks a Day of Grog and No More the Carters and People Rafting and Geting Timber Must have Rum, in short I Want Neither More Nor Les then I had With the Frigget But thought it My Duty to Explain My Bargin to you that you Mout No the Matter I have Bought a Skow that Will Carry 600 Bushells for £28 pounds a Very Good One – Pleas Send for her I have Sent sum Coffy Tee & Naills to Anopolis Sum Pots to Capt Vezey at Newtown I have Never heard if the[y] Ware Recvd Please Let

Me Nowd a Bout the Botes I Wrote By Mr Huckings Excuse this Long letter Pleas answer it from [&c.]

Baltimore August 15 – 1776

Jesse Hollingsworth<sup>2</sup>

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. The Council replied to Hollingsworth on August 16, "you may depend on being handsomely paid according to the trouble you have . . . Whisky and Continental Rum may be furnished to the Workmen at Market Price." Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD<sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Thursday August 15th 1776 –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Mayo Esqr for two pounds thirteen shillings and five pence half penny for Flour furnished Capt [Isaac] Young-husband of *Musketo* Cruizer –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Rogers for One hundred pounds upon Account for furnishing Necessaries and paying of Carpenters at Work on six Boats now Building at Portsmouth under the Direction of Colo Adam Stephens and the said Rogers –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Mr William Russell for Thirteen Pounds ten shillings for four pair Pistols furnished Capt Lilly for the use of the Brig *Liberty* –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to James Davis for five pounds twelve shillings and six pence for Blacksmiths Work done for the use of the Schooner *Revenge* Capt Deane. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue Mr William Fauntleroy for Twenty eight pounds for seven Swivels furnished, Captn [Richard] Taylor for the use of the Schooner *Hornet*. –

James Davis personally appeared before this Board and agreed for the Sum of six pounds p Ton to Build a Row Galley of the following Dimensions to wit, Eighty one feet Keel, twenty feet Beam & seventeen feet mould Hold which said Gallie is to be finished by the twenty fifth of December next –

1. Navy Board Journal, 37–38, VSL.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPE NICOLA MOLE, AUGUST 15, 1776”<sup>1</sup>

From the best authority, I am informed, that four French frigates are ordered to cruize about this island to protect the American trade, and two Spanish ships are to do the same about Porto Rico for the like purpose. There are about 8 or 10,000 troops in this Island. – Twenty-nine ships of the line are getting ready at Brest, and 14 at Toulon, & 20,000 land forces, to put to sea, but where bound is not known. – Twelve Spanish ships of the line and 6 frigates, with many land forces, went by here some weeks past for the Havannah, but for what end is a secret.

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, October 2, 1776.

VAN BEBBER & HARRISON TO THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Saint Pierre Martinique Augt 15. 1776

Gentlemen We did ourselves the Honour of writing you from St Eustatia on the 14th of June, acquainting you of our Connection, & making a tender of our Services, wch we hope got to hand, being accompanied with a considerable Quantity of Powder shippd you by our AVB in the Brig *Friendship* Capt [John] Martin. –

The present serves to cover Invoices of two Parcells of Gun Powder & Arms Shipped you the 25th ulto in the Boats *Molly* Capt John Pasture, & *Pluto*, Cap Thomas Davis, in consequence of what you wrote our AVB. – We hope it will all be safely landed before you see this. –

These Goods are part of a large purchase made by us in June for which we are to pay by the middle of the ensuing Month, or be accountable for an Interest of 8 PCt from that period. Should your remittances therefore not get to hand within the limited time, we think proper to mention that you, as well as our other Friends, will be liable for your proportion of this additional charge. – The Publick Good alone induces us into the Engagement – had our Views been otherwise, abundant Opportunities have offered by which we could have benefitted ourselves 50 P Ct – The Article of Powder has got up again to near 4/ in Statia and 3/ at this place; we do not however imagine these prices can be supported long – Dry Goods, particularly Linnens, are plenty & may be purchased tolerably cheap. –

There are certain times when very good Bargains may be had. If you should therefore think proper to entrust us with the purchase of any thing further, we would advise you to transmit your Orders by the first Opportunity, that we may have it in our power to execute them as those favourable Junctures occur, and if at any time, by the miscarriage of your Vessells or otherwise, our credit can be of use to you; you may depend, Gent, we will most chearfully strain it to the extent. –

Capt Calender sailed from this Port about the 18th of May & took with him the proceeds of his own, the two Capt. Saunders' & Capt Markums Cargoes, consisting of Powder & Arms, in the pilot Boat sent out for the Purpose. We should be very sorry to hear of his miscarrying with so valuable a Vessel. –

Wishing Virginia all the prosperity & Happiness to which her noble, spirited & exemplary Conduct so justly entitles her, we are and shall remain, with much respect Sirs [&c.]

VanBibber &amp; Harrison

Prices Currnt at this place	
Superfine Flour 78 a 80/.	} p barrl
Common Do 66 a 70/.	
Tobacco 50 a 60/. P Ct	
Corn 8/. p busl	
Pork 100/.	
Beef 90/.	
Lumber, none –	

[Endorsed] Copy – the original by Capt Wickes of the Continental ship *Reprisal* –

1. State Agents, 1775–1782, VSL.

16 Aug.

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

[Extract]

(Copy)

*Isis* Quebec 16 August 1776

. . . our business of building, and reconstructing are going on as fast as our paucity of proper hands, will admit of. After a very long passage the Twenty Glasgow Shipwrights, and ten house Carpenters, from Portsmouth, are at last arrived, and are to be hurried up to Chambly from Transport to Transport, Relays whereof are placed, with proper rowing Boats to ensure the Conveyance upwards of the provisions which are hourly and impatiently expected for the army from Ireland against an opposing Current, and the prevailing light Westerly Winds of the Season . . . .

His Excellency having applied to me for four Transports to carry away the Rebel Prisoners (as well those who were caught in the lower Town of Quebec on the 1st of January, as those since taken) with a view of their returning in peace to their respective homes. The *Pearl* is sailed with them under her Convoy for New York to join Lord Howe. Some Rebels taken very lately at Lake Champlain are to their very great surprise included in the number.

The *Canceaux* Armed Ship is stationed at the Sorel The *Blonde* continues at Champlain The *Triton* and *Lord Howe* at the foot of the rapids of Richlieu The *Isis* and *Juno* in this Bason (the latter with a Defective Fore Yard) The *Bute* with Pilots is at the Isle of Bic, and the *Tartar* to cruize between Cape North and Cape Ray, until the 25th of September. . . .

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125, 53b.

*Essex Journal and New Hampshire Packet*, FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1776

Newbury-Port, August 16.

Yesterday Capt. Wingate Newman, arrived in the Privateer nam'd the *Hancock*, from Philadelphia, she brought in as a prize, (which is now safely anchored before this town) the ship *Nancy* from Antigua, Capt Keys, bound to London, having on board about 400 hogsheads of sugar, 90 of rum, and a few casks of Madeira wine. Three or four gentleman passengers, and a lady came in the above ship. – He likewise brought in with him the Sloop *Industry*, Capt William Hazen, bound to St. John's, in Nova-Scotia, in ballast.

A few days before the taking the above ship, Capt. Newman had a smart engagement with a sloop of war, of much superior force, for three glasses, but night coming on, they parted, both having received much damage, but on board of Capt. Newman no lives lost, nor none much hurt.

MEMORIAL OF CAPTAIN JOHN MANLEY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

The State of                    } To the Honble Council now  
 Massachusetts Bay        } sitting at Watertown –

The Memorial of John Manley of Boston  
 Humbly Sheweth

That he is informed by his Council that the Presence of Peter Ramsey who is now a Prisoner at Concord is necessary at the Trial of the Briga *Eliza[beth]* which was taken & carried into Portsmouth last March – The Said Manley therefore prays that the said Peter Ramsey may be permitted to attend said Trial under such Restrictions as to your Honors may think fit and as in Duty Bound shall ever pray –

John Manley

Boston Augt 16[th] 1776

[Endorsed] Read & Ordered that the Prayer of the Memorial be granted and that Peter Ramsay have Liberty to Attend the Tryal mentioned in the Memorial to be under the Care of Capt Manley in going and returning and that said Manley see that he the Said Ramsay returns to Concord as soon as he has finished the Buisness he goes upon –

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 99.

DEPOSITION PREPARED FOR THE SIGNATURE OF CREAN BRUSH <sup>1</sup>

[Boston, August 16]

I Crean Brush do Testify and say that on or about 3d day of January 1776 John Ireland deliverd to me a large quantity of English Goods to take care of for Robert Ruggles, and than on or about 13th day March by virtue of an Order from General How, I went up to the stores of the following persons

	(vizt)		
John Barret & Sons	14	Samuel Dashwood	6
John Rowe	16	John Scollay	
Samuel Austin	3	Cyrus Baldwin	7 <sup>2</sup>
Samuel Partridge	28		

and took from them a large Quantity of Goods which together, with Ruggles's were shipt on board the Brig *Eliza[beth]* Capt Peter Ramsay master except part of Mr Baldwins, which were shipt on board another vessel and that said Brig on her passage to Halifax was taken by Como Manly and others, and carried into Portsmouth New-Hampshire, and that said Goods were on board when taken –

[Endorsed] Suffolk ss, Augt 16, 1776. at the request of Robert Ruggles above-named, I went to the house of Jos: Otis keeper of the Gaol in Boston, to swear Crean Brush above named to the truth of the aforegoing deposition, that the said Crean Brush refused to sign the above or swear to the truth of it, that on being told by the said Ruggles that his Testimony would be a benefit to him but no disadvantage to him the said Brush he the said

Brush replied and said that for that reason he would not swear to it, but in general acknowledged it was true

Jos Greenleaf Justice peace

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Court of Appeals, 1776–1787, NA.
2. The numerals represent the numbers of the claims entered by these individuals for goods found on board the brigantine *Elizabeth*.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO THOMAS CUSHING <sup>1</sup>

Sir/

Providence Augt 16. 1776 –

Yours of the 5th Inst is before us, Mr [John] Langdon Claims the Preference to you of the Cannon as his Vessel is now ready as he says for them and yours is not, as to price we say the last Guns we have sold was at £80 Lawful money P Ton since which they have been sold here at Double That At Vendue, a Gentleman from this Town has Engagd a sett to be Made at one of the Furnaces in Your Province for a Privateer at 90 P Ton, and Mr Hubbart Owner of the air Furnace at Abbington holds his at about this price & we Coud make several setts at the same price and they are Dayly riseing and as we understand you have no orders from Congress to Contract We Chose not to fix a Price, 'till you are ready to Finish a Bargain, and have refusd Contracting with any Body unless we were Concernd in the Vessel they were for, only one sett of nine pounders at which Time we did not advert to your Ships Carrying 9 Pounders – If you have Liberty from Congress to Contract for the Cannon we advise (as its a Matter of Consequence) your Comeing up and Finishing the matter and as we find the Expençe in Carrying on the Business is very heavy We shall Chuse to have one half the Amot paid us on finishing the Bargain – I am Sir with Due Respect [&c.]

[lb]

12 pounders will Weigh abot	24 –
9 – Ditto Do.	18 –
6 – Ditto Do.	12 –
4 – Ditto Do.	8 –

Nich<sup>s</sup> Brown  
For the Furnace Co

P S We shall wait 14 Days from this before we Contract that each may be here or some body for them, if not agreed who has the first sett of Guns after that Time Shall Contract with the first that appears – One of our Furnace Owners is to be Concernd in the Guns purchasd in yr Province for a Privateer at £ 90 p Ton, & have no Doubt but Coud now fill several setts at £ 100 Per Ton

A Copy <sup>2</sup>

1. Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis.
2. The copy was enclosed in letter of the same date to John Langdon.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir Lebanon Augt 16th 1776

Major General Schuyler has requested that two hundred Seamen may be raised in this State to mann the Vessels on the Lake. As most of our Sea-

men have marched with our Militia to join your Army I have to ask the favor of Your Excellency to permit Capt David Hawley and Capt Frederick Chappel to enlist such number of Seaman out of our Militia as may be necessary for that Servic – I am Sir with great Respect [&c.]

J T———|

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, 331, ConnSL.

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

[Lebanon] August 16th, 1776.

*Voted* to draw an order in favour of Capt. David Hawley for £180, to enable him [to] raise a crew of seamen for the naval service of the United States of America on the Lakes to the northward, to which service he is appointed a Captain. Said money to be disposed of by him in the same ways and manner as was directed to Capt. [Seth] Warner in this book *Order drawn August 16th, 1776, delivered to Capt. David Hawley.*

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 503, 504. The same was voted for Captain Frederick Chapel, New Haven.

ORDER FOR PURCHASE OF THE NEW PROVIDENCE SLOOP *Endeavor* <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Lebanon, August 16th 1776

Draw on the Treasurer of this State for the Sum of two Thousand one Hundred and sixty Eight Pounds Twelve Shillings and five Pence L[awful] Money in Favour of Capt Charles Walker of New Providence it being for the Purchase of a Large Bermudian Built Sloop for the Purpose of an Armed Vessell <sup>2</sup>

By Order the Governor & Council of Safety

Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

To the Committee of Pay Table

£2168.12.5

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, VI, 352a, ConnSL.

2. The *Endeavour*, which Commodore Hopkins had commandeered to carry some of the cannon seized at New Providence. Walker's receipt for the purchase money was dated the next day, *ibid.*, 352b.

ORDER FOR PAYMENT TO CAPTAIN JAMES RICE <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Lebanon August 16th 1776

Draw on the Treasurer of this State for the Sum of Six Hundred Seventy two Pounds six Shillings and five Pence in Favour of Capt James Rice it being in Ballance of his Account of Expences of Brig *Defence* & Row Gally as Pr his Account Appears at this Time

By Order of the Govr & Council of Safety

Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

To the Committee of Pay Table

£672.6.5

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 74a, ConnSL.



BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir/

Crown Point August 16th 1776

I arriv'd here at 10 oClock last night much as I left Tyconderoga a little feverish but no ague Yet, a dose Phisick this afternoon I hope will set matters in order. I have applied to Doctr Sparham who (I believe) Cannot be persuaded to go with the Fleet – I dont think it prudent to go without a Surgeon, Lieut [Isaac Budd] Dunn acquaints me, that the Surgeons Mate of Coln [Arthur] St Clair's Regt has a good Box Medicines & will Incline to go with the Fleet, I wish he would be sent here, or some one who will answer to kill a man *Secundum Artem*, I can procure a Case of Capital Instruments for him here, – nothing but the Surgeon & some few articles I have sent a Boat for, prevents our proceeding, – I hope the Carpenters will not be retarded for want of Smith's work they made Several Complaints before I came away – I am with Compliments to the Gentlemen of your Famaly Dear Sir Your affectionate [&c.]

B Arnold

PS I could wish the proceedings of the Court Marshall, Letters &c might pass thro Genl. Schuylers hands that his Sentiments might be known – B A

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

ORDERLY BOOK OF BRIGADE MAJOR PETER SCULL<sup>1</sup>

Head-Quarters [Ticonderoga],  
Aug. 16. 1776

All the Brass-Blunderbusses in Camp, belonging to the Publick, or taken from the enemy, are to be delivered in immediately to Mr Lane Conductor of Naval Stores. –

1. MNHP.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM SKEENESBOROUGH, AUGUST 16, 1776”<sup>1</sup>

Our strength by sea is as follows, – two schooners, one sloop, two row-gallies and six gondolas, all fit for action. – At this place we have one gondola launched, and another just finished. – We have also three row-gallies in great forwardness, from 60 to 70 feet in keel and 16 feet beam, which will mount each 6 cannon and 20 swivels, and are to go with 36 oars besides sails – They will be fit for action in about three weeks – As soon as they are launched General Watterbury, with the regiment to which I belong, are ordered on board them, and when rigged, &c. are to proceed up the Lake to join the fleet.

By the last accounts from St. John's we learn, that the enemy had not more than 40 batteaus built, and two gallies or gondolas – If this is true, I hardly think they will venture down the Lake this fall – We are determined, however, to be prepared for them – Five other gallies are to be built here, as soon as those which are on the stocks are launched.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, August 28, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE <sup>1</sup>

August 1776 In Hudsons River New York  
 Friday 16th AM [light breezes] and Cloudy, dry'd Sails, to all Appearance the Channell abrest of the Fort quite Block'd up.  
 First part light breezes and Cloudy, Mide light airs and hazy with Calms latter little Wind & Cloudy PM at ½ past 11 saw some Vessels close on board of us, took them to be Rebel Gallys two of which prov'd to be fire vessels, our Tender being on our Larbd Quarter ½ a Cable distance, one of them fell Athwart her on fire, which set the Tender Instantly in a Blaze, & hindred her from faling on board the Ship, we veer'd away but finding we could not get clear of her cut the Cable at the ½ she driving clear of us fell Athwart the *Phoenix's* Bow; which had near set her on fire, they got Clear by Cutting their Cable and Towing her Off, let go our small Bow'r Do came too the *Phoenix* & *Tryal*, Our People from the Tender all got safe on board.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

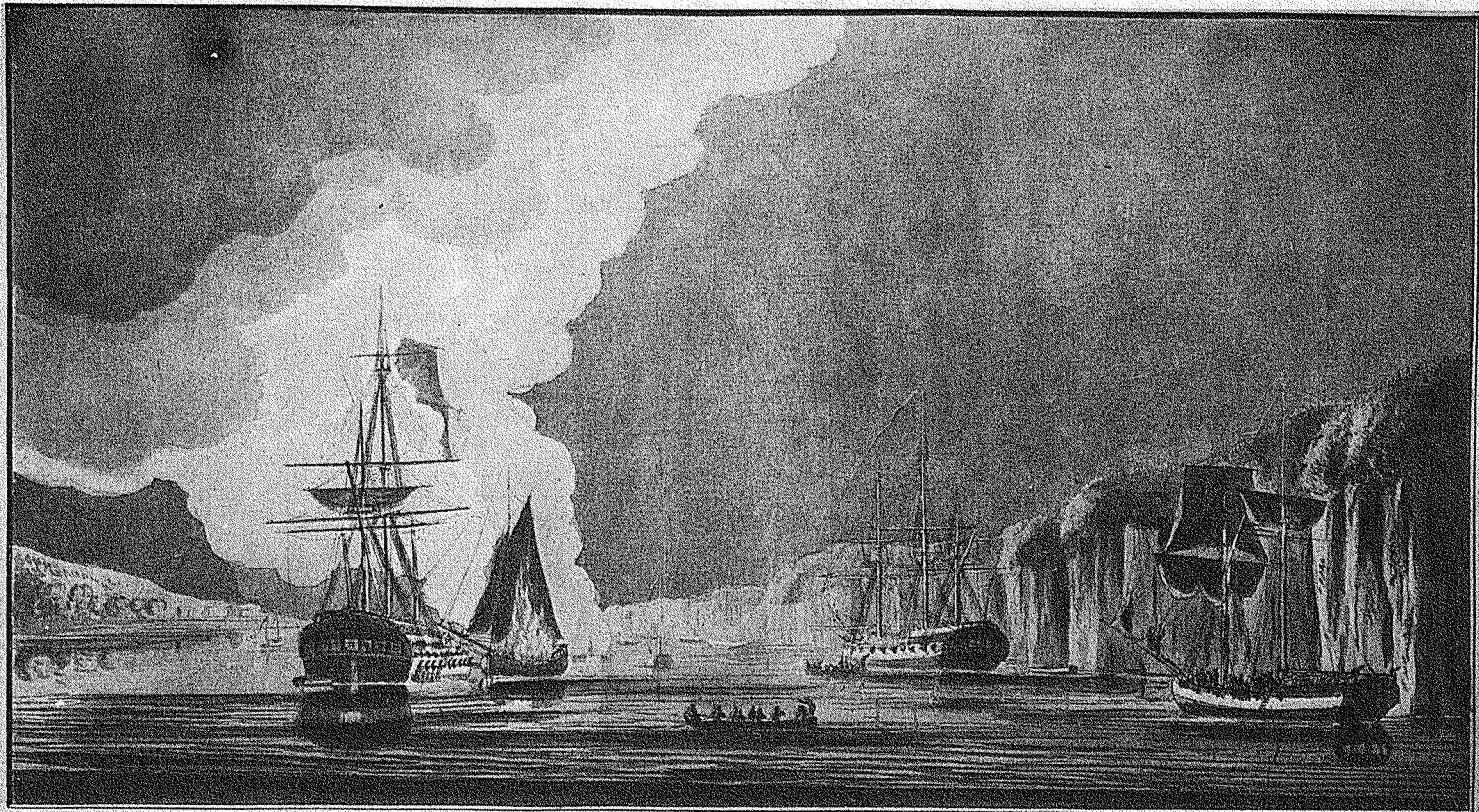
JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR. <sup>1</sup>

August 1776. At Single Anchor, four Miles above the upper Fort on York Island.  
 Friday 16th Cut up for Match Tubs Six Puncheons, several Gallies in sight down the River.  
 Light Airs and Cloudy at 11 P M discover'd a Vessel Standing up the River, she being near the *Rose's* Tender hail'd her and gave order's for her to Fire into the Vessel; In Five Seconds the Rebel Vessel Boarded the Tender and was set fire to. By the light of this Vessel we discover'd another standing towards us at a Cables length distance – Immediately Order'd the Cable to be Cut & Commenced Firing upon the Fire Ship; in Ten Minutes afterwards she Boarded us on the Starboard Bow at which time the Rebels set fire to the Train and left her, Set the Fore Topsail and Head Sails which fortunately cast the Ship and disengaged her from the Fire Ship, after having been Twenty Minutes with her Jibb Boom over our Gunwhale. The *Rose's* Tender was Totally consumed; the same fate must have Attended the *Phoenix* had not the Steadiness of the Officers & Ship's Company saved her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH <sup>1</sup>

[New York, August] 16th. – Our General was again requested to be a spectator on the bank of the river the approaching night, with the most positive



*The PHOENIX and the ROSE Engaged by the ENEMY'S FIRE SHIPS and GALLEYS on the 16 Aug<sup>r</sup> 1776.  
Engraved from the Original Picture by De Sars from a sketch of Sir James Wallace's.*

assurances that he should not be again disappointed: he accordingly went, attended as on the preceding time, and took a proper position on the bank. The night was pretty dark; they soon found that the galleys and fire-vessels were silently moving up with the tide. After some time, and almost immediately after the sentinels on board the British ships has passed the word, "all is well," two of the fire-vessels flashed into a blaze; the one close on the side of the *Phenix*, the other grappling one of the tenders. To appearance, the flames were against the side of the *Phenix*; and there was much confusion on board. A number of cannon were discharged into the fire-vessel in order to sink her. A number of seamen ascended, and got out on the yard-arm, supposed to clear away some grapplings. The fire-vessel was alongside, as was judged near ten minutes, when the *Phenix* either cut, or slipt her cable, let fall her fore-topsail, wore round, and stood up the river, being immediately veiled from the spectators, by the darkness of the night. The tender burnt down to the water's edge, and was towed to the shore by the Americans, out of which was taken, one iron six-pounder, two three-pounders, one two pounder, ten swivels, a caboose, some gun-barrels, cutlasses, grapplings, chains, &c. The *Rose*, and the other two tenders, remained at their moorings; but it was said that one of the tenders was deserted by her crew, for a time. Several of our galleys were said to have been inactive; otherwise, a very considerable advantage would have been reaped. The Americans sustained no loss or injury, saving one man, who, in communicating fire to one of the vessels, got considerably burnt in the face, hands, &c.<sup>2</sup>

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 45-46.

2. "Serjeant Smith of Connecticut after applying his match to the train - jumbed [*sic*] overboard to one of our boats, but was so severely burnt that he died of his wounds." *Diary of Samuel Richards, Captain of Connecticut Line War of the Revolution 1775-1786*, published by his great grandson (Philadelphia, 1909), 32. Hereafter cited as *Captain Richards' Diary*.

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

[Harlem] Die Veneris, 9 HO. A.M. August 16th, 1776.

Whereas a secret committee appointed by this Convention to devise means for annoying the enemy's ships and obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river, having by their letter received this day, informed the Convention of their fitting out two armed vessels at Poughkeepsie, and giving the command of one of them to Capt. Henry Benson, who they have sent down to New-York to procure and purchase sundry articles, necessarily required in fitting out said vessels, and request the Convention to supply Capt. Benson with money for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That Peter V. B. Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of this Convention, advance to Capt. Henry Benson the sum of £500 for the purpose aforesaid, and take his receipt for the same.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 575, 576.

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

[Philadelphia] Friday, August 16, 1776

The Congress resumed the consideration of the instructions given to Commodore Hopkins, his examination and answers, &c. and, thereupon came to the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the said conduct of Commodore Hopkins deserves the censure of this house, and the house does accordingly censure him.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the resolutions passed against Commodore Hopkins be transmitted to him.<sup>2</sup>

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 660–62.

2. "Although this Resolution of Censure was not, in my Opinion demanded by Justice and consequently was inconsistent with good Policy, as it tended to discourage an Officer and diminish his Authority by tarnishing his reputation; Yet as it went not so far as to cashier him, which had been the Object intended by the Spirit that dictated the Prosecution, I had the Satisfaction to think that I had not laboured wholly in vain, in his defence." Butterfield, ed., *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams*, III, 408.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAINS JOHN PAUL JONES AND  
WILLIAM HALLOCK <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Philada Augt 16th 1776

You will find inclosed herein a Paper sent us by the Captn of a French Sloop that is now daily expected from Martinico with Arms and Ammunition Which we are very Anxious should be got safe in <sup>2</sup> – therefore we desire you to keep a good look out for her and if you fall in with her; make Such Signals as will make you known for a Friend – She Mounts twelve Guns with Sixty Men. – You'l Please to deliver this letter and it's enclosure to Captn Hallock who must hire a Pilot Boat and man her with an Officer & four or five men to Cruize about the Capes for this Sloop, Observing to make the Signal desired and give them the needful information to get Safe in here.

When the *Wasp* goes down She will Convey further Orders respecting this Matter Unless the Sloop Arrives Safe in the meantime – We are Sir [&c.]

To Jno Paul Jones Esqr  
of Sloop *Providence*

& Wm Hallock Esqr  
of Sloop *Hornet*

John Hancock  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris  
Fran<sup>s</sup> Hopkinson  
Fr<sup>s</sup> Lewis  
Joseph Hewes

(Copy)

1. Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock, and Miscellaneous Papers), 58, 165, 169, NA.

2. *Ibid.*, the paper contained the drawing of a flag, with these notations:

Flag of the Queen of Hungary Six Black carrs [bars] & Six Yellow Carrs [*sic*]  
The Capt of the Pilot Boat will put his Flag in the Foremost head of a Pilot Boat – Carefully Recommended to the Care of Mr Paul Siemen.

JOURNAL OF JOHN PAUL JONES <sup>1</sup>

[May 10 to August 16, 1776]

The next day, the 10th of May, 1776, Mr. Jones was ordered by the commander in chief to take command "as captain of the *Providence*." This

proves that Mr. Jones did his duty on the [New] Providence expedition. As the commander in chief had in his hand no blank-commission, this appointment was written and signed on the back of the commission that Mr. Jones had received at Philadelphia the 7th of December, 1775. Captain Jones had orders to receive on board the *Providence* the soldiers that had been borrowed from General Washington, and to carry them to New York, there enlist as many seamen as he could, and then return to New London, to take in from the hospital all the seamen that had been left there by the squadron, and were recovered, and carry them to Providence. Captain Jones soon performed these services; and having hove down the sloop and partly fitted her for war at Providence, he received orders from the commander in chief, dated Rhode Island, June 10th, 1776, to come immediately down to take a sloop then in sight, armed for war, belonging to the enemy's navy. Captain Jones obeyed orders with alacrity; but the enemy had disappeared before he reached Newport. On the 13th of June, 1776, Captain Jones received orders, dated that day at Newport, Rhode Island, from the commander in chief, to proceed to Newburyport to take under convoy some vessels bound for Philadelphia; but first to convoy Lieutenant Hacker in the *Fly*, with a cargo of cannon, into the sound for New York, and to convoy some vessels back from Stonington to the entrance of Newport. In performing these last services, Captain Jones found great difficulty from the enemy's frigates, then cruising round Block Island, with which he had several rencontres; in one of which he saved a brigantine that was a stranger, from Hispaniola, closely pursued by the *Cerberus*, and laden with public military stores. That brigantine was afterwards purchased by the Continent, and called the *Hampden*. Captain Jones received orders from the commander in chief to proceed for Boston instead of Newburyport. At Boston he was detained a considerable time by the backwardness of the agent. He arrived with his convoy from Boston, safe in the Delaware, the 1st of August, 1776. This service was performed while the enemy were arriving daily at Sandy Hook from Halifax and England, [under the escort and protection of Lord Howe,] and Captain Jones saw several of their ships of war [which he had the address to avoid.] Captain Jones received a captain's commission [under the *United States of America*,] from the president of Congress the 8th of August.

It was proposed to Captain Jones by the Marine Committee of Congress to go to Connecticut, to command the brigantine *Hampden*; but he choosing rather to remain in the sloop *Providence*, had orders to go out on a cruise against the enemy "for six weeks, [or] two or three months." He was not limited to any particular station or service.

1. [Robert C. Sands], *Life and Correspondence of John Paul Jones including his Narrative of the Campaign of the Liman* (New York, 1830), 37-39. Hereafter cited as Sands, *Life and Correspondence of John Paul Jones*. Jones wrote this journal or memoir for Louis XVI of France. French translations are in the Archives Nationales and the Library of Congress.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] Aug't. 16th, 1776.

Capt. [Richard] Ayres of the Armed Boat *Campden*, was directed to pay Hugh Whiteford the wages due to his Slave, Jacob Kelly, and discharge said Kelly from the Service of this State.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 689.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD<sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Friday August 16 – 1776

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt George Muter five hundred pounds of Cannon Powder, One hundred pounds of Musquett Powder, 70 eighteen Pound Shott, fifty Pounds of Sheet Lead thirty six Grape Shott, a Rheme of Cartridge Paper, One hundred & fifty Gunflints & sixty Cartridge Boxes and Balls for the use of the *Hero* Galley. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 39, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CHARLES THOMAS<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg Augst 16th 1776 –

The inclos'd Memorandum for Rope you'll please to get ready as soon as possible and charge it to the Schooner *Speedwell* Capt Cook on the Eastern Shore I am by order &c.

Geo. Webb. 1st Commr Pro Tempore

1 Coil — 3½ Inch do  
 2 do — 2½ do  
 2 do — 2 do  
 1 do — 12 thread rat line  
 Cable — 90 fathom 7 Inch

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO ANDREW LUSH, CABIN POINT<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Wmsburg August 16th 1776

You are desired to provide Blocks agreeable to the within List and send them by the first safe opportunity to the Colledge landing addressed to us By order [&c.]

Geo. Webb. 1st Comr Pro. Tempore

84 — 7 Inch blocks  
 4 — 12 do . double  
 6 — 10 do . single  
 6 — 6 do . do  
 4 — 6 do . double  
 6 — 8 do . single —

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

COMMISSION OF CAPTAIN ROBERT COCHRAN AS COMMANDER OF THE  
SOUTH CAROLINA BRIGANTINE *Notre Dame* <sup>1</sup>

By his Excellency John Rutledge Esquire President and Commander in Chief of South Carolina one of the united States of America –

To all whom these presents shall come greeting  
Know ye that I do hereby appoint Robert Cockran to be Captain and Commander of the Brigantine of war calld the *Notre Dame* of the burthen of about Seventy Tons belonging to this State hereby granting License, Commission and authority to him therewith by force of arms to apprehend, seize and take all ships Vessells & Goods which are liable to seizure and Confiscation pursuant to the resolves of the representatives of the said States in General Congress assembled And to bring the same to the most convenient port in order to be legally adjudged in some court of Admiralty or some other court then having jurisdiction in Cases of Capture.

Given under my hand and seal at Chs Town  
in the said State of South Carolina this 16th day  
of August in the year of Our Lord 1776 –  
to take rank as captain from the 31st December 1775, the date of Captain Cockrans Commission from the Council of Safety – <sup>2</sup>

1. Miscellaneous Records A 1776-1801, S. C. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, commissions were issued on August 17 to Charles Morgan of the sloop *Swift* and Andrew Groundwater, sloop *Peggy*.

**17 Aug.**

PETITION OF PASSENGERS ON BOARD THE PRIZE SHIP *Earl of Errol* TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

The Petition of Hugh Munro for himself, his Wife, Daughter, Neice, and Two Servants, Geo. Campbell & Servant, John Bar[slet], Child and two Servants and John Grant and his Servant,  
Humbly Sheweth –

That your Petitioners left the Granadines the ninth day of July last in the *Earl of Errol* in order to proceed to London, to which Port they were bound, that in the Latitude of  $33\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  on the Twenty fourth of the said Month they were taken by Two ships belonging to Gentlemen of New York and bought into the Harbour of Boston <sup>2</sup>

That notwithstanding the Indulgence and good Usage they have received since their Capture and the great Lenity shewn to them on their arrival here, They Beg Leave to request of the Honle Council to take into consideration, That being Passengers only on their way home, some for Health and others going to their Families, they Cannot but Labour under many Inconveniencies unavoidable to the Situation they are in –

That sensible how ready the Gentlemen of the Council of this State have always been, to alleviate as much as possible Distresses of this Kind, They hope that the same favour that has been so obligingly Granted to Others, will not be withheld from them –



They therefore take the Liberty to inform the Honle Council that in consequence of the permission given to Mr [William] Ross (a Gentleman in Similar Circumstances with themselves) He has now purchased a Ship to proceed to Europe on the Terms allowed him, That this would be an opportunity to your Petitioners of the utmost importance to them, as it is hard to Say when another of the Kind might happen, should they be so unfortunate as to be refused this

On that account they presume to Solicit your Leave to be included on this occasion, which, if Granted, will do as much Honour to your Humanity as it will be doing favour to them

And your Petitioners as in Duty bound will ever Pray, &c &c.

Hugh Munro                      John Barslet  
Geo: Campbell                 John Grant

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Augt 17[th] 1776    Read & Ordered –  
That Thos Cushing & Moses Gill Esqrs be a Committee to inquire into the  
Facts of Said Petition & Report

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery    Dpy Secy

[Second endorsement] in Council Augt 21st 1776.    Hugh Munro & his servants a Black Woman and a Boy, George Campbell & a black boy, John Barslet a White boy and Girl & John Grant and a White servant [b]e & hereby [are] permitted to depart from this State to any part of Great Britain in the same Vessell with William Ross, who was permitted to depart from this State the 7th Instant.

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery    Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 123–25.

2. New York letters of marque *Beaver* and *Enterprize*.

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

[Extract]

Boston, August 17 1776

As to news we go on Briskly taking prizes. We have a plenty of Sugars. Within these ten days Sugars have fallen from 4 pounds to 3 and 2.8 by the hundred. A Brigg was carried into Newburry this Week, from Antigue laiden with Indigo and hides, and a Jamaca Man carried into Marble Head.<sup>2</sup> . . .

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 98.

2. The vessel carried into Newburyport was the ship *Nancy*, George Keys, master; her cargo was sugar and rum. The vessel carried into Marblehead was not a "Jamaca Man," but the brig *Perkins*, William Jenkins, master, with indigo and hides. Mrs. Adams had her vessels and cargoes reversed.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Satterday the 17 of August 1776

4 [A.M.]    freash breaze and Heasey  
7            Exercizd our Cannon and small Arms  
10          Put our people to Allowance of 2 Quarts of water P[er] day &  
              1 pound bread    they Grumble very much    say they have  
              but 3 meals in 24 hours.

12 I find the Current setts us to the southward  
 Lattd in 35d 2m Longd in 60d 6m  
 1 [P.M.] Heasey weather wind from WNW  
 5 Exersizd our Cannon and small Arms

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

*Providence Gazette*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1776

Providence, August 17.

Wednesday last arrived here from a short Cruize of one Month the Privateer Sloop *Diamond*, Capt. William Chace, of this Port, and brought in a Prize Ship, from Dominica bound to Bristol. The following Passengers were on board, viz. a Youth about 7 years of Age, Son to the Governor of Dominica; Mr. Hutchinson, a Member of the Council of that Island; and Mr. Charles Hobby Hubbard, of Boston. This Gentleman arrived at Antigua from England in December last, in a Transport Ship, where on Account of his Attachment to the American Cause, he was apprehended and confined in Gaol upwards of six Months, great part of the Time in a Dungeon.

Another prize ship taken by the *Diamond*, arrived here on Sunday last.

The following is a list of the Prizes taken by the *Diamond*, with their Cargoes, viz.

Brig *Mary*, Capt. Hammond,<sup>1</sup> from Tortola for Liverpool, 195 Hogsheads and 7 Barrels of Sugar, 13000 Weight of Cotton, and 25 Tons of Fustick; Ship *Jane*, Capt. [William] Rome, from Dominica for Bristol, 308 Hogsheads of Sugar, and 3800 Gallons of Oil; Snow *Portland*, Capt. Bromwell, from Grenada for Lancaster, 71 Hogsheads, 1 Tierce and 10 Barrels of Sugar, 7000 Weight of Cocoa, 60100 Weight of Coffee, 3110 Gallons of Rum, 130 Weight of Indico, and 1950 Weight of Cotton; Ship *Star and Garter*, Capt. [Thomas] Hanson, from St. Kitts for London, 166 Hogsheads, 10 Tierces and 16 Barrels of Sugar, and 4500 Gallons of Rum. Ship *Friendship*, Capt. [Joseph] Jones, from Grenada for London, 283 Hogsheads of Sugar, 2600 Weight of Cocoa, 1800 Weight of Coffee, 4770 Gallons of Rum, 55 Weight of Indico, and 2800 Weight of Cotton. — Total of the Cargoes, 1023 Hogsheads, 11 Tierces and 33 Barrels of Sugar, 15600 Weight of Cocoa, 61900 Weight of Coffee, 12380 Gallons of Rum, 185 Weight of Indico, 17750 Weight of Cotton, 25 Tons of Fustick, and 3800 Gallons of Oil.

Capt. Chace informs, that a Privateer from Bedford has taken a Vessel from the West-Indies, bound to Newfoundland, having on board, besides a good Cargo, 500 Johanneses.<sup>2</sup>

1. The libel of the brig *Mary* gives the captain's name as Isaac Marvill.

2. Libels against the several prizes are found in this issue of the *Providence Gazette*.

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

[Lebanon] August 17th, 1776.

*Voted* to allow the captains and recruiting officers now ordered to raise crews of seamen for service on the Lakes to the northward the sum of 8s.,

L. money, for each man they shall so enlist, for their expence in attending said business.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 505.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO CAPTAINS SEAMON AND PREMIER <sup>1</sup>

Sir Crown Point Augst 17th 1776

You will Immediately get your Vessells under sail & Proceed down the lake 7 or 8 Miles, if you make any discovery of the Enemy you will Immediately give me notice if none return as Soon as Possible.

B Arnold B. Genl

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

CAPTAIN JACOBUS WYNKOOP TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD <sup>1</sup>

On Board the *Royal Savage* Augst 17th

Sir I find by an Order you have given out that the Schooners are to go down the lakes. I know no Orders but what shall be given out by me except sailing Orders from the Commander in chief if an Enemy is Approaching I am to be acquainted with it and know how to Act in my station. I am Sir Yours

Jacobus Wynkoop  
Commander of Lake Champlain

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO COMMODORE JACOBUS WYNKOOP <sup>1</sup>

Sir [Crown Point August 17]

I am surpris'd you should pretend to Contradict my Orders to the Captains of the Schooners at this time when we are alarm'd by a Signal of the Approach of the Enemy, and much more so, as I acquainted you some time since that the Commander in chief had Appointed me to take command of the Navy on the Lakes, had I not receiv'd this Appointment from my rank in the Army and as commander in chief of this Post, it is your duty to obey my Orders, which you have receiv'd and executed for some time past, you surely must be out of your senses to say no Orders shall be obey'd but yours, do you Imagine that Congress have given you a Superiour Command over the Commander in chief; or that you are not to be under his direction, if you do, give me leave to say you are much mistaken and if you do not suffer my Orders to be Immediately complied with by sending to the Captains of the Schooners to obey them I shall be under the disagreeable necessity, of Convincing you of your Error by Immediately Arresting you.

B Arnold B Genl & Commr in Chief  
of the [lake] Fleet on Lake Champlain

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES<sup>1</sup>

Dear General

Crown Point Augst 17th 1776

About two OClock this Afternoon Colonel [Thomas] Hartly acquainted me, that a Party of his men who were posted Seven miles down the lake, as a Covering party to the Oar makers, had made a large fire as a Signal that the enemy were approaching I sent Colonel Hartly with one hundred men to secure the retreat of the Party if Attack'd and Order'd the two light Schooners down the lake to cover them, they were no sooner under way than Commadore Wynkoop fir'd a Shot & brought them too, and soon after sent me a note (Copy of which I Inclose with my Order to the Captains of the Schooners, and Answer to the Commadores note) I waited some time expecting the Vessells to sail but finding they did not I went on board the Commadore when he Order'd them under sail, he refuses to be commanded by any one and Imagines his Appointment, (which is by General Schuyler) cannot be superceded. I have shewn him such parts of your Instructions as I thought necessary, which has brought him so far to reason, he says if you think proper to turn him out he will quit the Vessell. I have given him to Understand that I shall at all events pursue your Orders, & that if he did not Incline to remain in the Service he would not be Compell'd to it. Colonel Hartly is not yet return'd. I am with Sentiments of Respect and Esteem [&c.]

Saturday Night 8 OClock  
(Copy)

B Arnold

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

CAPTAIN JACOBUS WYNKOOP TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Crown-Point August 17th 1776

I have understood that General Arnold is to have the Comand of the Navey and if that Be So he ought to have Shown me his Power to It, but instead of that he sent an Order for two of the Schooners to get under way and go Down the Lake upon Some Information he Says he had of the Aproach of the Enemy was It not his Duty to have Communicated It to me and my Orders to have bin Given to the Vessels I have Contradi[c]ted them till he Acquainted me of with Some Accounts of the Enemy And then I Emediately Isued out my Orders for them to go Down Sr If that be the Case I would be Glad of my Dismission from the Service for I Excepted of this Comand upon these Conditions Major General Schuyler has a Letter which I Brought up to him from Congress that no man was to take the Comand from me and when he had Read Letter he told me that I need not to fear that no one Should have It but me and the Congress of New York Promissed me that If any one Should arrive here Authorised to take the Comand by the Honourable Contenental Congress I was to be Dismissed the Service and have the Comand of one of the Frigates Building up the North River for I am Resolved to go under Comand of no man I will Receive General Orders to Sail and how far And will Obey the Comander In Chiefs

Orders but If I have the Comand I Expect to Give Orders to the Captn of the Fleet when I Receive them from the Comander In Chief. I Refer your Honour to a Copy of my Warant a Copy of Major Generals Schuylers Letter and his Orders here Inclosed, Sr If you find my Grievance well founded I hope your Honour will be pleased to Redress It I am Sr with all Due Respect Your Honours [&c.]

Jacobus Wynkoop Com<sup>d</sup>

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

ORDERLY BOOK OF BRIGADE MAJOR PETER SCULL <sup>1</sup>

Head-Quarters [Ticonderoga]

17. Aug. 1776

One Cap. 3 Subs. [Subalterns] 3 Ser. [Sergeants] 3 Cor. [Corporals] 2 Dm & 100 Privates from the Brigade commanded by Gen. [James] Brickett to parade at Head Qurs at 12 oClock to take 20 Batteaus to Skeensborough – Cap: Williams will deliver the Batteaus to the Commanding Officer of the party.

Forty Seamen from the same Brigade commanded by Gen. Brickett to be draughted & parade at Head Qrs tomorrow morning at 7 oclock to go on board the fleet at Crown Point. – They will go down in two Batteaus, the Officer Commandg. them will apply to Gen. Arnold for his Orders.

Col. [John] Greaton is to take the command of the first Brigade during the Absence of Gen. Arnold.

1. MNHP.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WATERBURY TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES <sup>1</sup>

Skeensborough Augt 17th 1776

At the time that Genl. Arnold was here he informed me that there was Some Quarter Deck Plank Sasoned which if they are to [be] had I wish you may send them to the saw soon as possible which I take a Great favour Am with the Greatest Esteem [&c.]

David Waterbury Jr

P.S. I am Informed the[re] was no Deck Nails at Ticanteroga Therfor I am going to Send this moment an Express to Albany to have them forwarded with all speed

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

King's Bridge, 17 August, 1776

Dear General, The last night the fire-ships and row-galleys made an attempt upon the enemy's ships, which lay at anchor up the river. The fire-ships were well conducted; the armed schooner was grappled and burnt; the *Phoenix* was grappled for about ten minutes, but got herself clear. The

By His EXCELLENCY

GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esquire,  
General, and Commander in Chief of the Army  
of the United States of North-America.

**W**HEREAS a Bombardment and Attack upon the City of New-York, by our cruel and inveterate Enemy, may be hourly expected: And as there are great Numbers of Women, Children, and infirm Persons, yet remaining in the City, whose Continuance will rather be prejudicial than advantageous to the Army, and their Persons exposed to great Danger and Hazard: I Do therefore recommend it to all such Persons, as they value their own Safety and Preservation, to remove with all Expedition, out of the said Town, at this critical Period,—trusting, that with the Blessing of Heaven, upon the American Arms, they may soon return to it in perfect Security. And I do enjoin and require, all the Officers and Soldiers in the Army, under my Command, to forward and assist such Persons in their Compliance with this Recommendation.

GIVEN under my Hand, at Head-Quarters, New-York,  
August 17, 1776.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON,**

---

NEW-YORK:—Printed by JOHN HOLT, in Water-Street.

*Lady Washington* galley and *Independence* were conducted with great judgment and bravery. I wish I could say that the other galleys did any thing at all.<sup>2</sup> The *Phoenix* either slipt or cut her cable; the *Rose* was left alone, and it is thought might have been taken. I was an eye-witness to the whole; and from the confusion which was apparent, I am confident that if an attempt should be made on the fleet below, and but one or two ships set on fire, their confusion would be beyond description.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. This date Washington replied requesting Heath to "inquire into the cause of the inactivity of the other Gallies," Heath Papers, MassHS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE <sup>1</sup>

Head Quarters New York Augt 17th 1776.

My Lord, Being authorized by Congress, as their Commanders in every Department are, to Negotiate an Exchange of Prisoners; and presuming, as well from the nature of your Lordship's command, as the Information that General Howe has been pleased to honor me with, that the exchange in the Naval Line will be subject to your Lordship's Directions, I beg leave to propose the following mode of Exchange for your Lordship's consideration, vizt "Officers for those of equal Rank and Sailors for Sailors."

If the above proposal should be agreeable to your Lordship, I am charged in a particular manner to exchange any Officer belonging to the British Navy in our hands & of equal Rank, for Lieut [James] Josiah, who was lately made prisoner in a ship retaken by the *Cerberus* frigate.

The reason, my Lord, of my being charged to propose the exchange of Lieut Josiah, in preference to that of any other officer, is that authentic Intelligence has been received, that regardless of his Rank, as an Officer, he has not only been subjected to the duties of a common Seaman, but has experienced many other Marks of Indignity.

As a different Line of conduct, my Lord, has been ever observed towards the Officers of your navy, who have fallen into our Hands, It becomes not only a matter of Right, but of Duty, to mention this to your Lordship, to the end that an Inquiry may be made into the case above referred to.

From your Lordship's character for Humanity, I am led to presume, the Hardships imposed on Lieut Josiah, are without either your Knowledge or concurrence, and therefore most readily hope that upon this representation, your Lordship will enjoin all Officers under your command, to pay such regard to the Treatment of those that may fall into their Hands, as their different ranks and Situations require, and such as your Lordship would wish to see continued by us to those, who are already in our power, or who may hereafter, by the chance of War, be subjected to it. I have the honor to be My Lord with great respect Your Lordships's [&c.]

G. Washington

1. Washington Papers, LC.

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

[Philadelphia] Saturday, August 17, 1776

The Board of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To William M'Carroll, for the passage of prisoners taken by Captain Barry from Egg Harbour to this city, with their maintenance on the road, 4 56/90 dollars:

*Ordered,* That the said accounts be paid.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 662, 663, 664.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Philada August 17th 1776

I receiv'd yours of the 16th this day, together with the Resolve of Congress – Should be extremely oblig'd to you if you would communicate the inclosed Letter to that honorable Body, and shall wait till I know if they have any further Commands for Sr [&c.]

Esek Hopkins <sup>2</sup>.

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XI, 79, NA. A signed draft is in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. On August 19 Congress resolved that, "Commodore Hopkins be directed to repair to Rhode Island, and take the command of the fleet formerly put under his care." Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 667.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia, August 17. 1776

Another Subject of great Importance, We ought to have been informed of, I mean your Navy. or We ought to have known the Number of your armed Vessells, their Tonnage, their Number of Guns, Weight of Metal, Number of Men, Officers Names Ranks and Characters. in short, you should have given Us your compleat Army and Navy Lists – besides this one would have thought We should have been informed, by Some Means or other of the Privateers fitted out in your State – their Size, Tonnage, Guns, Men, Officers' Names and Characters. But in all these Respects I declare myself as ignorant, as the Duke De Choiseul, and I Suspect much more So. –

our People have a curious Way of telling a Story. "The Continental Cruizers *Hancock* and *Franklin* took a Noble Prize." Ay! but who knows any Thing about the Said Cruizers. – How large are they? how many Guns? 6. 9. 12. 18 or 24 Pounders? how many Men? who was the Commander? These Questions are asked me So often, that I am ashamed to repeat my Answer, I don't know. I can't tell. I have not heard. our Province have never informed me. –<sup>2</sup> The Reputation of the Province, the Character of your officers, and the real Interests of both Suffer inexpressibly by this Inaccuracy and Negligence – look into Coll [Archibald] Campbells Letter. with what Precision he States every particular of his own force, of the Force of his Adversary, and how exact is his Narration of Facts and Circumstances, Step by Step? – When shall We acquire equal Wisdom? We must take more



Pains to get Men of thorough Education and Accomplishment into every Department, civil military and naval. . . .

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. *Ibid.*, Adams wrote to Major Joseph Ward on August 20 asking for answers to his questions.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] August 17th, 1776.

An order was drawn on Mr. [John M.] Nesbitt, in favor of Wm. Kennard, for £500, on acco't of sails he is making for one of the Gallies, to be Charged to his acco't.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 690.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO COLONEL WILLIAM CURLE <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Williamsburg August 17th 1776

The Commissioners of the Navy having information of some six pounder on River, will be oblig'd if you'll make proper inquiry, and acquaint us whither the owner will dispose of them, and the price, if they belong to the Public, be so good as to let us know the safest and most expeditious way of getting them up the Country. We understand they belong to a Mr [Henry] Howard, near the half way House between Hampton and York, who no doubt will spare them as we cannot fitt out our Vessels for want of Cannon. Be pleas'd to acquaint us with the result of your inquiry as soon as possible. I am by order of the Naval Board [&c.]

Geo. Webb. 1st Com. P.T.

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL. The name of the recipient of the letter is omitted in the letter book, but he is identified in the minutes of the Navy Board, Navy Board Journal, 39, VSL.

18 Aug. (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Viper*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES <sup>1</sup>

Augt 1776 Mount Desert NWBN 8 or 9 Leags  
 Saturdy 17 at 4 AM Made sail at 5 out 2d reefs at 11, 2 sail in Sight  
 Mode & Cloudy at 2 PM saw 2 sail gave chase at 7 in 1st  
 reefs 8 hoisted the boats out & gave Chace to the Strange  
 Sails at 8 brought too Mntopsl to the Mast  
 Sunday 18 at 4 AM Made sail saw the 2 Sloops Seizd them <sup>2</sup> at 7 De-  
 parted this life Alexr Miller Carpentr at 10 Saw a Sail in  
 Shore Light Airs & Cloudy at 2 P M Joseph Durant was Ap-  
 pointed Acting Carpenter pr Order at 4 took 2 Sloops in Tow

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

2. The prizes were the sloop *Unity*, J. Lord, master, — Jones, owner, and the sloop *Nancy*, R. Adams, "belonging to the Congress," both from Machias for Newburyport with lumber, shingles, etc., Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOHN BRADFORD TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Boston 18th Augst 1776 –

I have the pleasure to Acquaint You that yesterday a Small Brig was sent in here taken by the *Hancock & Franklin*. she was going from St. Augustine to Bristol, her Cargo Consists only of 3600 Ran deer Skins, and 6840. lb Indigo <sup>2</sup> – two other of the Schooners are Abroad, the *Lynch* will sail to morrow. she came in two days ago After a Months Cruise without Success, having Nothing material to inform you with. I salute You and have the Honor to be with All due Respect [&c.]

J. Bradford

I am Just Setting out for Salem to attend the trial of the pork Ship <sup>3</sup>

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, 720, Box 1, HCL.

2. The brig *Perkins*, William Jenkins, master, 140 tons.3. The ship *Queen of England*, James Arnout, master, which was decoyed into Boston harbor July 21, and whose cargo included 1600 barrels of pork, *New-England Chronicle*, July 25, 1776.MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO JOSHUA DAVIS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Boston 18 August 1776

You are hereby directed to proceed immediately to Sandwich & there procure teams sufficient to convey two Sea Mortars with their appertenances across the land from Sandwich to Buzzards Bay; you will then procure Vessels proper for transporting the mortars from said Bay to N. York to which place you are to convey them with all possible safety & expedition, and deliver them to the order of his Excellency Genl Washington.

If you should need assistance on the way, all the true friends to the United States of America are requested to give you all necessary assistance in forwarding said Mortars.

By order of General Ward

J. Ward, ADC.

1. ChHS, Typescript.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO DR. THOMAS POTTS,  
FORT GEORGE <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Crown Point Augt 18. 1776

You have, one Robert Aitkinson In your Hospital, who is an exceeding good Pilot for this Lake. If his health will posibly admit of his comeing here I beg you will let him have such necessaries as he may want, & dispatch him as soon as posible, He belongs to Major [John] Bigelow of the train. – I am Dr Sir [&c.]

B Arnold

PS I hope no time will be lost in sending a Surgeon, the fleet will be detained untill one arrives — B A

1. FTML.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD<sup>1</sup>

Sir Tyonderoga 18th August 1776 –

I have this moment received your letter from Crown Point of yesterday evening. It is my Orders you Instantly put Commodore Wynkoop in Arrest and send him prisoner to Head Quarters at Tyonderoga. You will at the same time acquaint the Officers of the Fleet that such of them as do not pay an Implicit Obedience to your Commands, are instantly to be confined & sent to me for Trial; I am Sir [&c.]

H G

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER<sup>1</sup>

Dear General Ticonderoga, 18th August 1776

Thursday, General Arnold went to Crown Point to take the command of the Fleet, collected there, Inclosed is a Copy of my Orders to him, which he read and much approved, before his departure from hence, – Late, last night, I received the within Letter from the General, with an Extract of what passed between him and Mr [Jacobus] Wynkoop, which you will also find in the Packet, together with my Letter at Day-Light this Morning, in consequence of General Arnold's Letter to me I shall send Mr Wynkoop to Albany immediately on his arrival here, and I dare say you will without Scruple, forthwith dismiss him the Service – He ought, upon no account, to be again employed. Many Officers of rank in this department say, he is totally unfit to command a single vessel, at this important hour of business – I would not submit this Affair, to a General Court martial here, least they should have doubts how to decide upon it, as the Continental Articles of war make no Provision for so extraordinary a circumstance – The Times will not admit of trifling – Decision alone must govern these Occasions –

I expect Genl [David] Waterbury by Saturday Night, with the Row Gallies. As he is an able Seaman and a brave Officer, I intend he shall join Genl Arnold with the rest of the Squadron the Instant they can be armed & equipped – As Genl Arnold and he are upon the best terms, I am satisfied no Dispute about command, or want of Confidence in each other, will retard the public service – I am Dr Genl [&c.]

Horatio Gates

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 283–84, NA.

"LIST OF CONTINENTAL ARMED VESSELS ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN  
AUGUST 18TH 1776"<sup>1</sup>

Names of Vessels and Commanders	No of Guns	Size of Guns	No of Swivels	No of Men		
Sloop <i>Enterprize</i>	Dickson	12	4 lbs	10	50	} Sailed
Schooner <i>Royal Savage</i>	Wynkoop	12	4.6 lbs 8.4 lbs	10	50	
Do <i>Revenge</i>	Seamon	8	4.4 lbs 4.2 lbs	10	35	
Do <i>Liberty</i>	Premier	8	2.4 lbs 6.2 lbs	8	35	
Gondola <i>N: Haven</i>	Mansfield	3	1.12 lbr 2.9 lbs	8	45	
Do <i>Providence</i>	Simmons	3	Do.	8	45	
Do <i>Boston</i>	Summer	3	Do.	8	45	
Do <i>Spitfire</i>	Ulmer	3	Do.	8	45	
Do <i>Philadelphia</i>	Rice	3	Do.	8	45	
Do <i>Connecticut</i>	Grant	3	Do.	8	45	
Do	Graham	3	Do.	8	45	
Row Galley <i>Lee</i>	Davis	6	1.12 lbr 1 9 lbr & 4.4 lbr			
12	Totals	67		94	485	

Copy John Lansing Jun<sup>r</sup> A[cting] Secy Horatio Gates  
 N B: The First Nine are fit for Action, and now under the Command of  
 Brigadier General Arnold at Crown point. The Last three will sail  
 in a few days and the Row Galleys and one more Gondola will be  
 down from Skeanesborough in a Week -

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CAPTAIN RICHARD VARICK TO LIEUTENANT \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup>

Sir Head Quarters Albany Augt 18. 1776.

You with the Party of Men under Your Command, will immediately embark on Board of two large & one small Batteau, to be delivered You by Mr [illegible] the Waggon master at the Provision store & will proceed from hence with all possible Dispatch to Poughkeepsie & there deliver the Letter addressed to Messrs [Augustin] Lawrence & Tudor [Samuel Tudor].

You will there take on Board All such Blocks, slow Match, Cordage & Rigging as these Gentlemen shall be pleased to deliver to You, with Which You will immediately reembark & return to this Place, without the least Delay. -

In Case Your Boats shall not be sufficient to bring up all the Articles to be delivered You, You will embark some of them on Board of some Sloop, coming to this Place & take the Skippers receipt promising to deliver the same to Mr Ph: Van Rensselaer, storekeeper at this Place. -

You will take Eight Days Provisions for Yourself & Party. - By Order of the Genl R.V. Secy. -

1. Schuyler Papers, Letters & Orders, 18 April, 1776 - 28 June, 1777, NYPL.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH<sup>1</sup>

[Haverstraw] 18 Do [August]

The *Phoenix* and *Rose* shot by all the Forts & got down to Staten Island thro' the Delays in obstructing the Channel. They have created some Ex-

pence to the Continent in the Land Carriage of Provisions from Philadelphia to New York – Had they brought up a 1000 spare Hands, they might have spread Fire all along the Shores up to the Highland Forts. It is difficult to say who is most to blame the British General for sending them up so weak or the American one for suffering them to escape when the Feet of the neighbouring Cliffs on the West Side of Hudson's River furnished moveable Stone & the River Sloops for shutting them in – A Deserter who had assisted in sinking the Vessels was their Pilot thro' the Gut left unfinished.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, II, 3.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE <sup>1</sup>

[August 1776] In Hudsons River New York  
 Saturday 17th AM at 1/2 past 4 saw 4 Rebel Gallies about 3 Miles below us, they Row'd off and kept close to the Fort on the Eastern Shore, which we suppos'd to be the Channell.  
 First part light breezes and Clear, Middle little Wind with Rain  
 Sunday 18th AM at 5 weigh'd and came to Sail as did the *Phenix Tryal* Schooner, and *Shuldham* Tender, steering down the River, at 3/4 past 5 past the Chiverd'friezes, within a Musquet Shot of the Rebel Battery on the Eastern Shore, they began firing upon us from High Hills on the Eastern and Western Shores, and a heavy fire of Musquetry from a Breastwork under the Battery, Returned the fire when we came Abrest of New York we Recv'd a heavy fire from 11 Battery's, Do return'd a Constant fire, had 2 Men Wounded, at 8 came too off Staten Island in 6 fm the Watering place WBS and Wt point of the Narrows So Do Anchor'd the *Phenix*, *Tryal* and *Shuldham* Tender; found Riding here Lord Howe Vice of the White in the *Eagle*, Adml Shuldham, Vice of the Blue in the *Chatham*, Commodore Sir Peter Parker in the *Bristol*, and Commo Hotham in the *Preston* with several Men of War and a large Fleet of Transports.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

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

August 1776. At Single Anchor Off Staten Island.  
 Sunday 18th at 5 AM Weigh'd and came to Sail in Co his Majestys Ship *Rose*, *Tryal* Schooner and the *Shuldham*, at 20 Minutes past 5 the Rebels Fir'd at us from a Battery on the Eastern Side of the River which we return'd. at 1/2 past [5] passed through the Channell on the East side of the Vessels &ca Sunk by the Rebels to block up the Channell between Geffery's Hook and

Berdetts Mountain; several Shot was Fir'd [at] us from a Battery upon the Top of the Mountain, after we got through the Channell; At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6 Fir'd several Broad sides at some Gallies laying close into the Western Shore at  $\frac{3}{4}$  past 6 Commenced Firing at the Batteries upon York Island &ca at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 Anchor'd off Staten Island with the Best Bower in  $6\frac{1}{2}$  Fam found riding here his Majesty's Ship *Eagle* Vice Adml Lord Howe, *Chatham*, Vice Adml Shuldham, *Bristol*, Comodore Sir Peter Parker and *Preston* Comodore Hotham wth a very large Fleet of Men of War & Transports. In passing the Batteries Recd a Shot through the Longboat which sunk her, lost out of her the Stream Cable, a Hawser Oars &ca &ca

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Kings Bridge August 18th 1776

Dear General Early this morning The *Phenix* man of war, *Rose* Frigate, and the Two Tenders Came to Sail and stood Down the River, Keeping Close under the East shore, in Order to avoid the Fire of our Cannon, But notwithstanding this Precaution the *Phenix* was Thrice Hull'd by our Shot from mount Washington, and One of the Tenders Once, – The *Rose* was Hull'd once by a shot from Burdits Ferry – They Kept their men Close, otherwise Some of them would have been picked Down by a Party of Riflemen who were Posted on the Bank; – They fired Grape shot as they Passed, But did no Damage save to one Tent we hope to hear that your Batteries have Done the work for some of them, – We shall recover Some Swivel Guns, Gun Barrels, shot &c Out of the Wreck of the Tender which was Burnt the Other night, the Particulars of which shall be Transmitted to your Excellency as soon as I can obtain them . . . The ships have now tryed the Practicability of Passing our works They have Explored every part of the shore as far as they have gone up the River, and Sounded the River in almost every Place, should the ships rejoyrn the Fleet with out Receiving much Damage, I think How[e] will be Emboldened to Attempt an Attack some where above this Place, thinking that there may be a greater probability of succeeding here, than in the Face of so many, and Strong works, as have been Erected in and around the City, – However should his Inclination lead him this way, nature has Done much for us, and we shall as fast as Possable add the Strength of art, . . .

I have Just now received your Excellencys Command, to Enquire into the Cause of the Inactivity of some of the Row Gallies in the late attack on the Enemys' ships but as the Gallies have all Left this Post and fallen Down to the City I must beg your Excellency to Excuse me from that Service –

1. Heath Papers, MassHS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York Augt 18th – 1776

I am happy Capt Van Buren has succeeded so well in the business he was upon, it being of great consequence for us to fit out and maintain our vessels on the Lake –

On the night of the 16th two of our Fire Vessels attempted to burn the Ships of War up the River. One of them boarded the *Phoenix* of 44 Guns and was grappled with her for some minutes, but unluckily she cleared herself – The only damage the Enemy sustained was the destruction of one Tender. It is agreed on all hands that our people engaged on this affair behaved with great resolution and intrepidity. One of the Captains — Thomas – it is to be feared perished in the attempt, or in making his escape by swimming, as he has not been heard of – His bravery entitled him to a better fate – Though this enterprise did not succeed to our wishes, I incline to think it alarmed the Enemy greatly – For this morning the *Phoenix* and *Rose* with their two remaining Tenders taking the advantage of a brisk and prosperous gale with a favorable tide, quitted their stations and have returned and joined the rest of the Fleet – As they passed our several Batteries they were fired upon, but without any damage that I could perceive –

The whole of the British Force in America, except those employed in Canada, are now here; [Henry] Clinton's arrival being followed the last week by that of Lord Dunmore who now form a part of the Army we are to oppose. His coming has not added but little to their strength – I have the honor to be with great respect Sir [&c.]

G<sup>e</sup> Washington

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, 332, 333, ConnSL.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM TUDOR TO JOHN ADAMS <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York 18th Augst 1776

Dear Sir It was with no small Degree of Pleasure, on my Return here, I observed the Cheerfulness which brightened the Countenance of every Soldier I met. The whole Army are in most excellent Spirits & shew an Impatience for Action And the Spade & Pick Ax have been so well employ'd, that there is scarce a Spot upon the whole Island, where a Redoubt or Breast Work could be of service, but what has either one or other. From the Advantages we now possess, I think General Howe must be repulsed whenever he attacks, but should he be able to carry the Island, it must be with so prodigious a Loss that Victory will be Ruin. He must get Winter Quarters for his Troops somewhere, & I am afraid if he can't get them in York, he will once more attempt it in Boston. Their Command of the Sea gives them vast Advantages.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

GEORGE ROSS TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN <sup>1</sup>

Dr Sir

The *Phenix* & *Rose* have Just now passed our Batterys & I fear without much damage – I was in one of the Batterys during the whole time they were within gun shot – The visit they had two nights agoe from our fire ships made them sick of their Station & they have now Joind the fleet at the Narrows – Every countenance here is chearfull and if our Enemies dare attack they will undoubtedly procure themselves a severe drubbing – My complymts to friends I am Sr [&c.]

Geo: Ross <sup>2</sup>

New York 18th Augt 1776

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 106, APS.

2. Adjutant of the Second Pennsylvania Battalion.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE <sup>1</sup>[On board H. M. S. *Eagle*]

Sunday, 18th. August.

This Morning, the Wind being strong at N E and the Weather hazy, the *Phoenix* and the *Rose*, with two Tenders, came down the River, in Defiance of all the Efforts of the Rebels from Batteries, Cheveaux de Frize, &c. Not one of all their Shots struck the *Phoenix*, and but one or two the *Rose*, and those did but little Damage. One man only was wounded by a Splinter in the Leg. The Rebels kept up an incessant Fire from all their Guns, many of the Shot from which we saw falling very short of their objects. The Ships, on the other hand, returned a smart Fire, and came down, with Sails set and Colours flying, till they joined the Fleet. A young Man came off from the Shore in a Canoe, and got on board the Ships, by whom we find, that the former Accounts of the Situation of the Rebels were true, and that many among them wd. be glad to leave their Service. A Captain Horneck, an Engineer, who came off with him, was drowned by the Canoes striking against the *Rose*. They tried to save the poor Gentleman, but in vain, as they could not stay for him, being in the midst of the Rebels' Fire. This was regretted as a capital Loss. Capt. [James] Wallace explained the Reason of the great Fire we saw two Nights ago. The Rebels had fitted up a large Brig as a Fire-ship, which came very close to the *Phoenix*, but did no Sort of Damage. It was well constructed for its purpose, which the activity of our People defeated.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 67–68.JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN, R.N. <sup>1</sup>[On board H.M.S. *Eagle* off Staten Island]

18th [August] Sunday — This night and morning blowing and raining very hard. At five o'clock in the morning or a little after, heard a heavy cannonade up the North River; it continued to increase, and came nearer to us. About seven o'clock all the batteries in and near the town and opposite



shore were firing away very fast; at this time very thick, raining and blowing. A little before eight the *Phoenix*, *Rose*, *Trial* schooner, and *Shuldham* sloop, appeared in sight close to Bedloe's Island. The two ships fired away on both sides, and soon after anchored here at Staten Island. The ships received no damage whatever, and not one shot struck the *Phoenix*; the *Rose* had two men slightly wounded.

1. *Duncan's Journals*, XX, 121-22.

19 Aug.

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

August 1776 [In the St. Lawrence River above Sorel]  
 Monday 19 at 4 AM weigh'd and run 4 Miles higher up and came to an Anchor, Emp'd loading flatt Bottomd Boats with stores &c for St. Johns. - Set out in above Boats, The Master, Boatsn and Gunner, with most of the People. -<sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1638.

2. Bound to St. John's to be assigned to vessels of the British fleet outfitting there for service on Lake Champlain.

JOHN LANGDON TO JOSIAH BARTLETT<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Portsmo August 19th 1776

My Friends Your favours of the 5th instant I've recd and most heartily rejoice with you at the Success of our Arms, in taking so many Prizes, they are continually coming in here - Capt Brown in a small Sloop has just arriy'd here from Holland, belonging to Colonel [Isaac] Sears of New York and others, she is Loaden with Medicines Linnens &c valuable Cargo. -

If the Committee had let me have the Guns for this Ship, when they have been laying at Providence near two Months, and the Ships there not ready to receive them we should no doubt have taken more Prizes, then would have paid for our whole Fleet, however by some fatelity or false information we have been kep't from them -

Our people are Entring on board Privateers very fast, so that we shall have few hands left for the Continent, all this for want of Guns for our Ship, the people do not like to Enter, without Guns, as they want to be out after Prize Money -

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

RICHARD DERBY, JR. TO JEREMIAH POWELL<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Salem 19th Augt 1776

As my Health will not permit me to attend my Duty at the Board at Present, I take the freedom to Inform You that the Brigg *Massachusetts* is nearly fixed & has onbord 97 Men, 2/3 of which having Entered within this 4 Days.

Nothing seems now to be wanting but 4 or six Guns, & three Small

sails, & both Guns & sails I find to be totally out of my Power to Procure, without the Aid of the Councill or [General] Court, – there is a Ship at Danvers which I Suppose is owned in London, she has been Launched I belie[ve] 18 months & has a Compleat Suit of Sails, the Value of the three Sails I Want, in Common times would not be more than £15 –, I have offered the Capt of this ship twice that money for them, & tho' there is not the least Probability of his Getting away, he will not Part with them, I have Endeavoured to Borrow them, & to oblige my Self to Replace them when, he should want them, but all to no Purpose, I Do not Love to use force, but, Circumstances Considerd, is it not Reasonable that the Board should furnish me with an Order to take them? if they Do I could wish to have it on the Morrow.

And if the Board will furnish me with an Order on the Commissary, or which will be better Direct Collo [Thomas] Crafts to Deliver Capt [Daniel] Souther four or six Suitable Guns from any Place from wherever they Can be most Conveniently Spared, I Can soon have them. Collo Crafts Informs me that there are two Ship Six pounders onboard the Rowe Gally, I think they Call it, and Certainly they are of no sort of use there, no[r] Do I think they ever Can be while they Remain Onbord her, & therefore I hope the Board will have no Objection, to those Guns being Orderd onboard the *Massachusetts*. there are two others, Capt [Caleb] Hopkins informs me, now on Long Wharfe which he Landed out of the *George* Guard ship, these may, I think, be Spared & Collo Crafts has some others as the Guns now wanted for this Vessell, are not Large Enough to be used to any Great Advantage in Batterys, I know of no Place where they Can at Present be so usefully Employed as onboard this Brigg, but if the Board are of a Different opinion, the Vessell must Lay by. I have taken, Almost, Infinite Trouble to Get as many as I have, and more 'tis not Posable for me to procure at any Rate, – May I ask the favour of your Honor to urge this matter & Let me know the Result of your Endeavours as soon as Possible? I am Sir [&c.]

Rich<sup>d</sup> Derby Junr

[Endorsed] In Council Chamber [Watertown] Augt 23<sup>d</sup> 1776

Ordered that the Honble Richard Derby Junr Esqr be and he hereby is empowered and directed to take for the use of this State such sails belonging to the Ship now lying at Danvers mentioned in his letter to this board of the 19th inst: as he may want for the Brig *Massachusetts* now lying at Salem he causing the same to be first appraised by some disinterested suitable Persons, under Oath and that he be desired to pay for the same sails according to such appraised value – And further that he be directed to take for the use of the said Brig *Massachusetts* Two Cannon Six pounders out of the Row Gally in Boston Harbour and also two other Cannon, four or six pounders belonging to this State which were lately landed in Boston from the Ship *George* lately impressd as a Decoy Ship in the same Harbour – And the Commissary General of this State is hereby ordered to deliver the said Cannon to the said Richard Derby upon his Application therefor –

STORES ORDERED FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE SLOOP *Freedom* <sup>1</sup>

In Council [Watertown] Augt 19th 1776

Ordered, That the Commissary General be & he hereby is directed to deliver Cap[t] Jno Clouston or Order out of the Colony Store for the Use of the armed Sloop *Freedom* the following Articles – Vizt –

one Doctors Box

forty eight lb Powder to try his Cannon

Thirty Cartouch Boxes –

four hundred Flints –

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 112.

*Boston Gazette*, MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1776

Watertown, August 19.

Yesterday se'nnight the *Tyrannicide* Privateer in the Service of this State, commanded by Capt. Fisk sent into Salem a Prize Brig called the *St. John*. Her Cargo consists of 120 Hogsheads of Molasses, 81 Casks of Rum, 52 Casks Coffee, 14 Hogsheads of Sugar, and 8 Casks of Cocoa.

The same day also arrived at Dartmouth, taken by the above Privateer, the Prize Schooner *Three Brothers*, Capt. Smith from Dominica for Nova Scotia. Her Cargo consists of 50 Hhds of Rum, 86 Casks of Molasses, 40 Barrels of Flour, 10 Barrels of Pork, and £420, L M. in Cash.

Thursday last a fine Prize Ship, from St. Augustine for London, laden with dry'd skins and Indigo, was sent into Salem by a Privateer commanded by Capt. [John] Skimmer. <sup>1</sup>

The same Day arrived at Newbury Port, a Prize schooner, laden with rum, &c. We have not heard by whom she was taken. <sup>2</sup>

Last Week the *Warren* Privateer of Dartmouth carried in there a ship from the West-Indies for Newfoundland, laden with sugar and melasses; she was commanded by Capt. Cockran [William Cochran] of this Town, and owned by Thos. Boylstone of Boston. <sup>3</sup>

1. The prize was the brig *Perkins*; not a ship. She was taken by Captains Skimmer and Tucker, in Washington's schooners *Franklin* and *Hancock*.

2. Probably the sloop *Two Friends*, rather than a schooner, taken by Wingate Newman in the Pennsylvania privateer brig *Hancock*.

3. The ship *Argo* of 170 tons.

PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO AARON HUBBARD <sup>1</sup>

In Council Watertown Aug. 19. 1776

The Board are greatly concerned that the Cannon which they contracted for with you several months ago, are not yet ready. – They have several Vessels now manned & fitted for the sea, with every article except cannon. By this, a very great expence is daily incurred by the Government, and not the least advantage derived from it; nor can be, till the Vessels are furnished with the cannon which are expected from you. The Board there-

fore most earnestly urge you to make all possible dispatch in this affair, and to postpone every other business till this is finished.

In the name & by order of the Board

Jer. Powell Presidt -

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 113.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston Augt. 19. 1776

. . . The Committee for Fortifying the Harbour of Boston are examining the Cannon in and About Boston to see if they Can possibly Spare me sufficient for the Twenty four Gun Frigate,<sup>2</sup> Agreeable to the order of Council. I am in great hopes shall be able to get the loan of a Sufficient Number for that Ship untill they can be obtained from Philadelphia Let me intreat you to hurry the Cannon along as fast as possible, let me have the Commissions for the Captains Blank Warrants for the Warrant officers, and particular Orders what Cruise the 24 Gun Frigate shall proceed Upon . . .

You have not Informed me [whether] Congress has as yet appointed any Agent to take Care & [supply the] Continental Ships with such things as they from time [to time shall st]and in need of - This is a different department from an Agen[t for prize]s - <sup>3</sup>

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

2. The frigate *Boston*.

3. Cushing wrote in a similar vein this date to Robert Treat Paine. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

DR. DAVID COBB TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE <sup>1</sup>

My Dear Sir

Boston Augt 19th 1776

My necessary absence, last Monday, at my Island Hospital, prevented your having the weekly Journal as usual. - I shall now send you the whole.

Monday 5th

Tuesday. 6th

Wednesday 7th

Thursday 8. Receiv'd your letter of the 30th ulto

Fryday. 9th This afternoon arriv'd here a large prize Ship from Granada, laden with Rum Sugar & a 130000 lb of Cotton; she was taken by two Letters of Mart from New York.<sup>2</sup> - Likewise arriv'd this week, at Portsmouth a large Ship (she formerly mounted 20 Guns) from Tortola having on board 790 hhds of Sugar, a large quantity of Cotton, Rum &c. with 12-9 pounders, Iron & 6-6 pounders, brass, most of 'em mounted, she never fir'd a Gun, supposing that an American privateer was invincible - she was right - she was taken by the *Hancock* privateer.- <sup>3</sup>

Saturday. 10th Receiv'd sundry articles of Intelligence, pr post, together with your Letter of the 3d instt. - nothing new here.

Sunday 11th Nothing remarkable.

Monday 12th Two Briggs were sent into Salem & Dartmouth by one of the

Colony Arm'd Vessells, both belonging to people of this Colony & have been traiding from the West India's to N. Scotia. –

I hope they'll be condem'd – Villains. <sup>4</sup>

Tuesday. 13th Jamaica Cargoes have been selling off this week past; Sugar is reduc'd to 32/. pr C & the best Jamaica Rum to 5/1 pr Gal – grand effects of arm'd Vessells – Their is now more Sugar in the New England States, than they can consume in three years.

Wednesday. 14th – This Day was celebrated here with the usual Ceremonies, firing of Cannon &c – in the afternoon arriv'd a Schooner from Hispaniola in 21 days – she brings no particular news. –

Thursday. 15th – Yesterday arriv'd at Newbury port a prize Ship from Antigua, having 400 hhds Sugar & 100 hhds Rum, She was taken by the *Hancock* privateer from Philadelphia. <sup>5</sup>

Fryday 16th – A Brigg from St Augustine with Indigo, Furrs, Deerskins &c. was sent into Marblehead yesterday by two of the Continental Cruizers; she has on board a Recruiting party of the 14th Rigemnt that was going home commanded by a Lieutt. – the Brigg came up to this port this afternoon. <sup>6</sup> – likewise arriv'd this week at Portsmouth a Schooner from Hispaniola with dry Goods & West India produce. –

Saturday 17th – A Schooner arriv'd here to day from Martinico, with Molasses &c. she sail'd some time since from Salem.

Sunday 18th – Last Fryday was carried into Bedford, Dartmo. a prize Ship with 300 hhds Sugar & 300 hhds Molasses, she is said to be owned by Thos Boylstone of this Town; but is now cover'd under the Name of Lane & Frazier, London. – <sup>7</sup>

Do send me what ever is new & curious – Your Family are well. – Your Friend &c

David Cobb

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.
2. The ship *Earl of Errol*.
3. The ship *Renown*, taken by the Pennsylvania privateer *Hancock*.
4. These vessels were prizes of the Massachusetts state sloop *Tyrannicide*.
5. The ship *Nancy*.
6. The brig *Perkins*, taken by Washington's schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin*.
7. The ship *Isaac*, taken by the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Warren*.

LETTER OF AGENCY FROM THE CREW OF WASHINGTON'S SCHOONER *Lynch*  
TO JOHN BRADFORD <sup>1</sup>

We the Subscribers Captain Officers & Seamen belonging to the arm'd Schooner *Lynch* in the service of the United States of America, Do by these presents appoint ordain & Constitute John Bradford Esqr of the Town of Boston to be our & Each our Agent for all prizes allready in his care & such as we shall hereafter Send Wherin we & Each of us are Intitled to a share – Hereby Impowering him the said John Bradford Esqr to retain in his hands for our use, Our & Each of our shares of prize money as aforesaid or for Each of our Heirs Executors or Assignes – And in Consideration for his trouble WE agree to allow, & Agree He shall receive & Deduct from the

neet proceeds of all such prize Money Two & one half pcent – In witness Whereof WE have Hereunto sett our Hands Respectively – Boston August the Nineteenth 1776 –

John Ayres Commander	his	
Samuel Harris first Lieut	Will X Cook	do
Nehemiah Story 2d Lieut	Mark	
John Stone Master	Will X Crouder	do paid
Caleb Stone Gunner	Robert Nutting	do
James Brown Boswen	Joshua X Hanson	do
Jas Woodard Carpenter	Robert Weston	do
Jonathan Harris Carps Mate	Peletiah Warren	do
John Dalley Boats. Mate	Robert Devereux	do
pd William Atkins Gun Mate	Samuel Gorretson	do
his	John Johnson	do
John X Pousland	his	
mark	Will X Orchard	do
pd Samuel Nocks Seaman	mark	
pd James Delap Do	Prince Gilbert	do
his	Caeser Lee	Do
Peter X Melsett Do	Jeremiah Farnham	
Mark	Eben Mountford	
pd John Cumber Do	W Warren	
Arthur Lloyd Do	Joseph Harris	
William Patterson Do	James Delap	
his	Stepn Hastings	
John X Ayres Do	Elias Hastings	
mark	John X Hammond	
Andrew Woodbery Do	James Bayard Mate	
	Thomas Tracey Mate & Pilot	
	Er Freeman (Steward)	

Jonathan Nickerson. pd. his name not in the within List

Robert Hislip pd him Ap 2nd [1777] his name not in the List <sup>2</sup>

1. U. S. Navy, Miscellaneous Mss. (1775–1804), LC.

2. The last two names were added later by Bradford.

#### BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES<sup>1</sup>

Dear General

Crown Point Aug. 19. 1776

I received yours of yesterday & have Ordered Commadore Wynkoop to Head Quarters, no other person in the fleet has disputed my orders. – I believe the Commadore was really of opinion that neither of us had, authority to command him, He now seems convinced to the Contrary, & sorry for his disobedience of orders. – If it can be done with propriety, I wish He may be permitted to return home without being Cashierd I am very respectfully  
Dr General [&c.]

B Arnold

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Tyonderoga 19th August 1776

Inclosed is an Exact Copy of the Orders & Letter I sent you yesterday morning at Six O Clock, which I am surprized not to find complied with by the Arrival of Mr. Wynkoop at this Post. I desire that the matter may be no longer delayed, & that he be sent, as I have already ordered, immediately under Arrest to me at Tyonderoga. I am Sir

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

*New-York Gazette*, MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1776

New York, August 19.

A Brig belonging to this Port, arrived last Sunday safe in a Harbour on Long Island, with a valuable Cargo from Lisbon, chiefly consisting of Powder and Salt. The Captain informs us, that a large French Fleet lay off Cape St. Vincent's, and that two British Frigates were cruizing about to watch their Motions. Another brig, also belonging to this Port, in Company with him, was taken by one of the British Pirates, off Bermuda.

Every Tide we expect an Attack will be made on this City from the piratical Fleet at Staten-Island.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir, *Eagle* off Staten Island, 19th August 1776.

Concurring with the proposition you have been pleased to make in your favor of the seventeenth for an exchange of prisoners in my department, viz. "Officers for those of equal rank, and sailors for sailors," I will take the liberty to propose an officer of the same rank with Lieut. [James] Josiah, when he arrives.

The *Cerberus* being absent, I have no other information respecting the situation of Mr. Josiah, than what is communicated in your letter. But the matter, you may be assured, shall be inquired into, and every attention paid to the rules of propriety, as well as the dictates of humanity, on all such occasions.

Principles and conduct form the true distinction of rank among men; yet, without a competent habit in the manners of the world, they are too liable to meet with unmerited disregard. But insult and indignities, to persons of whatever rank, who are become parties in these unhappy disputes, cannot be justified, and are, I persuade myself, as much disapproved of by every officer under my command, as they can never cease to be by me. I am, with great personal respect, Sir [&c.]

Howe.

1. Washington Papers, LC. This letter, and one from George Washington of August 17, 1776, were printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, August 24, 1776.

DANIEL & SAMUEL HUGHES TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE <sup>1</sup>

Honble Sir

Antietam Furnace, 19[th] August 1776

We shod be glad you wod furnish us (by the bearer) with an exact list of the different sized Guns & the number of each, we are to Cast, in order that we may make the earliest preparations – the length of each size will be sufficient as to the dimensions, as we have got an approved list of the other proportions – the length of our 18 Pounders is 8½ feet, and the[y] are much esteem'd for land service. 24 Pounders are 9 feet, & 32 Pounders 9½ feet according to our dimensions – We are with due respect [&c.]

Dan<sup>l</sup> & Sam<sup>l</sup> Hughes

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Monday August 19, 1776.

The Council of Safety laid before the Convention an inventory of sundry articles taken out of a small sloop drifted ashore in this state from the British fleet under the command of lord Dunmore, and now stored by order of major [Thomas] Price, which was read.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take the subject matter into consideration, and report in what manner articles and prizes of the like nature are to be disposed of; and Mr. [William] Paca, Mr Gustavus Scott, and Mr. [Robert] Hooe, were elected by ballot a committee for that purpose.

1. *Proceedings of the Convention of the Province of Maryland held at the City of Annapolis, on Wednesday the 14th of August 1776* (Annapolis, 1776), 9. Hereafter cited as *Maryland Convention*.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Monday 19th August 1776. –

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt John Calvert for the use of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley One thousand twenty penny nails –

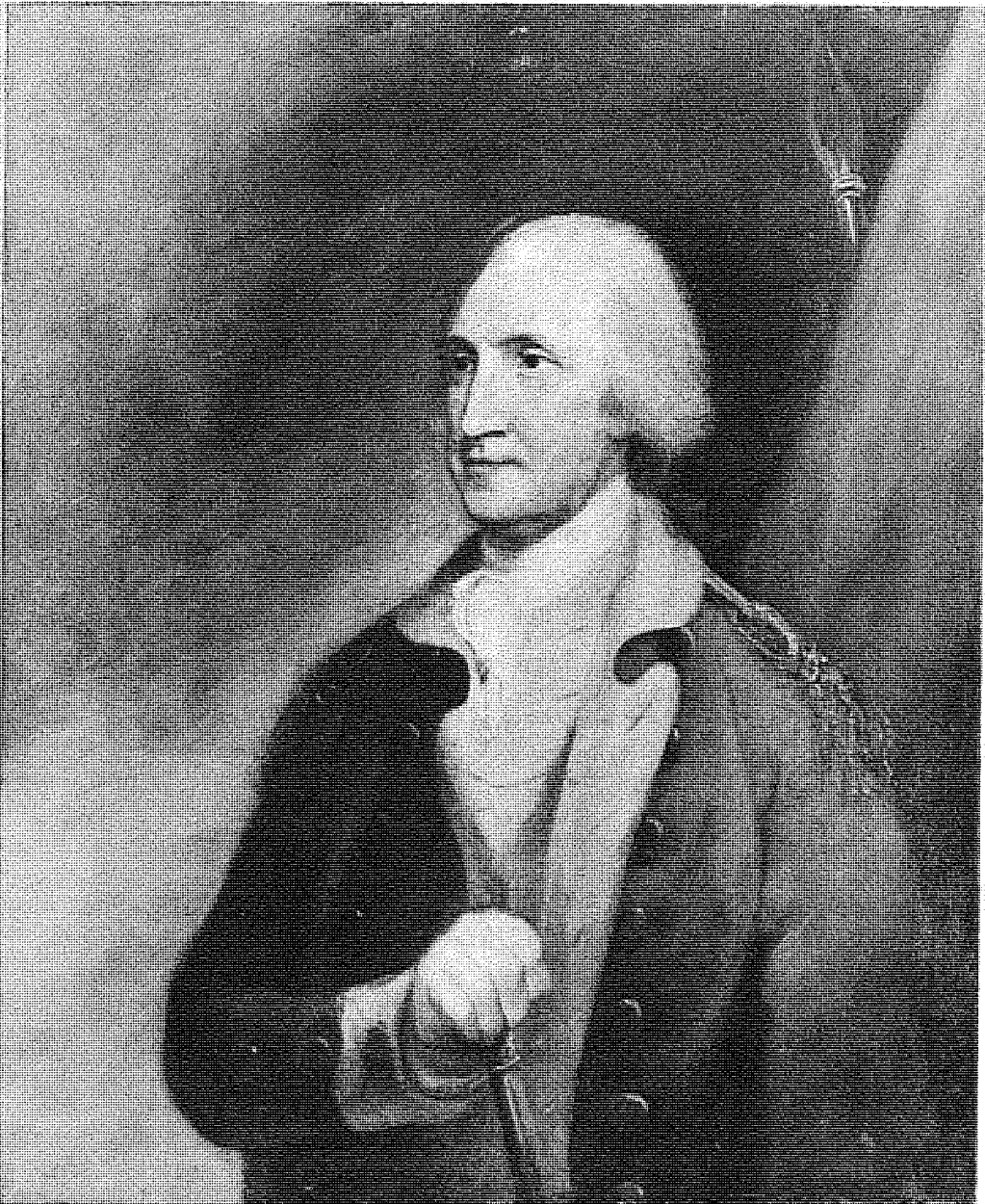
Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt John Calvert for the use of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley three Quire of Cartridge Paper.

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Lieut Richard Hogg for Forty seven pounds for Disbursements and pay of his Company of Marines from the seventeenth day of April last to the seventeenth Inst as pr Acct this day settled. –

Daniel Roles Hall is recommended to his Excellency the Governour and the honble the Council as a proper person to be appointed first Lieutenant of the Schooner *Speedwell* Capt. [Robert] Cooke. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Colo Henry King for Eleven pounds eighteen shillings and six pence for Rum furnished Capt [Edward] Travis for use of the *Manley* Galley. – Also for seventeen pounds four shillings and three





*George Washington.*

pence for Rum furnished Capt John Calvert for the use of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley, and also for seventeen pounds ten shillings for Swivels for the use of the Navy. —

Capt John Calvert inform'd the Board that there was due unto Benjamin Randel a Sailor that belonged to the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley who was lately Drowned the Sum of three pounds eighteen shillings and eight pence for his Wages on Board the said Galley from the fourth of May last to the eighth of July following. It is therefore Ordered that the said Calvert pay the said Sum of Money unto the Legal representative of the said Randel.

1. Navy Board Journal, 40-41, VSL.

### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Monday August the 19th 1776.

Captain George Muter of the *Hero* Galley, and Lieutenant Philip Chamberlayne appeared in Council, took the Oath prescribed by Ordinance, and subscribed the articles of war, whereupon Commissions were issued & delivered the said Officers.

It being represented to this Board that it will be greatly beneficial to the Trade of this Country, and of others of the United States to have the harbours of Gingoteague [*sic*] and Cherristones on the Eastern Shore of this Commonwealth fortified and that there are some Cannon there for the Purpose, Ordered therefore that Colonel [Thomas] Fleming be desired to fortify the said two Harbours, with all possible expedition, a Letter was accordingly written Colo Fleming a Copy filed & ord. to be recorded.

Ordered that Lieutenant Benjamin Pollard of the Marines, with his Quota of Captain Company, repair on board the *Hero* Galley to perform duty and a Commission was delivered him dated this day to continue inforce during the present Cruize, or until the General review of the Company and no longer.

A Warrant [issued] in behalf of this Board [Navy] to William Mariner for Eleven pounds ten Shillings for three months Wages as a Skipper of a Vessel pressed to convey the 9th Battalion to the Eastern Shore, and taken on his return by Lord Dunmore and detained a prisoner the above time.

1. McIlwaine, eds., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 118, 119, 120, 121.

### VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN ELEAZER CALLENDER <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg August 19th 1776 —

Yours of the 11th Instant we receiv'd, you must make up y[our] Complement of Men as soon as possible <sup>2</sup> taking on Board the Guns that [are] ready and proceed down the River <sup>3</sup> as far as Hobbs hole letting us know when there that we may give you the proper instructions; apply to Col. [Fielding] Lewis and he will let you have the Articles of War and other Papers relating to your Men, the Guns we shall endeavour to procure as soon as possible. I am by or[der] of the Board of Commissioners [&c.]

G. Webb 1 Comr. P.T.

NB. We mean that you shou'd wait and take those Guns Comg from Philadelphia.

To Capt Eleazer Calender of the Sloop *Defiance*

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.
2. *Ibid.*, this date the Board also urged Captain Robert Conway of the galley *Protector* to ready his command "to proceed on a Cruise."
3. Rappahannock River.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM SAUNDERS <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg August 19th 1776 –

We receiv'd yours P Mr [William] Richardson whom we detain'd untill the Council met. for their concurrence. You must proceed on a cruise to the Capes annoying the Enemy as much as lies in your power: being at the same time careful of your own Vessel and when She is foul come to York. When you arrive there make a full return to this Board of the size of your Vessel, number and size of your Guns, quantity of Ammunition, state of your Rigging, Sails and other Materials. By order of the Board I am [&c.]

Thomas Whiting 1st Commr

To Capt William Saunders on board  
the Schooner *Adventure* Hobbs Hole

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER CALVERT <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Williamsburg August 19th 1776

Yours P Mr Nathaniel Boush we have receiv'd and by him have sent you three hundred & fifty pounds, which we presume will suffice for the present. if you are in want of Iron of any kind you are to send to Mr Nicholas Tauleon at Cobham; with whom we have lodg'd a considerable quantity for the supply of the Navy. I am by order of the Board [&c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Whiting [1st Commr]

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL. Calvert was building the *Washington* galley at South Quay.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEWBERN, AUGUST 19." <sup>1</sup>

A few days ago we received an account in town, that very lately, on the banks, not far from Roanoke inlet, about 25 men were landed from some vessel of war, for the purpose (it is supposed) of making free with a few of the cattle. Captain Dennis Dauge, who commands an independent company between Currituck and Roanoke, attacked them, killed some, and took the rest prisoners.

1. Dixon & Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, September 7, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Seaford*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS <sup>1</sup>

August 1776

Off Martinico

Sunday 18th

At 6 A M Spoke an English Sloop from St Luica

1st Pt fresh Breezs & Hazey, Middle & Latter Pts Do Breezs & rain. at 2[P]M Saw a Sail to the Wt ward. Gave Chace At 9 Do bro't too under Martinico. at 12 Do bro't too a Schooner. Sent the Lieut on board bro't on board the Master & Exchanged the People.  
 Monday 19th at 10 A M Made the Signal for the schooner to bear down to us. Upon which the french fort fired Several Shott at us Fresh breezs & Cloudy Wr At 8 P M Rosoa Dominica EbN 5 or 6 Miles.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/880.

**20 Aug.**

DEPOSITION OF PETER RAMSAY <sup>1</sup>

Deposition of Peter Ramsey Mariner, Late Master of the Brigantine *Elizabeth* Testifieth and Saith on or about the 21st of March A D 1776 in Boston in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay your Deponent then and there received verbal orders from Admiral Shuldham to go On Board said Brigantine *Elizabeth* and take the Charge of her and Navigate her to Halifax, and on Friday the 29th of said March Between the Hours of three & four oClock P M I came to Sail with said Brigantine under Convoy of His Majestys Ship *Niger*, and Sabbath Evening about six or seven oClock I parted from said Convoy, and proceeded on my Voyage to Halifax, and about Four or Five oClock P M on the next Tuesday following Commodore John Manly in the Continental Arm'd Schooner *Hancock*, Came up, and Gave me a Broadside, and I Returned the Fire with Small Arms, Capt Danl Waters in the Continental Arm'd Schooner and Capt John Ayres in the Continental Arm'd Schooner <sup>2</sup> Came up when I struck to the Commodore, and your Deponent then saw no other vessel besides the before mentioned, and your Deponent in said Brigantine was Brot by the Commodore and Capt Waters into the River of Piscataqua, and further saith not -  
 Portsmo August 20th 1776

Peter Ramsay <sup>3</sup>

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Court of Appeals, 1776-1787, NA.

2. Waters commanded the *Lee*, and Ayres, the *Lynch*.

3. On August 23, at the request of Continental agent Joshua Wentworth, who intended to appeal the verdict of the New Hampshire Maritime Court, Ramsay swore to the truth of the deposition of August 20, *ibid*.

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

August 1776 Cape Cod So20Wt 8 Leags  
 Monday 19 saw 2 Sail to the Wtward Sounded 110 fathoms soft Mud Light Airs inclinable to Calm, latter Fresh Breezs & Cloudy, gave Chace got the Oars out, at.5 Hoisted out the Pinnacle and Cutter Mann'd and Arm'd and sent them after the Chace, Shorten'd sail and carried a Light to the Bowsprit

and as a Signal to the Chace, at 8 the Pinnacle boarded the Chace prov'd to be a Fishing Schooner belonging to Boston at 12 hoisted the Pinnacle in,

Tuesday 20

at 6 Brot too Maintopsl to the Mast and got the Prize alongside and got every thing out of her and scuttled her, at Noon made sail and stood to the Wtward.

Fresh Breezs & Cloudy latter little Wind at 3 saw three Sail to the Wtwd gave Chace at 6 Shorten'd sail and left off[f] Chace in 2d Reef T. Sails

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF PRIZE BRIGANTINE *Harlequin* AND CARGO <sup>1</sup>

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday the 28th of August inst, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon, at Messieurs Clarke and Nightingale's Wharff, in Providence, will be sold at public Vendue, to the highest Bidder, the Brigantine called the *Harlequin*,<sup>2</sup> Burthen about 130 Tons, with her Appurtenances; also her Cargo, consisting of 219 Hogsheads, 137 Tierces and 20 Barrels of excellent brown Sugar; 62 Hogsheads of West-Indies Rum, and 2 Boxes of curious Shell-Work: Pursuant to a Decree of a Court erected in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, for maritime Affairs, by the Hon. John Foster, Esq; Judge of said Court.

Paul Tew, Sheriff

N.B. At the same Time and Place will be sold two Four Pound Cannon. Providence, August 20, 1776

1. *Providence Gazette*, August 24, 1776.

2. Taken by Daniel Bucklin in the Rhode Island privateer *Montgomery*, and Joseph White in the Massachusetts privateer *Revenge*.

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

*Voted*, That Henry Billings of Norwich be and he is appointed Third Lieutenant of the armed brig *Defence* belonging to this State and First Prize-Master for the cruise on which said brig is now ordered. His wages to cease on condemnation of the first prize, or at the end of said cruise.

[Lebanon] Aug. 20th, 1776.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 505.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

Kingsbridge Augst 20th 1776

May it Please your Excellency –

I have the Pleasure to Inform you, that we have taken out of the wreck of the Tender lately burnt up the north River, The following Cannon Vizt one Six Pounder, Two Three Do one Two Do and Ten Swivels, One Caboose and apron, Two Cutlasses, Two Gun Barrels, One Crow bar and 4 Grappins [Grapplings] and Chains, Lieut Landon of Colo Nicolls Regiment with Two of the Company to which he belongs went off and Towed

the wreck on Shore Under the Fire of the Cannon of the Ships, a Cannon Ball Passing within a few Inches of his Head, – He is an Undaunted officer, and with great Fatigue Has Taken these Cannon out of the water, I therefore beg leave to recommend this Service in Particular to your Excellency notice and if you should think Some Reward Proper to be Given, it will be gratefully received by the adventurers, and Perhaps Prompt others to daring Actions – I have the Honor to be [&c.]

W Heath

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE <sup>1</sup>

[On board H. M. S. *Eagle*]

Tuesday, 20th. [August]

Lord H[owe]. sent up a Flag of Truce this Morning, relative to an Exchange of Prisoners, which Washington had desired, & to wch his Lordship agreed. I mentioned to Lord H[owe]. the Case of Mr. Henry Stanhope, Son of my Friend Edwin Francis Stanhope Esq. and late acting Lieutenant in the *Glasgow*, but his Lordship could do nothing in the matter, as Mr. Henry Stanhope had unfortunately broke his Parole. A Letter, which his Father caused to be sent to me from Mr. David Barclay addressed to John Dickinson Esq. of Philadelphia, soliciting his Release, I obtained Leave to send by the Flag of Truce; and I hope it will have a favorable Issue.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 70.

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

August 1776

Staten Isld NNE 2 miles

Tuesday 20th

A. M. Receiv'd Danl Macartney a Deserter from the *Orpheus* & lent Jones Pilot for the Delaware to her when she proceed'd to Sea Open'd a Cask of Beef N67 Conts 200 Short 5 Pieces

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

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

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, August 20, 1776

Information being given to Congress that the Crews of some of the American vessels have risen against their captains, and piratically seized the vessels, and that one of them being carried into England, the pirates have been publicly countenanced, and the vessel and cargo taken by administration; and sent to victual their fleet and army in America:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to enquire into the circumstances of the captures, and report thereon:

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Franklin, Mr. [Robert] Morris, and Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, 672, 692.

SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO COUNT  
D'ENNERY, GOVERNOR OF SANTO DOMINGO<sup>1</sup>

[Copy]

Philadelphia August 20th 1776

Sir, It is impossible that at this date you can be a stranger to the important contest subsisting Between Great Britain and her (late) colonies, Neither can it be necessary for us to enter into any detail of the Origin, or history of the progress of the dispute, sufficient it is for our present purpose to inform your Excellency, that the good people of America grown quite impatient under the yoke of tyranny, and sore with the cruelty's Daily practised against them, have at length determined to shake off[f] the yoke and oppose at the revoque of every thing that is sacred and dear to mankind the future operations of that government w[h]ich had determined to seize with a strong hand their property, and in violation of all natural, moral & Civil obligations to annihilate their liberty

These being the avowed purposes of the court of great Britain, pursued with the utmost violence, notwithstanding the many and frequent representations, and supplications of this people, their delegates in General Congress did resolve in July last to shake off[f] their dependence on such oppressors and to set up for free and independant States, as you will see by the printed declaration wich we have the honor to inclose

we depend principally on the Virtue and Strength of our people to support this state of independancy, wich was loudly called for by them and received with universal marks of joy and approbation, but that we might not be wanting in any part of that duty we owe to ourselves, and posterity, we have sent a person to the Court of france to represent our present situation, and to sollicit a favourable disposition toward [us] as we are well assure[d] of the mutual and important advantages that will arise to both Country's from an alliance founded on just principles and supported by commercial intercourse.

The Court of france Cannot be insensible to her Own interest, and we have (uncertain) information that our resident is arrived and has meet a most favourable reception, but from himself we have not yet received any advice

we have also sent a young Gentleman to reside for some time at Martinico for commercial purposes. he has been favourably received, and informs us by authority of the general, that our Commerce will meet with Encouragement and protection in that island

as we Know well that the island of hispanolia has Constant occasion for the produce of these states, and Vice Versa, these states will require large supplies of the produce of that island, we have been led by the consideration of mutual benefits to intrude upon your Excellency[s] time and to sollicit your protection, and Encouragement of the Commerce Carried on between our inhabitants and yours. we do not Mean by this to Express a Wish that your Excellency should depart from the line of your duty, or that our people should interfere with the municipal laws and regulations of your Country:

but we are well assured that the favorable Countenance of a Governor will greatly Encourage an infant commerce, and will paliate and Excuse such errors, neglects or crimes against the rules or laws as arise from ignorance of them

the great painstaking and the vigilance used by our Enemies to deprive us of the necessary supplies of arms and ammunition, has made it necessary for the Congress to institute a trading Committee, stiled the Secret Committee with full powers to pursue such commerce as may be most likely to procure the articles wanted for the public Service. we the undersigned are members of that committee and members of the general Congress as will appear by the Certificate from our president & Secretary. in consequence of the power we are Vested With, and of advice we have lately received of arms and ammunitions being now very plenty in your island, we have sent a young italian Gentleman that had resided here a Considerable time and is warmly attached to our Cause, to Cape francois, where We propose he s[h]ould remain for the purpose of receiving the Cargoes we send him, and shipping in return the articles we may order. his name is Mr Stephen Ceronio a Gent'n of good family at Genoa, and of exceeding good character and we beg to recommend him to your Excellency[']s Patronage, and protection during his Stay on the island, not doubting but his Own Merit will recommend himself to your frendship and Civilities, Should he at any time have opportunitys of purchasing Such goods as we Want, and not have sufficient effects in hand we beg your Excellency would in such Cases assure the Owners of them, that we shall Constantly remit him sufficient to discharge all Contracts he makes for our Account

We hope a fovourable acceptance of this application and have the honor to be your Excellency [&c.]

Robt Morris

Josiah Bartlett

Joseph hews

Phil Livingstong [Livingston]

fras lewis

[Endorsed] Pour copie conforme a l'original  
Thiery

1. AN, Marine B7, 458, LC Photocopy.

ROBERT MORRIS, FOR THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL  
CONGRESS, TO THOMAS MUMFORD, GROTON <sup>1</sup>

In Secret Committee

Philada August 20th 1776

Be pleased to deliver unto Colonel William Whipple Four Tons of Gun powder (Cannon powder if you have it) for the Use of the Continental Frigate *Raleigh* built in New Hampshire – if he should apply for the same.  
By order of the Commee

We are sir [&c.]

Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris chairman

1. John Langdon Papers, HSP.



JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Tuesday 20th August 1776.

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt George Muter for the use of the *Hero* Galley twenty nine Yards Checks, two pieces of Oznabrigs, forty pair of Shoes two pounds of Course thread three ps of Canvas and five Pounds of sewing Twine. –

Ordered that Colo William Finnie deliver unto Capt George Muter twenty Flannell Jacketts one Barrl of Peas, and one Barrell of Oatmeal for the use of the *Hero* Galley. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Gillam for six pounds five shillings for ten day's Boat hire for the use of the *Hero* Galley. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Clarkson for the use of Cornelius De Forrest for Forty five Pounds, fifteen shillings and two pence for Bread furnished Capt Thomas Lilly for the use of the Brig *Liberty*. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Hatley Norton for forty three pounds seventeen shillings & six pence for Rum furnished Capt William Mitchell for the use of his Company of Marines. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Hatley Norton for One hundred and twenty pounds nine shillings and nine pence for Rum and Whiskey furnished Capt [Thomas] Lilly for the use of the Brig *Liberty*. – Also for Nineteen pounds eleven shillings and six pence for Whiskey furnished Capt [John] Calvert for the use of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley.

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Doctor Pell four pounds of Bark for the use of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley.

1. Navy Board Journal, 41-43, VSL.

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

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, August the 20th 1776.

Mr William Armistead having signified to this Board in writing his resignation of the appointment as one of the Judges of the Court of Admiralty, Resolved that Bernard Moore Esquire be appointed a Judge of the said Court in the room of Mr Armistead. Mr Moore appeared, and qualified accordingly, by taking the Oath of Office.

A Permit was issued for the Schooner *Patsey* Captain James Gorton, of the Burthen of thirty Tons having on Board eight hogsheads of Tobacco, seventy five Barrels of Flour, and twenty thousand Shingles to trade at the Island of Hispaniola or other port allowed of by Congress, the master having entered into Bond with approved Security, according to Law, which is ordered to be recorded.

On the recommendation of the Naval Board Resolved that Mr Daniel Rotes Hall be appointed first Lieutenant of the Schooner *Speedwell*, commanded by Captain Cooke, and a Commission was issued accordingly dated this day.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 122, 124, 125.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO THOROUGHGOOD SMITH <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg August 20th 1776 –

Yours of 14th Inst. we have receiv'd and have referr'd to your Contract [wi]th the Committee of Safety, where we find you are particularly entered as [ha]ving contracted to furnish the Marine department on the Eastern Shore with Provisions at seven pence half penny P Ration and as pay Master to the Seamen and Marines in the same department for which you are also to receive after the rate of £25. . . . – P Annum P this Contract we consider ourselves as having no Power to alter (untill the Vessels proceed on a cruize) and from time to time shall readily furnish you with such sums of Money as [may] be necessary for carrying it into execution, we have by Major [James] Innis sent you two hundred Pounds which we hope may suffice for the present, and in future when you find it necessary to apply to us for Money, be pleas'd to mention the Sum and the service its for. We have also sent you by the same hands Three hundred pounds which we desire you'll take the first opportunity to lay out to the best advantage in the purchase of Salt for the use of the Navy it being an Article that will probably be procured much cheaper on your Shore than on this. For this trouble we shall think you intitled to some reasonable advance. I am By order of the Board [ &c.]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Whiting 1st Comr

To Mr Thoroughgood Smith }  
on the Eastern Shore }

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN GEORGE MUTER, VIRGINIA GALLEY *Hero* <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Williamsburg August 20th 1776 –

You are to proceed to Portsmouth and fitt your Vessel in a proper Manner for cruising, when ready go to the Capes and cruize there abouts using your best endeavours to annoy the Enemy and to protect any friendly Vessel coming in conveying them to some place of safety within the Capes observing to keep your Vessel clean and in good order informing us of any occurrence that may happen worth communicating.

By order of the Naval Board

Thomas Whiting 1st Commr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

21 Aug.

## VERDICT AND DECREE IN THE CASE OF THE PRIZE BRIGANTINE

*Elizabeth* <sup>1</sup>

Colony of New Hampshire }  
Rockingham ss } At a Court Maritime held before the Honble Joshua Brackett Esqr at Portsmouth in the County of Rockingham for the Colony of New Hampshire on the twenty first Day of August Anno Domini 1776 –

The Information and Libel of Joshua Wentworth of Portsmouth in the County of Rockingham in the Colony aforesaid Esqr for and in behalf of the united American Colonies and also in behalf of the Officers Marines and Mariners of the three continental armed Vessels named *Hancock*, *Lee* and *Lynch* against the Brigantine named the *Elizabeth* her Cargo and Appurtenances being of the Burthen of about one hundred and forty tons commanded by Peter Ramsey – the Libellant in behalf of said Colonies and of the Officers Marines and Mariners of said three armed Vessels Sheweth that John Manly Commander of the said continental armed Vessel named *Hancock*, Daniel Waters Commander of the said Continental armed Vessel named *Lee* & John Ayres Commander of the said Continental armed Vessel named *Lynch* with the Officers Marines and Mariners of said three armed Vessels did on or about the third Day of April A.D. 1776 (said three armed Vessels being then in the Service of the united Colonies) seize & retake, upon the high Seas and bring into the port of Piscataqua in said County the said Brigantine of about one hundred and forty tons Burthen then commanded by Peter Ramsey – which Brigantine at the time of the Recapture thereof, was in the Possession of the Enemy & had been taken from Richard Hart of said Portsmouth Mercht late Owner thereof by some armed Vessel belonging to the fleet employed against the united Colonies and detained in their possession more than ninety six hours then next preceeding the time of her being retaken as aforesaid, Which same Brigantine at the time of the recapture thereof had on board a Cargo consisting of divers Good Wares & Merchandizes together with four Negroes – which Cargo She was then carrying to the fleet and Army employd against the united Colonies – By means whereof by the Law of said Colony in such case made and provided the said Brigantine her Cargo and Appurtenances ought to be condemned – Wherefor the Libellant in manner aforesaid prays Process against the Premises and that the same may be condemned and disposed of as the Law directs – William Jackson Wm and Jas Jackson, Samuel Austin, John Leverett, Robert Ruggles Samuel Dashwood, Cyrus Baldwin, Edward Keighly, Thomas Drowne, Samuel Whitwell, Adam Rupp, Richard Newton, Samuel Parkman, John Barrett and sons, Jona Williams, John Rowe, William Breck, Abigail Berry, William Burke, Francis Shaw – Saml Ruggles, John Lowell Warden of old North, Benja Austin Mary Williams Nathan Frazier, Samuel Patridge James Jackson & Richard Hart also at the same time, put in their several Claims to said Brig and part of her Cargo (as on file []). Whereupon after a full hearing of the parties by their Counsel learned in the Law, together with their respective evidences, the case was committed to a Jury duly sworn to try the same according to Law and Evidence – who return their verdict and say – “That the said Brigantine at the time of her being so taken had not before been made a Lawful prize of by the enemy, neither was she at that time carrying her cargo to and for the use of the fleet and Army employed against the united Colonies, & that the several claimants that have filed their claims in this Court for part of her Cargo, ought to have the same restored to them and that Capt Burk properly belonged to

the fleet at the time of her being taken and that the Jury had no evidence respecting the Goods that were not claimed."

All which, being seen and understood by the Court it is considered and decreed by the Court that the said Brigt and so much of her Cargo, claimed by the several claimants as is mentioned in their claims on file be restored to them according to their respective claims, and that the claimants recover their legal Costs of Court from which decree and sentence of the Court the said Joshua Wentworth Esqr in behalf of the united Colonies and Captors pray'd an appeal to the American Congress – which is granted Him – he giving security to prosecute the same with Effect according to Law. <sup>2</sup>

Joshua Brackett Judge

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Court of Appeals, 1776–1787, NA.

2. See Wentworth to Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, August 31, 1776.

BILL OF COSTS FOR THE TRIAL OF PRIZE BRIGANTINE *Elizabeth* <sup>1</sup>

Colony of  
N: Hampshire } at a Court Maritime held at Portsmo[uth]  
Rockingham ss } the 21st day of August 1776 –

Joshua Wentworth Esqr Agent for the Continent & Captors against the  
Brigantine *Elizabeth* her Cargo &c

Libel & Advocates fee	£ .12..0
Allowing Libel Judge 4/ Register 2/	..6..0
Town Clerk	..7..3
Constable warning Meeting Jurors ring[in]g } Bell 2 Days &c }	..12..0
Writing Advertizt	..4..0
Printing ditto in <i>freemans Journal</i>	..10 –
Cryer 1/ Marshal 3/ Venires 3/	..7 –
Register for 3 Adjourmts	..3 –
Register for filing 30 Claims a 2/	3..0 –
Judge for Allowing ditto a 3/	4.10 –
Sumon[in]g 3 Witnesses	..6 –
12 Witnesses 2 Days attendance	1.16 –
Jurys fee	..16..9
Decree 10/ Register 6/	..16 –
filing Papers & Taxing Costs	..2..0
Appeal to Judge 8/ Clerk 4/	..12..0

Alowd £ 15..0..–

Joshua Brackett Judge

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Court of Appeals, 1776–1787, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Wednesday Augst 21st 1776

Petition of Henry Bass in behalf of Himself Capt John Bradford, Thomas & Jonathan Harris, Nathl Waterman & Others, living in Boston, Owners of the

Privateer Schooner Call'd the *Boston*, of Fifty Tons burthen, Mounting four double Fortified three Pounders, four Two pounders and twelve Swivels, Three Hundred & Fifty pounds of Powder, & Fifty Men, Victualed with Twenty five Barrels Pork & Beef, Bread Rice &c &c —

That your Honors would be pleased to grant Commissions for said schooner & Capt Silas Atkins Junr as Commander, John Atwood Esqr as [*sic* of] Eastham first Lieutent & Reuben Higgens, as Second Lieutt to Cruize against the Enemies of the States of America your Petitioner in Duty bound Shall ever pray —

Henry Bass

Read & Ordered that the above Named Silas Atkins be Comissionated as Commander of Said Schooner *Boston*, he Complying with the Orders of Congress —<sup>2</sup>

Petition of Hugh Munro, George Campbell &c &c in behalf of Themselves and Wives &c Humbly Sheweth —

That your Petitioners left the Granada on the Ninth day of July last in the *Earl of Errol* in Order to proceed to London, to which Port they were bound, that in the Lattd of  $33\frac{1}{2}$  on the Twenty fourth of said Month they were taken by Two Ships belonging to Gentlemen in New York and brought into the Harbour of Boston — That Notwithstanding the Indulgence and good Usage they have received since their Capture and the great Lenity shewn to them on their arrival here, They Beg leave to request of the Honble Council to take into Consideration, that being Passengers only on their way Home, some for Health, and Others going to their Families they cannot but Labour under many Inconveniencs — unavoidably to the Situation they are in —

That sensible how ready the Gentlemen of the Council of this State have Allways been, to Alleviate as much as Possible Distress of this kin[d] They hope that the same Favour that has been so Obligingly Granted to Others, will not be withheld from them —

They therefore take the Liberty to Inform the Honble Council that in Consequence of the permission given to Mr Ross (a Gentleman in Similar Circumstances with themselves) He has now purchased a Ship to proceed to Europe on the Terms allowed him, that this would be an Opportunity to your Petitioners of the Utmost Importance to them, as it is hard to Say when another of the Kind might happen, Shou'd they be so unfortunate as to be refused this —

On that account they presume, to Solicit your leave to be Included on this Occasion, Which if Granted, will do as much Honor, to your Humanity as it will be doing favour to them —

And Your Petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray &c —

Read & Ordered, That Thomas Cushing & Moses Gill Esqrs be a Committee to enquire into the Facts of said Petition & Report — Who reported Accordingly as follows, That the said Hugh Monro, & his Servant a black Woman & a Boy, George Campbell and a Boy — John Bartlett & a White Boy and Girl, & John Grant and White Servant be and they hereby are permitted to de-

part from this State to any part of Great Britain in the Same Vessel with William Ross who was permitted to depart from this State the seventh Instt

Ordered that Mr William Ross & Nathaniel Morgan who were permitted by an Order of this Board Seventh Instt to depart from this State, to any part of Great Britain, any time after the first of September next, be not permitted to depart untill the further Order of this Board, the foregoing Order Notwithstanding, & that the Secretary be and hereby is directed to serve them with a Copy of this Order also the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection & Safety of the Town of Boston

This Board having been Informed that an Expedition is Intended Against Newfound Land & that a few Privateers are fitting out for that purpose to Annoy Our Enemies on that Coast and Judging it May prove Abortive Unless a larger Force, then are Intended, be sent —

Thereupon Ordered, That James Bowdoin, Thomas Cushing, Moses Gill & Benja Austin Esqrs be a Comitee to confer with those who are fitting out Armed Vessels for the purpose aforesaid, and Inform them that imediate Orders will be given to all the Commanders of Armed Vessels belonging to this State to Join them in this Expedition, and that they tarry till such a Force can be Collected together, as thereby may more effectually answer the Purpose of Harrassing Our Enemies and Destroying their Fishery —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 180, 183.

2. *Ibid.*, also on this date Wyatt Barlow was commissioned to command the privateer sloop *Warren* owned by Lemuel Williams and Leonard Jarvis of Dartmouth.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remarks on Wednesday 21st of August 1776

- 2 [A. M.] This day our people Complained that they Could not live on the Allowance I Give them as the rice and molases is gone I Orderd the Steward to give  $\frac{1}{4}$ th more beaf or po[rk]
- 7 Saw a sail barring south gave Chaise
- 11 Come up with the Chaise very little she is a great distance off we take her to be a small vesel a Cruzer by her sailing
- 12 Cloudy weather  
Lattd in 34d 14m Longd in 60d 56m
- 1 [P. M.] The Chaise a great way ahead we take her to be a schooner we come up with her a very little at 2 P M gave over Chaise it Carried us so far to the southward
- 10 Calm

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

#### JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Independence*, CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE <sup>1</sup>

Remarks On Wensday August 21, 1776

Saw a Brigg to Winderd Runing Down Sat Closte on Board Before Desecoverd Brought hir Tew Came undere Our

Starne halve From Antego Bound to London Took hir in  
Pershesion Capt John Lightbourn Came on Bord Brought  
hire Papers Brigg Name *Fanny*

Good observation

Lattd Ob 33.48 Longd in 60.1

The First Part Pleasant Large Sea

at 6 putt Capt Edwmon on Bord the Prise Brigg as prise  
master and Took Persheson of hir<sup>2</sup>.

1. *Independence* Journal, RH.S.

2. Whipple placed a copy of his commission in the hands of the prize-master, and endorsed it: "the a Bove and foregoing is a true Copy of my Commission Sined Over to Charles Edmondson who is to take the Command of the Brig *fanny* Sined Over this 21st Day of August 1776 By Jabez Whipple Captain of the sloop Called the *Independence*," Admiralty Papers, vol 9, 1776, R. I. Arch. Appended to the end of the *Independence* journal was a sheet endorsed by Whipple, "Sunderys Things on Bord Brigtine *Fanney* John Lightbourn Master." It continued: "Clered out from Antegua Bound for London To Say orie Hundered and Twenty one Hogsheads and Three Terces Brown Sugar Conta[ining] one Hundered and Twentey Tow Thousand Five hundered Pounds Reeced on Bord for Stores Tow Hogsheads Rum also Five Barrils Train oil InPorted in Said Vessel and never Land dead heire as Pr Clereance."

OWNERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *America* TO CAPTAIN  
NATHANIEL PACKARD<sup>1</sup>

Sr

Providence Augst 21, 1776

You being Master of Our Sloop *America* bound for St aCroix with a Letter of Mark – Our Orders are that you Imbrace every favourable Wind to gain your Passage and when You Arrive to Dispose of your Cargo to the best Advantage for our Interest, and layout all the neēt proceeds, in the following Articles viz in Good rum, Ten or Twelve Good 4 lb Cannon, (if 4 lb Cannon cannot be got, get 6 lb ones) Gun Powder some Swivels Stuff for light sails, Duffells, Blankets or indeed, Any Such Other Articles as You think the most Condusive to our Advantage – And then proceed Home with all Dispatch in the Most safest Manner You Can, Provided Nevertheless, In case you Should fall in with Any Valuable Vessel belonging to Any place under the Protection & Or Goverment of the King of Grait Britain, or that May be going to supply the Army of the sd King now Acting Agst these American States wch You May Judge to be a Clear prize According to the Resolves of Congress, You have Liberty if you Cant get her into this port or some Other safe place with out to give up your Own Vessel to the Officers & people of sd Prize, taking Special Care not to Make Such A swap for any but would Certainly be a prize & of much more Value to us your owners than your Present Vessel & Cargo

You May Also if Oppoty Serves at St Croix Swap away your Vessel for a Prime sailing Bardmuean [Bermudian] Vessel wch Maybe Suteable for a Priveteer provided you Can Make the Value of your Sloop a Good Bargain, and that the Overplus, or Difference in the Value of the Vessels Can be paid by your Draft on Us to be pd on as long Sight as you Can get for wch you have our Letter of Credit, As we would not have the Cargo Apply'd that

way; but to be laid out as aforesd & in Case such a Swap Can be Affected, the Neet proceeds of your Cargo laid out in Rum &c as aforesd is to be ship'd on bord, the Vessel Swaped for, with what fiting & Men you Can get without Much Expense, to proceed home takeing all the Prizes you Can Coming Your Shears, or right of Interest in Any Prizes taken, as Also Your people is to be Settled According to Other Letters of Mark Sent out from this Place – Your Commisn for Selg the Cargo is to be 5 pCt & 2½ for Returns – N B. It is our [illegible] Meaning and Intentions That in Case You should have an Oppoty to take Any Prize That you should think of Giving up Your Sloop for to the Prisoners You Are to have the Value of your Sloop & Cargo, or what ever you del[ive]r up to be first deducted out of the Prize before Division for the Benefeit of yr Owners, & the remdr to be Divided between Your self & Co, & Owners According to Custom of Leters of Mark as afore said –

[Endorsed] Providence 21 Augt 1776 .I acknowledge the afore written to be the true Copy of Orders given me by the Owners of the Sloop *America*, myself Master Nath<sup>l</sup> Packard

I. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL. Owners of the *America* were Joseph and William Russell, Ambrose Page, and Nicholas Brown, all of Providence.

OWNERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND PRIVATEER SLOOP *Diamond* TO CAPTAIN  
THOMAS STACY <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence August 21: 1776

your being Commander of the priveteer Sloop *Diamond* our orders and Instructions are that you proceed on a Crews a gainst all Vessels and property belon[g]ing to any and all persons living at aney place under the dominions of the king of Grait Britton or any Vessells and Cargos What. Ever Which you may find bound to or from the Aiding or in Aney manner supplying the Fleet or army Employed against the United States and that you Send all prizes you may take to this place Under good Commander according to the Value of Such prizes and that the prize Masters Be Verbly orderd to fall in on the Back of Nantucket or the Vinyards and their go on Shore with his boat if in Want of a pilote and to Come in Between Nantucket & the Vinyard as Being much the savest way and then to proceed to Boazards Bay by Going Through Wood hole or holes & proceed to Bedford or directly hear If he Should have Good Intilleigence of our Coast being Clear or otherwise to send Express as soon as possable advising us of every Circumstance of Said prizes You are first to Crews on the Bermudos Stations till you may have Reasons [to] think the West India Vessels air Gone by then to proceed of[f] & about Newfoun'dland [after] Fishing Vissels and not to Return home till you have disposed of all the men you Can Spair on Board of prizes or not till your Crews is Expired paying – dew attention to Recrute your provissions and stores by every Oppoty out of all the Prizes you may take or Other wise by purchase & Drawing on us for the same and you have Liberty in Case you should not finish your Crews sooner to go of[f] Cannedy River about the Strats of Bellile or of[f] hallifax we



advise you Declining to Consort with aney if it Can be Conveneuetly Avoyded – But if Cannot be well avoyded to a gree to Sheer according to Wright of your Thot We Rucomend your utermost Indeavaur to keep Good orders harmony and Unemeinty [*sic*] on board During your Whole Crews – If it Should so happen that you Should be So fortunait as to fall in with some Valuable Vessell & Cargo after a Clear prize you have Sent off[f] all the Hands you Can Spair You have Liberty to take out your guns and from your Sloop & Deliver her to the priseners And Come home on the prize.

Owners John Brown – William Chase – Lemuell Wyatt –

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

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

[Lebanon] August 21st, 1776.

*Voted* to appoint Mr. Bela Elderkin of Windham, and he is hereby appointed, Second Lieutenant of Marines on board the ship of war belonging to this State.<sup>2</sup>

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 508.

2. The Connecticut ship *Oliver Cromwell*.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER ON BOARD THE *Royal Savage*,  
IN LAKE CHAMPLAIN, DATED AUGUST 21, 1776.” <sup>1</sup>

To-morrow (wind and weather permitting) we sail towards St. John's, where we must soon expect to come to action. Our fleet consists of 1 sloop, 3 schooners, 4 galleys, and 7 gondaloes, the whole well officered and manned, and under command of General Arnold. If we meet the enemy, doubt not but we shall support our charge.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, September 4, 1776.

### COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH <sup>1</sup>

Head Quarters New York  
Aug. 21 1776

Sir

The Captains of the Row Gallies having much resented the Suspitions formed of them for their Behaviour up the River as well as when the Men of War passed this Place intimated to the General that they supposed the Situation of the Times would not admit of a Trial or they should call for one. The General has thought proper to take them at their Offer & ordered a Court of Inquiry to sit next Friday – As you seemed to be of Opinion there was a Failure of Duty when they went up last Week, the General desires you would collect such Evidence of their Behaviour as you think will put the Matter in the proper Light & send the Witnesses down here by that Day at 10 oClock. – As Genl [Thomas] Mifflin seems to have been particularly attentive to their Behaviour the General thinks his Testimony may be of Service & would have him attend if he can be spared –

We have nothing new – the Troops continue embarking – but have not yet landed – I am Sir [&c.]

Jos: Reed

1. Heath Papers, MassHS.

DIARY OF ENSIGN CALEB CLAP <sup>1</sup>

[New York, August 21]

A flag of truce come from the Enemy the 20 Instant the 21 General Washington sent A flag in, and at Evening the General sent the Brigadds to prepare themselves for an Attack for undoubtedly the Enemy was Embark'd, that we may depend on their coming out this evening or tomorrow Morning

We Learn by authority that the enemy only wait for wind and tide, that they are in readiness for an attack have Embarkd suppose to attack Long Island Powls Hook and the Jerseys, their number imputed to 35 thousand, although it seems incredible, the information we suppose comes from a Spie that we have among them, this information came from the Island the 21st Instant, the manner I cannot describe but no doubt very Privately some way or other

we learn that the Enemy are very sickly and no doubt it may Prove true, as they have very Little but salt Provisions

1. "Caleb Clap Diary," *The Historical Magazine*, 3rd series, III, 250.

*Constitutional Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1776

New-York, August 21.

For some days past, the British army on Staten Island, have been embarking on board the transports; so that we expect their whole force before this city every tide. We hope to give them a reception, worthy the free born sons of America, and may every freemen of America make this his Toast, That New York is now an assylum for American Liberty.

Yesterday a number of the ministerial fleet left their station at Staten-Island, and went through the Narrows; it is supposed they mean to land part of their troops on Long-Island.

LIEUTENANT ELIAS BALDWIN TO SOLOMON PORTER, DANBURY MERCHANT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York Augt. 21, 1776

We are in great Expectation of an Attack this Day. A-Spy went over I hear from Amboy some days since Returned Yesterday – says they were to make the attack this day, in 3 places, on long Island – at Amboy – & North of the City from the North River Perhaps their sails being very wet from the Shower last Evening & the wind a head this morning may prevent the Attack this Day. The Army Numerous, tho' how numerous I cant learn & In high spirits. That I doubt whether we shall ever be better prepared for them than now. The Connecticut Militia are mostly arrived. Some Troops have come in from the Southward how many cant learn. – Sickness I believe

abates in the Army since the Rains – of which there hath been great Plenty this way. But I can't tell with much Certainty. –

3 oClock afternoon.

About one all the Militia from Connecticut paraded together 12 or 13 Regiments amounting probably to between 5 & 6000 Men – the greatest Number [of] Men under Arms that ever I saw were vie[wed] by General Washington & most of the other General Officers. The Colonels are to wait upon the Generals at 5 to receive more particular ord[ers]. Tis Reported the Enemy have landed at the sout[h]ern Extremity of long Island. I saw several fires In that part of the Island – w[hich] tis conjectured are the Inhabitants burning their hay – Grain &c to prevent th[e] Enemy's receiving benefit therefrom. Tis not Improbable some attack may be made on the Morrow – The Critical Moment probably is not far off[f]. – May God preserve us & give such sucess as shall effectually secure our dear privileges – that we may be a free people as long as the sun & moon shall endure – All seem to be in high spirits . . .

1. Baldwin Family Papers, YUL.

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

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, August 21, 1776

A letter to the Committee of Secret Correspondence was laid before Congress and read.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to revise the resolutions of Congress, respecting the place where prizes are to be carried into, and to bring in such farther resolutions as to them shall seem proper:

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [Robert] Morris, and Mr. [John] Adams.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 692, 694.

#### JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia, August 21, 1776

The success of your Privateers is encouraging. I lament with you the Languor and Inattention to the Fleet. I wish I could explain to you my Sentiments upon this Subject, but I will not. I am determind you shall come here, and see, and hear, and feel for yourself, and that Major [Joseph] Hawley and Some others shall do the same. I must not write Strictures upon Characters. I set all Mankind a Swearing if I do. I must not point out to you, not even to you, the Causes of the Losses, Disgraces, and Misfortunes, that befall you. I make the Faces of my best Friends a mile long if I do. What then shall I do? Just what I have long Since determind, go home, and let two or three of you come here and fret yourselves, as long as I have done, untill you shall acknowledge that I had Reason.

There is a Marine Committee, who have the Care of every Thing relating to the Navy. Hopkins and his Captains, Saltonstall, and Whipple, have been summoned here, and here they have lingered and their ships laid

idle. I cannot, I will not explain this Business to you; because if I should, it would get into a News Paper, I suppose. You must come and see.

We suffer inexpressibly for Want of Men of Business. – Men acquainted with War by Sea and Land, Men who have no Pleasure but in Business. You have them, send them along.

Have you got Boston Harbour sufficiently fortified? If not take no Rest until it is done. [William] Howe must have Winter Quarters, somewhere. If he can't obtain them at New York, he must attempt them at the Southward or Northward, it will be your Fault, if you are not prepared for him in the North. . . .

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I 270–72.

#### CAESAR RODNEY TO THOMAS RODNEY <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia, August 21, 1776.

P.S. One [William] Woodcock, at Wilmington, has been speaking to me about a privateer he was applied to to build by Captain [Charles] Pope. He says he has a parcel of carpenters sent to him and cannot go on for want of the iron-work, rum, &c. Some person among you ought to go immediately and enter into a contract with him and find the means of supplying him.

1. Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney*, 104–05.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED 21ST OF AUGUST.” <sup>1</sup>

I have a letter from Statia, dated August 3d, which says, a French frigate arrived at Martinico last Sunday, from old France, with dispatches as late as the 22d of June, to the Governors and Commanders in Chief of all the French Islands, to put themselves in the best state of defence, and to aid, assist and protect, all American vessels that might put into their ports, as far as possible.

1. *New-York Journal*, August 29, 1776.

#### JOURNAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] August 21, 1776.

A Petition from Joseph Greenway, third Lieut. of the Ship *Montgomery*, in the service of this State, was laid before the Board, praying that he may have leave to resign his Commission, as he has an opportunity of serving his Country in a more essential manner than he is now able to do, which request was granted, and he is discharged from the Service aforesaid.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 694.

#### THOMAS JONES TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Virginia Northumberland County August 21st 1776

Gentlemen I have delivered to Mr Thos Walker at the request of Captn

Nicholson, four hundred & thirty two half barrels of Gun-Powder, Eighteen Chests of Arms, four loose Muskets, and Twenty peices of Oznabrigs, Mr Walker tells me he received only 431 half barrels of Powder, the Persons I entrusted to deliver it, are certain they delivered the whole quantity. I hope it will be found right. — Assoon as I was informed by Captn [Thomas] Conway of his arrival,<sup>2</sup> and that the Powder &c was landed, & stored not more than two Miles from navigation in the lower end of the County, I thought it by no means a safe place for so valuable Cargoe, especially as Lord Dunmores Fleet was lying at no great distance from it, therefore I directed it to be carted about 12 or 14 Miles higher up the County, where it might be more immediately under my own inspection, this, together with the necessity of keeping a constant guard, has occasioned a considerable expence, but not more I hope than will be thought requisite. The several accounts were lay'd before the Committie, who regulated them as they thought proper, except some few, which I made a particular agreement for.—You may be assured Gent. that I have acted as if it had been upon my own account, and the trouble I have been at, you are exceedingly welcome to. I think myself happy in having had it in my power to serve the Province of Maryland, particularly on so interesting an occasion.

Tho<sup>s</sup> Jones

P. S. There is a ballance still due to the Colony of Virga of £3..18..2 which Captn Walker has promised to pay. I am with regard Gent: [&c.]

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. With the powder and arms in the brig *Molly*.

#### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Wednesday 21st August 1776. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Draper for Eight pounds ten shillings for nails furnished for the use of the Brig *Liberty* Capt [Thomas] Lilly. — Also for Five Pounds twelve shillings and nine pence for Repairing Pistols and for Langrage and Shott furnished for the use of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley: —

1. Navy Board Journal, 43–44, VSL.

#### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Wednesday August 21st 1776

Captain William Deane of the Schooner *Revenge* and Aron Jeffrys first Lieutenant of the said Schooner appeared were sworne, and received Commissions dated this day.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Captain William Deane for sixty six pounds five shillings for eighty days service to the 23d of July as an Engineer also for rations and Forage the above time and for sundrys furnished the schooner *revenge*.

It appearing that James Mahony a Seaman taken on board the Vessel of Bartlett Goodrich, hath during the time of his imprisonment always pro-

fessed himself a friend to this Commonwealth, expressing a Willingness to serve the same, and his behaviour appearing to be such as corresponds with his professions and very sufficient to remove all suspicions from his being on board the said Vessell, and in the opinion of the Board he may be serviceable to this Commonwealth as a Seaman Resolved that the said Mahony be discharged from his Confinement and permitted to pass where he thinks proper to look for employment, Whereupon the said Mahony voluntarily offered to take the Oath prescribed by the Convention to be taken by suspected persons, which was accordingly administered to him. <sup>2</sup>

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 127, 128.

2. See Journal of Council of Safety, July 23, 24, 1776. Volume 5, 1208, 1221.

∴ TRIAL AND CONDEMNATION IN VIRGINIA ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE  
PRIZE SLOOP *Vulcan* <sup>1</sup>

At a Court of Admiralty held at the Capitol in the City of William[s]burg  
the 19th Day of August 1776

Present

William Holt and George Seaton Esquires two of  
the Judges of the said Court

The Court was opened, and the Libillant Joyne having giving Bond for Costs. The Marshall returned the Citation issued out of this Court against the Sloop *Vulcan* and Cargo Executed. Whereupon Bartlet Williams Esquire Advocate exhibited a Libel in the following Words – Before you William Holt and George Seaton Esquires Judges of the Court of Admiralty of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Come Leven Joyne who Prosecuted as well for himself as for Thomas Teackle and the Company under his Command and gives the Court here[with] to understand and be informed that on the Twelfth Day of July last past on the high Seas and within the jurisdiction of this Court. He seized and made Prize of the Sloop *Vulcan* near the Shore of this Commonwealth then in Possession of James Parker and James Ingram with her Guns Rigging Apparel Tackle and furniture together with two Negro Slaves named Glasgois and Fanny Sparrow the property of James Ingram, and a Considerable Cargo of Goods Wares and Merchandize to the Value of two Thousand Pounds Sterling of the Growth Produce and Manufacture of Great Britain, Ireland and the West Indies, and imported contrary to the terms of the Continental Association And the said Libillant on behalf of himself, Thomas Teackle, and his Company aforesaid gives the Court to know and be informed that the Vessel Cargo & Slaves aforesaid belonged to and were the Property of the Enemies of the United Colonies of America and that the said Sloop was at that time employed and carrying the said Goods and Supplies to the Enemies of America then carrying on a Piratical War against this Commonwealth, whereby and by force of the several Resolutions of the General Congress and Ordinances and Resolutions of the Convention of this Commonwealth the said Vessell together with her Rigging, Guns, Tackle and Apparel together with the Slaves and Cargo aforesaid are become forfeited to the Libellant and

his said Company to be divided among them pursuant to the Resolutions of the said General Congress and the Libellant prays the Judgment of this Court in the Premises. Proclamation being made as the manner is and no Person appearing to Claim the said Sloop *Vulcan* and Cargo or the Slaves aforesaid, The Court adjourned till Tomorrow Twelve O'Clock

W Russell Cle[rk]

Tuesday the 20th August 1776

Present

William Holt, George Seaton, & Bernard Moore Esquires Judges  
The Court was opened and Proclamation again made against the Sloop *Vulcan* and Cargo, and no Person appearing to claim the same or the Slaves aforesaid. The Court adjourned till Tomorrow Morning ten O'Clock

W Russell Cl

Wednesday the 21st August 1776

Present

The same Judges as Yesterday

The Court was opened and Proclamation being made a third time against the Sloop *Vulcan* and no Person appearing to Claim the same or the Cargo and Slaves aforesaid, the Libel was by Order of the Court taken for Confessed and a Jury impaneled to try the Charge to wit. James Geddy, John Mayo Henry Field, Joseph Hawkins, Robert Anderson, Robert Nicolson, Edward Charleton, John Carter, John Halley Norton, James Craig, Humphry Harwood and William Pearson who being duly sworn on hearing the Testimony of Sundry Witnesses went out of Court and after deliberating on the matter – returned with their Verdict in these Words. “We of the Jury find the within Vessel, Cargo, Slaves, Appurtenances &c. a Lawful Prize.[”] Whereupon it is Decreed and Adjudged by the Court that the said Sloop *Vulcan* with her Rigging, Tackle Apparel Furniture and Cargo and the Slaves aforesaid be Condemned and forfeited – And all Charges which may attend the Capture and Trial of the said Vessel being first paid out of the Money arising from the sale thereof, that the remainder be equally divided among all those who have been actually engaged in takeing said Prize according to the Proportions – settled by order of General Congress Ordered, That Isaac Smith, Thoroughgood Smith, George Hack, William Seymour and Abraham Outten, or any three of them being first Sworn before a Justice of the Peace for that purpose do Appraise in Current Money the Sloop *Vulcan* with all her appurtenances and the Cargo and Slaves aforesaid and make a return of the Appraisement to this Court. That the Marshall make Sale thereof (after notice duly given) at Publick Auction and return the appraisement together with the Account of Sales to the Court on the twenty fifth day of September next. –

Ordered That Thomas Teackle, John Darby and Henry Lewis be allowed each for three days attendance on this Court Travelling eighty Miles with Ferriages across the Bay as Witnesses for Leven Joyné and others against the Sloop *Vulcan*

Ordered That the Court be adjourned till the Twenty fifth Day of September next <sup>2</sup>

W Russell Cle

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Court of Appeals, 1776-1787, NA.
2. The case of the *Vulcan* generated lengthy litigation. John Lyon and John Kellum claimed to be the real captors. James Ingram of Norfolk, owner of the *Vulcan*, claimed that necessity forced him to join Dunmore. He contended that the sloop never carried "Supplies to the Ministerial Army," and could not be taken as a legal prize. The Virginia Admiralty Court denied Ingram's claim, and he appealed to the Continental Congress. On January 24, 1777 Congress reversed the decision of the Virginia court, *ibid*.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN <sup>1</sup>

No 21

My Lord;

The unlucky turn the naval operations took at Charlestown makes a very considerable change in the situation of affairs in this Province.

It was thought expedient for the benefit of this Province to summon the Inhabitants to meet me at the Statehouse yesterday morning.

After mentioning a few outlines of the present situation of public Affairs, and recommending a manly spirit to be exerted in defence of the Province, and that it was the duty of every man in these bad times to shew his loyalty and allegiance to the best of Kings, and his duty and affection to the british Constitution; I proposed to them to be embodied into a Battalion of Militia. I have the satisfaction to inform your Lordship, that the whole joyfully consented without a dissenting voice, they testified their readiness to comply with whatever I thought fittest for them, and would go wherever I should lead them in defence of the Province.

I then declared Lieutenant Governor [John] Moultrie to be their Colonel, Robert Bisset Esqr Lieutenant Colonel, and Benjamin Dodd Esqr Major, which gave general satisfaction.

The Companies are to be composed of a Captain, a Lieutenant, two Sergeants, two Corporals, and twenty five private Sentrysts.

Two Companies of the Battalion will be raised at Saint John River. I expect four here. I fear by what Colonel Bisset mentions, we cannot venture to raise at Doctor Turnbull's Settlement more than one Company, but in the other Settlements in these parts, we shall be able to raise four black Companies, to which must be given double or treble white Officers, in proportion to the Officers of the white Companies.

If these measures meet your Lordships approbation, I shall be happy. I have the honour to be with the greatest respect [&c.]

Pat. Tonym

St. Augustine 21. August 76

[Endorsed] St. Augustine 21 Augt 1776 Govr Tonym R. 19th Decr 1776.  
(No 21)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 743-46.



22 Aug.

ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

State of Massachusetts Bay

In Council [Watertown] Augt 22d 1776.

Ordered, that the Resolve of the Honble Congress of the 3d of April last, Respecting persons Applying for Commissions or Letters or Marque & reprisal be published in the Several News papers in this State, that all persons fitting out Such vessells may know how to make Application for their Commissions.

by the Order of Council  
John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 142.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN JOHN FOSTER WILLIAMS <sup>1</sup>

The Sloop *Republick* under Your Command being in all respects Equiptd in Warlike manner & being also well and properly maned So as to proceed on a Cruize, You therefore are Directed immediately to proceed on a Cruize not only against our unnaturall Enemys but also for the protection of the trade of the United States, and you are Directed to Range the Coast Laying between Cape Sables & Block Island and not farther South than Lattd 34 north, – at the same time using all necessary precaution to prevent your vessel from falling into the hands of the Enemy

and whereas you have received a Commission by force of Armes to attack subdue and take all ships and other Vessels belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain on the high Seas, under certain restrictions, you must punctually follow the instructions herewith delivered you for your Conduct respecting this matter. And you are further Ordered not to fire your Powder away unnecessarily and only when in Action and firing Alarm or Signal Guns. <sup>2</sup>

In Council [Watertown] Augt 22d 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 137.

2. Under the same date is an order, apparently supplementing the above, which reads: "To Commander of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the service of this State. You are hereby directed and commanded to return from your cruise with the Vessel under your command to the Harbor of Boston by the tenth day of September next, and there to wait for the farther Orders of the Council," *ibid.*, 139.

*New-England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1776

Boston, Thursday August 22.

A Jamaica Guinea Ship, with 7 Hogsheads of Sugar, 8 or 9 of Rum, and Seven Thousand Dollars, is taken by a Privateer from Maryland, and safe arrived in Port. Also, a New England brig from Martinico.

By the Eastern Post we are informed, that on Monday last arrived at Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, a Vessel from Holland, with dry Goods, Drugs, Spices, &c.

Last Thursday, was sent into Marblehead, by the *Franklin* Vessel of War, Capt. [John] Skimmer, and on Saturday last was conveyed round to this Harbour, a Brig from St. Augustine, bound for Bristol, with 3000 raw and half dressed Deer-Skins, and about two Tons Indigo. There were on board said Brig, a Lieutenant, Sergeant and a Drummer, of the 14th Regiment, going on the recruiting Service. <sup>1</sup>

Capt. Skimmer was in Chase of another Vessel at the Time he took the above Brig; but having carried away his Mainmast, was obliged to leave her.

Last Week the *Warren* Privateer of Dartmouth, carried in there a ship from the West-Indies for Newfoundland, laden with sugar and molasses; she was commanded by Capt. Cockran of Watertown, and owned by Thomas Boylstone, Esq; of this Town. <sup>2</sup>

1. Brigantine *Perkins*, William Jennings, master.

2. Ship *Argo*, 170 tons, William Cochran, master, taken by the Massachusetts privateer *Warren*, Captain John Phillips.

LIBELS FILED AGAINST THE PRIZES TAKEN BY JEREMIAH O'BRIEN  
AND OTHER RESIDENTS OF MACHIAS <sup>1</sup>

State of the Massachusetts-Bay. }  
Eastern-District, ss. }  
To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, that Libels are filed before me, against the armed Schooner *Margaritta*, burthen about 50 Tons, James Moore late Commander, against the Sloop *Unity*, Ichabod Jones, late Master, burthen about 80 Tons, against the Sloop *Polly*, burthen about 90 Tons, Nathaniel Horton, late Master, against the armed Schooner *Diligent*,<sup>2</sup> burthen about 100 Tons, Lieut. John Knight late Master, and his armed Cutter, the *Talmagush*; against the Schooner *Susannah*, burthen about 25 Tons,—Phillips late Master, all which Vessels, their Appurtenances and Cargoes were taken (for carrying Supplies to the Enemies of the United States of America, and infesting the Sea Coast) and brought into the Eastern District aforesaid, and the Maritime Court for said District will be held at the Meeting House in the East Precinct of Pownalborough, on Monday the Ninth Day of September, 1776, at the hour of Ten in the forenoon, to try the Justice of the said Captures; and all Persons claiming Property in said Vessels or Cargoes, or are any ways concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the same Vessels, or either of them with their Appurtenances and Cargoes should not be condemned.

Timothy Langdon, Judge of said Court.

1. *New-England Chronicle*, August 22, 1776.

2. For details of capture of the *Margaretta* and *Diligent* of the Royal Navy, and of Ichabod Jones' sloop *Unity*, see Volume 1.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Thursday 22th of August 1776

- 3 [A. M.] Hoisted sails split our mainsail  
Saw a sail barring SE one League distan[ce] out boat sent  
the first Leiutenant and 8 men on board s[h]e was a snow  
from St Vincents 24 days out bound to London Jonath Dud-  
field Master in ballast <sup>2</sup>
- 12 small breaze of wind & fair weather  
Lattd in 34d 26m Longd in 61d 10m
- 1 [P. M.] Pleasant weather smooth water got the men out of the  
prize put ours on board Orderd the prize Master to make  
the best of his way to salem

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

2. The snow *Anna*.JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Independence*,  
CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE <sup>1</sup>

Remarks on Thusday August 22, 1776

at 6 Saw a Sale to E ward at 8 Fired 4 Shot at hir wold not Bring  
Tow Saw hir to Bee a Brigg of 12 Guns Left Chase Bore Down to  
the Priseses -

Lattd 34.15 Londg in 60.14

The First Part Pleasent Small Sea

2 Passingers Belonging To the Brigg Came on Board -

Spent the afternoon <sup>2</sup> at 6 hand' Sqe Sail1. *Independence* Journal, RIHS.2. The passengers on board the brig *Fanny* were not named, but a sheet in the back of the journal lists the crew as John Lightbourn, master; Thomas Hargsdon, mate; Ben, Jacob, Robin, Cupid, negro boy Sam, and Thomas Artelea, white boy.DISTRIBUTION OF DEAD SHARES IN PRIZES TAKEN BY THE RHODE ISLAND  
PRIVATEER SLOOP *Diamond* <sup>1</sup>

Newpot Augst 22 Day 1776

Theas aer To Certifye that wee the Subcribrs aer a Commitey For Setling  
and a Justing the dead Shairs of the Sloope *Dimond* Prisses and we do  
a Gree to dispos of them in the Folling manner

To Cpt Thomas Stashey it Being a greed on By all the offiisors Befoer Sal-	1
ing that he Recvs of the agonts oen ded Shier--	
and that Thomas Carlies Recvs a half shier out of the	}
dead Shiers & only two out of the Common Shiers	
Capt Benjamin Almey as he is Carred a Way in oen of	}
the Priesses to his disadvanteg oen shear -	

---

2½

Richard Wedon	$\frac{1}{4}$		
George Babock	$\frac{1}{4}$		
John Dosom	$\frac{1}{2}$		
Robert Palmor	$\frac{1}{4}$		
Ealexandor Tindol	$\frac{1}{4}$		
John Williams	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{16}$	
	$1\frac{3}{4}$		
Benjamen Bates		$\frac{1}{16}$	
John Morgan		$\frac{1}{16}$	
	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{16}$
Wee agree to give Doctor Paul Hometon a half Shier he given up Capt. Chaces obligators	}	$\frac{1}{2}$	
	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$-\frac{1}{16}$
John Johnston		$\frac{1}{16}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$
	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$0$	$2\frac{1}{2}$
			$5-0$

Preamble Continue on the other Side

[Page 2]

N B the Reson Whi Capt Stasy acted Whith me as a Commite is Be caus  
Benjamen Almy is absant & Not to Be Expecd Timely & Isaac Freeborn De-  
sierd Capt Stasy to Set in his Ruem this was agreed to By John Brown &  
Calemuel Wiett -

and What is Conetend on the other Sid is the Determination of

Comitey men                      William Chace                      Thomas Stacy

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Lebanon August 22d 1776

Sir Since my last I have not been honored with any of your favors, yet as it  
is proper Congress should be acquainted what is doing in each of the United  
States for Common Defence, especially what is doing on Continental Ac-  
count, I take the liberty of giving you the following detail of what is done, &  
doing in this State -

Upon the Request of General Washington, our three Row-Galleys were  
sent to New York; and are there in Continental Service -

Colol [Samuel] Elmore's Regiment. agreeable to a resolve of Congress  
communicated by General Washington, is ordered to join the Army at New  
York - Upon the General's request, Twenty Cannon, ten 12 and ten 6  
pounders cast at our Foundery at Salisbury, are lent, to be used for the de-  
fence of the North River, and to prevent the Ships from destroying the  
Continental Frigates building there, and making depredations on the  
Country -

Upon General Schuyler's request, three Sea Captains are appointed here, to raise Crews of Seamen, and proceed to Lake Champlain, and take command of some of the armed vessels on the Lake – To enable them to enlist their men, we have advanced the necessary sums out of our Treasury, to be reimbursed from the Chest at Albany –

A quantity of Cordage and Rigging, upon General Schuyler's application, have been purchased in this State and at his request, Two Hundred Swivels will be cast with all expedition for the use of the armed vessels on Lake Champlain.<sup>2</sup>

Last Saturday Capt Hinman of your armed Brig *Cabot* presented me a letter from Colo [Gurdon] Saltonstall, directing the former to ask my opinion relative to his sailing on a Cruise – Considering that he had been long waiting in readiness; that the multiplicity of business in Congress is the probable reason of his not receiving orders for it; that the expence is great; that his Sailing may prove beneficial; that the season and opportunity of going out with Captains [Seth] Harding and [William] Packwood in armed vessels afford a prospect of distressing our Enemies and of helping these States – I gave him my opinion that it is advisable for him to embrace the first fair wind, and good opportunity to proceed on a Cruise: To use his best discretion as to the manner of his proceeding, and to the time for his return – I apprehend he will govern himself by this, and hope the measure may meet your approbation –

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, 76–79, ConnSL.

2. Trumbull also wrote to Schuyler on this date about the seamen and guns for Lake Champlain. *Ibid.*, XXVI, Letter Book I, 85–86.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT OF SALES OF GOODS TAKEN FROM THE PRIZE SHIP *True Blue*<sup>1</sup>

Dr	Amo Sales of Sundry Goods taken on Board the Brig <i>Cabbot</i> from On Board Prize Ship <i>True Blew</i>		Cr
1776 To 2 days Scow hire unloadg do	£ 12..-	1776	
To Storage of the Goods		July 4	By 1 Qtr Cask Rum Conta
2 Months	3.14..3		32 Galo
To p for Starting Coffee to come		8	By 1 Qr Cask
at the Tare	16..-		ditto 36 do
To p for Weighing the above			68 Gal[l]s @6/6 £22..2..-
Goods	10..-		By 2 barrl Sugar Wt 2Ct..3 lb..2.
To p for Liquor at the Vendue	16..-		to the <i>Ca[bot]</i> 61/
To p Vendue Mastr a 1 pCt	10.16.10	Augt	By 16 hhd Coffee wt 10503 lb
To Danl Tillinghast for Copys		22	@ 8d £350..2..-
of the Court &c	8..-		13 bags & 1 Cask Ginger
To My Commissions on Sales	27..2..3		wt 1286 lb } 29.13..5½
To The United States for ⅔ of			1 hhd Sugar 10 Ct..2.- @ 61/ 32..0..6
Cargoe	£693..3..8		1 Cask Pimento wt 172 lb a 11d 7..17..8
			13 Bags Cotton wt 3922 lb 555..8.11
To the Captures ⅓ pd T M	346.11..9		Sold at Vendue <sup>2</sup> 975..2..6½
Law[ful] M[one]y			2 Cannon & Carriages 80..-..-
To Marvin Waits	£108.10..9		L My £1084.10..9½
Bill omitted	6		

1. Shaw Papers, Book 39, 32-33, YUL.

2. The detailed "Accot Sales of the Ship *True Blue* Cargoe at Public Vandue Augt 21 1776," is in Ledger 9, *ibid*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE <sup>1</sup>

- [August 1776]                      Anchor'd off Staten Island  
 Wednesday 21st    AM the Adml made the Sigl for all Lieutenants.  
    First part modrt and Cloudy, Midl fresh Gales with Thun-  
    der Lightning and Rain, latter light breezes & Cloudy. PM  
    at 1 Unmoor'd and hove short, Recv'd sundry Gunner's  
    Stores, at 5 Squally with Rain, weigh'd and came to Sail as  
    did the *Phenix*, Steering down the River, at 6 came too off  
    Gravesend Bay in 10 fm soft bottom, the Church ENE and  
    the Et Point of the Narrows NBW Do Anchor'd the *Phe-  
    nix*.
- Thursdy 22d    AM at 4 hove short, at ½ past 6 weigh'd and stood into  
    Gravesend Bay, Do Anchor'd abreast of the Church 16 feet  
    low water, carried out the stream Anchor and Cable for a  
    Spring hove broad side to the Shore; Off Shore ½ a Mile,  
    came in Shore and Anchor'd, the *Phenix* and *Greyhound*  
    with a Number of Transports with Troops on board; at ½  
    past 7 Adml Howe Hoist'd his Flag on board the *Phenix*,  
    the Adml Fir'd a Gun and hoisted a Blew and White strip'd  
    Flag at the Mizon Topmast Flagstaff, the Troops in the  
    Boats at 9 began to land, at Noon all Landed.  
    Light Breezes and Clear Wr came in HM Ships *Mercury*  
    and *Lively*, at 1 took up the Stream Anchor Weigh'd and  
    run further out in the Bay Do Anchor'd in 5 fm the  
    Church NEBE the E point of the Narrows NBW½W PM  
    Commodore Hotham Hoisted his broad Pendant on board  
    the *Phenix* and Adml Howe hauld down his Flag and  
    hoist'd it on board the *Eagle*. Moor'd NNW and SSE.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

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

- August 1776                      Moor'd Head & Stern in Graves-End Bay -  
 Thursday 22d    At 5 AM Carried the Stream Anchor out Weigh'd the Best  
    Bowr & hove the Ship close in Shore, Clap'd Spring on the  
    Small Bower, let it go and hove the Ship Broad side to the  
    Shore to cover the Troops Landing at 8 Vice Admiral  
    Lord Howe came onbd and hoisted his Flag Fir'd a Gun  
    and hoisted a Signal Flag at the Mizen Topmast and at 46  
    past 8 Struck Lord Howe's Flag & the Signal. At ½ past 9  
    Commodore Hotham made the Signal from his Barge for  
    the Troops to Land. At ¾ past 10 Lord Howe return'd  
    onboard and hoisted his Flag. -  
    Modr and Cloudy Wr at ¾ past 2 P M Struck Lord  
    Howe's Flag Weigh'd and ran without the Transports &  
    came too with the Best Bower in 6½ fm Veer'd and

Moor'd a Cable on the Best and 2/3 on the Small Bower at 50 past 8 Comodore Hotham came onbd and hoisted his Pendant. Fir'd the Evening and Morning Guns.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY <sup>1</sup>

August [1776] [Off Staten Island]  
 Thursday 22 Squally weather, and rain received & Manned 8 flat boats, together with our own Boats and sent them to Land Troops on Long Island  
 Light airs and fair weather the Men of War having placed themselves in Gravesend Bay to cover the Debarkation of the Troops a number of Transports with Troops onboard anchored there also, when the Flat boats proceeded and Landed without opposition on Long Island, the debarkation continued til the whole amounting to 15,000 men was Landed Struck Commodore Hothams broad Pendant which was hoisted onboard the *Phoenix*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT <sup>1</sup>

August 1776 Moor'd off Staten Island  
 Thursday 22 A M at 6 sent 6 Flat Boats & one Batteau at 10 the Troops Landed on Long Island without opposition  
 Moderate & Cloudy, Rowed Guard,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN <sup>1</sup>

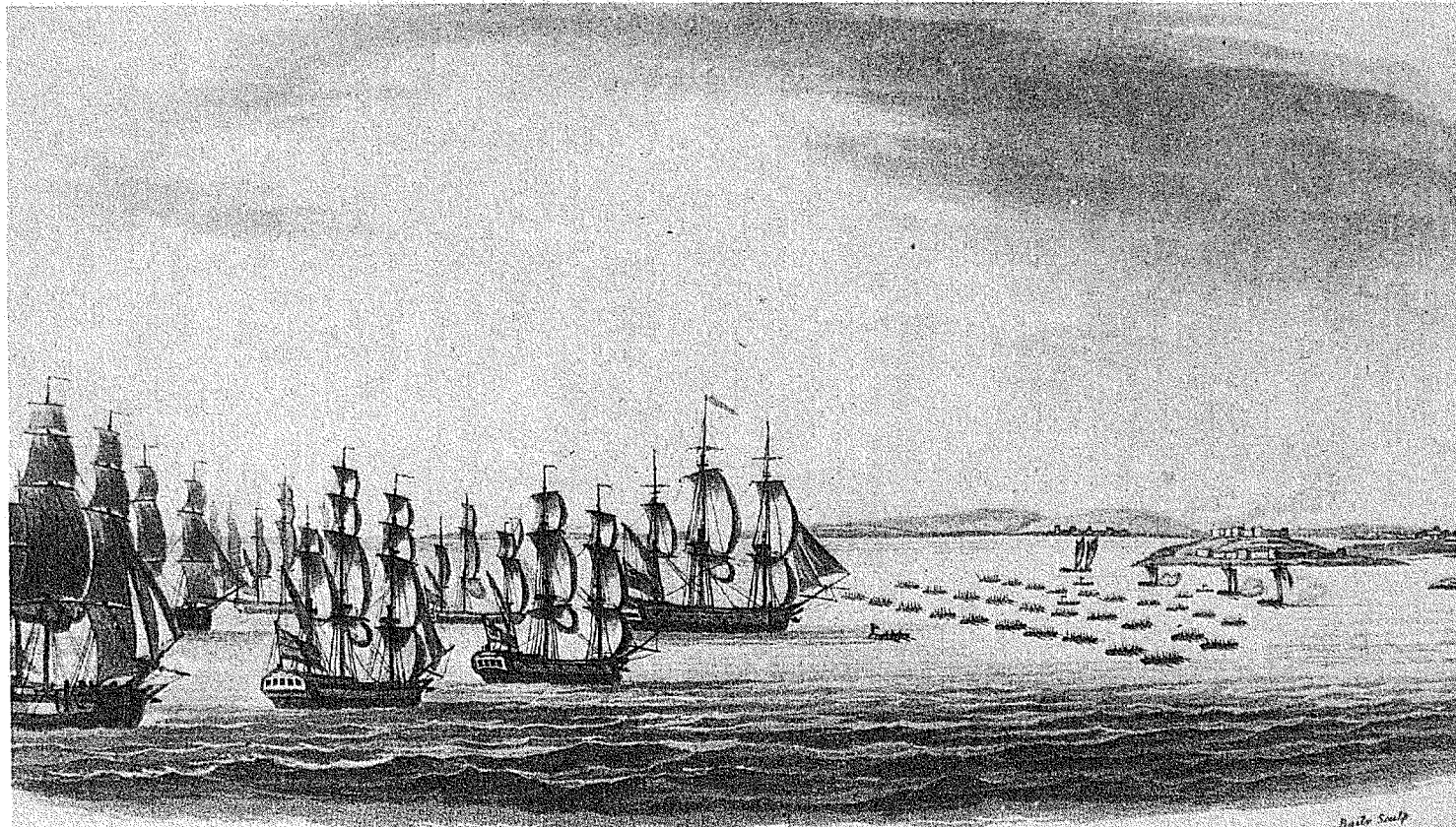
August 1776 Moored off Staten Island  
 Thursday 22d At 2 AM Sent all the Boats to land the Troops at 3 the *Phoenix* & *Rose* Warped into Gravesend Bay . . . the *Thunder* & *Carcass* Bombs with a Number of Transports with Troops At 10 the Signal was made for the Boats with Troops to advance which they did & landed them without the least Opposition; At Noon Empd landing the Troops The first part light Breezes & fair, Middle Cloudy latter fresh Breezes & fair At 1 P M the Boats returned from landing the Troops

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN ROGER CURTIS <sup>1</sup>

Augt 76 Moor'd with the stream Anchr off Staten Island  
 Thursday 22d At 2 A M the Flat boats No 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30 with the Capt & Lieut to the Narrows of Staten Island to





London, Published Nov. 30. 1776 by J. Cox, Gold at the Naval Ordnance Office, 29. St. Dun's Lane.

*Disembarkation of the Troops at Gravesend Bay under the Command of Sir George Collier, R. S.*

**British Landing at Gravesend Bay, Long Island, August 22, 1776.**

Imbark the Troops at 10 landed without opposition in Gravesend bay 5 thousd the 1st landing & 2 fives the next at 5 [P.M.] dropt down Transports and *Rainbow* return'd the Captn

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

JOURNAL OF H. M. BOMB VESSEL *Thunder*, CAPTAIN ANTHONY  
PYE MOLLOY<sup>1</sup>

August [1776] [Anchored off Staten Island]  
Thursdy 22 at 4 AM hove Shor[t] on the small Br at 5 got under way, soon after which fell on Bd of a Ship which Obliged us to cut away the small Br Anchor, to get clear. Do bent the Remainder of the Cable to the Sheet Anchor At 8 Anchor'd with the Best br in Gravesend Bay, in 4 Fths Water and With a Spring on the Cable brought our Broad Side to bear on the shore to cover the Landing of the Troops found riding her[e] his Majesty's Bomb Vessel *Carcass* with the *Grey Hound* and *Rose* and *Phoenix* with Ld How's Flag on board at 1/2 past 9 the troops began to Land to the Amount of about 5000 Men, the Boats immediately returned to the transports, and bringing the remainder to Land with the Greatest Expedition at noon the Landing was compleated without the least resistance.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/987.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN<sup>1</sup>

August 1776 Sandy Hook N 35.32W 160 Leagues  
Thursday 22nd at 6 A M fired a Gun brought too a french ship from St Domingo bound to Hav[r]e de Grace at 9 Hauld the wind & Chased a Schooner the Chace bore NE about 15 Miles.  
Fresh Breezes & Cloudy. fired a Shot at the Chace at 3 fired another on which she bore down being a Schooner from Dartmouth in New England Named the *Molly Thos* Toby master bound to Hispaniola out 9 Days Laden wth Flour Lumber & fish at 7 Brought the Master & 3 of their people on board [sent in her] Masters Mate, Midn & five Seamen.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

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

[Philadelphia] Thursday, August 22, 1776

The Marine Committee having recommended Dudley Saltonstal to the command of the frigate *Trumbull*; Jonathan Maltbay, first lieutenant, and David Phipps second lieutenant of the said frigate; [Robert] Wilson to be

first lieutenant of the *Washington*, John Nicholson second lieutenant of ditto; John Hodge to command the *Montgomery* frigate, at New York.

*Resolved*, That they be accepted, and that commissions be granted to them accordingly.

*Resolved*, That the Secret Committee be directed to deliver to Major [Samuel] Nichols, a number of musquets, sufficient to arm the marines raising under his command in this city.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 695, 696–97.

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

The Marine Committee

Philadelphia August 22nd 1776.

Sir

As you are now about to return to Rhode Island where we Understand the *Alfred* and *Cabbot* remain inactive.

—We think proper you should exert your Utmost endeavours in Conjunction with the Commanders of those Vessels to get them equipped and Manned with all possible expedition, for A six Months Cruize. —

We think A Most important Service may be performed by the *Alfred*, *Columbus*, *Cabbot* and *Hampden* by dispatching them for Newfoundland with orders to destroy the British Fishery there; they must make Prize of every British ship or Vessel they meet with — they must seize and destroy their Fishing Boats and stages and make Prisoners of their fisher Men, or such of them, as will not freely enter into our service, and as it is highly probable they may take more Prizes than they can conveniently spare Men to bring into Port, it may be proper in such case to destroy them. The season is now come when the Newfoundland Men begin to load their Fish Cargoes, consequently no time must be lost, and if the *Columbus* is not in Port when you reach Rhode Island, you'l dispatch the *Alfred*, *Cabbot* and *Hampden* immediately appointing Such place of Rendevouz and such Signals as will enable them to Meet again in case of Separation, and also enable the *Columbus* to follow and join them, and whenever she returns from her present Cruize, you Must order her on this service giving the Commander of her A Copy of the instructions, Signals &c. We doubt not there are Some British ships of War on the Newfoundland station to protect their Fishery and of course our commanders must act with Such caution as to avoid being taken themselves, but we hope this will not prevent a Spirited and resolute conduct in the execution of their expedition, which we flatter ourselves will in the event prove highly detrimental to our enemies — honourable and beneficial to the United States of America. — These being the Objects we have in View we desire that your Orders to the Commanders May be adapted in the best manner your knowledge and experience can devise to obtain the end proposed.

When this small Squadron have done the enemy as Much Mischief as they can in that quarter they Must proceed into the Gulph of St Lawrence and there take Cruizing ground as may be Most likely to intercept the sup-

plies of Indian Goods and other stores that we suppose will be sent from England for Canada when they know that our Troops have evacuated that Country. There is another object well worthy of their Attention but we fear the acquisition of it is too uncertain to found A Cruize upon, we Mean the Capture of the Hudsons Bay Ships which in their return must be very Valueable; if the Captains should be of opinion that by dividing their force they can accomplish both these services, we would submit that Point to your and their determination. We have no doubt but they will take valuable prizes in the Gulph of St. Lawrence if the Cruising ground is well chosen, and they Must Send their Prizes for Such of our Ports as they will be Most likely to reach with safety. We deliver you herewith Some of the Marine Books, List of Continental Agents in every state, and Several of the Printed declarations of Independence. they May do well to notify the inhabitants of the French Islands of St Pierrs & Miquelon of this declaration and sound how the inhabitants stand affected toward us, assuring them the French Government favour Our Cause and will probably become our Alley by treaty. Perhaps our Ships may find shelter and protection in these Islands if the enemy have Ships in that quarter too Strong for us. Should this Fleet take any prizes whose Cargoes might be particularly usefull to the inhabitants of these States, they may do well to convoy Such into Port, and if they gain any intelligence that the Commanders think important they Must dispatch one of the small Vessells with the Account to us – putting into the first Port and Sending an express with it to the General or to us. You will instruct the commander of each Vessel to write us by all Opportunities, of their proceedings and of the Occurrences they Meet with, they Must make us Monthly Returns of their Crews, of the Supplies made to them, of the provisions, and make Copies of their Log Books and Journals to be transmitted to us at their Return.

They Must be carefull of their Ships, stores and materials, use their Officers and Men in Such a Manner as will recommend the service and at the same time preserve strict discipline. They will no doubt from principles of humanity and generosity treat their Prisoners with all the kindness and Attention their Respective Situations and circumstances will admit of and we hope their conduct will in all things be such as to Merit the continuance of our Confidence. –

You will direct the commanders of each Vessel to be very exact in keeping a List of all Persons on board that are intituled to Prize Money Mentioning their Names, stations, & Shares, Copys of which they Must furnish the Agent or Agents that receive the Prizes in Order that just & equitable distribution of Prize Money May in due time be Made. –

We also wish to have a full and just valuation of all the Cannon, stores &c which you brought from Providence that have been appropriated to public Use or that remain for that Purpose, and we desire you would have the vessels you took and the property in them Libelled and tryed in order that

Such part as is condemned may be sold – the Accounts Settled and distribution of the Prize Money made. We are sir [&c.]

Geo Walton	John Hancock
Sam <sup>el</sup> Huntington	Rob <sup>t</sup> Morris
Fra: Lewis	Step Hopkins
Geo: Read	Joseph Hewes

P.S. We deliver you herewith A Letter to Nathaniel Shaw junr Esqr of New London directing him to purchase the Armed Schooner You took in Your late Cruize<sup>2</sup> This Schooner Must be called the *Hopkins* and immediately fitted out as A Continental Cruizer and You are to add her to the Fleet destined against Newfound Land Fishery sending her Away in Company with the *Alfred* &c – We deliver you here with a blank Commission for the Captain and we choose the Offer of it should be Made to Captain [Samuel] Chew of New Haven he being Strongly recommended by the Committee of that place but if he refuses this appointment we hereby authorize you to put in a proper commander and fill this Commission with his Name. We also deliver you Some blank Warrants which you will fill up with Proper Persons for the Master and other inferior Officers for that Schooner.

Let it be an article of your instructions to all the Captains to be particularly carefull to Send all salt they May take to Some of these States as we expect it will be very Much Wanted. Should you think it adviseable to go upon the expedition to Newfound Land &c Yourself You May do therein as you judge will be Most Serviceable to the continent and hoist your Broad Pendant on board any of the Vessels you choose. –

John Hancock.

1. The body of the letter is from the Harbeck Collection, HUL, and the postscript from the Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
2. The Marine Committee letter dated August 22 requested Shaw to “purchase said Schooner [*Hawke*] on the best terms in your power and assist the commodore to fit equipp and man her with all possible expedition as a Continental Cruizer . . . supply this Vessel with all necessary Provisions and Stores for a Six Months Cruize,” Marine Committee Letter Book, 17, NA, and printed in Charles Oscar Paullin, ed., *Out-Letters of the Continental Marine Committee and Board of Admiralty, August, 1776–September, 1780* (New York, 1914), I, 1. Hereafter cited as Paullin, ed., *Out-Letters of the Continental Marine Committee*.

#### CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN HOYSTEED HACKER<sup>1</sup>

Sir [Philadelphia] August 22d 1776

Since the dates of those orders we have already addressed to John Paul Jones and you as Commanders of the Brig *Hampden* we have in consultation with Commodore Hopkins altered your destination as you will learn from him.<sup>2</sup> You are therefore to receive fresh Orders from the Commodore and Obey them as if from Sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 17, NA.
2. See previous entry.

#### CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.<sup>1</sup>

Sir [Philadelphia] August 22nd 1776

The Secret Committee have directed Mr Barnabas Deane of Whethersfeild Connecticut to deliver you sundry articles he has imported On Conti-

mental account which you are to receive for the use of the American Navy, granting Mr Deane a receipt for the whole in order to answer the accounts of said Secret Committee, but as Mr Deane is in want of some of those very articles as well as others for the Frigate built under his direction,<sup>2</sup> you are to supply any of these and assist him in procuring any other articles wanted for that Ship charging the same to his account or to the Ships as you shall judge most proper. You are hereafter to render us an account of the expenditure of all Stores you receive or buy on account of the Continent. The Salt you will keep for the purpose of putting up Pork the ensuing Season for the use of the Navy. We are sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 19, NA.

2. The Continental frigate *Trumbull*.

FRANCIS LEWIS TO CAPTAIN THOMAS GRINNELL <sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Philadelphia, August 22, 1776.

I some time ago advised you that Congress had appointed you to the command of the largest of the frigates, called the *Congress* now at Poughkeepsie, and desired you would furnish me with a list of such persons as you would recommend for your commission and warrant officers, but am as yet without your answer, so conclude my letter miscarried. Pray let me hear from you as soon as possible.

(Signed,) Fras. Lewis.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 504.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE VIRGINIA SLOOP OF WAR *Scorpion*<sup>1</sup>

Ran away from on board the *Scorpion* sloop of war,<sup>2</sup> the following seamen, viz. George Patterson, boatswain, a well set man, about 5 feet 8 inches high, brown complexion, short black hair curl'd round, and snub nose: had on a small round hat bound, a blue jacket and narrow trousers. James Parks, a likely well made man, about 5 feet 7 inches high, brown complexion and black hair, with a cock'd hat: had on a long blue jacket and short wide trousers. John Lowry, a stout well made man, with a red face, light hair, about 5 feet 6 inches high: had on an old blue jacket and an old pair of narrow duck trousers. Thomas Davis, a slender made man, about 5 feet 10 inches high, dark complexion, and much pitted with the small-pox, and long black hair: had on, a new felt hat, blue jacket, and new osnabrig trousers. David Rees, a short slender man, about 5 feet 5 inches high, dark complexion, short strait black hair, and has a great impediment in his speech: had on an old hat, blue jacket, and very dirty shirt and trousers. Whoever takes up the said seamen, and secures them in any gaol so that I can get them, shall receive eight dollars reward for each.

Wright Wescott.

1. *Maryland Gazette*, Annapolis, August 22, 1776.

2. The *Scorpion* was a vessel of the Virginia Potomac River fleet which accounts for the above advertisement in a Maryland newspaper.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Thursday 22d August 1776. –

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Magazine deliver unto Capt [William] Deane One hundred Gun Flints five hundred pounds of Gunpowder one Rhemm of Cartridge Paper 240 four pounds Shott, fifty two pound Shott, fifty three pound Shott and seventy five pounds of Musquett Ball for the use of the Schooner *Revenge*. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 44, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO SMITH & ROANE, ESSEX <sup>1</sup>

Gent

Williamsburg August 22d 1776 –

We receiv'd a Letter of the 20th Instant from Mr Roan desiring to be furnish'd with Money to purchase provisions and necessaries for the Naval department herewith we send you three hundred pounds which we judge will be sufficient at this time. if Salt provisions are not to be had on your River <sup>2</sup> let us know & We will furnish you with that Article. Capt Wills Cooper has orders to send two hundred and thirty Barrels for Pitch and Turpentine to your care, half of which is to be detain'd for the use of your River and the remainder forwarded to Mr James Hunter for the Potowmack department. The Salt we shall inform you of by next Post.

By order of the Board I am [&amp;c.]

Thomas Whiting 1st Commissioner

NB we shou'd be glad to know how the Salt came in Mr Bunks's Possession –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

2. Rappahannock River.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY <sup>1</sup>

August [1776] [Cape Fear River] Snows point West  
 Tuesday 20 Modr and Cloudy wear P M saw a great Number of the rebels on Shore  
 Wedy 21st A M at 11 Came up and anchor'd here the *Scorpion* Unmoord and hove short on the small bower  
 Little winds and Cloudy at 3 weighd and Came to sail Empd working down the river at 7 anchor'd to stop tide  
 Thursday 22d at 5 weighd and Came to sail, at 7 anchor'd abrest of Fort Johnston – Moord in 4 fathom Water.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

WILLIAM OGILVY TO JOHN SIMPSON, LONDON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Dear Sir

Pensacola 22 August 1776.

By some Vessells lately from Jamaica we learn that an Embargo was laid on the Exportation of Provision[s] from that Island they being in great want

& that an Insurrection was begun among the Negroes. Mr John Graham who is no doubt with you long ago will be able to inform you fully respecting the fate of my Goods in Georgia. As soon as I understood that a Part were retaken by the Kings ships, I wrote Admiral Howe requesting his Interposition for the recovery of the Value after the Salvag[e] is deducted agreeable to law. I also wrote Capt Barkley [of] the *Scarborough* who carried them Off. there were 6 Bales Duffils, 6 Hhds Sugar 1 Case very large & 2 Trunks about £600 Stg worth. I expect a full account of the Circumstances Soon & that at all Events I may not be charged with 72 dozen shirts Shipped by Mr Graham not ordered by me. I have remitted [illegible]ham Johnston & Co £3200 stg p this Opportunity & I begg you'll remember what you promised about the Commission to be Charged me on Goods shipped as I have been made very Poor (to use the Indian term) by the Georgians.

1. Red Book, XI, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS <sup>1</sup>

August 1776 Moord off[f] Saint Georges Town Bermuda  
 Thursday 22 AM Recd fresh beef People Empd Variously  
 Squally With Rain PM Came in & Anchd two Sloops from  
 Virginia, Recd 5 Prisoners from a Snow in Castle Harbour, <sup>2</sup>  
 Anchd here a Prize Sloop taken by an Tender from Rhode  
 Island, receivd Information of two Rebel Privateers being off  
 the Island.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

2. The prisoners were the prize master and four crewmen from the Maryland privateer schooner *Enterprize*. They had been overpowered on board the prize snow *James*, whose crew had retaken the snow, *Public Advertiser*, London, October 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Boreas*, CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON <sup>1</sup>

August 1776 Remarks &ca *Boreas*  
 Thursday 22 at 3 AM Saw a Sail in the S W. Quarter made Sail & gave  
 chace at 7 fir'd two Shot to bring too the Chace at 8 Saw a  
 Sail in the S E Quarter In 1st Reefs of the Topsls Ex-  
 [amine]d the Chace a Schooner from Nantucket <sup>2</sup> took pos-  
 session of Her & brought her People on Board Gave Chace  
 to the ESE  
 First part Mod & cloudy at 1 PM fir'd one Swivel & one  
 Nine Pounder Shotted to bring too the Chace at 3 Brot too  
 & Exd a Schooner from Dominica Bound to Newfound-  
 land at 5 Made Sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/125. The *Boreas* had sailed from Sandy Hook August 8 for Jamaica. She first convoyed, 150 miles to the eastward, two victualers en route to Cork for provisions for the Army. See Howe to Stephens, August 8, 1776.

2. Schooner *Adventure*, with provisions and lumber, Gayton's Prize List, February 26, 1778, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.



RICHARD HARRISON TO WILLING, MORRIS & Co. <sup>1</sup>

Gent.

Martinique Aug. 22. 1776

I wrote you the 1st Inst Copy of which goes by this Opportunity. —

Mr. [James] Le Maitre has at length arrived here, but as I apprehended, by way of Hallifax & without the Sloop. — On the Night of the 5th of June near the Island of Bermuda, the Crew, instigated & headed by the Mate (who it seems was a Caledonian) fell upon Capt [William] Britton & him whilst in their Beds and threatning the least resistance with immediate Death, made them both prisoners, at the same Instant Breaking open their Chests & seizing upon all their papers, which the Hurry & unexpectedness of the Assault gave them no time to destroy. Having thus far accomplished their villainous design, they took the Management of the Vessell upon themselves & shaped a course to the N Eastward, intending as the mate has since acknowledged, for some port of Great Britain, with hopes, no doubt, of being generously rewarded for their Treachery. But falling in with an armed Transport, a little to the Eastward of the Banks they were taken & conducted back to Hallifax, & there delivered with the papers &ca. to the Governor <sup>2</sup> Le Maitre says he is ignorant of the Contents of the Letters but supposes they contained some matters of Consequence as the Governor appeared much vexed when he read them & treated him in a very scurvy manner, suffering him to be despoiled of all he had, even his wearing Apparel, Shoe Buckles, &ca.

This is the third Instance of the kind that has come within my Knowledge, and I am really afraid they will happen more frequently unless you are exceedingly cautious at least in the Appointment of your Officers. — The Congress I think could scarce devise a punishment adequate to such perfidy.

Mr Le Maitre informs that Admiral Howe arrived with his Squadron at Hallifax about the 26th of June, but as the General his Brother had left that place with his Army a few days before, he without making any stay, proceeded to Long Island, which it seems is now the place of rendezvous. — According to the best Accounts he could obtain, the Ministerial Army there consist'd of 20,000 Men, 12,000 of whom are, or I would rather say, were Hessians, & 3000 Highlanders, the residue being the Remains of the Boston Army. He adds that [John] Burgoyne was at the Head of 9000 Troops in Canada, & that they were daily looking out at Hallifax for 6000 Hanoverians & a further reinforcement of Highlanders — And it is reported here that there is a Negociation on foot between England & Russia for 13,000 Russians, wch are to be sent also to America. — They are formidable Stories, & by no means incredible, for you must be convinced long before this that no Expençe, no Means, no Art will be unessayed to crush & utterly ruin you.

These things I doubt not you'le have heard long ago, at least such of them as are passing in your Neighbourhood, and you must ascribe my troubling you with a repetition of them to the Anxiety where with I am continually agitated for the Success & prosperity of the Cause. I am Sir [&c.]

R Harrison

I hope I shant have so bad an Acct to render of Capt [Thomas] Patton – but I really begin to suspect some thing extraordinary has happened to him – He got out safe and is no where in the West Indies, I believe. <sup>3</sup>

1. Papers of Robert Morris, Accession 1805, LC.

1. The sloop *Fanny*, condemned in Nova Scotia Vice Admiralty Court, July 18. See Volume 5.

3. Harrison's fears for Captain Patton and his vessel, the sloop *Peggy*, were well founded. She was taken by H. M. S. *Orpheus* shortly after leaving the Delaware. Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

23 Aug.

JOHN LANGDON'S MEMORANDUM OF SUPPLIES TO THE CONTINENTAL  
FRIGATE *Raleigh* <sup>1</sup>

[Portsmouth, August 23, 1776]

Memorandum of Sundries supply'd Continental Ship *Raleigh* by John Langdon Esqr – Vizt – on his own Account—

1776	}	3/4 hundred 10d Nails 1/2 ditto 6d ditto dld Daniel Hart –	£ 1 . 6	
Feb'y 16		3 hundred 6d ditto dld Stephen Potts –	2 . 9	
Mar 8	}	1/2 hundred 2d ditto 1/2 ditto 10d ditto dld Saml Burk –	1 . 9	
13		1 hundred 6d ditto dld Saml March –	9	
14	}	11 m – 10d Nails – a 14/ –	7 . 12 . 0	
		6 1/2 2d ditto a 20/ –	6 . 10 . 0	
		382 6d ditto a 9/ –	17 . . 6 . 6	
		52 4d ditto a 5/ –	13 . . . . –	
		44 1/2 pound deck Nails a 7/	1 . . 5 . 11 1/2	45 . 14 . . 5 1/2
Apr 11	}	1 . . 2 . . 10 Cordage – a 70/ –	5 . 11 . . 3	
May 7		128 Scanes houseline & Marline a 1/6 –	9 . 12 . . –	
24	}	1 Brass Compass & 1 hanging do. dld William Hunt to repair—		
June 16		3 m 3d Brads dld at sundry times for Boat Builders –		
July 20	}	11 Barrells Beef a £ 3 pr Barrell	33 . . 0 . 0	
Aug 19		2 Leads for Fishing w 7 1/4 lb dld Mr. Libby –		
21	}	1 2 Bushels Basket		
23		1 Caulking Mallett –	0 . . 4 . 0	
		2 ditto Irons – a 4/ –	8 . . –	
		1 Marling Spike	6 . . –	
		1 pair Grains	7 . . –	
		1 Cod hook 3d 1 Scraper 5/	5 . . 3	1 . . 10 . . 3

1. John & Woodbury Langdon Papers, NHHS.

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

August 1776

Cape Ann No 79W. 12 Leagues

Wednesdy 21

at 5 AM saw a Sail to the SE made sail and gave Chace out  
2d Reef Topsails and set Steering sails.

Fresh Breezs and Clear at 5 Fired a Shot at the Chace &

Thursday 22 brought her too proved to be a Schooner from Nantucket for Wood Island in 2d reef Topsails sent the Schooner away, at 7 AM saw a Sail to the . gave Chace at 10 Came up with the Chace which proved to be a Fishing Schooner, burnt her.

Friday 23 Little Wind and Hazy  
at 12 saw two Vessels Lights to the No ward, gave Chace fir'd five Shot at the Chace and brought them too they proved to be from Salem for Wood, at 6 made Sail and gave Chace to a Privateer Schooner:

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

PETITION OF OWNERS OF MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SCHOONER  
*Fair Lady* TO ENLIST THREE BRITISH PRISONERS <sup>1</sup>

(Massachusetts State) To the Honble the Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay –

Nathaniel Farley & Jacob Martin of Ipswich in said State  
Humbly Shew

That Joseph Richardson Joseph Weeks and John Thomas <sup>2</sup> Prisoners in the Goal in said Ipswich who were taken by Capt Fisk Commander of an Armed Vessell are desirous by your honors Leave to Enlist on board the Privateer *Fair Lady* Jacob Martin Commander & as your Petitioners & other owners of said Privateer are in Want of men to Man said Privateer –

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your honors to give orders to the Keeper of said Goal to Liberate said Prisoners for the said purpose or give such Leave whereby your pets may Enlist said Men as in your great wisdom your honors shall think proper

And your Pets as in Duty bound &c.

Nath<sup>l</sup> Farley Jacob Martin

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Augt 23d 1776 Read & Ordered that the Prayer of the Petition be so far granted, that Said Petitioners give their Obligations to the Sheriff of Said County, that they shall see the Men forthwith coming whenever called for –

Jn<sup>o</sup> Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch. vol. 165, 144–45.

2. Members of the crew of H. M. Schooner *Dispatch*, taken in July by the Massachusetts state sloop *Tyrannicide*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Friday Augst 23d 1776

Letter from Richard Derby Junr Esqr Informing the Board that the Brigantine *Massachstts* fitted out by this State is nearly fixed & Only Wanting four or six Guns & the thre Small Sails and desiring that Orders might be given relative to those Articles. –

Read & Ordered that the Commissary General, be directed to deliver Two Six Pounders out of the Row Gally to the Said Richard Derby Esqr & also

two Other Cannon lately landed out of the Decoy Ship, and the sd Derby is directed to take such Sails as He may want out of the Ship lying at Danvers Mention'd in His Letter, After Appraising the same & paying for them –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 190, 193.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Friday 23th of August 1776

1 [A. M.] Saw a Brig Close on board wore ship After her she wore at the same time and in wareing we fell on board one another Carried away our Gibboom  
at 6 made sail spoke with the Brig that run on board of us Capt Joseph Wipple [Jabez Whipple] from Road Island on a Cruze <sup>2</sup>

11 we saw a sail to the S E we gave chaise in Company we Carried away our topmast And ringtale boom Come up with the Chaise Sum

Lattd in 36d 38m Longd in 61d 30m

At 2 P M saw a Learge ship to the southward I gave Chaise to her left the Briggt in Chaise of the other sail at 4 spake with the Chaise a spanish ship from Havannah bound to Cadiz gave Chaise after the other vesel Employd Gitting up topmast at night saw the Briggt but did not see the Other Vesel

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

2. See next entry. The sloop *Independence's* journal makes no mention of running afoul the *Tyrannicide*.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Independence*,  
CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE <sup>1</sup>

Remaks On Fryday August 23, 1776

a 4 am Cam On a harde Sqrle a 6 D[o] Saw 2 Sail to S W hove about Stood to The S. Ward a 8 hove a bout to Gitt the Vessell In hir wake –

Lattd 35.44 Longd in 61.00

The first Part Sqwaley Large Sea

At P M out, Reefs at Sot F Jibb Saw a Large Ship to Windard Runing Down heavy Sea Saw a Briggt Strin Standing to the No Ward

1. *Independence* Journal, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL  
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND <sup>1</sup>

[Providence] August 23d

Voted that Mr John Smith be desir'd to go to Cumber[illegible] and contract with Jeremiah Wilkinson for the Che[c]ks for the Masts and that he

procure them Cut and Carted as soon as possible, and that Mr Benja Talman go with him to formand the Work.

Voted That six Shillings pr Day be paid to John Lindsey and the other persons that Work on the Gun Carriages with Mr Sumner.

Voted that Tanner be appointed a Midshipman and Benjamin Dunham second Mate on Board the *Providence*

Voted That Mr Barron Lieut of the *Providence* desir'd to go to Newbury and Portsmouth and Examin the Ships of War building their, and that he Report what improvement he finds in them. that his Expences be paid him

Voted That Mr John Brown be requested to write New York, and purchase Ten Tons of Cordage [illegible] the Ships, and that it be Shipped hear as so[on] as maybe.

Voted That the Commanding Officer of the *Providence* order thirty Tons of pigg Iron on Board the said Ship and that a suitable number of Cask be filled with water and put on Board, and that all dispatch be made to get her below as soon as possible.

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

*Connecticut Gazette*, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1776

New-London, August 23.

Last Lord's Day, the new Ship of War belonging to the State of Connecticut, <sup>1</sup> built at Say Brook, and commanded by William Coit, Esq; came out of the River, and arrived here on Tuesday: She is the largest Vessel that has ever come over Say Brook Bar, and was piloted by Capt. James Harris.

Last Saturday a French Sloop arrived here from the West Indies, loaded with Sugar, Molasses and Coffee, and a few Articles of European Goods.

Since our last, three Vessels have arrived here from New-York, with Tories collected from that City and Long Island; who are sent into the Country Towns.

By Means of the great Number of Prizes carried into different Ports at the Eastward, Jamaica Rum is sold at 43 4d per Gallon by the Hogshead, and Sugar at five Dollars per 100 Wt. in Boston.

1. Ship *Oliver Cromwell*.

"1776 A LIST OF THE DEAD & DESERTD: FROM CAPT [SETH] HARDING IN [CONNECTICUT] BRIGG  
Defence COLONY SERVICE"<sup>1</sup>

time of Entry	month Days	Mens names	Ran Disertd	months in Service	Days in Service	Wages pr m	amount			paid men as pr Book	
							£	s	d		
march	6	James Young Copper	July 22	4	16	4 10	20	7	0	Recd. £ 9.16..-	[illegible]rders to amount of Wag[es]
		George Gee	aug - 5	4	29	2 8	11	18	0	8.11..6	
	17	John Steward	25	5	6	2 8	12	7	11	5.15..3½	
april	11	Richard fry	July 14	3	3	2 8	7	8	9	6.14.10	
may	8	Jared Ervin	augt 23	3	15	2 8	8	7	9	6..1..-	
	24	Peter thorp	Do	2	29	2 8	7	1	11	3.12..-	
	30	Edward Ingraham	Do	2	23	2 8	6	14	5	5..8..-	
[June]	1	John Branin	Do	3	22	2 8	8	18	6	2..8..-	
		Solomon Brown	Do	3	22	2 8	8	18	6	2..8..-	
	12	Joseph Thomas	June 21	1	9	2 8	3	2	3	1.15..-	
July 1	1	John Basson	Aug - 1	1	0	2 8	2	8	-	3.19..-	
		James maden	Do	1	0	2 8	2	8	-	0..0..0	
march	6	Wm Harrison	Died	3	17	4 10	16	1	-	16..1..0	£72..9..7½
						£116 ..2 ..0				Paid Deserters & Dead	

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 78, ConnSL.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD<sup>1</sup>

Dear General

Ty[c]onderoga 23d August 1776: –

This will be deliver'd to you by Doctor [Stephen] McCrea, whom at the Recommendation of Doctor [Jonathan] Potts, I have appointed First Surgeon to the Fleet under your Command. he has Instruments, & Medicines, two things much in request with you. Mr Francis Hagan accompanys Mr M'Crea, as his Assistant Surgeon. I cannot procure any Instruments for him here, but wish you could hire Doctor Speram's for the Voyage. You are I am told acquainted with Doctor M'Crea. I am assured his Abilities are their Own Recommendation. – Another Gondola sails from hence this morning, & the Row Galley will Sail tomorrow. Yesterday Mr Titcomb, Mas[te]r Carpenter from Skeensborough return'd thither from hence he got a good Recruit of Ship Carpenters Twelve of his Gang being now Sick: he is a fine looking Fellow and seems desirous to Command The Row Galley he has just finish'd, he professes himself a Seaman, from the Sense, & Manly appearance of Mr Titcomb, I think you would do well to appoint him, but I shall not interfere further than to recommend him – I wrote yesterday to General [David] Waterbury, to Spur him up to reinforce you with all Speed with the Row Gallies. I am confident he will exert himself to Join you as expeditiously as possible. – The Rumour we heard of an Action at New York, proves premature. the Enemy had Embarqu'd from Staten Island, but not Landed again when the last Accounts came from thence – it is positively asserted that The Hessian General had sent to Genl Washington, to know what Treatment the Prisoners of that Principality were to Expect, & was Answerd that they must Expect to be treated as Hirelings – may Health Honour & Success attend You – I am Dear General [&c.]

Horatio Gates

Capt [John] Thatcher of Col: [Heman] Swifts Regt is Just come from Govr Trumbulls where I sent him Express he says You had consented to his Commanding a Row Galley. he seems very fit to do it –

1. Rosenbach Collection, USNAM.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Crown Point Augt 23d 1776

Dear General I have this minute received yours by Doctr [Stephen] McCrea, & am very happy at his arival as I was determined to have Sailed the first fair wind even without a Surgeon, I believe him to be a very good, One. I have borrowed Dr Sparhams Instrum[en]ts. I am glad to hear the Gondalo, & Gally is like to Join me so soon. – I have not the least objection to Captain Titcomb's commanding One of the Gallies I think he had better take the Second he is building as takeing him from his gang before she is finished will retard the business. – I believe Capt. Theatcher a very good Officer & could wish he might take the Command of one of the Gallies which is done . . .

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

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

[Extract]

New York, August 23, 1776.

Sir: I beg leave to inform Congress that Yesterday Morning and in the course of the preceding night, a considerable body of the Enemy, amounting by report to eight or nine thousand, and these all British, Landed from the Transport Ships mentioned in my last at Gravesend Bay on Long Island, and have approached within three miles of our Lines, having marched across the Low, cleared Grounds, near the Woods at Flat Bush where they are halted, from my last Intelligence. . . .

By Wednesday Evening's Post I received a Letter from General Ward, inclosing a Copy of the Invoice of Ordnance Stores taken by Captain Manly with the Appraisalment of the same, made in pursuance of my direction founded on the Order of Congress, which I do myself the honor of transmitting. <sup>2</sup>

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V, 476, 477.

2. The stores appraised were those from the ordnance brig *Nancy*, taken by Manley in Washington's schooner *Lee*. See Volume 2.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN <sup>1</sup>

August 1776

Sandy Hook N 50° .38W 163 Leagues

Friday 23rd

7 AM Saw a Sail to the Eastwd brought her too, a Schooner from Barbadoes bound to Hallifax, out 22 Days Clear'd by the Governer. at 11 Saw a Sail to the westwd Gave Chace brought too a french Brigg from C. Francois Bound to Dunkirk.

Fresh Breezes & fair Wr at 3 PM TKd to the No wd Saw a Sail, bore away Gave Chace, at 5 Fired a shot brought too a Schooner from Boston bound to Hispaniola, Laden with fish Oil Lumber &c named the *Three friends*, Benj Eldridge mas[te]r, belongg [to] Cape Cod

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

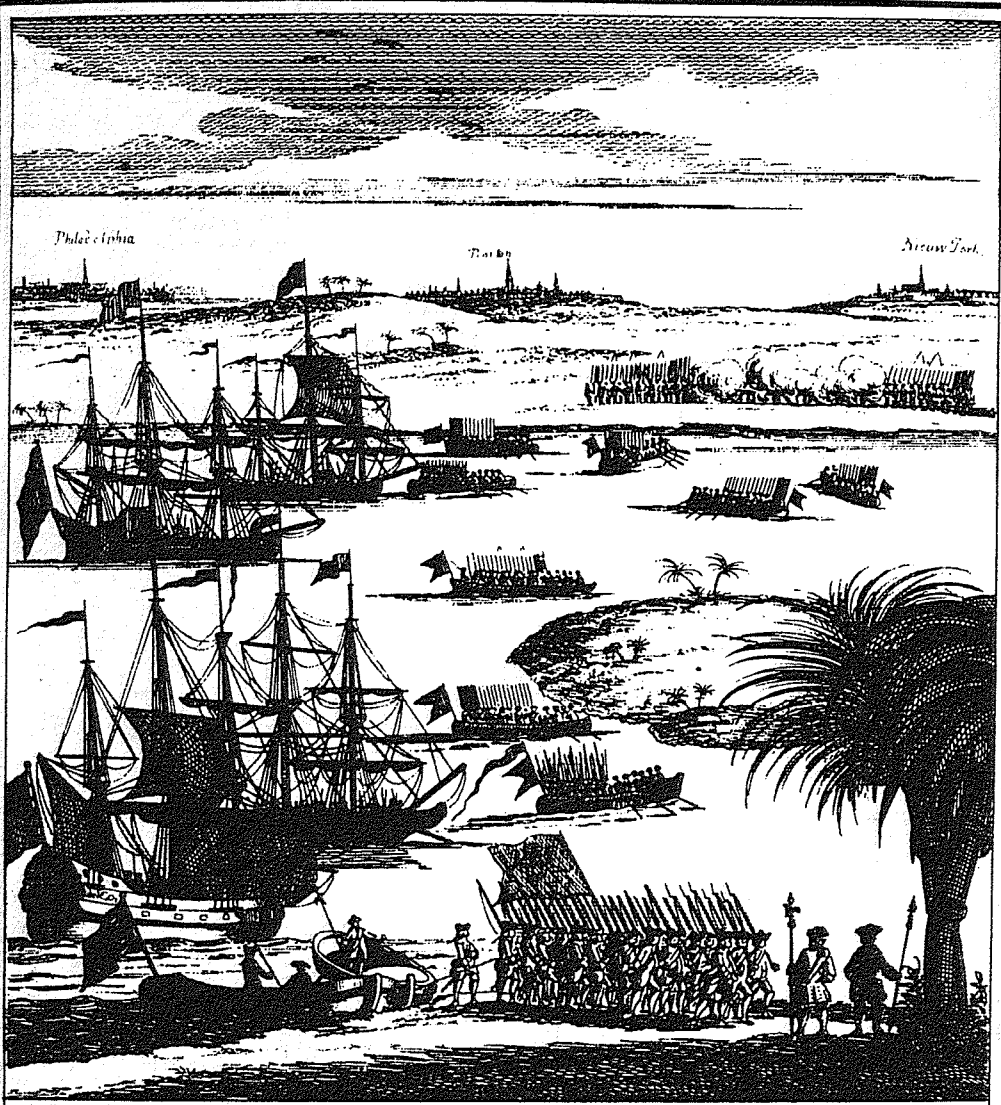
CAPTAIN THOMAS CREGIER TO THOMAS RANDALL <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Cranberry Inlet, August 23d, 1776.

I received your favour about four weeks since by the hand of Doctor Boyd, wherein I found you advised me to join Capt. [William] Rogers, but understanding Rogers was gone to the Sound in order to refit, and what more induced me to keep to the southward, was my having expectation of meeting with some of the fleets, who I much expected this way, but have been deprived of that satisfaction. There appeared six sail one day, and seven sail the other day, but they are all large ships under strong convoys, so there was no doing any thing with them, and every day frigates cruising along this coast. Three days ago, fell in with a ship and sloop tender, about ten guns, the frigate being about a mile and a half from the sloop, and was determined to give the sloop battle, but could not bring her to battle. I





Phila<sup>del</sup>phia

New York

New York

*Ontfcheeping der ENGELSCHIE TROEPEN op LANG-EILAND  
tegen de AMERICAANEN den 22<sup>e</sup> Augustus 1776.*

B. MOURIK Excudit.

Dutch Conception of the British Landing on Long Island, August 22, 1776.

have been assisting in bringing in this and Egg Harbour Inlet, 2 prizes taken from the West Indies by 2 different privateers; one of those prizes I had much trouble with, and, in short, was three days at work getting the other into port, which lay aground on the bar of Egg Harbour, a ship of three hundred tons, laden with sugar, rum and molasses, bound to Bristol.

I am too well informed that your city is invaded by pirates and ruffians, which I hope in God to hear a good account of them, and that very shortly. My provisions grow short, and in a little time shall want a new supply, unless I fall in with some of the enemy's store vessels; but as for that I can not promise myself, but will discharge my duty in the search of them; and as for being supplied by the way of Long island, I believe there is no prospect, as I do imagine the troops intend landing on the said island. My bread is but very indifferent, and does not keep good, although it is aired every fortnight, yet it moulds fast, and believe it never was made of sound flour. You know I laid in only four months' provisions, and you may judge how long what remains will serve me; my people begin to want many articles, and I would be glad if you will send me some cash, as I may furnish them with a little. I have advanced of my own cash to the officers and men, thirty-nine pounds. The custom out of Philadelphia, is to advance half of their wages monthly, and beg you will send me whatever you think proper, and charge the same to me. I beg your advice in every respect, and any instruction given me, shall gladly comply with it. Myself, officers and men, are willing at any time to march to your assistance, on the shortest notice, and am willing to sacrifice both life and every thing to serve my country. Whatever instruction you may have, let me have it by the bearer, my chief lieutenant. I remain with due respect, &c

Thomas Cregier.

To Thomas Randle, Esqr. Member of the  
Provincial Congress in New-York, or any  
of the Marine Committee.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 279. Cregier commanded the armed schooner *General Putnam*.

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

[Philadelphia] Friday, August 23, 1776

*Resolved*, That the Marine Committee be authorized and empowered to purchase materials, in all such parts of America as they may think proper, for building more ships of war, and that the said committee report to Congress a plan of the ships that should be built in addition to the present navy.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 700.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO LIEUTENANT JOHN BALDWIN<sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Philadelphia] August 23d 1776

The Continental Schooner *Wasp* under your command being now thoroughly repaired, well fitted equipped and manned you are immediately to

proceed in said Schooner on a Cruize against the enemies of these States. We deliver you herewith a Marine Book by which you will know who are our enemies and also how to conduct yourself in conformity to the Continental Rules and Regulations you have likewise a List of the Agents in the several States to some of whom you must address the Prizes you take.

We deliver you herewith a Letter for a Gentleman in Bermuda which is of much consequence to America. You are therefore to proceed with the utmost expedition to Port Ellis at the Eastend of that Island and deliver the said Letter as quickly as possible, receive from him any others he may send in return, and as you will then be near the best Cruizing ground for West India Ships you may make a Cruize about that Lattitude for such length of Time as your Provisions will enable you to keep the Sea, unlesse success should tempt you to return much sooner with a good Prize. You must be careful of the schooner her Stores and Materials. Use your people well but preserve strict discipline, treat prisoners if any you make, with humanity and in all things be duely attentive to the honor and interest of America, if you can get any Seamen at Bermuda Ship as many as you can accommodate and bring us the best account you can obtain of the State and condition of that Island, with respect to Provisions, Numbers of Inhabitants what Canon arms &c they have there and enquire particularly after any british men of war, that have been there, that are there, or that are expected.

Should you be unfortunately taken either going to or after you leave Bermuda be sure to destroy all Letters you may have for or from that Island Should you gain any intelligence you may think important you must quit all other pursuits to inform us thereof soon as possible. Wishing you success We are Sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 17-18, NA.

LIEUTENANT JOHN HENNESSY TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen: -

Philadelphia, 23d August, 1776.

I am really sorry I lye under the disagreeable necessity of Resigning, thro' the means of my taking a reasonable part (as becoming an officer) w'th Commodore [Samuel] Davison. I am sertain, was I to Continue in the fleet (w'ch I make, no doubt, your Hon'ble board w'd appoint me to some Command,) it w'd be disagreeable to some of the Gentlemen, and for the sake of any more disturbance, I beg leave of your Hon'ble body to request of my Resignation.<sup>2</sup> I am not, upon no acco't whatever, going to Sea in any Private property, but in the service of the Continent, w'ch I think is respectfuller for a man that follow'd the sea, and more service to my Country, than to Continue in River Service. I remain, Gentlemen, wishing the service all the success Providence can bless 'em w'th, Your Hon'rs Most [&c.]

Jos. [John] Hennessy.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 385.

2. *Ibid.*, 261, 304, Hennessy had been commissioned as First Lieutenant of the gondola *Effingham* October 4, 1775, and transferred to the *Arnold* floating battery March 15, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

[Annapolis] Friday, August 23, 1776

On Motion, Resolved, That the appointment of commanders for the vessels and armed boats ordered to be fitted out by the last convention, be made by the Council of Safety.

1. *Maryland Convention*, 11.

24 Aug.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY <sup>1</sup>

Augst 76

At a single Anchor in Annapolis [Royal] Harbour

Tuesday 20th

Lights airs & Varble, empd Occasionally.

First part Modte & Clear, Middle & Latter light airs & Varble with a thick Fogg, at 4 PM weigh'd & made sail, at 6 turning down into the Bason, at 7 came too in the Bason with the Best Br in 6 fathms water and veer'd to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Cable, the Gutts Mouth WNW, Goat Island East,

Wednesy 21st

at ten AM came in H: Majys Sloop *Viper* with 2 Sloops; supply'd the *Viper* with Bread, 2464 pounds, Beef 283 Ps Pork 316 pieces, Rice 510 pds. Butter 310 pounds, & Rum 129 Gallons; Fir'd a Gun & made the Signal to weigh, Do weigh'd & made sail with the *Viper* in Co.

First & Middle parts Modte & Cloudy, Latter Modte with a thick Fogg, at 4 PM working through the Gutt in Co with the *Viper* at 7 single Reef'd the TSs & Handed Top Gallt sails at 8 Annopolis Gutt SbE 5 or 6 Leagues at 11 brot too Main TS to the Mast

Thursy 22d

at 2 AM lost sight of the *Viper*, sounded from 38 to 32 fms at 6 wore Ship & lay too as before, at 8 put the Ships Company to  $\frac{2}{3}$  allowance at 11 made sail, let the 1st reef out of the TSs & set Top Gallant sails at noon set the Fore Topmast studding sail the *Viper* in sight.

First part Modte wr with a thick fogg, Middle & latter Modte & Cloudy, at 1 P.M lost sight of the *Viper* at 5 wore ship, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 came too with the Best Bower in 10 fathms water in the mouth of St Johns River, Cape Respect SEbE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 2 Leagues, Mushquash Cover head SWbW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 3 Leagues, & Partridge Island NNE distant 1 mile, found here H: Majy's Sloop *Viper*.

Friday 23d

at 5 AM weigh'd and Run further up St John's River, Mush Quash Cove head SEbE 3 Leags Cape Respect SE 4 or 5 miles, & St Johns No b W 3 or 4 miles

First part Modte & Cloudy, Middle Modte & fair latter fresh Breezes & Cloudy at 4 P. M made the *Vipers* Signal for the Captain at 6 fired a Gun & made the Signal to weigh at 1/2 past weigh'd & made sail the *Viper* in Co at 10 brot too Main TS to the Mast at 11 made sail,

Satuary 24th

at 4 A M set the Driver & studding sails the *Viper* in Co at 8 the Isle of Holt ESE distant 4 or 5 Leagues.

First part fresh Breezes & Cloudy with Rain at times. Middle Modte & Cloudy, Latter fresh Breezes & Clear, at 2 P. M Hawled down the steering sails, at 3 came too off Fort Cumberland with the Best Br in 7 fathms water & moor'd with a Cable each way, the fort EbN & the Fogin head SW. Anchored here the *Viper* & *Gage* Sloop:

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

“AT WINDSOR, 40 MILES FROM HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,  
AUG. 24, 1776”<sup>1</sup>

Declaration of James Young, First Mate, and John M'Kurdy, Second Mate of the *Anne* Transport, on board of which were 100 Men of the 72d Regiment

That on the 8th of June, they were taken near Cape Ann by four privateers, and carried into Marblehead; that they privately bought a boat and made their escape to Annapolis Royal about a fortnight ago.

That the rebels have four forts, at or near Marblehead, but keep a guard only in one of them, where there are thirty pieces of cannon, two of which are forty-two pounders, which they brought from Boston; the trunions being broke off, they have fixed them in wooden stocks, and mounted them on carriages.

That there are two large ships at Newburyport, rigged, but no guns or men: <sup>2</sup> A brig of fourteen guns at Salem, and one at Portsmouth, ready for sea.

That the *Dispatch* Schooner, of five guns, was carried into Salem the latter end of last month, by a sloop of 14 guns. The Captain, [John] Goodridge, and his brother, the mate, killed. The master lost his arm, and five out of eight seamen killed. <sup>3</sup> That the surgeon, a Mr. Charley, is at Marblehead.

That eight ships from the West Indies have been taken.

That they are fitting out one of them, which was a Spanish frigate, to carry 20 guns.

That a ship belonging to one Reid, [James] Kennedy, master, that sailed from Halifax with Gen. Howe, is taken. That Mr. Benjamin Davis, and several others were passengers, and that they treated Mr. Davis very ill. <sup>4</sup> That they do not give the prisoners sufficient provisions, but offer them good wages to enter on board their privateers, and that many do enter.

That the rebels had, for some time, a flag flying in Nantasket-road, to decoy vessels in, and that as their men were coming out of Marblehead, they saw a large ship going in, which they took to be a transport.

That the congress have promised the masters of the prizes, that they shall have leave to go away the 11th of September.

That the people in the country were in great distress for want of provisions, much discontented, and say, they do not like this sort of liberty.

That there are very few in arms at Boston, and only a few artillery at Castle William.

1. *London Chronicle*, October 10 to October 12, 1776.

2. The Continental frigates *Hancock* and *Boston*.

3. The *Dispatch* was taken by the Massachusetts state sloop *Tyrannicide*.

4. The ship *Peggy*.

*The Freeman's Journal*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1776

Portsmouth, Aug. 24, 1776

Capt. Francis Brown, who arrived here last Sunday, in 9 weeks from Amsterdam, laden with drugs, dry goods, spices, &c. &c. informs us he saw a fleet of about 30 sail (which he took to be Howe's) the 31st of May, in the English Channel – He could procure no public papers on any terms.

Last Tue[s]day the *Nelly Frigate*, of London, Capt. Lyonel Bradstreet, commander, last from the Bay of Honduras, with 126,000 feet Mahogany, 40 tons Logwood, and a number [of] fine Turtle, was sent into this Port, by the *Hancock* and *Franklin* Cruizers – She was taken in Lat. 38 00 N. Long. 65 06 W. out 10 Weeks.<sup>1</sup>

We are desired to Inform the Public, the Account in last Week's Boston Papers concerning the taking the Ship *Reward* (bro't into this Port) by S[tr]atagem is a mistake; as she was chased from one o'Clock P.M. till 12 next Morning, when she struck to the *Hancock* privateer. <sup>2</sup>

1. The *Nelly Frigate* was captured by Washington's schooners *Franklin*, Captain John Skimmer, and *Hancock*, Captain Samuel Tucker, on August 6, 1776. She was libeled against on August 23, *The Freeman's Journal*, August 31.

2. See *New-England Chronicle*, August 15, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Satterday 24th of August 1776

5 [A. M.] Pleasant weather







West Indies Benj Chew mastr Laden with Tobacco & Indian Corn. These 24 hours the Prize in tow.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Orpheus*, CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON <sup>1</sup>

Augt [17]76 Cape Henlopen WBN 14 Leagues  
 Saturday 24 at 5 AM saw the Land at 7 Henlopen Light house West 2 Leagues.  
 Mod: & fair at 2 P M came too with the Best Br in 10 fm in old kil road, Light house on Cape Henlopen SB Et sent a Flag of truce on shore wth 41 Prisoners <sup>2</sup> at 6 weighed & came to sail Close Reef'd Topsails

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4279.

2. The journal of Bartholomew James reads: "On the 13th of August the *Orpheus* arrived from her cruise with seven prizes, and on the 14th I joined my ship, having been absent from her ten weeks. On the 16th we weighed and made sail towards Philadelphia, having this morning buried Mr. Lee, surgeon's second mate, and on the 24th we arrived at Cape Henlopen, where I was sent on shore with a flag of truce, to land forty masters of vessels, that had been taken by the different ships of war. I was received by a body of militia, who cut a most despicable figure, and who, in return for our civil treatment of their friends, gave me three cheers." John Knox Laughton, ed., *Journal of Rear-Admiral Bartholomew James 1752-1828* (London, 1896), 29. Hereafter cited as Laughton, ed., *James' Journal*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GERRARD HOPKINS <sup>1</sup>

No 164.

Sir, We send you up by Captain [Thomas] Walker who commands the small Tender belonging to the *Defence* some Powder he has brought up from Virginia, the quantity you will be pleased to take a particular Account of and give Captain Walker a Receipt for; - The powder is to be Stored in Some convenient place in or near Baltimore Town, until the Magazine can be completed - you are to send down Forty half Barrels of Musquet Powder by the Schooner *Resolution*, also send by her whatever has been heretofore ordered to be sent and not already complied with. -

We desire you would apply to Captain Nathaniel Smith and enquire whether there be any Cannon at Whetstone Point not mounted that can be spared if there should be; send them down here by the Schooner *Resolution*. - also the Skow purchased by Jesse Hollingsworth - we are informed there are some, Nine and Eighteen Ponders not mounted lately brought down We are &c:

P.S. Send also any Shott that may be ready -  
 [Annapolis] 24 August 1776.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch. Hopkins was Commissary of Stores at Baltimore.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Saturday 24 August 1776. -

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Messrs Dixon & Hunter for the use of Neil

McCoul for Three hundred and fifty Pounds it being for the purchase of the Schooner *Hornett*. —

1. Navy Board Journal, 46, VSL.

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

[Williamsburg] Saturday. August 24th 1776.

A Permit was issued to Captain John Southcomb of the Lugger *Rambler* a Square Stern Vessell burthen forty Tons, built in Gloucester, the property of John Dixon & William Patterson & laden with Tobacco and Flour Per manifest filed to proceed to Saint Eustatia, or other ports allowed of by Congress, the said Captain having entered into and acknowledged Bond with Security for the purpose, which is ordered to be registered.

Ordered that Captain Richard Johns of the Schooner Pilot Boat, *Greyhound* be desired to receive the Chevalier D. Harincourt as a Passenger to Martinico, and provide for him as a Gentleman at the expence of this Commonwealth. <sup>2</sup>

A Permit was issued to Captain Thomas Roberts of the Schooner Boat *fifth Regiment* Burthen twenty five Tons, the property of Josiah Parker and Company of Virginia laden with Tobacco and Corn as Per manifest filed to go to Curracoa or other port or place allowed by Congress, he having executed Bond with Security which is Ordered to be recorded.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 132, 134.

2. See Journal of the Council of Safety, July 19, 1776. Volume 5, 1146.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO COLONEL FIELDING LEWIS, FREDERICKSBURG <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Williamsburg August 24th 1776

Your Letter of 21st Instant we have receiv'd and according to your Desire have sent you one thousand Pounds by Capt Richard Taylor We desire the Galleys may be sent round to Queens Creek on York River as soon as they have every thing else on Board fit for a cruise where we will endeavour to provide the Cannon wanting for one of them the four threepounders you mention we will procure for you as soon as possible. I am for the Board [&c.]

Thomas Whiting 1st Commr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1776

Williamsburg, August, 24.

Master Alex. Silver, a little Gentleman who was taken at Norfolk gathering strawberries in a garden, and discharged, and again taken at Gwyn's island, in the sloop *Lady Charlotte* tender, and who is said to be a relation of Capt. Squire's, <sup>1</sup> was put to school in this city by order of the Council, and is now very happily situated.

1. Captain of H. M. Sloop *Otter*.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE <sup>1</sup>

August [1776]

[Off the North Carolina Coast]

Saturday 24

At 2 A M clewed up Topsails & up Courses, in 2 Reefs. At 6 A M out reefs. at 10 saw a Sail in the SW & gave chase. Light Breezes & cloudy.

At 2 P M fired several Shot at the Chace. At 1/2 past 3 P M sent the Pinnacle manned & armed after her. Found her a Brig from Lisbon for Philadelphia, load with Salt. Took the Master & Men onboard & sent a Petty Officer & Men on board to navigate her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

PROTEST OF JOHN BYNOE, MASTER OF THE BRITISH BRIGANTINE *Betsey* <sup>1</sup>

Bermuda. als  
Somers Islands

By His Excellency George James Bruere  
Esqr Governor, Commander in Chief  
and Vice Admiral of these Islands—.

To all to whom This Present Writing or Instrument of Protest shall come or may concern Greeting.

Know Ye that this twenty fourth day of August in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and Seventy Six, before me personally appeared John Bynoe Master of a Certain Brigantine called the *Betsey* who Solemnly made Oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that he arrived in Virginia from the Grenadoes in His Brigantine on, or about the Twenty Second day of October last past, that he landed some part of his Cargo, and kept some Rum & Sugar on board belonging to the owner; that soon after he was directed by His owner to get the Vessel in Order to proceed to Bermuda to carry him there & that she might be repaired in that Island, that he accordingly took on Board, some Plank and other Necessary Articles for the use of the Vessel, and was ready to proceed when the Provincial Troops came to Norfolk, that he understood his Owner Doctor Archibald Campbel was gone to Williamsburgh by Order of Colonel [William] Woodford, that in his absence David Anderson his Clerk, sent Sundry Articles, chiefly Household Furniture on board, belonging to said Campbell; who told him, he apprehended them unsafe in Town, as they expected it would be destroyed, that Lord Dunmore and the Capt of the Kings Ships put all the Vessels in the Harbour under their Directions, that after the Arrival of his Owner from Williamsburgh he understood he had applied for Leave to get his Vessel and Effects out of the Fleet, but without Success, that soon after an Order was Issued out by Lord Dunmore forbiding all Species of Goods to be landed under the Penalty of Confiscation of Vessel and Cargo, that he remained with the Fleet during the diferent movemen[ts] in Virginia untill the thirtieth Ulto when Lord Dunmore sent for the Captain[s] of the Vessels in the Fleet on board him and told them that they were at Liberty to proceed where they pleased, accept [*sic* except] to the Continent And that he would furnish them with a Clearance to prevent them from being taken by

the Kings Cruisers, that he obtained a Clearance from him, and gave the same to all the other Vessels, that he Sail'd for these Islands of Bermuda on the Sixth Instant in Company with the *Otter* Sloop of War & many other Vessels in Order to meet his owner; that on the Twenty second of the same Month (August) in sight of the said Island, he was brought too by the *Andrew Dorear* an Armed Vessel belonging as he understood to the Continent of America Commanded by Capt Bidle, that he was ordered on board & that some Officers & part of the Crew belonging to the said Armed Vessel went on board of his Brigantine, & carried away Sundry Articles the Property of said Campbell to wit, one Hogshead of Rum, one Sixty Gallon Cask of old Rum, two Quarter Cask of Wine, one hogshead & part of a Hogshead of Sugar sundry Articles of Household Furniture such as Beds Picktures, looking Glasses, a Clock, Pewter, one Table, some Glass, & Stone Were & many other Articles together with a Box of Books & Papers, also five Negro Men Slaves, three of which, to wit Ben Jack & Phil belonging to the Estate of John Gilchrist, and [blotted] Luke belonging to sd Archibald Campbell, which were all the Men he had to Navigate his Vessel, that he was then ordered on board his Brig & allowed to proceed & by the Assistance of John Marshead a Passenger he Carried the Brig to Bermuda, that he knows Many of the owners of Vessels & Goods in that Fleet, who now live in Virginia but could not get their Property out of the Fleet, Wherefore the said John Bynoe for himself his Mariners, Owners & Freighters & all others whom it doth or may Concern does hereby Protest against the Matters aforesaid & all damages occasioned or Sustained thereby as also against all Costs, delays disappointments, Expences and other Matters & things wch can or may lawfully be protested against in as Large & Ample Manner as the same can or may be done by Law or form. And Persevering in the said Protest the said Appearer hath hereunto set his hand the day and Year first within written -

John Bynoe

This done and Protested before me the Governor & Vice Admiral aforesd. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Caused the Great Seal of these Islands to be affixed the day & year aforesaid.

George Ja<sup>s</sup> Bruere

By His Excellency's Command.

Jn<sup>o</sup> Randle D: Secy

1. Book of Bonds, Deeds and Grants, No. 14, 395-96, Bda. Arch.

#### INTELLIGENCE FROM ANTIGUA <sup>1</sup>

St. John's, (in Antigua) August 24.

This morning arrived in this harbour, the sloop *Elizabeth*, Robert Burchall commander, from Tortola, bound for Newfoundland, which vessel with those undermentioned were taken by a Pirate schooner fitted out in Maryland, called the *Enterprize*, of 12 guns and [30] men, commanded by a James Campbell, the sloop was returned in order to convey those who were not wanted to assist in the navigation of the vessels so taken, viz.

Ship *Lancaster* [*sic Lancashire*], Capt. Jones, for Liverpool, — brig, — from Grenada for Ireland, — ship *Black River*, Capt. Currie, from Dominica for Bristol, — brig — from St. Croix for Dunkirk, belonging to Guernsey — snow *James*, Isaac Higgins, from this Island for Lancaster — the brig *Marriot*, Capt. Hammond from Barbadoes for Cork was spoke with by Capt Higgins in lat. 28, and when the pirate took possession of his vessel a brig was in sight, to which they gave chase.<sup>2</sup> The Captain of the pirate informed the prisoners that the American Rebels had declared themselves independent before he sailed.

The following receipt was taken on board the pirate.

I Do hereby acknowledge to have received of Capt. James Campbell of the *Enterprise* privateer of Maryland, the sloop *Elizabeth* taken by him some days ago, on the following conditions, viz.

That I shall land Mr. Thomas Willock<sup>3</sup> and such other people as said Campbell shall send on board, at Antigua, and there deliver to the said Mr. Thomas Willock, all the cargo I now have on board, to be by him divided among[st] the mates and crew of the snow *James*, also taken by said Campbell, in such proportion as the said Mr. Thomas Willock shall find upon enquiry, the said cargo may be as to the loss of every individual of said [illegible] crew, and the vessel to be delivered to the former owner, which conditions I promise to fulfill; and do now hereby voluntarily subscribe the same this 13th of August 1776.

Robert Burchall

Witness. James Hankinson.

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, October 9, 1776. Reprinted from an Antigua newspaper.
2. The snow *James* was retaken by some of the prisoners on board her, and the prize master and four of the men of the prize crew were placed on board a tender from H. M. Sloop *Nautilus* at Bermuda, *Public Advertiser*, London, October 1, 1776. See also journal of the *Nautilus*, August 22, 1776.
3. Willock was a passenger on board the *James*.

## 25 Aug. (Sunday)

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM HALIFAX, AUG. 25.”<sup>1</sup>

The *Yankee Hero* Privateer, was sold here for 850 l. Sterling, to the Hon. John Butler, Esq; who has fitted her out to cruize against the Provincials. The *Liverpool* Man of War has been very succ[e]ssful in taking and retaking of Vessels, one of the latter, called the *Nevis*, from the Island of Nevis, and said to be worth 20,000 l. Sterling, he retook just as she was entering Boston Harbour; t'was in the Night, but Moonlight, when the Prize-master being asked by one of the *Nevis*'s People how far it was to Boston Harbour, told him he was only going down to make a Cann of Grog, and he would see it perhaps before he came up again; in five Minutes after this the *Liverpool* hove in Sight, and fired a Shot into her, and on her not bringing to, a second, and a third, when she thought proper to strike to the

*Liverpool*, who conducted her safely into this Port; where have been brought upwards of thirty Vessels taken from the Rebels, including the re-taken ones.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, October 25, 1776.

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

- August 1776                      Thatchers Island North 2 or 3 Leags
- Saturday 24                      At 5 AM saw a large Ship in the NW Quarter standg to the So ward, made Sail and gave Chace, at 8 Tack'd Ship and stood to the No ward as did the Chace  
Fresh Breezs and Cloudy between 2 PM & 4 fir'd 20 Shot at the Chace run her close in under Marble Head Forts the Forts fired several Shot at us, fired 15 Shot more at the Chace at 5 Tkd and stood out the Chace working up the Harbour<sup>2</sup>
- Sundy 25                              at ½ past 12 saw a sail close under the Land, gave Chace, the Chace ran into Braces Cove, hoisted out the Cutter & Pinnace manned and Armed, the Provincials quitted her and went on shore, where they gather'd together to fire at our Boats as they boarded the Vessel on which the Attack began with small Arms, cut the Brig from her Anchors and towed her out the Rebels continually firing on our Boats, the Ship continually firing on them, she proved to be the *Diana* Wt Indiamn, for Cork had been taken by the Rebels,<sup>3</sup>  
at Noon gave Chace to the Et ward.  
Little wind and Clear at 2 Fired a Shot and brought too the Chace sent a boat onboard & took possession proved to be an American Wood Sloop for Boston, made Sail and stood to the Et ward at 10 parted Company with the Sloop and sent her to Hallifax

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. Ship *Isaac*, 400 tons, prize of Massachusetts privateer sloop *Warren*, Captain John Phillips.

3. The *Diana* had been taken early in August by the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Rover*, Captain Simon Forrester of Salem. She was libeled against in the Halifax Vice Admiralty Court on September 14, Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769-1777, N.S. Arch.

WILLIAM KNOX TO COLONEL HENRY KNOX<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Boston August 25th 1776.

... The *Milford* Frigate of 28 Guns came to our Bay yesterday, the last evening a Ship tis said very narrowly escap'd falling into her hands, she (the ship) put into Marblehead with all sail, had she had two miles further to have gone, she must have been inevitably lost as the *Milford* was just at her Stern; this mornng. we heard a very heavy firing off[f] in the Bay since which we have an accot of the Frigate's having takeng a Schooner from which she took all the hands & then Burnt her - 'tis said the Council has sent an expresses to Newbury & to the other seaports where there are Con-

tinental Frigates with orders that such of them as are only waiting for Guns, shall have them from the Forts for the purpose of coming round to attack the *Milford* immediately; if so we shall have some sport here soon, but I dont think its true. Capt Hector McNeal Commands one of the Newbury Frigates of 32 Guns call'd the *Boston*, Capt Manley the other. . . .

1. Henry Knox Papers, MassHS.

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

[Extract]

Boston August 25 1776

The privateer *Independance* which saild from Plymouth about 3 weeks ago has taken a jamaca man laden with Sugars and sent her into Marblehead last Saturday. I hear the *Defence* has taken an other.

I think we make a fine hand at prizes.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 106-08.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Independence*,  
CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE <sup>1</sup>

Remarks On Sunday August 25, 1776

Between Ten & 11 Spoke with our Prise Brigg the man at Mast head Caled out Sales Brigg & a Sloop hire Cost N.E <sup>2</sup>

Lattd 38.00 Londg in 62.10

The First heavy Squales Large Sea Compeny with our Prise

1. *Independence* Journal, RIHS.

2. *Ibid.*, the rough log explains this jumble of words thus: "Between 10. & 11. Spake Our Prize Brigg Who Informd us She saw a Sloop Chase the Ship Our Prize."

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT OF FRESH MEAT SUPPLIED THE  
CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot* WHILE IN NEW LONDON HARBOR <sup>1</sup>

1776	The Brig <i>Cabot</i>	Dr
To pd for Fresh Meet from June 26th to 16th July		£23.16..-
To 17th 212 lb Mutton @ 3d		2.13..-
To pd for do from 19th to the 24th July		7.17..6
To pd for do from 25th to the 28th July		5.19..9
To pd for do from Augt 1st to the 5th		5..8..3
To pd for do. from the 7th to the 8th		2..2..9
To pd for do from the 9th to 14th Augt		6.12..5
To pd for do the 6th Augt		0.16..9
To pd for do from the 15th to 22d		9..7..6
To pd for do from the 23d to 25th		4..3.10 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
	Charged to the <i>Cabots</i> Accot	£68.17..9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> <sup>2</sup>

1. Shaw Papers, Book 9, 10, YUL.

2. *Ibid.*, Shaw also prepared an account on August 24 for meat supplied the Connecticut brig *Defence*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT <sup>1</sup>

August 1776

Moor'd off Staten Island

Sunday 25

A M the Signal for a Lieut sent the Flat Boats to carry the

Hessians from Staten Island to Long Island – dried Sails  
Fresh Breezes with Rain at times

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

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

[Extract]

Philadelphia August 25. 1776

We are now approaching rapidly to the autumnal Æquinox, and no great Blow has yet been struck, in the martial Way, by our Enemies nor by Us. If We should be blessed this Year, with a few Storms as happy as those which fell out last Year, in the Beginning of September, they will do much for Us. The British Fleet, where they now lie, have not an Harbour, so convenient, or safe, as they had last Year. Another Winter will do much for Us too. We shall have more and better Soldiers. We shall be better armed. We shall have a greater Force at Sea. We shall have more Trade. Our Artillery will be greatly increased, our Officers will have more Experience, and our Soldiers more Discipline – our Politicians more Courage and Confidence, and our Enemies less Hopes. Our American Commonwealths will be all compleatly form'd and organized, and every Thing, I hope, will go on, with greater Vigour.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 108–10.

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

August 1776

Moored in Savannah River

Saturday 24

at 11 AM sent five Seamen wth small Arms on board the *Ravens* Tender Do she sailed in Chace of a Vessel in the Offing which we took to be a Sloop Standing to the ENE Do Loosed sails to Dry

Fresh breezes and fair Wear at 11 PM the *Ravens* Tender returned having Lost sight of the Chace

Sunday 25

at 8 AM mann'd and Armed our boats and sent them In Compy wth the *Ravens* boats in Chace of a boat in the No Channel of the river at 11 the boats returned wth the Chace two white Carpenters in her

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS<sup>1</sup>

August 1776

Moor'd off[f] Saint Georges Town Bermuda

at 3 A M Unmoor'd ship sett up Lower & Topm Rigging Friday 23d Squally with Thunder &c. Recd fresh Beef

Saturday 24th

½ p 5 A M Weigh'd & Came to Sail out of St Georges Harbor Passed by In the Entrance of the Harbor an English Brig & Spanish Snow.

Strong Gales & Squally with Rain Saw a sail to the southward and Chaced Do fired 2 Shot and Brot Too a Spanish



Polackta [polacre] 1/2 p 7 in 2d Rf TSails Lost the Log  
and one line 1/2 past 9 Handed the Topsails 1/2 p 11 Saw  
the Land bearing NWbW.

Sunday 25

Sett Close Rft TSs

Fresh breezes and Squally, at 3 P M Came too in Castle  
Harbr wt the B B in 5 fm Veered & Steadyed the Ship  
with a Kedge Anchor.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO CAPTAIN STAIR DOUGLAS,  
H.M.S. *Squirrel*<sup>1</sup>

(Copy)

Whereas I have receiv'd Intelligence that there are several Arm'd Amer-  
ican Privateers Cruizing in the Windward Passage particularly about the  
Caicos's where they are Supplied with great quantities of Gun Powder &  
Ammunition by Vessels under French Colours.

You are therefore hereby requir'd & directed to proceed with his Majes-  
tys Ship under your Command together with his Majestys Schooner *Porcu-  
pine* (whose Commander is directed to follow your orders) into the Wind-  
ward Passage & Cruize to intercept those Vessels, which if you find  
Impracticable you are in that case to Cruize where you may think most like-  
ly to intercept them; avoiding as much as possible coming within Sight of  
the Island of Hispaniola, useing every means in your Power to Distress the  
Rebellious North Americans

If during your Cruize you should be in want of Water, and cannot com-  
pleat without puting into the Island of Hispaniola you are to make the best  
of your way for Jamaica

You are to return and Join me in this Harbour by the Middle of Octo-  
ber, or sooner if any unforeseen Accident should require it such as springing  
a Mast &c &c, or by gaining any Intelligence which you may judge Necessary  
for my immediate Knowledge, or should you Seize a Number of Vessels, &  
think proper to come into Port to take onboard your own People again, in  
either of those Cases; you are to return with the utmost expedition for  
which this shall be your order.

Given under my Hand onboard His Majs Ship  
*Antelope* in Port Royal Harbour Jamaica this 25th  
August 1776

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

26 Aug.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON<sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Portsmouth Aug. 26, 1776

I have the pleasure to advise the arrival at this Port a Prize Ship named  
the *Nelly Frigate* (Lyonel Bradstreet Mastr) from the Bay of Honduras for

London, Lading with a Cargo of 120,000 feet Mahogany Logs, and Thirty Tons ship't & un[illegible] Logwood, sent in by the *Hancock* Capt Tucker & the *Franklyn* Capt Skimmer, in the service of the United Colonies. The Vessel & Cargo the property of Inhabitants of Great Brittain, I have Libled her & shall persue to Trial &ca

The Trial on the recapture of the Brig. *Elizabeth*, taken by Comr Manly & others in the service of the Continent & bound for Halifax, ended the 22d Inst The Jury acquitted her & Cargo, which appearing so directly Contrary to the Resolves of Congress & the Law of this Colony; That I conceiv'd it my Duty to appeal; in Justice to the Continent & Captors, which I hope Your Excellency will approbate. Part of the Claimants (notwithstanding the verdict is in their favor) are desirous of compromising with the Captors, and offer them their full Quota, of Salvage Which is, the one third of half the Value of Vessel & Cargo, we havg establish'd that the Enemy were [in] Possession more than ninty six hours, but the flagrant error in the Jury, forbid my conceedg to any compromise, for the Captors, as in that Case I must have surrender'd the Just Claim of the Continents, added to which there was taken with said Brig a Mr [William] Jackson, a Mr [Edward] Keighley & Mr [Richard] Newton passengers with their Effects, & those Effects are Intended, as the resolves of Congress express to supply the enemy, & become forfeited yet th[ey] were releas'd with the rest of the Cargo – Each claim is seperate, shou'd Your Excellency recommend my compromising with those Claimants who are Esteem'd friendly, I shall Comport with it, but as your last favor desired my persuing the line of Duty pointed out by the Laws of the Continent I shall stedily attend toe them, until otherways directed – From a Principle of Humanity I cou'd wish the suffering Claimants cou'd be releived, but I think it out of the line of my Duty to help them – In a few days I shall forward the appeal to the Secretary of Congress and fully advise him thereon, and shou'd he think it necessary Shall attend the Trial at Philadelphia or elsewhere that may be appointed

The *Nelly Frigate* is a Ship of 305 Tons mounts 2 three pounders & 4 Two pounders.

This Eastern Country are anxiously concern'd for Your Excellencys Success in the Important Battle, expected to have taken place 'ere this; whi'h God Grant has terminated in favor of this Distress'd Country. – remaing with due Respect [&c.]

Josh. Wentworth

shd not have troubled your Excellency w[ith] this business cou'd I devine where my friend Mr [Stephen] Moylans residence is until wch Yr Excellency will excuse me

PETITION OF WILLIAM PRINGLE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

The Petition of William Pringle late Commander of Ship *Anna Maria*. —  
Humbly Sheweth

That on the 5th July last, your Petitioner, in the Ship *Anna Maria*, of which he was Master, bound from Barbadoes to London, was taken by the Private Sloop of War, called the *Revenge*, Commanded by Capt Joseph White, and about the 18th of said Month brought into Salem. —

That your Petitioner, having a Family in England, must make it very distressing, both to him and them to be destained in this Country. —

That your Petitioner before he left Barbadoes, had bought and forwarded home, Bills of Exchange to a very considerable amount; which Bills were drawn on the strength and Credit of the Sugars on board the said Ship *Anna Maria*; which Bills will now of course be protested, and if your Petitioner should not get home soon, so as to obtain Security for the payment of them, he may probably entirely lose the Money.

That your Petitioner being detained here, will be very detrimental to his affairs on many other Accounts: and his extream anxiety of mind, which he must necessarily be under, arising from his being separated from his Family and Friends, and in a Country where he is an entire Stranger (tho' treated with great kindness and humanity) he apprehends will greatly injure and impair his health. —

Your Petitioner's humble Prayer therefore is that the Honorable Board would be pleased to permit him to take passage for England in the Ship *Creighton*, lately purchased at Boston <sup>2</sup> by Capt William Ross, who was Passenger on board and taken in the Ship *Zachary Bayley*. —

your Petitioner further prays that Mr George Delano, a young Gentleman who is a near Relation to the principal Owner of the said Ship *Anna Maria*, and took the Voyage for his health, together with his Servant, may also have leave to take passage with your Petitioner, in the said Ship *Creighton*. —

And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray

Will<sup>m</sup> Pringle

Salem August 26th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 159-60.

2. The *Creighton* was advertised for sale at public vendue at the American Coffee House in King Street, Boston on August 16, *New-England Chronicle*, August 15, 1776.

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

Augt 1776 Do [Cape Sambro] No56Et 82 Lgs  
 Sunday 25 at 7 AM brot too 1/2 past made Sail soundd several times,  
 various sorts of gr[oun]d.  
 Modr Breezes, latter squally, gave chace to a sail Et wd  
 Monday 26 at 9 AM split the Jibb, bent a nother, Set Studdingsails, fird  
 several Shot to bring too the chace which proved to be a Con-

tinental Congress Privateer, belonging to the Rebels of 8 Guns and 42 men, empd shifting the Prisoners <sup>2</sup>

first part fresh Gales, with shours of rain, midle and latter fresh Breezes, and Cloudy – at P M split main Topsl close reef'd and handd Topsls brot too under the mizn staysl at 3 down Topgallt Yds bent another Mn Topsl at 5 hauld the mizn out and hoisted the Fore Topmast staysls

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. Washington's schooner *Warren*, Captain William Burke.

MUSTER ROLL OF WASHINGTON'S SCHOONER *Warren* <sup>1</sup>

Names	D., DD., or R.	Whither
August 26, 1776	Taken the <i>Warren</i> Armed Privateer	
Willm. Burke	D. 8 Octr	Lark
Thos. Lewis	D.	Bologne
James Dennis	D.	
	} 10 "	
John Lewis	D.	S.B. (328)
Wm. Newman	D.	
Ebenezr. Hogg	D.	
Dens O'Brien	D. 10 "	Bologne
George Ashby	D.	
Jacob Oaks	D.	
Pickerin Collins	D. 10 Oct	Bologne
Saml Legroe	D.	
Henry Goard	D.	
Amos Dennis (1)	D.	Bologne
Isaac Wadden	D.	
James Dennis	D. 10 Oct	
Saml. Brown	D.	Halifax
Petr. Bernard	D.	
Christr Slowman	R. 10 Oct	
John Hartley	D.	Bologne
Rd. Moncrief	D.	
Geo. Stanley	D. 10 "	
Lazr. Ragun	D.	Halifax
Thos. Drew	D.	
Jos. Carvill	R. 10 "	
Jos. Charlo	D.	Bologne
Jno Miles	D.	
Ebenezr. Marble	D.	
	} 10 Oct	
Saml. Felton	D.	Bologne
Ebenezr. Meddocks	D.	
Nichs. Coward	D.	

James Clarke	D.	} 10 Oct	Halifax
Saml. Roff	D.		
Wm. Follett	R.		
Fras. Saunders	D.		
Andw. Peltrow	D.		
Edwd. Jeboe	D.		
		} 10 Oct	Bologne
Thos. Wooldridge	D.		
Eteano Reeo	D.		
Amos Dennis (2)	D.		
Jas. Fitzgerald	D.		
Willm Bean	D.		
John Laskey	D.		

*Liverpool's Monthly Muster Book for September & October*

1. PRO, Admiralty 36/7736.

"A JOURNAL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS ON BOARD OF THE GOOD SLOOP  
Warren A BOLD PRIVATEER FROM DARTMOUTH TO THE LATTD OF 33:"<sup>1</sup>

Munday August the 26 Day A D 1776

Latter Part squalley Munday Morning & Rainey Up with Nantucket the  
Pint Bore SE from Us Put our Helm Up Run for the Bar Blows Quick  
Put our Helm Up from the Bar Run for Homes is Hole Anchord in the  
Hole the [wind] at SW.

First Part these 24 hours Hove Up in Homeses Hole the Wind at SW A  
small Brease Bound to Sea over the sd hole Stearing E S E. spoke with A

From Nantucket John Barnet Master Looks something squalley  
to Westward the starts to the southard Eight A Clock Ancor'd Un-  
der Nantucket Pint

1. RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK<sup>1</sup>

Remks on Munday 26th of August 1776

6 [A. M.] Saw a sail to the S E gave Chaise  
at 9 Fired 3 shotts at her she did not bring too I rangd A  
long side Ordered him to Strike which he did out boat  
sent the 1 Leiutt and 7 men on board she is the ship *Rachel*  
from Granada for London Moses Henery Master  
Lattd in 35d 16 m Longd in 59d 10 m

1 [P. M.] Freash breaze and Cloudey weather  
large sea we got the ships people on board of us & put a prize  
master and 11 men on board of the ship freash gale had like  
to lost our boat twice stove her very much before we got her  
in which hinderd out gitting sum sail duck and other things  
out of the ship

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

OWNERS' REQUEST FOR A PRIVATEERING COMMISSION FOR THE RHODE ISLAND  
SLOOP *United States*<sup>1</sup>

Sir

Providence August 26th. 1776

We the Subscribers all of Warren in the State of Rhode Island &c. Merchts. request your Honor to grant a Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal to Benjamin Pierce Commander of the Sloop *United States* of which we are Owners. She is burthened about Fifty six Tons carries Eight Carriage Guns Three Pounders and Eight Swivel Guns, manned with Fifty-five Men and fitted with a suitable Quantity of Muskets Blunderbusses, Pistols Cutlasses, Powder, Ball and other Military Stores. She hath on board Twenty four barrels Beef and Pork – Three Thousand Pounds weight of Bread, with some Flour, Rice, Beans, Pottatoes, &c John Johnson is First Lieutenant, Peleg Heath Second Lieutenant, and Wing Master.

We are with great Respect Sir [&c.]

Joseph Belcher

1. Maritime Papers, Letters of Marque, 1776–1780, R. I. Arch. Commission and Instructions were issued the same day: "Providence, August 26th 1776. I acknowledge the foregoing to be a true Copy of the Instructions delivered me this Day by his Honor the Governor, with my Commission, or Letters of Marque and Reprisal as Commander of the Private Sloop of War *United States*. Benj<sup>n</sup> Peirce."

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Brune*, CAPTAIN JAMES FERGUSON<sup>1</sup>

August 1776

At Single Anchor in Long Island Sound.

26

4 A M Fresh Breezes & Squally with Rain  $\frac{1}{4}$  past Weighed & Came to Sail, at 10 Modte  $\frac{1}{2}$  past came too with the Bt Br in 15 fathom Muddy Ground & Veer'd to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a Cable P. M. Fresh Breezes set fire to a Small Prize Sloop bound from New York for Provisions for the Rebel Army. . . . *Niger* & *Halifax* in Comp

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/117.

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

Remarks in Long Island Sound on Monday Augt 26th  
1776

- 1 [A. M.] Fresh Breezes wt Rain  
3 The *Brune* Made the Signal to Weigh Weighd and came to sail In Co as before<sup>2</sup>  
4 at  $\frac{1}{2}$  Past saw a sloop fird a 4 Pr Brt Her too found her to be from Gu[i]lford belonging to the Rebels wt 6 on Board Sent a Midd and 3 Men on Board and took the Prisoners out at 5 the *Niger* took the Sloop in tow at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 Came too wt the Small Br New Haven NNE.  
10 saw a Sloop In shore Sent the Boat Mand and Armd they  
11 run the sloop on Long Island but the Rebels coming down could not destroy her

I [P. M.] Little wind and Fair Weather the *Brune* sett the Sloop Prize on Fier. Lost out of the Yawl in Attempting to burn the sloop on the Long Island shore two Oars & Boat Hook

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

2. H. M. S. *Brune*, H. M. S. *Niger* and a sloop.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT <sup>1</sup>

August 1776 [Long Island Sound] The Town of Killing N $\frac{1}{2}$ W 3 Leagues

Monday 26 at 3 (AM) Weigh'd & came to sail took the *Halifax* in Tow sent the Barge in shore Man'd & Arm'd after a Sloop at 4 Brot too a sloop  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 came too wth the Bt Br in 15 Fas Veer'd to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Cable *Brune Halifax*, & 2 sloops in Compy Barge Return'd the Rebles having run the sloop on shore & Fir'd upon them from the shore  
at 2 PM Weigh'd & came to sail at 12 the *Brune* [gave] the Sigl to Anchor Came too wt the Bt Br in 12 faths Veer'd to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Cable.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

CHRISTOPHER TAPPEN AND GILBERT LIVINGSTON TO ABRAHAM YATES, JR. <sup>1</sup>

Sir – Poughkeepsie, Aug. 26th, 1776.

Capt. Hazlewood [Hazelwood], who came up to us by request of Convention, has fitted a fine vessel, as we conceive in a masterly manner, and given such instructions to some persons we have here employed, with respect to mixing fire combustibles, &c. that we think we can now carry on our works without further assistance. He has in general been very assiduous, and of very much use to us. We are unhappy at this time not to have a quorum of our committee present, therefore must beg leave to submit to your Honourable House, the consideration of any reward this gentleman may have reason to expect from this State, for his extraordinary expense and trouble in this business. We are, with respect [&c.]

Christ. Tappen, Gilbert Livingston.

Abraham Yates, Jun.. Esqr. President  
of the Convention of the State of New-York <sup>2</sup>

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 293.

2. *Ibid.*, I, 600, on August 28 the Convention extended thanks to Hazelwood and voted him \$300 for "his expense and trouble."

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

Head Quarters, New York, August 26, 1776.

Sir: I am now to Acknowledge the Receipt of your's of the 15th. and 19th. Instant and am much obliged for your care and dispatch in forwarding the Two Sea Morters which I wish may come safe to hand. The number and strength of the Enemy and the many different posts we have to occupy to-

gether with the late Manoeuvres of General Howe render it utterly impossible for me to relieve you by sending a General Officer from this to take Command in Boston, Congress seeing the Situation pass'd the enclosed Resolve,<sup>2</sup> and I cannot but hope you will conclude to keep the Command till something decisive is done with our formidable Enemy in this Quarter, who have landed most of their Army on Long Island and advanced part of them as far as Flatt Bush within three Miles of our Works; between them and the Works is a Ridge of Hills covered wt. Woods in which I have posted a large Body of the Army, which have once repulsed an advanced party of them in an attempt to get through and I cannot but hope will prevent or at least weaken them much should they effect their purpose of passing. I am, etc.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V. 492, 493.

2. On August 21, Congress had resolved that Ward be requested, if his health permitted, to continue in command in the eastern department, Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 694.

#### DIARY OF ENSIGN CALEB CLAP<sup>1</sup>

[New York]

August 24th a deserter came from the Enemy which informs that design of the Enemy is to storm Long Island Works and at the same time come up against the City with their Shipping, that a Signal is to be hoisted at Long when they are ready to Storm the, as they are making all Preparations Possible we may Expect it soon

August 25th A man deserted after the Enemy Landed he inform by the best Account he can give there was about 8 or 9 thousand Men Landed and they consisted of the British troop only that the Hessians ware all Arrivd but remained on the Island

we are informed that the Enemy are advanced 3 or 4 Mile from the Landing and are fortifying and Draging their Cannon up to their works that other Inhabitant from Queens County are thronging in great Numbers to the Enemy –

August 26th A brisk wind at N. W fair for the Shipping to come against the Town if they so inclined but when they will attempt is Yet held in suspence –

1. "Caleb Clap Diary," *The Historical Magazine*, 3rd series, III, 250–51.

*New-York Gazette*, MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1776

New-York, August 26.

We hear Orders are already arrived in the West Indies from England, from Admiral [James] Young to seize and cut out all the American Vessels that may be found in any foreign Ports.

The *Pomona* Frigate has taken and carried into St. Kitts, a Dutch ship going from St. Eustatia, 'tis said, to Amsterdam, loaded with Sugars, but we hear she had Powder on board, and was bound to America. The Vessel is said to be the Property of Mr. D'Graff, of St. Eustatia.



We hear that for the future English Men of War will not be permitted to enter the Road of St. Eustatia.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO COMMODORE WILLIAM HOTHAM <sup>1</sup>

Dr Sir

[*Eagle off Staten Island, August 26*]

I have just received a letter from the General which will make it necessary for me to appoint some movements with the ships here towards the Town, to countenance the intended operations of the Army this night & to morrow morning. Your ship will be useful on that occasion, and your presence always desirable. If therefore your stay is not immediately necessary where you are, the service in Gravesend Bay will be very consistently left with Capt Parker, who may order all assistance he has need of from Cap. [William] Williams in the *Experiment* during your absence. Sr Geo: Collier if his ship is not necessary, in her present station maybe advanced as high as we lye, but on the Eastern shore to cover the march of the troops along this Coast. He will be then in the way to receive occasional orders. I am obliged to go immediately to Gen [James] Grant's head Quarters at DeNuseys House <sup>2</sup> to clear up a passage in Gen: Howe's letter, if this arrives in time for you to meet me there we can talk upon the intended Movement of the Ships &c But time pressing, my Way there will be short. I am [&c.]

Howe

1. Collection of Lord Hotham, Yorkshire (East Riding) County Record Office, England.

2. At Gravesend Point on Long Island.

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

[Philadelphia] Monday, August 26, 1776

Whereas, in the course of the present war, some commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the army and navy, as also private soldiers, marines, and seamen, may lose a limb, or be otherwise so disabled as to prevent their serving in the army or navy, or getting their livelihood, and may stand in need of relief:

*Resolved*, That every commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, officer, and private soldier, who shall lose a limb in any engagement, or be so disabled in the service of the United States of America as to render him incapable afterwards of getting a livelihood, shall receive, during his life, or the continuance of such disability, the one half of his monthly pay from and after the time that his pay as an officer or soldier ceases; to be paid by the committee as hereafter mentioned:

That every commander of any ship of war or armed vessel, commissioned officer, warrant officer, marine or seaman, belonging to the United States of America, who shall lose a limb in any engagement in which no prize shall be taken, or be therein otherwise so disabled as to be rendered incapable of getting a livelihood, shall receive, during his life, or the continuance of such disability, the one half of his monthly pay, from and after the

time that his pay as an officer or marine or seaman ceases; to be paid as hereafter mentioned. But, in case a prize shall be taken at the time such loss of limb or other disability shall happen, then such sum as he may receive out of the net profits of such prize, before a dividend is made of the same, agreeable to former orders of Congress, shall be considered as part of his half pay, and computed accordingly:

That every commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, and private soldier, in the army, and every commander, commission officer, warrant officer, marine, or seaman of any of the ships of war, or armed vessels belonging to the United States of America, who shall be wounded in any engagement, so as to be rendered incapable of serving in the army or navy, though not totally disabled from getting a livelihood, shall receive such monthly sum towards his subsistence as shall be judged adequate by the assembly or other representative body of the state where he belongs or resides, upon application to them for that purpose, provided the same doth not exceed his half pay.

Provided, that no commission officer, non-commissioned officer, and private soldier, in the army, commander, commission officer, warrant officer, marine or seaman of any of the ships of war, or armed vessels, belonging to the United States of America, who shall be wounded or disabled as aforesaid, shall be entitled to his half pay or other allowance, unless he produce to the committee or officer appointed to receive the same, in the state where he resides or belongs, or to the assembly or legislative body of such state, a certificate from the commanding officer, who was in the same engagement in which he was so wounded, or, in case of his death, from some other officer of the same corps, and the surgeon that attended him, or a certificate from the commander of the ship of war or armed vessel engaged in the action, in which any officer, marine, or seaman, received his wound, and from the surgeon who attended him, of the name of the person so wounded, his office, rank, department, regiment, company, ship of war, or armed vessel, to which he belonged, his office or rank therein, the nature of his wound, and in what action or engagement he received it.

That it be recommended to the several assemblies or legislative bodies of the United States of America, to appoint some person or persons in their respective states, who shall receive and examine all such certificates, as may be presented to them, and register the same in a book, and also what support is adjudged by the assembly or legislative body of their state, to those, whose case requires but a partial support, and also of the payment from time to time of every half pay and other allowance, and of the death of such disabled person, or ceasing of such allowance, and shall make a fair and regular report of the same quarterly to the secretary of Congress or Board of War, where a separate record shall be kept of the same:

That it be recommended to the assemblies or legislative bodies of the several states, to cause payment to be made of all such half pay or other al-



*Richard Lord Howe.*

lowances as shall be adjudged due to the persons aforementioned, on account of the United States.

Provided, that all such officers and soldiers that may be entitled to the aforesaid pension, and are found to be capable of doing guard or garrison duty, shall be formed in a corps of invalids, and subject to the said duty; and all officers, marines, and seamen of the navy who shall be entitled to the pension aforesaid, and shall be found capable of doing any duty on board the navy, or any department thereof, shall be liable to be so employed:

*Ordered*, That the above be published.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 700-05.

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

In Council of Safety

[Philadelphia] August 26th, 1776.

An order was drawn, on Mr. Nesbitt, in favour of Robert Smith, for £500, for the Purpose of Building Chevaux de Frize, & other works at Billingsport, to be Charged to his acco't.

An order was drawn on Jno M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, Treasurer, in fav'r of Sam'l Morris, Esq'r. for £500 for the Purpose of Purchasing Logs, &ca., for Building Chevaux de Frize at Billingsport, to be charged to his account.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 699, 700.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON <sup>1</sup>

No 166.

Sir, It will be uncertain whether we can meet with a Vessell here to go to James River for the Coal, we shall be glad therefore if you will procure for us three, that will bring from fifteen hundred to two Thousand each, and dispatch them down to us with the greatest Expedition, the *Resolution* must go with them for their protection she must call here in her way as we shall send a Person in her with Cash to contract for the Coal <sup>2</sup> We are &c: [Annapolis] August 26th 1776.

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

2. *Ibid.*, the *Resolution*, Captain Richard Berry, was at Annapolis on August 28 and ordered "to proceed from hence to the Coal Mine in Virginia and there endeavour to purchase five or Six thousand Bushells of Coal."

RIGGING NEEDED FOR VIRGINIA SLOOP *Defiance* AND TWO GALLEYS <sup>1</sup>

Invoice of what riging is wanted on board the *Defiance* armed  
Sloop

Three Coils of 2½ inch rope  
Three Coils of 2 Do  
One Coil of 2½ white rope  
One Coil of Bolt rope 2½ inch

16 Coil of nine thread Ratling  
 1 Coil of 2½ In: for Takle Falls  
 1 Six In: Cable 50 fathom

} Gallie

2 Coil of 2½, for takle falls  
 4 Do of nine thread Ratling  
 1 Six In: Cable 50 fathom

} Gallie

Fielding Lewis

[Fredericksburg] August the 26th 1776.

1. Ropewalk Papers, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY<sup>1</sup>

[Wake County] Monday August 26th 1776

Resolved that a Copy of the Valuation and Appraisement of sundry Vessells sometime since Sunk to obstruct the Navigation of Cape Fear River be Transmitted to Nicholas Long Esquire, That he apply to the Committee of Wilmington for the Inventories therein mentioned and take into his possession the Masts, Yards, Sails, Rigging, Cables, Anchors, and other Apparel to the said Vessels belonging, and deposit them in the Care of one or more trusty person or persons there to remain subject to the further Orders of the Council or Congress and that he transmit an Account of his doing herein and an Inventory of the Various Articles, and with whom Lodged to this Board.

And Whereas the Council are informed That a certain William Campbell late owner of the Ship *Alexander* a Vessel sunk for the purpose above-mentioned refuses to deliver up the Sails &ca to her belonging, detaining them until he shall be allowed for sundry Materials prepared for the repair of the said Ship *Alexander*; Resolved that Nicholas Long, call on said William Campbell for delivery of the Sails and other Articles aforesaid, and on his refusal to deliver them summon sufficient Aid and take them by force, and proceed to take care of them as above directed.

Resolved also, That the Committee of Wilmington, be and they are hereby directed to appoint five indifferent persons, to value and appraise the Materials prepared for the repairs of the Ship *Alexander*, lately belonging to William Campbell, the said Campbell first deposing on Oath that they were actually prepared for that purpose and render an Inventory and Appraisement thereof to next Congress that they determine of said Campbell's Claim for the said Materials

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

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

No 3. Private

My Lord I have on every occasion represented to the Generals and Admirals, the Situation of the Province, repecting military and maritime Affairs.

I requested, My Lord, a naval assistance from every Admiral.  
As yet we have not had any permanent.

Captain [Thomas] Bishop of the *Lively* Frigate, did not go into Saint Maries, as I desired.

I am informed by people from Amelia if he had entered the River with the Sloop letter of Mark – *Osborn*, he would have destroyed all the rebel Craft: but, my Lord, he sailed for New York, and sent *Osborn* with my dispatches to the Commanding Officer at Cockspur, a Copy of which; I beg leave to enclose to your Lordship. No 1. & 2. <sup>2</sup>

The retreat from Saint Maries I am in hourly apprehensions, may be attended with very bad effects on Saint John River.

These reasons, my Lord, have determined me to take the Sloop Captain Mowbray, into the Government service on the best terms I can make, and shall order her for the Service in Saint John River. . . .

St Augustine 26. August 1776

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 747-50.

2. The enclosures were Bishop to Tonyn, August 9, and Tonyn to the Commanding Officer in Savannah River, August 5, 1776.

JOHN MCNEAL TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES <sup>1</sup>

26 Augt 1776

Having hitherto in many Instances Transgress'd the Rules of the Navy & have not done my duty as I ought I am heartily sorry therefor & ask pardon of Capt Jones as well as the rest of the Officers on board the Sloop & would be very thankful if I might be permitted to be taken out of Irons & return to my former duty <sup>2</sup> & all such Favours shall be gratefully Acknowledged by [&c.]

John McNeal

[Endorsed by Jones] on board the *Providence* at Sea 26th Augt 1776 Note from Mr. McNeill when under Confinement. <sup>3</sup>

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, LC.

2. McNeal had entered on board *Providence* January 9, 1776 as 3d Master's Mate. Sloop *Providence* Muster Roll, R. I. Arch. Transcript. He was restored to duty, for on September 20 he was a member of the prize crew in British Ship *Alexander*, List of Officers and Seamen Entitled to Shares in the Ship *Alexander*, MassArch.

3. Another penitent, Able Seaman Robert Brown, appealed to Jones on August 27. Papers of John Paul Jones, LC.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER ON BOARD THE *Pomona*  
SLOOP OF WAR, DATED BARBADOES, AUGUST 26, 1776." <sup>1</sup>

Our Admiral has ordered our station off the Virgin Isles, where we have been very lucky, taking one or more prizes every week. Yesterday we arrived here with one, she was laden with cotton, silks, &c. and had on board besides 20 tons of saltpetre; we saw her about four A.M. and about two P.M. was along-side of her. We hailed her, but she gave us no answer, but laying her topsails aback, hauled up her ports, and gave us a broadside, when she filled her sails, and would have stood from us; but we gave her a handsome

peppering before she struck; having raked her twice. When we went on board, the Captain would hardly answer any questions put to him, but we found by the ship's papers that his name was Theobald Dibnal, part owner of the vessel, which was called the *Palm-Tree*, and consigned to Philip Handle, merchant, at Savannah, in Georgia. We lost five men killed, and ten wounded, and the American ten killed and 15 wounded.

1. *London Chronicle*, October 15 to October 17, 1776.

27 Aug.

STEPHEN HOOPER TO COATES & REYNELL, PHILADELPHIA<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Newbury Port Augt 27th 1776

. . . I also mention'd to you, my great Want of 16 6 Pound Cannon, & some Swivels, I should now beg Leave to urge that Matter, in the most expressive Terms, if I did not think it needless with you, & if the Cannon are to be obtain'd, & none of your Boats are to be hired, I would be glad a fast sailing Boat might be purchas'd on the best Terms, & the Men hired to bring her round to any Harbour to the Eastward of this, & if she arrives I will send the Boat immediately back again; If she can take in a few Barrells of Flour, should be glad, & also a few Pieces of Ticklingbourg, as we have not any here. . . .

P.S. Our Friend Cap [William] Wyer sailed a few days past for the West Indies, & expects to return Via Philadelphia, if you send a Boat or Vessell with the Cannon order them, neither to make Cape Cod or Cape Ann, but fall rather to the Eastward of both, & fall in between Cape Ann & Casco Bay—

Prize Sugar, now selling from 30/ to 36/, & 4 or 5 Cargoes yet unsold —

1. Feinstone Collection, APS.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK<sup>1</sup>

Remks on Tuesday 27th of August 1776

- 6 [A. M.] Continues to blow hard gale and Learge sea the prize in Company
- 11 Saw a ship to the northward gave Chaise found her to be a french ship from Hispanola for france. spake our prize  
Lattd in 36d 15m Longd in 59d 50m
- 1 [P. M.] Saw a ship to the N E standing Close by the wind to the southward we suppose her to be in Chaise of us spake with our prize made sail split our Gibb and sprang our mast down topsail yard hard gale.
- 11 lost sight of the ship we supposd was in Chaise of us

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF PRIZE SHIP *Eagle* AND CARGO<sup>1</sup>

Notice is hereby given, That on Thursday the fifth Day of September next, at 10 of the Clock in the Forenoon, at Messieurs Clarke and Nightingale's

Wharff, in Providence, will begin the Sale at public Vendue, to the highest Bidder, of the Prize Ship *Eagle*,<sup>2</sup> about 280 Tons Burthen and her Appurtenances; and also the Cargo of the said Ship, consisting of 102 Hogsheads, 38 Tierces and 4 Barrels of common Sugar, 71,178 Weight of Muscavado Sugar, 14,800 Weight of first White Sugar, 36,918 Weight of second White Sugar, 118,253 Weight of clayed Sugar, 106 Hogsheads, containing 9,540 Gallons of Barbadoes Rum, 127 Bags and 15 Barrels, containing 13,180 Weight of Ginger, 26 Bags containing 2,200 Weight of Cotton, 1 Pipe of Madeira Wine, and 39 Barrels of Oil. The Sale to continue until the whole shall be sold, pursuant to a Decree of the Court for the Trial of Prize Causes, held in said Providence on the 26th Day of August instant, by the Honorable John Foster, Esq; Judge of said Court.

Paul Tew, Sheriff

Providence, August 27, 1776.

1. *Providence Gazette*, August 31, 1776.

2. Taken by Daniel Bucklin in the Rhode Island privateer sloop *Montgomery*.

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

[Lebanon] August 27th, 1776.

*Voted*, That Capt. Michael Melally be and he is hereby appointed First Lieutenant of the armed ship, *Oliver Cromwell*, belonging to this State, and that his Honor the Governor be desired to commissionate him accordingly.<sup>2</sup> Commission sent him per Mr. Thos. Winthrop.

*Voted*, That John Smith of East Hartford be and he is hereby appointed Third Lieutenant of the armed ship *Oliver Cromwell*, and his Honor the Governor is desired to commissionate him accordingly. Commission granted, and dated 30th August, 1776.

*Voted*, That John Chapman of New London be and he is hereby appointed Second Lieutenant of the armed ship *Oliver Cromwell*, and his Honor the Governor is desired to commissionate him accordingly. Commission sent per Mr. Thos Winthrop.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 508, 509.

2. Melally was highly recommended by Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. in a letter to Governor Trumbull this date. Conn. Arch., 1st series, IX, 304, ConnSL.

#### JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT<sup>1</sup>

August 1776

[Long Island Sound] The Town of Killing N $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{3}{4}$  Leagues

Tuesday 27

at 5 AM weigh'd and came to sail in Compy as above<sup>2</sup> at 7 came too wth the Bt Br in 16 Faths Veer'd to 1/3 of a Cable off Hart Island sent the Boat on shore Man'd & arm'd for Stock at Noon the Boat Return'd with 4 Head of Cattle Mode & Cloudy Wr PM sent the Long-Boat on shore Man'd & arm'd wth the *Brunes* Boats for Stock Do Return'd wth 14 Sheep & 2 Head of Cattle.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

2. H. M. S. *Brune*, H. M. Brig *Halifax* and a sloop.



“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CROWN POINT, DATED AUGUST 27.”<sup>1</sup>

Our fleet, consisting of 3 schooners, 1 large sloop, 4 gondolas, and 4 galleys, now lie in Lake Champlaine, near Crown Point and expect to sail in 3 days, and lay in a narrow passage of the lake, to prevent the enemy from passing. We have information that the enemy are on their way to this place from St. John's, they have no other craft than battoes; if they come, I trust we shall give them a warm reception, as our fleet is well fitted and manned – We have now at Ticonderoga about 3500 effective men, and more coming in daily: The fort and every height and point about it is well fortified. – Besides we have the command of the lakes.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, September 3, 1776.

MEMORIAL OF COMMODORE JACOBUS WYNKOOP<sup>1</sup>

To the Honorable the United States of America in Congress assembled –

The Memorial of Jacobus Wynkoop

Sheweth –

That your Memorialist has been employed, and served in the continental Service, and in the service of the United States of America, from the 28th Day of June 1775, until the 18th Day of August Instant –

That your Memorialist by his first appointment, was a Captain of the 8th Company and 4th Regt of continental forces raised in the Province of New York.

That his Honor M Genl Schuyler, Commander in Chief in the Northern Department, did sometime after the appointment of your Memorialist to the Captaincy aforesaid, offer to your memorialist the Command of the Vessels on Lake Champlain, and signified to your memorialist, that his honor would recommend your Memorialist to the Honorable the Continental Congress as a person fit for the said Station.

That your Memorialist being at Fort George, did in the month of January in the present year receive a Letter from his Honor M. Genl Schuyler, informing Your Memorialist that his Honor expected momentarily to hear from Congress, on the Subject of his appointment –

That in the month of April last Your Memorialist, at the City of New York, did receive from the Honorable the Provincial Congress, for the Province of New York, a certified copy of a Letter, written by his Honor M Genl: Schuyler, to the President of the said Provincial Congress, which is in the words following

Sir

Albany March 8th 1776

I am Honored with yours of the 4th Inst – The Continental Congress have resolved, that Capt Wynkoop should be employed upon the Lakes, under Commodore Douglass. Whether the latter Gentleman means to engage in that service, I do not know – Of this Congress can very speedily inform itself, as he resides near New York; Should he not engage, there is no person I would

more willingly have to command the Vessels than Capt Wynkoop. At any rate, I wish You to send him up the soonest possible, with a sufficient number of Sailors for the two Schooners and Sloop – I am Sir [&c.]

Ph. Schuyler

To Nathaniel Woodhull Esqr.

The foregoing is a true copy of the Original examined and compared by Robt Benson

Your Memorialist received, at the same time, an extract from the minutes of the Committee of Safety for N York aforesaid; A Copy of which follows –

In Committee of Safety – New York April  
the thirteenth 1776

Ordered that Captain Jacobus Wynkoop do inlist the number of mariners desired by M Genl Schuyler, for the Service at the Lakes, with all possible dispatch; That Capt: Wynkoop proceed to Albany with the said Mariners, to Genl Schuyler, and take his directions as to the Vessels on the Lakes until the Honorable the Continental Congress shall have appointed him to that Command, or some other Gentleman shall arrive at the Lakes authorized to take the Command.

Extract from the Minutes

John McKesson Secy

That in Consequence of the aforesaid Letter and Order, your Memorialist, immediately inlisted a number of Sailors and proceeded up to Fort-George where he received from the Honorable M Genl Schuyler, an Order in the Words following –

Sir

Fort-George May 7th 1776

You are immediately to repair to Tyonderoga, and take the Command of all the Vessels on Lake Champlain, which You will, with the greatest expedition, put in the best condition possible, for immediate Service.

I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

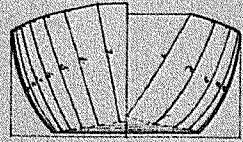
That your memorialist expecting the appointment of Commodore of the Lakes, and not being willing to act in a subordinate capacity did agreeable to the said Order take upon him the Command of the Vessels on the Lakes aforesaid, & has since continued in that department, in the Service of the said Continental Congress, and of these United States, acting and exerting his abilities for the public advantage –

That on the 17th Day of August Inst Your Memorialist, being on his Station, was alarmed, by the Report of a Swivel from one of the Schooners under his Command, which was succeeded by a similar signal from another of the said Schooners. –

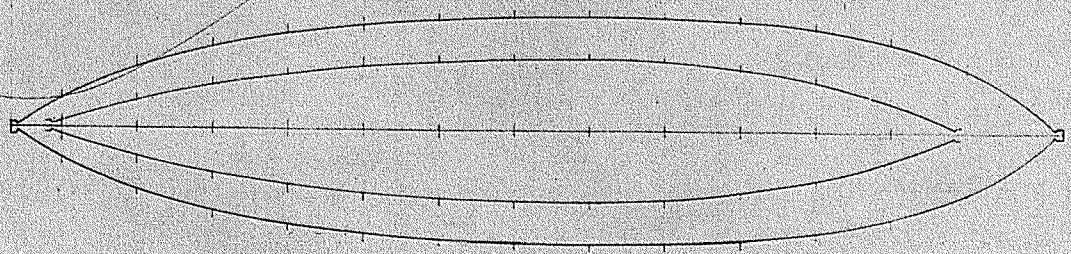
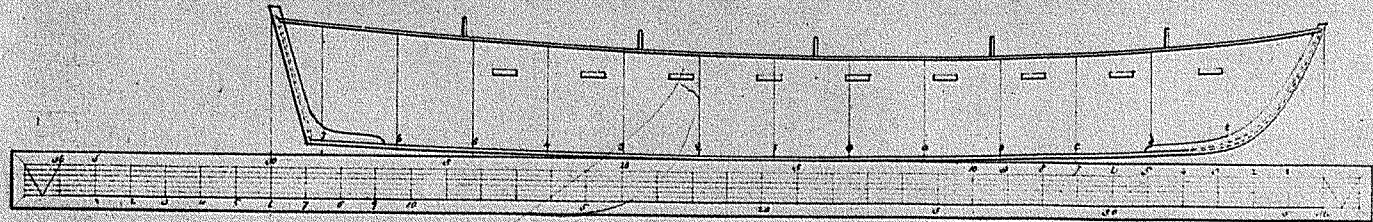
That Your Memorialist observing that the Said Schooner was making ready to get under Sail, and conceiving that they ought not to move without

*A Draught of a Battane Scantlings Sea*

*Dimensions*  
 Length  $\frac{30}{30-0}$   
 Breadth-moulded  $6-6$   
 Depth  $2-10\frac{1}{2}$



*Timber used*  $5-6$   
*Bottom plank*  $1-1$   
*One pair of Oak in*  
*the Middle Bread*  $1-0$   
*Side ribs*  $0-1$   
*Stem rib*  $1-2$   
*Head rib*  $0-1$   
*Timber long up of stem*  $1-1$   
*the ribs*  $2-1$



his immediate Orders, (unless in case of alarm when a Boat should be instantly dispatched to inform him of the Occasion) and fearing that some design had been formed by the Captain of the said Schooner, or their Crews to go over to the Enemy; by the Command of your Memorialist a Swivel was fired to bring too the said Schooners.

That upon firing of the said Swivel, they came to an Anchor again, and your memorialist ordered the mate to go in the boat, and bring the Captains on Board the Commodore Schooner; All preparations for sailing were stopped, and Capt: Premier Commander of one of the said Schooners (The other Capt being on shore) came on board the *royal savage*, then under your Memorialists immediate Command –

That your Memorialist then desired to know from the said Captain, for what reason those Guns were fired, and preparations made for sailing, who informed your Memorialist, that he had received from his Honor Brigadier Genl Arnold Orders to get his Schooner immediately under way and beat down the Lakes, 8 or 10 miles and if he made any discovery of the Enemy to send a boat, and acquaint him of the particulars –

That Your Memorialist not having received any Intimation of being superseded in the Command aforesaid, and conceiving that any Orders even from the Commander in chief of the Army in the Northern department, or the Commanding Officer at Lake George or Tyonderoga, respecting the Vessels on the Lakes, should be directed and first communicated to your memorialist, and be given out by him to the respective Captains under his Command, your Memorialist being also best acquainted with the State and Condition of the said Vessels, Your Memorialist did transmit to his Honor the said Brigadier General Arnold, a Letter in the words following

On Board the *Royal Savage* Augt 17th 1776

Sir

I find by an Order You have given out that the Schooners are to go down the Lakes; I know no Orders, but what shall be given out by me, except sailing Orders from the Commander in chief; If an enemy is approaching I am to be acquainted with it, and know how to act in my Station I am Sir Yours

Jacobus Wynkoop Commander  
of Lake Champlain

That Your memorialist soon after received a Letter from his Honor the said Brigadier Genl Arnold, informing Your Memorialist of the Approach of the Enemy, and intimating that the Commander in chief had appointed him to take the Command of the Navy on the Lake and threatening Your Memorialist with an Arrest –

That your Memorialist having thus received information of the approach of the Enemy, that the Service might not suffer, by the dispute of the Officers, issued out an Order to the Captains of the said Schooners in the words following –

On Board the *Royal Savage* Augt 17th 1776

To Capt Seamons  
Capt Premer

Gent

You will immediately get under way, and go down the Lake about 8, or ten miles. – If You make any discovery of the Enemy, Send a Boat to acquaint me of the Particulars; If none of the Enemy appear, You are directly to return.

Yours Jacobus Wynkoop Comd

That immediately after your Memorialist had received the Letter aforesaid from his Honor the said Brigadier Genl Arnold His Honor the said Brigadier Genl Arnold came on board the *Royal Savage*, and asked your memorialist, how he dared to countermand his Orders, and acquainted your memorialist that he had power to take the command of the fleet, and shewed a paper containing writing Orders from his Honor M Genl Gates to that purport –

That your Memorialist conceiving that no Officer could be placed over him in the Naval Department, unless by appointment from the United States in Congress assembled, or the Provincial Congress for the Province of New York, except in cases of Misbehaviour, and your Memorialist being conscious of having done his duty, did acquaint the said Brigadier Genl Arnold that he would receive no Orders from him as naval Officer under his present appointment, and that all orders from the Commanders at the several posts on the Lakes ought regularly to be first communicated to your Memorialist. –

That his Honor the said Brigadier Genl Arnold, then dispatched a Letter to his Honor M Genl Gates, acquainting him with the above particulars, and on the 18th Day of Augt Inst Your Memorialist received a Letter from the said Brigadier Genl Arnold, in the words following. –

Sir

Crown Point Augt 18. 1776

The following is a paragraph of a Lettr Orders I have just received from the Honorable M Genl Gates Viz –

It is my Orders You immediately put Commodore Wynkoop in Arrest – and send him Prisoner to Head Quarters at Tyonderoga

Sign'd Horatio Gates

In Compliance of the above Order, I do hereby put you in Arrest, of which You will take notice and govern yourself accordingly – A Boat and Hands shall be ordered this Evening or to morrow morning to attend You to Tyonderoga – Please to let me know what time will be most agreeable. –

I am Sir [&c.]

B:Arnold: B:Genl

That agreeable to the above order Your memorialist immediately repaired to Tyonderoga and was ordered from thence by his Honor M Genl Gates, to the Honorable M Gen Philip Schuyler at Albany and was informed by his Honor the said M Genl Gates that he had sent his Crime forward. –

That your Memorialist humbly conceives that if he had suffered the said Schooners to go off unmolested, and design of the Captains or Crews of the said Schooners had been to go over to the Enemy, and such decision carried into execution – that your memorialist would not have been suffered to escape with impunity, and that therefore it was his duty when signals and preparations were made by them for sailing, to know their destination and issue out the Necessary Orders.

Your Memorialist therefore humbly Requests these United States, in Congress assembled; to take this Memorial into their wise Consideration and grant him such Relief as he is in Justice entitled to –

Albany August 27th 1776

Jacobus Wynkoop

[Endorsed] Copy Richd Varick.

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 16, NYPL. Wynkoop's Memorial was received in Congress September 6, 1776 and referred to the Marine Committee. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 739.

#### JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Tuesday Morning,  
[Harlem] August 27th, 1776.

Major Lockwood informed the Committee that the enemy's ships are at White Stone. Thereupon,

Resolved and Ordered, That Mr. Hobart and Mr. R. R. Livingston, be a committee to wait on His Excellency General Washington, and confer with him relative to the state of Nassau island, and what measures may be necessary for distressing the enemy thereon, or defending or removing the inhabitants, and that they report the results of their deliberations thereon to this Committee, or the Convention of this State.

Ordered, That Capt. [Anthony] Rutgers be requested immediately to proceed to the city of New-York, and afford all possible aid, attention, direction and assistance in stopping, or impeding the navigation of the East river, and that he employ all such persons as he shall think proper, to give him aid.

An express arrived from New-London and communicated a copy of a letter from Erastus Wolcott to the committee of Say Brook, and is in the words following:

New London, August 24th, 1776.

Gentlemen – Yesterday in the morning, appeared at the east end of Fisher's island, two of the enemy's armed frigates and a brig, and this morning they passed by this harbour, standing to the westward. I thought it best to give you this intelligence by express, that you may keep a good look out, and take what measures your prudence will suggest, and must leave it to you whether or not to forward this from town to town by express, (if no direct opportunity offers); this may much depend on what is already known of their being in the Sound, and by observing their motions.

I am, gentlemen, With esteem and regard, [&c.]

Erastus Wolcott.

To the Committee of Say Brook.

Ordered, That a copy of the letter from Erastus Wolcott, dated New-London, Augt. 24, 1776, be immediately transmitted by express to Brigadier-General [Nathaniel] Woodhull, and that he be requested to cause all the stock on the seacoast of Long island, which are most exposed to the enemy's depredations, to be drove with all possible despatch so far into the interior part of the country as to be out of danger from the enemy.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 539, 594.

#### MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH <sup>1</sup>

New York, August 27th. – Early in the morning, two ships and a brig came to anchor a little above Throg's Point.<sup>2</sup> Our General immediately detached Col. [Morris] Graham with his regiment, to prevent their landing to plunder or burn. Before he arrived, several barges full of men landed on New City Island, and killed a number of cattle. Two companies of the regiment, immediately on their arrival, ferried over to the island. The enemy carried off one man and 14 cattle – the remainder of the cattle were secured.

On the same day, there was a most bloody battle on Long Island, between the Americans and the British. The British, by a long circuitous march in the night of the 26th, with a part of their army, found the left of the Americans not so well secured as it ought to have been; and they had an opportunity to reach ground which gave them great advantage, while it equally exposed the Americans in the strong grounds towards Flatbush. There was here also another circumstance of ground which now proved disadvantageous to the Americans. There was a considerable marsh, into which a creek ran, and on which there was a mill, known by the name of M'Gowen's. At the mill there was a passway over; but unluckily, when some of the Americans had retreated by this mill, (for they were soon routed by the British, who formed an attack almost in a semi-circle) it was set on fire. This would have been a politic step, had all the Americans on the other side, in that quarter, previously passed; but those still beyond the creek were now driven to almost desperate circumstances; they could not pass at the head of the creek; for the British column, which made the circuitous movement, were in possession of the ground on the left; consequently, many were here killed or taken prisoners, and numbers perishing in attempting to get over the creek, some of them sticking in the mud. Those who escaped retreated to the American works. The British sustained a considerable loss in killed and wounded, and a subaltern and 23 men were taken prisoners; but the American loss was far greater in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Among the latter were Gen. Sullivan and Lord Sterling. Several field-pieces were also lost. At evening, the British army encamped in front of the Americans.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 47-49.

2. H.M.S. *Brune*, H.M.S. *Niger*, and H.M. Brig *Halifax*.

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

August 1776                      Staten Isld SW 2 Miles  
 Tuesday 27th      A M. at 2 Cleared and Barracaded the ship & beat to Quarters, at 4 receiv'd 30 men from the *Bristol* at 5 Weigh'd as Per Signl from the Admiral who with the *Renown Asia Repulse & Carcass & Thunder Bombs* got under way ½ past 9 the Admiral and other Ships anchor'd at 11 Turning off Red Hook and Exchang'd Several shot with the fort at same time saw the troops engage on Shore First part Modt and Cloudy, Latter, little wind and fair at 1 Anchor'd in 10 Fath. Red Hook ENE 1½ mile at 4 the Admiral & other ships weigh'd not being able to get ground at ½ past Anchor'd again at 8 Mann'd & arm'd the Boats & got Fire Boom Out, the *Bristols* people return'd aboard again

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, Captain SAMUEL UPPEBY<sup>1</sup>

August [1776]                      [Off Staten Island]  
 Monday 26                      prepared for sailing, received orders from Lord Howe, not to weigh til further Orders, handed Topsails [Squally weather and rain] my Signal was made on board the Admiral, at 9 hoisted Sir Peter Parkers Broad pendant at midnight several Volleys fired by the Troops on Long Island, clearing the Ship for Action.  
 Tuesday 27                      6 AM the Admiral made the signal to weigh, weighed in Company the *Eagle, Asia, Renown, Roebuck, Rainbow, Repulse, Mercury, Carcass & Thunder Bombs*, working up to the Town of New York. at 10 the Admiral made the Signal to Anchor, do Anchored saw the Troops in close action with the Rebels on Long Island. Moderate and cloudy weather the Admiral made the Signal to weigh, weighed in Comp[any] as yesterday and worked towards New York the Admiral made the signal to Anchor which the Squadron soon after did in Line of Battle

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN<sup>1</sup>

August 1776                      At Anchor between Staten Island & Red hook  
 Tuesday 27th                      At ½ past 3 A M heard a Brisk fireing of Musquetry on long Island At 6 fired 3 Guns as a Sigl weighed with the *Preston*, Sir Peter Parker, *Renown, Asia, Roebuck Repulse, Mercury, Thunder & Carcass Bombs*, Employ'd working to Windwd<sup>2</sup> At 9 the Tide of Ebb making Strong made the Sigl & Anchord in 7 fm Water



The first & Middle parts light Breezes & Cloudy latter Calm  
At 3 P M Weighed & made Sail towards New York At 5  
made the Sigl & Anchord with the Bt Br in 7 fm Water &  
Veered to 1/2 a Cable At 6 made the Parole Sigl at 9 sent  
the Flat Boat to row Guard

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

2. "The Ships likewise made a Feint of attacking the Town and many of the principal men of War got under Way and sailed backwards & forwards for great Part of the morning. This diverted some of the Force of the Rebels to another Consideration. Capt. Hammond only in the *Roebuck* went high enough to exchange a Shot or two with Red Hook, which, it was believed, did no Harm on either Side." Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 79.

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

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, August 27, 1776

*Resolved*, That this Congress agrees to the proposition from General Howe, that in exchanges of prisoners, the choice shall be made by the respective commanders for their own officers and men; provided the respective commanders shall also have a right to make choice what citizens shall be given in exchange by the other.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 705, 708-09.

#### JOSIAH BARTLETT TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia, August 27, 1776

By a letter from the Agent who was sent in the *Reprisal*, Captain Weeks [Lambert Wickes], to Martinico, <sup>2</sup> he informs us, that the Governor (or General as they call him) told him that he had lately received orders by a frigate from France to give all possible assistance and protection to the American vessels, and that he was ordered to send out some ships of war to cruise round the Island for their defence, and that the Same orders had been sent to the other French Islands. he also told the Agent that if the American cruisers should bring any prizes into the ports of Martinico, he should not prevent their selling or disposing of them as they should think proper (This is in confidence)

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. William Bingham.

#### CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM STONE <sup>1</sup>

Sir

[Philadelphia] August 27th 1776

The Marine Committee have directed me to inform you that the *Hornet* Sloop is now returned from her Cruize, during which she has been extremely leaky as Captain [William] Hallock the Bearer hereof will inform you. The Committee have come to a resolution either to purchase the Sloop or deliver her up to you as they will not any longer hire her, but as the greatest part of the materials she now has on board belong to the Public they wou'd prefer buying her at the valuation, to stripping her and when you consider that she will be a mere wreck when so stripped, and that the

Hull is old and Schattered I should imagine you wou'd readily see that it is more your Interest to sell than to receive her back in such bad condition, as you will have the hire to this Time in addition to the price. You will upon the whole receive a great sum for her I am Sir [&c.]

Robert Morris

P. S. if you will not sell pray appoint some person to receive her

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 18, NA.

JOHN ADAMS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH PALMER <sup>1</sup>.

[Extract]

Philadelphia Aug. 27. 1776

. . . I am afraid, that Boston Harbour is not yet impregnable. – if it is not, it ought to be. – Boston has not grown into favour with King George, Lord North or General Howe. – It is no peculiar Spight against New York, which has induced the Fleet and Army, to invade it, – it is no peculiar Friendship, Favour, or Partiality to Boston, which has induced them to leave it. – Be upon your Guard. – hesitate at no Expence, no[r] Fail to fortify that Harbour against all its Enemies. – You ought to Suppose the whole British Empire to be your Enemy, and prepare your selves against its Malice, and Revenge How's Army must have winter Quarters Somewhere and will at all Hazards – They may try at Boston there they lost their Honour, there they would fain regain it if they [could] The Enemy, have a tough, hard Bone to pick at New York, according to present appearances. They are creeping on. Moments are now of Importance. – They are landed on Long Island. – If they attack our forts in Columns, they may carry them, but if We do our duty they will loose the Worth of them in Blood. – a few days will disclose more of their designs

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

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

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] August 27th, 1776.

John M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, Treasurer, was directed to pay the following acco'ts, Viz't:

Capt. Joseph Blewer £23 6 0 for repairing a Shallop, damaged in Sinking the Peers at Fort Island.

Mr. John Stelwell £23 11 6, being for Expenses in saving Powder out of the Brig *Nancy*, paid by Capt. Wm. Pollock.

Capt. Thomas Bell £399 18 0, for Freight of 142 Barrels of Powder & 53 Tons of Lead.

The Board then adjourned to 3 o'Clock, P.M.

The Council having heard the complaints made against Commodore Samuel Davison, with the proofs brought to support them; and taking into consideration the situation of the Naval armaments belonging to this State, are of opinion, that most of the Charges made against the said Samuel Davison are frivolous, and discover a dangerous Spirit of Licentiousness amongst the other Officers, inconsistent with The Duty they owe their Country, and

not to be justified on Military Principles, which exacts a due Obedience at all times to the orders of superiors; But as it appears to the Council that the Officers of the Fleet in General, have not that respect for, nor Confidence in, the said Samuel Davison, which is absolutely necessary to give Vigour and Efficacy to the Command, and that notwithstanding the Known merit of said Davison, yet the charge of Incompetency to so important a Trust is not altogether without foundation; It is therefore

*Resolved*, That the said Samuel Davison, Esq'r, be no longer Continued in the Command of the naval armament of this State, and he is accordingly dismissed from the same.

*Resolved*, That Capt. Henry Dougherty be appointed to the Command of the Galley building at Kensington, by Mr. Williams, and that she be called the *Delaware*.

*Resolved*, That Capt. John Rice be appointed to the Command of the Galley called the *Convention*.

Agreeable to a Resolve of the Honourable Congress, & by direction of the Board, the following Commissions for Privateers, were granted, vizt:

To John Hamilton, Commander of the Brig't *General Mifflin*, of 12 Carriage Guns and 90 men, owned by John Cox, John Chaloner, &ca.

To Charles Ferguson, Commander of the Brig't *General Putnam*, of 12 Carriage Guns and 90 men, Owned by Matthew Irwin, Benjamin Harbeson, &ca.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 700, 701-02.

#### ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF THE CARGO OF PRIZE SHIP *Friendship*<sup>1</sup>

On Monday the second of September, at ten o'clock in the morning, on Plumstead's wharf, will begin the sale of the cargo of the prize ship *Friendship*, consisting of Rum, Muscovado and clayed Sugars, condemned in the Court of Admiralty.<sup>2</sup>

Matthew Clarkson, Marshal.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, August 27, 1776.

2. The *Friendship*, taken by Lambert Wickes in the Continental ship *Reprisal*, was condemned as a legal prize on August 27. Records of the Admiralty Court of Pennsylvania, April 13 - December 3, 1776, LC Photocopy.

28 Aug.

#### FRANCIS SHAW TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Honble Gentlemen,

Machias 28th August 1776

After Removing many Difficultys started by the Crew of the *Diligent*, and laying wind bound several Days We saild from Piscataqua the 14th Instant and arrived here the 25th, after being Confined in Gouldsbrough six Days by the *Viper* Sloop of War, who took two Sloops from this place within about five Miles of us as we run into Gouldsbrough and lay off and on that Harbour most of the Time as We had not more than half our Compliment

of Men, and them but very Indifferent Capt [John] Lambert tho't proper to let the Ship Remove before we should proceed, by persons that have been taken & releas'd we find she has but ten Carriage Guns, 18 Swivels & about 100 Men one half of them Disaffected and only wait an oppertunity of being properly Engaged to Rise on their Officers, her present Station is between Gran Mannan and Sequin, should she fall in with two of your Honors Sloops of War, I dare say they would Clear this coast of the greatest Scourge they have had since the Commencement of the present War – should I succeed in gitting a Number of Indians it would be Impossible to git them to the Westward, unless the *Viper* is Removed from her Station, add to that the Distress this Country must be in, as they can git no provisions from the Westward past her, and the advantage our Enemy has by supplying the English W. I. Islands with Lumber & Fish they take from us –

I would further add one or more Ships are loading at Annoplass, that the Inhabitants of Nova Scotia come to Passamaquodia for Lumber for them, and as several have been taken and afterwards Clear'd by your Honors, our armed Vessels are Intirely Discouraged from taking them and unless some stop is put to that Trade, and the *Viper* Removed, the Acts of the Honble Continental Congress against the English Islands being Supply'd will be frustrated, and this Extensive this new Country Intirely ruined –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 210, 332, 333. Letter continued August 30.

#### JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

[Watertown] Wednesday Augst 28th 1776

On Motion Ordered that a Warrant be drawn on the Treasury for Two Hundred & Forty pounds, four Shillings, in favour of Richd Derby Esqr to enable him to pay one Months avance Wages to the Seàmen on board the Brig *Massachusetts* Danl Souther Commander – he to be Accountable for the Same –

A Warrant was drawn Accordingly & signed by 15 of the Council — On Motion Ordered, that Richard Derby Esqr be directed to fit out the Colony Armed Brigantine Call'd the *Massachusetts* whereof Daniel Souther is commander with all possible Dispat[c]h –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 197, 198.

#### PETITION OF ICHABOD JONES TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

State of the  
Massachusetts Bay }

To the Honorable the Council & the Honble House of Representatives of the State aforesaid assembled in General Court at Watertown Aug 28th 1776

Most humbly shews

Ichabod Jones late of Boston in the County of Suffolk That your Petitioner in May 1775 considering that the People at Machias in the eastern part of this State were of themselves unable to procure the Provisions necessary for their Subsistence & knowing that the greater part of them depended

on your Petitioner to supply them, the other Traders having declined to do it, did purchase a Quantity of Pork Flower & other Articles of Food & convey the same to the People aforesd in two Sloops belonging to your Petitioner – That when arrived at Machias the Inhabitants at the Request of your Petitioner met together & were informed that if they could furnish themselves in any other Way with necessary Provisions your Petitioner would be extremely glad to be freed from the difficult & hazardous Task. That a great Majority of them declared they could not obtain the necessary Supplies without the Assistance of your Petitioner & desired him to continue as formerly to bring them Provisions –

That afterwards by Means of some of Machias People with the Assistance of others in the neighbouring Places the Vessels aforesd & the Person of your Petitioner were seised – that at the time of this Seisure the Inhabitants of Machias owed to your Petitioner & Compy, nearly the Sum of four thousand Pounds lawful Money which he is able & ready to prove – That your Petitioner is lately informed they have taken Possession of his Houses Mills & all his other Estate at Machias & not only of the Estate of which your Petitioner was sole Proprietor but also the Estate which belonged to himself & others in Partnership –

That your Petitioner learns from an Advertisement in the Watertown Paper of August 19th that Libels are filed against the Vessels & Cargoes abovementioned before the Judge of the Maritime Court for the eastern District in this State & that the Justice of the Captures is to be tried at the said Court to be holden at Pownalboro on the 9th of September next – <sup>2</sup>

As your Petitioner is confined to this Town of Northampton under large Bonds (with scanty Means of Subsistence) he is unable to attend himself or to procure any person to attend in his Behalf on so short a Notice & is greatly apprehensive that his Property therefore will be condemned altho' if allowed to attend the sd. Court with his Evidence he persuades himself the Innocence of his Conduct would fully appear –

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly prays your Honors to take the Premises into your wise Consideration & that he may be heard thereupon & having no Doubt on a full Knowledge of his Case your Petitioner would be discharged from any further Confinement – Your Petitioner also prays that he may have Liberty to attend in Person the Tryal aforesd of his Vessels at some future Time to which the said Court shall by Order of your Honors be adjourned & that in the mean Time all proceedings touching the Vessels & Cargoes aforesd may be staid – All which is most humbly submitted And as in Duty bound shall pray

Ichabod Jones

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Sept 6 1776 –

Resolvd that the Prayer of this petition be so far granted that the maritime Court for the Eastern District of this State to be holden at Pownalborough on the ninth of this Instant in order to try the justice of the Captures of two Vessels taken from the petitioner be adjourned to the first Day of october next in order that the petitioner by an attorney may Shew cause if any

he has why the said Vessels Should not be Condemned. A – and that the judge of said Court be Notified thereof by being served with a Copy of this order – passed – Sent up for Concurrence

Saml Freeman Speakr Pr Temp

In Council Sept 7th 1776

Read & Concurr'd with the Amendment at A & insert. And the Petitioner by his Attorney has Liberty to file his Claim with the Judge of the Said Maritime Court, to the Said Vessels & Appurtenances at any Time before the Said first Day of October next –

Sent down for Concurrence

John Avery Dpy Secy –

In the House of Representatives Sept 9 1776

Read & concurrd

Sam<sup>l</sup> Freeman Speakr P T

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 181, 160–62a.

2. Sloops *Unity* and *Polly*. See libel in the *New-England Chronicle*, August 22, 1776, and Volume 1 for details of the Machias affair.

PETITION OF JONATHAN EDDY AND OTHERS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

To the Honorable Council and to the Honorable House of Representatives in the State of the Massach[uset]s Bay in General Court Assembled at Watertown the 28th day of August Anno Domini 1776 –

The Petition of Jonathn Eddy. William How. and Zebulon Rowe. Late of Cumberland in Nova Scotia

Humbly Sheweth That Your Petitioners in Behalf of ourselves and distress'd Friends Residing in the County of Cumberland in the Government of Nova Scotia. –

That Your Petitioners would Inform your Honors that the Brittish Enemy are now Repairing the Old Forts in that Province to the Great Detriment of the Inhabitants there – That we Apprehend Can be for no other Intent but to keep the Inhabitants in Subjection to their Tyranical Measures Especially Since their forces Arrived from Boston the Last Spring to Hallifax –

That the far Greatest part of the People of Nova Scotia are Greatly Concern'd about it and has been the Cause of many of them to Leave their Estates to be Confiscated and to Come over to These States and will be the Cause of Many More to do the Same if they Can Effect it, Unless they Can have Some Supplys and Assistance –

That Your Petitioners Humbly conceive that if we your Petitioners with a Small number more to Joyn our Brethren there Could be Supply'd with Some Necessarys as Provisions and Amunition we Could at Present Easily distroy those Forts and Relieve our Brethren and Friends by permission From Your Honors for So doing or in any other way your Honors Shall See meet and –

Your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall Ever Pray &c –

Joh<sup>n</sup> Eddy W<sup>m</sup> How Zebulon Roe

[Endorsed] In the house of Represents August 30. 1776 Read and Committed to Mr Sergent Mr Bailey and Colo Eleazer Brooks with such as the honble board shall join -

Sent up for Concurrence  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Freeman Speakr P T

I. Mass. Arch., vol. 181, 163-64.

PETITION OF JONATHAN HOBBY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT<sup>1</sup>

The petition of Jonathan Hobby of Boston  
Most humbly sheweth -

That your petitioner hath in Compy with other owners fixed for Sea a privateer now laying at Beverly Mounting fourteen Gunns of Six-four and three pounders, Carrying 100 Men and waiting only for the Article of Powder, your petitioner prays leave to purchase of any of the powder Mills five hundred pounds of powder for the Supply of the said Privateer - your petitioner also has ready to turn in to any of the said powder Mills about 70 lb of Salt-petre - and in duty Bound shall ever pray -

Jona Hobby

Boston 28th August 1776

[Endorsed] In the house of Representatives Sepr 9. 1776

Resolved that the Com[missar]y Gen[era]l be and he is hereby Directed to Deliver out of the Store belonging to this State (or ordr the Same to be Delivered at the Powder Mill in Andover) Four hundred pound of Gun Powder to Jonathan Hobby, he the Said Hobby Paying Six Shillings pr pound for the Same The Commy Genl to be acc[ounta]ble for the money so Received

Sent up for Concurrence  
Saml Freeman Speakr PT

In Council Sep. 9. 1776 Read & Concurred John Avery Dpy Secy

I. Mass. Arch. vol. 210, 179-80.

“ACCOT OF MONEY PAID BY THE CONTINENTAL TREASURER TO STEPN HOPKINS ESQR FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING THE TWO FRIGATES AT PROVIDENCE”<sup>1</sup>

1776		Dolls
Feb	3 - pd him P. Draft from the Marine Committee	60,000
	10 pd Do P. Do	20,000
Mar.	11 - pd Do P. Do	9,000
	20 pd Do P. Do	8,000
Apl	24 pd Do P. Do	11,500
Augt	28 pd Do P. Do	40,000
		<hr/> 148,500
	The Credit given by the Naval Committee at Providence for Money they recd.	} 127,550
	Remains in the Hands of Mr Hopkins or still unaccounted for	} 20,950 Dolls

I. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

"A JOURNAL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS ON BOARD OF THE GOOD SLOOP  
*Warren* A BOLD PRIVATEER FROM DARTMOUTH TO THE LATTD OF 33:"<sup>1</sup>

Wednesday August the 28 Day A D 1776

Wednesday Morning struck A Porpis Lattd in 40:28

First Part these 24 hours A Jumbling sea Agoing Jib'd Ship the Wind at N  
E. onbent our Topsail Mended Him Bent Him Again Mended Him  
Handed Him Stearing S E by S Looks Like A [storm] Hous'd our Guns  
Took them out of the Carrages Put them [illegible] Hole all But the After  
ones

1. RIHS.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE CONTINENTAL SHIP *Warren*<sup>1</sup>

Deserted from the Continental Ship *Warren*, commanded by Capt. John Hopkins, two Sailors, who entered on board on Monday last, and received their Month's Pay; one of them named John Williams, about forty Years of Age, has a scar on his left Cheek, had on a blue Jacket and a Pair of Trowsers; the other named Thomas Kalton or Caton said to be about thirty Years of Age, had on a light coloured Jacket, new Shoes, and a Pair of Trowsers, one of his great Toes has been cut about Half off. Whoever takes up said Deserters, and confines them in the Gaol in Providence shall have Six Dollars Reward, and all necessary Charges paid by the Naval Committee.

N.B. It is supposed they have gone by Land, as no Vessel has sailed since.

Providence, August 28 [1776].

1. *Providence Gazette*, August 31, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Independence*,  
CAPTAIN JABEZ WHIPPLE<sup>1</sup>

Remarks On Wednesday At. 28 [1776]

Spoke with the Brigg Sent the Bote on Board  
Latt 40.29 Londg 65.27

The Furst [part] Weither pr Logg  
Winds Enceling [inclining] E ward Sent The Dockter  
on Board the Brigg One Man Very Much hirt  
Heavey Sea Much Rain and theke Weither

1. *Independence Journal*, RIHS.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONNECTICUT BRIG  
*Defence*<sup>1</sup>

1776	The Brig <i>Defence</i> 2d Cruse	Dr	
July 17/	To Cash at Sundry times		625..4..-
Augt 2d	To 10 bottles & 2 Cases Claret		11..
	To 439 Gal Rum		109..5
	To 114 Gal Jamaca ditto	6[1/2]/	36..2



To 8 iron bound Qr Cask for ditto		6..
To 3 Kegs Brandy 60/		9.. -
To 2 bar Sugar 5..2.20 60/		17..2..-
To 41¼ Gall Melasses 3/		6..5..3
To 20 bunches Onions /4		0..6..8
To 2 Firken Butter 174 @ /10		7..5
To pd Hardings order to Moses paine for a Firken ditto	}	3.13..-
To 335 lb Cheese /6		8..7..6
To 56 lb Coffee 1/		2.16
To pd Archa Robeson for Candles		1.16..3
To 2 bar Tallow 437 /8		14.11..4
To 19½ Gal oile 7/6		7..6..3
To 1 bar Tarr 24/ bar pitch 30/		2.14
To 1 bar turpentine		1.10
To 53 lb Old Junk /6		1..6..6
To 208 feet pine plank /2		1.14..8
To 30 lb 10d Nails 1/		1.10
To 10 lb 4d ditto 1/4		13..4
To Guy Richards 3 Bills 1/4		2..1..8
To Jas Owens do		8
To Jona Brooks 2 do		1..4..6
To Jas Benemans do		4..6
To Silas Churches do		2..2
To Davd Gardiners do		2..8
To Wm Stewarts do for 6 lb twine		18..-
To Jona Baleys do (Joiner)		1.10
To Thos Hutchinsons Bill for paint		12
To Thos Mumfords do for Boards [illegible]		10..-..-
To 2 bottles Oile for the Armorer		7..-
To Eb Goddards Bill Carpenter		44..4..3
To Samel Latimers do Black Smith		48.19..4
To Alex Merrels Bill Block Maker		13..0..1
To Robt Ushers do Doctering		2.15
To pd Mrs Skinner boarding James Wasling	}	0.10
To Ros Saltonstalls Bill for plank		3..5
To pd Owen for Lampblack		1.
To pd Davd Gardiner 2d Bill for Nails		1..4.10
To Jas Tilleyes do Ropemaker		8.14..4
To 10 bus Corn 3/		1.10
To 14 Bar beef 30/		35
To 25 bar pork 80/		100
To 23..1.10 Bread 20/		23..6..9
To Jas [D]enemans Bill		8..4..4½
To 30 Double headed Shott Dd		3..-..-

	To 2 barrels powder .220 5/4	58.13..4
	To 1 Iron Cabbuse	12
		Carried over £1258..6..6
	1776 The Brig <i>Defence</i> 2d Cruse	Dr
Augt	To the Sum brot over	£1258..6..6
	To Half bushel Lime	2..
	To pd Samel Cheeny the Mason	6..
	To pd Jona Douglass Bill	4..9
	To 17 Iron bound Cask 15/	12.15..
	To 1 Cable 14..0..7 100/	10..7
	To 1 Spy Glass	3.-.-
	To 4 Cord Wood 12/	2..8
	To pd Wm Brooks Bill the Butcher	42..3.11
	To pd Board Cornelias Dunham a wounded Seaman	3..5
	To pd Jona Starrs Bill	1.12..0
	To pd Wm Skinner boarding Thos Greystock	7.16..0
	To Cash advanced ditto	1.10..
	To pd Charles Walkers Bill	26.18..
	To pd Nicho[las] Starrs ditto	1.11..6
	To pd Davd Lewis boarding Thos Greystock George Gea & Samuel Raymond	5.15..
	To pd Jas Robeson boarding John Tenent & John Still	3.10..
[August 28]	By Capt Hardings order on Gov & Council	1447.14.11½ 652..4.-
		£ 822.10.11½
	To freight of 10 bus Corn 14 bar Beef & 25 bar pork P Dan Rice from fairfield	3..1..6

1. Nathaniel & Thomas Shaw Collection, Ledger 4, YUL.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM COIT TO THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE  
PAY TABLE <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen New London August 28th 1776,  
Please to pay Capt Elephalet Roberts One Hundred Pounds Lawfull Money  
and place the same to my Acct as paymaster of the Ship of Warr of this State  
Built at Saybrook (Now call'd the *Oliver Cromwell*) and You will Oblige  
[&c.]

William Coit

Gentlemen Comtee the Pay Table of the State of Connecticut Hartford

Gentlemen The Reason of my giving the above Draft without A perticular  
Order from his Honor the Governor, is, Tomorrow I shall set out for Nan-

tucket and to go all the Way to Lebanon will detain me and so small a sum cannot make any difficulty.

William Coit <sup>2</sup>

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 120a, ConnSL.

2. *Ibid.*, on August 29, Governor Jonathan Trumbull sent an order to the Committee of the Pay Table authorizing the payment to Captain Roberts.

*Connecticut Journal*, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1776

New-Haven, August 28

Last Monday passed our Harbour, standing to the Westward, two Frigates, the *Nigar* of 32 guns, Capt. [George] Talbot, the other is said to carry 28 guns, also a large Brig of 16 or 18 guns, <sup>1</sup> who had in Company two small vessels supposed to be prizes. They left the English Fleet, near New-York, last Friday se'nnight, and it is probable will remain in the Sound to interrupt our Communication with the Army at New-York.

1. H. M. S. *Brune*, 32 guns, and H. M. Brig *Halifax*.

ORDERLY BOOK OF BRIGADE MAJOR PETER SCULL<sup>1</sup>

Head Quarters [Ticonderoga],  
Aug. 28th 1776

One Cap. 2 Sub[altern]s, 2 Ser. [sergeants] 2 D[ru]ms & 50 Rank and File from Gen. Bricket's [James Brickett] Brigade to parade as soon as possible, to take 12 Batteaus to Skeensborough, the Cap. to wait on the D. Aj. [Deputy Adjutant] for orders before he setts out; - The Batteau Mas[te]r will provide the Batteaus immediately.

The Batteau Masr is ordered to take a Fatigue-Party and proceed immediately to collect all the Oars from the different Incampmts, and places where they are scattered.

1. MNHP.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO GEORGE WASHINGTON <sup>1</sup>

[Extract] Tyconderoga August 28th, 1776.

As the Small-Pox is now perfectly removed from the Army, I shall in consequence of the Intelligence received of the Motions of the Enemy immediately assemble my principal Strength to maintain this Important Pass, and hope General Waterbury, in a Week at farthest will be able to come with the three Row-Gallies to Tyconderoga, and proceed the Instant they arrive and are fitted to join General Arnold upon the Lake.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH <sup>1</sup>

[New York, August 28, 1776] On the morning of the 28th, there was a skirmish between the Americans and British which terminated rather in favour of the former. The same night, the British began to open works, at the dis-

tance of about 600 yards from the American works on the left. Gen. Washington wrote to our General to send down to the city all the boats that could be spared from Kingsbridge and Fort Washington, intimating, that he might possibly find it necessary, at night, to throw over more troops to Long Island. This order was immediately complied with, and the boats sent down, while the real intention of their use was fully understood.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 49.

LIEUTENANT ELIAS BALDWIN TO SOLOMON PORTER, DANBURY MERCHANT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York Augt 28, 1776.

Dear sir I wrote you soon after I came into Town of the landing of the Kings Troops upon long Island we expected an Attack upon the Town by the Shipping or an Attempt to land above the Town soon—but it seems the Enemy have collected most or all their strength upon the Island – they have been advancing towards our lines ever since they landed – & have met with little opposition from our people till Yesterday. – Reinforcements did not go on fast to the Island till Monday & yesterday. Probably our Generals suspected it only a feint – There are now a large body of Troops on the Island all the Connecticut Regs are there save the Militia – & those on the Jersey side viz [Philip Burr] Bradley's & part of [John] Durkee's & [Comfort] Sage's on Govr Island. Part of General Mifflins [Thomas Mifflin's] Troops are called in from the blue Bell. The lines in the City are almost wholly manned by the Connecticut Militia. Our Alarm post is above the Town by the North River; About 1¼ or 1½ miles from our Quarters, Whither we are to repair by break of Day. Yesterday 5 or 6 Ships appeared standing up to the Town – this Caused a General Alarm – we all continued at our Alarm posts till from morning to Sunset. The Ships came up about [illegible] half way from the hook where they came to anchor towards Night – One of them saluted the Battery at Red hook with a few Guns & the Compliment was returned probably very inoffensively to both Sides. There was a Considerable Engagement on the Island Yesterday – But particulars I cannot learn with any Certainty. Our people took near 40 Prisoners – 40 or more were sent over wounded. Col. Perrin <sup>2</sup> of Pennsylvania was killed – probably considerable Number have been killed on both sides – I fear we have a considerable number taken prisoners, but time only can assure us of the particulars – Lord Sterling is probably Missing either killed or taken. [Lt.] Col. [James] Grant of the Regulars probably killed as a Hat was found shot through with his name wrote in it. Our Troops are doubtless retreated to their Lines – & the Enemy very near. – Nothing Material has been done today as we hear – doubtless they will soon attempt to force our lines w[hich] will be bloody work. . . .

1. Baldwin Family Papers, YUL.

2. Lieutenant Colonel Caleb Parry, of the Pennsylvania Musket Battalion.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO COMMODORE WILLIAM  
HOTHAM <sup>1</sup>

*Eagle.* 28 Augt [1776]

I return you many thanks, my dear sir, for your congratulations on the events of yesterday. I have the satisfaction to hear from Genl Howe, that he has every reason to be contented with the prospects before him, and in the highest degree so, with the spirit & temper of the Troops.

I should be more deficient in judgement & discretion that I will confess that I am, if I did not much covet the assistance of you, & your present captain likewise, when any effectual service is to be undertaken. At present we must wait upon the movements of the Army; But if you can contrive to have the service in Greenwich Bay carried on by Sr Geo: Collier with the assistance of Capt [William] Williams, I shall be glad to see you with the *Ph[o]enix, Rose, & Greyhound* also, when the last can be consistently spared, nearer to me; for any occasional service, as well as opinion in the conduct of it. Wherefore, tho' your own ship goes down to you today, consider of the plan of arrangement which it maybe necessary to give to Sr Geo: Collier for the Gravesend Bay Service with the State of His Ship in point of Water, and follow your own sentiments for the rest. I will in the mean time endeavor to provide some means to supply him with Water which I believe he wants, that no time maybe lost in fitting him for the proposed Service and that I may the sooner derive the assistance from you which no person can value more than your ever faithful servt

Howe

1. Collection of Lord Hotham, Yorkshire (East Riding) County Record Office, England.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM ROGERS' ACCOUNT OF PRISONERS TAKEN OFF  
FIRE ISLAND <sup>1</sup>

An Acct. of Prisoners taken in three following Vessels [fro]m Halifax bound to Sandy Hook by Capt. Willm. Rogers [in] the *Montgomery* Privateer off[f] Fire Island Creek South [sho]re of Long Island

1st. Sloop *Phenix's* Crew

} John Brown Master  
Willm. Hardy Mate  
John Mayou, Boatswain  
John Deacon Seaman  
John Pinnet Do.  
John Lincis, Boy  
George Clandir Passenger

2d Sloop *Sally's* Crew

} Solomon Smith Master  
Seth Williams – Mate  
Richd. Williams – Seaman  
Robert Colefax – Do.  
Calvar Hethway – Do.  
Edward Cannibal – Boy  
Daniel Dunbar – Passenger

3d. Sloop <i>Mary's</i> Crew	}	Duncan Campbell Master
		John Farrel – Seaman
		Will Clear – Do
		Peleg Manfil – Do
		Andw. Mitchel Passenger
		Michael Jobbin – Do.
		Alexr. McMullen – Do. – Left Sick

There is also a Soldier taken Prisoner in the enga[ge]ment [on] Long Island night before last whose name is John Wright  
Augt. 28th 1776.

[First endorsement] Samp Town August 30 1776 Recd, of John Treat Crane Nineteen Men & Two Boys which I am to safly keep in Custody till 31st of sd. August & then to return them Over to the Aforesd. John T. Crane tomorrow Morning Witness my Hand

Samuel Randolph Capt.

[Second endorsement] Sommerset Court House Augt 31st Recd. into custody from the Hands of John T. Crane all the within Named Prisoners except McMullen who was left Sick Witness my Hand

G Voorhees Dy Chearman <sup>2</sup>

1. William Livingston Collection, MassHS.

2. *Ibid.*, on August 31 the masters of the three ships and Andrew Mitchell, passenger in the *Mary*, petitioned Brigadier General William Livingston "to order our Chests & Bedding to be forwarded to us as our linen is already very dirty."

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

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, August 28, 1776

*Resolved*, That an order for 500,000 dollars be drawn on the treasurer, in favour of the Marine Committee, they to be accountable for the expenditure of the same.

The Marine Committee having recommended Joseph Greenway to be a third lieutenant on board the *Delaware* frigate, commanded by Charles Alexander, Esqr

*Resolved*, That he be accepted, and that a commission be granted to him accordingly.

*Resolved*, That the Marine Committee be empowered to lend ten bolts of light duck to the delegates of Maryland, for the use of their troops; provided the same can be done without prejudicing the [marine] service.

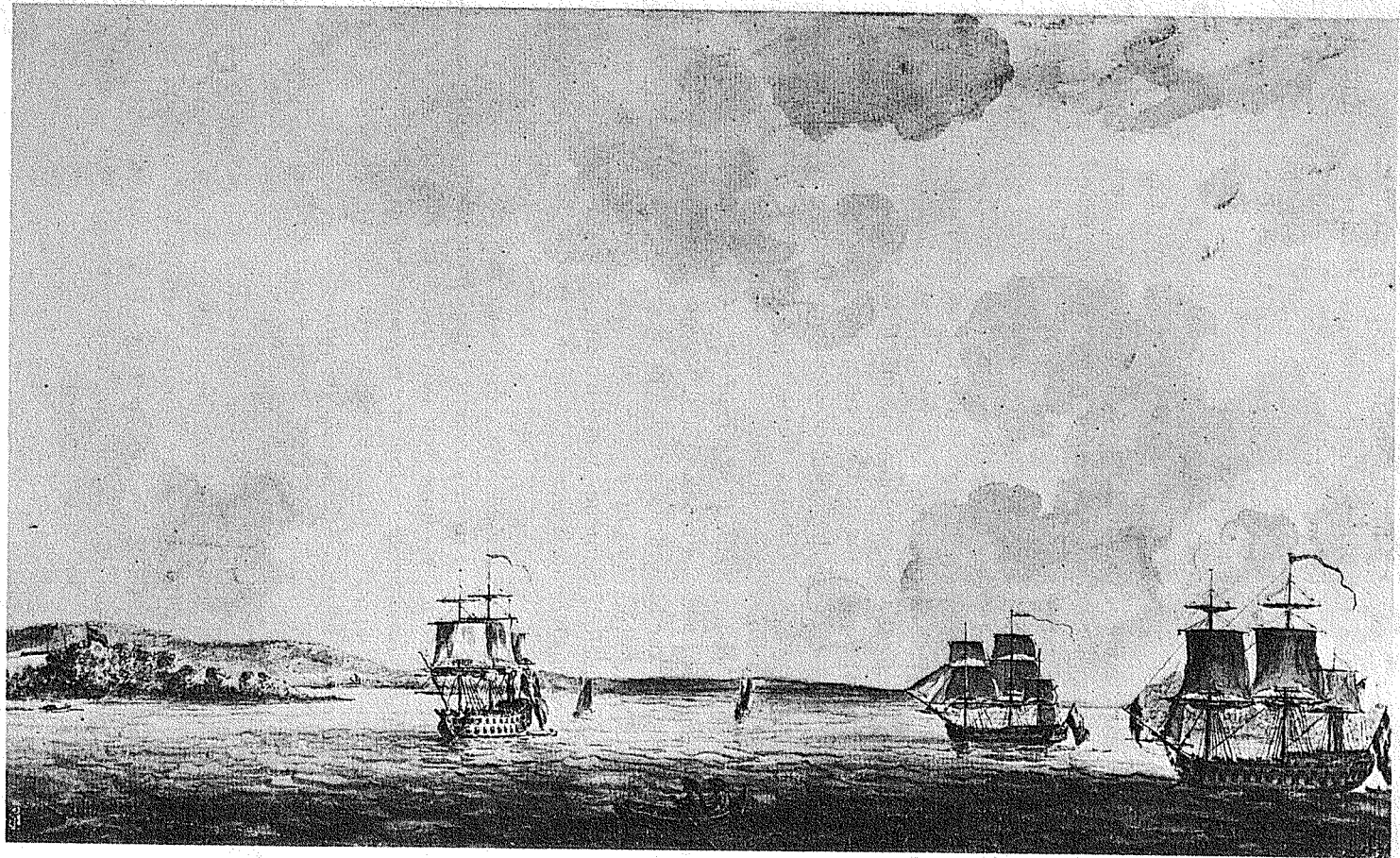
1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 710, 711.

#### JOURNAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] August 28th, 1776.

An order was drawn on Jno. M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, Treas'r, in fav'r of Capt. Hazlewood, or his son, for £20, on acco't of the Fire Rafts, to be charged to Capt. Hazlewood.



*Admiral Howe's Fleet at Anchor, After Battle of Long Island.*

An order was drawn on John M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, Treasurer, in favour of Arthur Donaldson, for £200, towards the Floating Battery now Building under his direction, to be charged to his Account.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 702, 704.

COMMITTEE OF ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, TO THE COMMITTEE OF  
SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND<sup>1</sup>

Gentn/

Accomack Augt 28th 1776

The bearer hereof (Nathan Linton) has informed the Committee of this County, that some time past he in company with one other man took up a wreck at sea, and carried it into some creek in your County, that before they could strip the wreck it was retaken from them by Joseph Wailing a noted Tory who was then bound to the Kings fleet with 20 or 30 people of his own stamp, that he the said Linton insisted he was intitled to some recompense for his trouble in saving the wreck, but Wailing refused to allow him any thing, saying the boat belonged to one Goodrich in the fleet and he would keep possession of it for him. Linton then said he would make application to some officer in the fleet for satisfaction, and was procuring a boat for that purpose, but Wailing offered him a passage in his boat, which he said was to return immediately after discharging her cargo of Tories Linton accordingly made application to Capt. [Matthew] Squire,<sup>2</sup> who after being informed of the several circumstances above mentioned told him he might have the hull of the wreck, and five barrels of Oyl which was in the wreck, being of no use to the fleet; Linton also informs this Committee that he took up four clintcher boats drifting; three of which together with 100 Gallons of Oyl and some old Iron, he says was taken from him by Col Waters. —

This Committee has refused to do any thing in Linton's Case, untill fully informed concerning it from you, and what Character he supports as a friend to America — which we hope you will supply us with by first opportunity; in the mean time we desire that the boats and oyl as they are perishable articles may be sold and the money arising from the sale thereof retained untill the matter can be fully heard and determined

Signed Pr Order Committee

John Powell Clk

N.B. As Linton had rather have the Boats Oyl and Iron deliver'd him than sold, we are willing the said [w]ld be delivered him if he can give you security for the delivery of those Articles in our County — J. Powell

[Endorsed] I will be Nathan Linton's Security for the Safe delivery of the goods here, and that they shall be Subject to the order of our Committee.

Onancock, Augt 28th 1776      Isaac Smith

1. Executive Papers, Box 1, Md. Arch.

2. Commander of H. M. Sloop *Otter*.



JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

[Wake County] Wednesday August 28th 1776

John Hamilton appearing before this Board in behalf of John Hamilton and Company and suggesting that they had been aggrieved by the determination of this Board relative to the Brigantine *William* directed by the Congress held at Halifax in April last to be seized as British property, <sup>2</sup> and praying an Appeal from the determination of this Board to the next Congress, and that all further proceedings be stayed until the direction of Congress be had thereon;

Resolved That the said John Hamilton in behalf of the Company, be permitted to appeal to the next Congress and that the said John Hamilton and Company and all other persons, the Officers of the Courts of Justice excepted who have received any Monies arising from the Sale of the said Brigantine *William* replace the same in the Hands of Christopher Neale Esqr until the Resolution of the next Congress. <sup>3</sup>

Resolved That Messrs Francis Brice and George Merrick be appointed Commissioners for the port of Wilmington in this province and that they enter into Bond with Security in the sum of five thousand pounds for the faithful discharge of this Office.

Resolved That the Commissioners appointed at the Ports of Edenton, Bath, New Bern and Wilmington be empowered to give Permits to Vessels to load with Staves and heading for any of the French, Spanish, Dutch or Danish Islands in the West Indies the Owner or Owners of such Vessels first giving Bond with good and sufficient Security in the sum of two thousand pounds, which Bond must be made payable to the president of this Congress of this State and his Successors that Salt Arms Ammunition and other War-like Stores shall only be imported in return for the Nett proceeds of such Staves and heading, and that no person or persons shall be intitled to this privilege but known Friends to the American Independency.

Resolved That Mr William Brown be appointed Commissioner for the port of Bath and that he enter into Bond with Security in the Sum of two thousand pounds for the faithful discharge of his Office which Bond is to be lodged with the president of the Provincial Congress

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

2. See Volume 4, 757, 1346.

3. Hamilton and Company had a cargo of molasses, sugar, and coffee on board the *William*. John Hamilton to Cornelius Hartnett, August 10, 1776, Secretary of State Papers (Correspondence of Council of Safety), NCDAH.

GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON <sup>1</sup>

Sir Kings House Spanish Town Augt 28th 1776

I held a Council yesterday before whom I laid all the Papers and Informations I had receiv'd relative to the Internal situation of this Country since their last meeting on the 21st inst when the Board were unanimous in advising me to take off Martial Law provid'd I renew'd my former order of the 11th of July requiring the Colonels and Commanding Officers of the Mili-

tia through the Island to keep a proper Guard within their respective Parishes till my further order, but at the same time it is express'd in our Minutes that we are more induced to this from the apprehensions of the approaching rainy Seasons so very prejudicial to the health of the White Inhabitants than from any opinion on the information before us that the internal peace & Sécurité of the Island are intirely restor'd, & establish'd, in consequence of which I propose lodging the Colours at Noon of the 29th It was likewise our Unanimous opinion that I should after offering you the best thanks of the Board which I have the most cordial satisfaction in doing for them; and myself, for your constant attention to the safety & Welfare of this Island to represent to you, that we do not think it necessary at present to request further assistance of you than that of the largest of the two Arm'd Vessels, now to Leward which we wish you will order to remain at Lucea, for about a fortnight longer, unless future applications should be found Necessary. I am with great respect Sir [&c.]

A Copy

Basil Keith

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

29 Aug.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY <sup>1</sup>

Augst [17]76	Moor'd off Fort Cumberland in the Bay of Fundy.
Wednesy 28th	Empd. Occasionally First part fresh Breezes & Squally with rain, Middle & Latter Modte & Cloudy, at 4 P. M found the Ship to take the ground aft,
Thursy 29th	at 6 AM bent the stream Cable to the small Bower, veer'd away and began to unmoor at 7 the Ship grounded aft; the strong Ebb Tide taking her upon the Larboard Bow twisted her round by which means the stream Cable parted 30 fms from the small Bower; the Ship fell down upon her beam ends, at nine she righted as the Tide began to flow, at 10 veer'd away on the Best Bower, in order to weigh the small Bower, at 11 the Bouy Rope broke, let go the Kedge Anchor with a Bouy to it for a mark for the small Bower, at noon weigh'd & made sail, drop'd farther down the Bay: open'd a Cask Beef Contents 154 pieces.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

JUDGE J. BRACKETT TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen

Portsmo Augt 29th, 1776.

The Ship *Prince George* commanded by Capt. Emms [Richard Emmes] had her trial last week; <sup>2</sup> the Jury brought in their Verdict & condemned three quarters of Ship & Cargo to the use of the Colony – the other quarter to the Matross Company (Stationed at Fort Washington) to be equally di-

vided between officers & privates – tho' both the Resolves of Congress & Law of the Colony, say, the Captors shall have one third & the Colony two.

There was also a trial of the Masts &c. which were claimed by Mr. Perry [Edward Parry]:<sup>3</sup> the Jury thought the claim was not Good, & condemned them to the use of the Colony likewise. I shall in a day or two decree According to the Jury's Verdict & Issue a Precept to the Sheriff to sell and make distribution According to said Verdicts, and should be glad you would appoint Pearse Long Esqr Agent for the Colony, that there may be somebody here to take care of its Interests, &c. I am, Gentlemen, [&c.]

J. Brackett.

1. Nathaniel Bouton, *et al.*, eds., *Provincial Papers: Documents and Records Relating to the Province of New Hampshire . . .* (Concord, 1867– ), VIII, 360, 361. Hereafter cited as Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*.
2. The *Prince George*, with a cargo of flour, had blundered into Portsmouth harbor October 2, 1775. See Volume 2.
3. Parry was employed by the Royal Navy to supply masts from Maine. See Volume 1.

JOHN LANGDON TO THOMAS CUSHING<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Portsmouth 29th August 1776

Your favou'r of the 25th is now before me, I am much of Opinion with you relative to Cannon, think the prices too high by one half, I've endeavoured to Contract with them for Cannon but could not, therefore intend letting it alone for the present, till seeing Colo Whipple, who I expect every moment here from Philadelphia, the price of Cannon at Providence has risen so fast, it looks like takeing the Advantage, however I may be mistaken – The affair of the *Milford* I most heartily wish could take place, tho' we cannot give any Assistance with our Ship without Guns from some other place those here in our Batteries (except one or two) being 32 pounders, Six and 4 do therefore think it unlikely we can assist, however I intend mentioning it to our State and if it's possible to procure Guns, no doubt shall join you What in under Heavens does our Friends at Providence mean by not letting us have those Guns which have been cast so long. As to the Cable you mention I had 90 fathom of Junk instead of one third of all the Junk that was bought in Boston as that was our Agreement if you remember, I therefore Expect at least five Tons more of Junk from you, as am much in want of it, not one peice of Light Canvas in this part of the World. –

Your [&c.]  
John Langdon –

P S If any Canvas or Cannon shall inform you. –

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE *Raleigh*<sup>1</sup>

Five Dollars Reward.

Deserted from the ship of war *Raleigh*, under my command, Charles Williams, an Englishman, dark complexion, five feet five inches

high – Francis Bennet, a Portuguese, dark complexion, five feet four inches high – Edward Fernald, an American, brown complexion, 5 feet 8 inches high, – and Samuel Clark, an American, brown complexion, five feet seven inches high. – Whoever will apprehend the said deserters and bring them on board the said ship, shall have Five Dollars reward for each, and traveling charges allowed.

Thomas Thompson

Portsmouth, August 29, 1776

N.B. Went adrift from said ship, a fourteen foot Moses Boat, whoever will take up said boat and return her to said ship, shall have Two Dollars Reward.

1. *The Freeman's Journal*, September 14, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

In Council [Watertown] Augt 29. 1776

Whereas The Ship *Queen of England* Arnot Master, loaded with Pork and other Provisions for the use of the Enemy, was lately taken within the Harbor of Boston by Capt Caleb Hopkins Commander of a Decoy Ship placed at Nantaskett by order of this State & the regiments under the Command of Col Whitney and Colo Craft, stationed at Nantaskett Head for the Protection and defence of the Harbor of Boston, and the Legality of the Capture of said Prize has been Tryed & she has been Condemned one third to Capt Hopkins & two thirds to the Regiments under the Command of Colo Whitney and Colo Crafts, and the said Capt & Colos Claim the Whole of said prize and their Agent is daily dispersing the same, so that this State will be deprived of any share in said Prize notwithstanding the Capt & Colos aforesaid with their regiments was paid and Subsisted by this State, Therefore Resolved,

That Richard Derby & Thomas Cushing Esqrs with such as the Honble House May join be a Committee to take this Matter under Consideration & report what is proper to be done so that justice may take place

sent down for Concurrence

John Avery Dpy Secy

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives August 30, 1776

Read & concurred and Judge [Nathan] Cushing Capt Bachellor [Josiah Batchelder] & Colo Tarbell are Joined J Warren Spkr

In Council Sept 2d, 1776. Ordered That David Sewall & Daniel Hopkins Esqrs be a Committee in the Room of Richard Derby and Thomas Cushing Esqrs Absent – Sent [down] for Concurrence

John Avery Dpy Secy

In the House of Representatives Sept 2, 1776. Read & Concurred

J Warren Spkr

1. *Mass Arch.*, vol. 210, 251, 252.

ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ESTABLISHING SENIORITY  
OF THE CAPTAINS OF STATE ARMED VESSELS <sup>1</sup>

In Councill [Watertown] August 29, 1776.

As it may often hapen that the armed vessels in the service and pay of this State may meet & be called to act in conjunction – and as fatal consequences might insue should a contest arise at such times, with whom lay the first command. For the Prevention whereof it is ordered that Capt Daniel Souther of the Brig *Massachusetts* be the first Captain of the Armed vessels in the pay of this State & that Capt Simeon Sampson be second Capt Jno Fisk third, Capt Richd Welden fourth, Capt John Foster Williams, fifth, and Capt John Clouston be the sixth, <sup>2</sup> and that all Captains of Armed Vessels hereafter appointed take Rank according to the Dates of their Commissions unless otherwise ordered by this Board,

In the Name & pr Order of Council  
Walter Spooner Prest

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 171.

2. Sampson commanded the brig *Independence*; Fisk, the sloop *Tyrannicide*; Welden, the brig *Rising Empire*; Williams, the sloop *Republic*; and Clouston, the sloop *Freedom*.

PETITION FOR COMMISSION FOR JOSHUA STONE TO COMMAND THE  
MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SLOOP *Retrieve* <sup>1</sup>

To the Honble the Council of the State of Massachusetts. –

The Petition of John Fox, in behalf of himself and others of Falmouth,  
Casco Bay –

Humbly shews

That they have been at great Expencc in fitting out a Sloop called the *Retrieve* burthen'd 95 Tons to be navigated by 80 Men – to be mounted with 10 Carriage Guns, 4 & 3 pounders, & 16 Swivel Guns, – to carry 600 lb Powder 8000 lb Beef, 12 Barrels of Pork & 7000 lb Bread &c.

That said Sloop is fitted out by the Petrs for the purpose of cruizing against the unnatural, & inveterate Enemies to the States of America –

That they have chosen the following Officers for said Sloop – viz: –

Joshua Stone Captain  
Wm McLellan. 1st Leut  
John Lemons – 2d Lieut  
Arthur McLellan. Master.

The Petrs therefore pray your Honors to Grant a Commission to Capt Joshua Stone as Commander of the abovemention'd Vessel –

And as in Duty bound will ever pray &c

John Fox for himself  
& the rest of the Owners

Watertown. Augt 29th 1776.

[Endorsed] In Council Augt 29th 1776. – Read & Ordered that the Prayer of

the within Petition be granted on the Capt Stone's giving Bonds agreeable to the Orders of Congress.—<sup>2</sup>

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 174–74a.

2. Commissions were also ordered this date for the following Massachusetts privateer schooners: *General Putnam*, Captain Stephen Mascoll; *True Blue*, Captain William Cole. Gunpowder was hard to come by. Owners of privateers frequently requested that they be supplied from the state magazine in order to send their vessels on a cruise. Numerous petitions for powder are to be found in Mass. Arch. records.

JOHN BRADFORD TO JOHN HANCOCK<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir

Boston 29th Augt. 1776

I had the Honour to write you by the last post in which I hinted that I had Sent Capt [Samuel] Tucker with fifteen hands to portsmo to bring the prize round to Boston, Tucker proceeded so far as Salem where he met Mr Tracy who assur'd him he was at portsmo the day before in Company with Mr [Joshua] Wentworth and [John] Langdon, who were determined to keep the vessell there and had libell'd her; on reciev'g this information he with his men Return'd,<sup>2</sup> I beg Leave to Suggest Sir if they have authority to stop prizes that Just goes into the mouth of their harbour for a nights Anchorage, no more Continental prizes may be Expected to this port, for as the Autumn is Approaching, all the prizes must come round Coast ways from the Eastward to shun the Enemy's cruisers and must harbour every night, and I think it would be Extraordinary for them Gentlemen who have no Care or trouble in fitting out the Schooners to receive the Emolument arising on the Comission, I thought it my Duty Sir to give this information and beg leave to offer it to the Consideration of the Marine Committee

I had the pleasure of taking Mr Adams & Whipp[e] by the hand Yesterday almost the Instant they arrived,<sup>3</sup> they left their fellow traveller at Hartford having meet an Accident, but they expect him in a few days. I wish a long Continuance of your health and am with all due Respects [&c.]

J. Bradford

1. Walter Fuller Don Collection, SI.

2. The *Nelly Frigate* taken by Washington's schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin*.

3. Samuel Adams and William Whipple had left Philadelphia on August 4.

*New-England Chronicle*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1776

Boston, August 29.

On the 26th Inst. Capt. [William] Nott, of the Privateer Sloop *Broome*, of New-Haven, arrived at Dartmouth with 4 valuable Prizes, viz. — the Ship *Charming Sally*, John Stell, Captain, bound to Europe from Dominico; had on board 465 Hogsheads, 31 Teirces, 35 Barrels of Sugar and 25 Tons of Fustic: — The *Snow Ann*, John Bowes, Captain, from Tobago to Lancaster; had on board 169 Hogsheads, 20 Teirces, 26 Barrels of Sugar, 40 Bags of Ginger and 118 Bales of Cotton: — The Brig *Carolina Packet*, Mark Towel, Captain, bound from Antigua to London; had on board 151 Hogsheads, 12 Teirces, 10 Barrels of Sugar, 2 Hogsheads of Rum, and 14 Tons of Lignum

Vitae and Fustic: – And the Brig *John*, Daniel McKay, Captain, from Grenada to Dublin; had on board 90 Hogsheads and 2 Teirces of Rum.

One Day last Week, the *Viper* Sloop of War, belonging to the Royal Pirate, and which has been cruising off Cape-Ann some Days, took two Sloops, from the eastward.

Last Sunday Morning safely arrived at Marblehead, a Prize Ship from Jamaica, with a Cargo of Sugars, Cotton, &c. She was chased by the *Milford* Frigate, who being fired upon from one of the Forts there, put out again; and on Monday took a Brig (said to be a Prize bound for Salem) <sup>1</sup> and a Schooner and Sloop from the Eastward, for this Port, laden with Lumber, &c. They set Fire to the two latter Vessels, and entirely destroyed them. The Brig still remains in their Possession. The People belonging to the Eastward Vessels made their Escape in their Boats, and got safe on Shore. The *Milford* continues cruising off our Bay.<sup>2</sup>

1. The brig *Diana*, a West Indiaman for Cork; see journal of the *Milford*, August 25, 1776.

2. The *Continental Journal*, August 29, carries similar coverage of the events related in this entry.

LIBELS FILED IN MASSACHUSETTS ADMIRALTY COURT AGAINST  
VARIOUS BRITISH PRIZES <sup>1</sup>

State of the Massachusetts-Bay, Middle District, ss.

To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, that Libels are filed before me, against the following Vessels, their Cargoes and Appurtenances; to witt – in Behalf of Captain Joseph White and his Company, and the Owners of the privateer Sloop *Revenge*, against the Ship *Anna Maria*, William Pringle late Master; and against the Ship *Polly*, of about 170 Tons Burthen, Tobias Lear late Master: – in Behalf of the Captains Tucker and Skimmer and their Companies; of the Continental armed Schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin*, against the Brigantine *Perkins*, burthen about 140 Tons, William Jenkins late Master: – In Behalf of Captain Wingate Newman and his Company, and the Owners of the Privateer Brigantine *Hancock*, against the Ship *Nancy*, burthened about 220 Tons, George Keys late Master; and against the Sloop *Two Friends*, burthened about 95 tons: – In Behalf of Captain John Phillips and his Company, and the Owners of the Privateer Sloop *Warren*, against the Ship *Isaac*, burthened about 400 Tons, George Ashburn late Master: And in Behalf of Caleb Hog and James West, against the Schooner *Deborah*, burthened about 45 Tons, Samuel Nickerson late Master: All which Vessels, their Cargoes and Appurtenances, so libelled, are said to have been taken and brought into the County of Essex. And Another Libel is filed before me by Bartholomew Putnam and Andrew Cabot, against the Ship *Lord Dartmouth*, of about 300 Tons Burthen, her Boats, Sails, Cables, Anchors, Rigging and Appurtenances, and a Chest of English Goods on board her; all which, lately in the Possession, and under the Care and Command of Captain ——— Lee, were they say, by them seized and taken in Danvers, in the County of Essex, on a Part of the Sea, between high water and low-water

Mark. And for the Trial of the Justice of these Captures, the Maritime Court for the said Middle District, will be held at Salem, in the County of Essex, on Tuesday, the Seventeenth Day of September, 1776, at ten o'Clock in the Forenoon; when and where the Owners of said Captures, or any Persons concerned, may appear and shew Cause, if any they have, why the same, or any of them, should not be condemned.

Tim Pickering, Jun. Judge of said Court.

1. *New-England Chronicle*, August 29, 1776. This issue also contains libel filed by Captain John Fisk of the *Tyrannicide* against the brigantine *Betsey*, Joseph Dean, commander - trial to be held in Boston on September 6.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL  
FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND <sup>1</sup>

[Providence] August 29

Voted That the Sum of One Hundred and six pounds twelve shillings and six pence  $\frac{3}{4}$  be paid Mr John Smith out of the Treasury as the Ballance of his Account

Tis agreed to pay Capt Christopher Sheldon Six pounds Lawfull Money for the Damage done his Warfe in Launching the Ships

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Albany August 29th 1776

Sir Captain Wynkoop, who has been sent down to me by General Gates has this Morning delivered me the enclosed Memorial,<sup>2</sup> with a Request that I should transmit it to Congress - As I cannot refuse complying with his Request I have thought it incumbent on me to let it be accompanied with General Gates and General Arnold's Letter on the Subject - Altho' I believed Wynkoop to be brave and industrious and equal to the Command of what Vessels we had when I recommended him, yet I was so far from being sufficiently acquainted whether he was equal to the Command of such a Number of Vessels as we have now there, that I learnt General Arnold's Appointment with great Satisfaction and very much approved of it . . .

Our Carpenters sicken very fast. Capt Titcomb of the Massachusetts Bay had only ten at Work on the 25th out of fifty, and many of the other Companies were also down. We are however so much a Head of the Enemy in our Naval Force, that I do not apprehend they will be able to equal our Strength this Campaign notwithstanding the Indisposition of our Carpenters - I have ordered a Physician to Skenesborough to examine the sick Carpenters that such might be discharged as are not likely to be of future Service - the Expence being very high.

If the Enemy should find themselves unable to make an Attempt to penetrate into the Colonies this Campaign it is more than probable that they will assiduously employ themselves in the Course of next Winter to procure Materials for building as large Vessels as the Lake will bear in Order to get a Superiority next Campaign and altho' I am under no Apprehen-



sions that they will ever be able to penetrate into the Colonies from the Northward as there is such a Variety of Difficulties to be surmounted before they can reach any part where they can be subsisted, yet if they should obtain a Superiority on the Lake they might in another Campaign possess themselves of Tyonderoga, and thus compleat part of their plan, by surrounding us with a Chain of Forts, and greatly harrass our Frontiers. Would it not therefore be prudent to provide every Material this Fall and Winter for the Construction of as large Vessels as any that can be borne on the Lake?

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 305-12, NA.
2. See Wynkoop Memorial, August 27.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Thursday, A. M.

[Harlem] Augt. 29th, 1776.

A letter from Comfort Sands, Esqr. dated at New-Rochelle, yesterday, and sent by Mr. Danl. Redfield, informing the Committee that said Redfield was sent to be examined relative to the enemy's ships, and requesting the Committee to give him a permit to pass King's Bridge.

Danl. Redfield, being examined, says, that about 4 o'clock on Monday morning last, his sloop, going from New-York, was taken by the Brig *Hali-fax*, mounting 10 four pounders, Quorme [William Quarmer], commander; that about 12 o'clock same day, they run his vessel, after having stripped her of the rigging, cable and anchor. The man who piloted the vessel was one Reed; the frigates were *La Brun* [Brune] and the *Niger*; that the design of the enemy was to bring over their tories from Long island; that the ships of war were to run to King's Bridge, there to land their forces, and make a juncture with the other part of the army; that the enemy by this means would be able to cut off all communication with our army both by land and water, and oblige our troops in New-York to surrender. That the enemy had plundered Hart and City island; that he thinks they got about 12 or 14 head of cattle, besides sheep, ducks, &c; that while he was on board several persons come on board from Long island; that on Tuesday a man came on board who said that the King's army had killed 1,300 of our men, and had gained the ground of our men; that one Barne came on board from the City island; that his partner, Stephen is kept on board in order to be exchanged for the mate of the *Niger*, who had been taken by the sloop *Beverly* and carried into Amboy. Says the private men were very inveterate against us; they did not use his person ill.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 601.

"MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF WAR ON THE EVACUATION OF LONG ISLAND" <sup>1</sup>

At a Council of War held at Long Island, August 29th 1776.

Present, His Excellency Gen. Washington; Major-Generals, [Israel] Putnam, [Joseph] Spencer; Brigadier Generals, [Thomas] Mifflin, [Alexander]

McDougall, [Samuel Holden] Parsons, [John Morin] Scott, [James] Wadsworth, [John] Fellows.

It was submitted to the consideration of the Council, whether under all circumstances, it would not be eligible to leave Long Island, and its dependencies, and remove the army to New York. Unanimously agreed in affirmative, for the following reasons:

1st Because our advanced party had met with a defeat, and the wood was lost, where we expected to make a principal stand.

2d The great loss sustained in the death, or the captivity of several valuable officers, and their battalions, or a large part of them, had occasioned great confusion and discouragement among the troops.

3d The heavy rains which fell two days and nights with but little intermission, had injured the arms, and spoiled a great part of the ammunition; and the soldiery being without cover, and obliged to lay in the lines, were worn out, and it was to be feared could not be retained in them in any order.

4th From the time the enemy moved from Flatbush, several large ships had attempted to get up, as supposed, into the East River, to cut off our communication, by which the whole Army would have been destroyed, but the wind being northeast, could not effect it.

5th Upon consulting with persons of knowledge of the harbour, they were of opinion that small ships might come between Long Islands and Governour's Island, where there are no obstructions, and which would cut off the communication effectually; and who were also of opinion that the [hulks] sunk between Governour's Island and the city of New York, were no sufficient security for obstructing that passage.

6th Though our lines were fortified with strong redoubts, yet a great part of them were weak, being abbatied with brush, and affording no strong cover, so that there was reason to apprehend they might be forced, which would have put our troops in confusion, and having no retreat they must have been cut in pieces or made prisoners.

7th The divided state of our troops, render our defence very precarious, and the duty of defending long and extensive lines, at so many different places, without proper conveniences and cover, so very fatiguing, that the troops had become dispirited by their incessant duty and watching.

8th Because the enemy had sent several ships of war into the Sound to a place called Flushing Bay, and from the information received, that a part of their troops were moving across Long Island that way, there was reason to apprehend they meant to pass over land and form an encampment above Kingsbridge, in order to cut off and prevent all communication between our army and the country beyond them, or to get in our rear.

1. Force Transcripts, Miscellaneous Letters, LC. Peter Force had endorsed this document: "For this I am indebted to Mr. [Jared] Sparks."

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JABEZ FITCH <sup>1</sup>

Thirdsd the 29th [August]:

At about 4 in the Afternoon all the Officers & most of the Soldiers that were Prisoners here <sup>2</sup> were order'd into the Flat bottom'd Botes & went down to the Fleet, where we were put on Board the *Pacific* a Ship of about 900 Tons, Commanded by one Capt Dun here our Accomodations were but somewhat Coars, for Officers & Men, being almost 400 in Number, were soon Drove under Deck together without Distinction; Here we kept our Residence three Nights Successively, & my own Lodging was no other than a Great Gun or a Quile of Riging, yet we here Recd: great Indulgence from one Mr. Dowdswell an Officer of the Marines, who was our Emediate Overseer

1. William H. W. Sabine, ed., *The New-York Diary of Lieutenant Jabez Fitch of the 17th (Connecticut) Regiment from August 22, 1776 to December 15, 1777* (New York, 1954) 35, 36. Hereafter cited as Sabine, ed., *Fitch's Diary*.
2. Fitch, who was taken prisoner toward the conclusion of the battle of Long Island, was then being held with other prisoners in a barn near Red Hook.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH <sup>1</sup>

[New York, August] 29th. – The ships on the East River fell down to Hunt's Point. On the same night, the Americans evacuated Long-Island, bringing off their military stores, provisions, &c. Some heavy cannon were left. In this retreat from the Island, and which was well conducted, an instance of discipline and of true fortitude was exhibited by the American guards and pickets. In order that the British should not get knowledge of the withdraw of the Americans, until their main body had embarked in the boats and pushed off from the shore, (which was a matter of the highest importance to their safety the guards were ordered to continue at their respective posts, with centinels alert, as if nothing extraordinary was taking place, until the troops had embarked: they were than to come off, march briskly to the ferry, and embark themselves. But somehow or other, the guards came off, and had got well toward the landing-place, when they were ordered to face about, march back, and re-occupy their former posts; which they instantly obeyed, and continued at them, until called off to cross the ferry. Whoever has seen troops in a similar situation, or duly contemplates the human heart in such trials, will know how to appreciate the conduct of these brave men, on this occasion.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 49.

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

[H.M.S. *Roebuck*, August 14 to August 29]

14th Augst

In New York Harbour, I found my Lord Howe, with his Flag onboard the *Eagle*, Lord Shulldham in the *Chatham* and Commodore Hotham in the *Preston*, with about 25 Sail of Men of War. They were laying off Staten Island, on which General Howe's Army (consisting of 24 thousand Men) were

encamped; the Transports, which could not be less than 300 Sail, covered a space of at least 3 Miles; And as the part of the Island where the Camp was, is sloping ground down to the water, the whole together, exhibited, by much, the finest scene I ever Saw.

Lord Howe had arrived abt three weeks before this, but as yet no operations had been commenced against New York: owing as was said: to having waited for the arrival of the reinforcment from England, which came in only a few days before, under the command of Como Hotham, after a most tedious & tiresome passage of 14 Weeks. Lord Howe however had written to General Washington to inform him of the Powers that were lodged in him, & his Brother the General, of treating with the Colonies, granting pardons &c. The first letter, as it was directed only to George Washington Esqr &c &c he sent back unopend: saying he could receive no letter that was not directed to him by the Title of General Washington, Commander in Chief of the American Forces, which My Lord Howe thought proper to comply with, and his second letter was received; Also his Answer, saying he should lose no time in laying the whole before the Congress, then sitting at Philadelphia. His Lordship had also wrote to Doctor Franklyn, whose answer breathed nothing but a firm resolution of the whole colonies to throw off the Government of Gt Britain. So that whatever hopes might have been concieved of settling the dispute by negociation, it now appeared very certain that they were futile & [ne]gatory.

19th Augst

The *Phoenix* & *Rose*, which had been sent up the North River 5 weeks before, where they had been attackd by Gallies & Fireships came down this Mornng passing through the Fire of the Batterys on both sides without either recieving any damage –

22d Augst

I Received orders from the Admiral to hold the Ship in readyness for covering the descent of the Troops on Long Island: In the Evening the *Phoenix*, *Greyhound* & *Rose* came down & Anchored near us, and at day break the Ships warped close to the Shore of Gravesend Bay. soon after the Admiral came down, hoisted his Flag on board the *Phoenix* and made the Signal for the Troops to land. By 8 oclock the Flat bottomd Boats appeared in three divisions, and proceeded to the shore in great order, where they landed without the least opposition; and as the Transports with the remainder of the Troops that were to be landed, followed the Boats immediately, & anchored very near the beach, there was at least 15. Thousand Men, with a large train of Artillery, on Shore in less than an hours time, the first landing being about Six

thousand Men. The Boats were Commanded by Commodore Hotham, assisted by Six or eight Captains and a Number of Lieutenants, each boat carrying a Midshipman, a Coxswain & 10 Rowers.

after the Troops were landed the Admiral struck his Flag on board the *Phoenix*, and left Como Hotham with the Command of that Division of Transports, and to give the necessary Orders for the Baggage & Horses of the Army to be sent over as soon as possible.

22d Augst

Untill this day we had lain without the Narrows, now the Troops were landed, I moved the Ship near the Admiral's off the Watering place at Staten Island; where I erected Tents with my Sails for the sick Men and sent upwards of Sixty ashore, ill with fevers & scurvy, and borrowed 30 Seamen from the *Bristol* to replace them.

25th

General DeHyster<sup>2</sup> with 5 Thousand Hessians crossed over to Long Island and Joind the Army, which was encamped round Flatbush. All that part of Long Island that lays opposite to New York is high land and commands the Town. The Rebels had therefore fortified it in the best manner they were able, and had thrown up a chain of Redouts & Lines to oppose the British Troops, which they expected would imediately attack them. Fortunately however this was not the Case; for General Howe, remaining quiet in his Camp at Flat bush four days, gave the Rebels such Spirits, that they determined to take the Feild the Moment they should hear the Army was in Motion.

27th Augst

From our Camp to the Rebels was about 7 Miles, our Troops began their March at Midnight and came on with so much silence that at day break they were discovered on the Hills before the Rebels had heard of their Moving. They however made the best disposition of their Forces they could, and for some time shewed a resolution of making a stand; particularly on their right wing which was commanded by Lord Sterling and extended down to the Water, where on Account of having a considerable advantage of ground he prevented General [James] Grant's Brigade from advancing untill near 10 Oclock, by which time the right of our Army had got so much behind the left of theirs, that they found themselves in danger of being surrounded, and having suffered considerably in their Center during the Action, they imediately gave way, and made a precipitate retreat into their Works.

The Fleet assisted in this opperation by 5 Ships getting under way and making an appearnace of attacking The Forts, on which I led with the *Roebuck*, and exchanged a few Shot with the Fort at Red Hook, but it was situated too high for

our Guns to do it any damage. and nothing being intended more than to make a Diversion, to keep the Enemy in their Forts, I hauld off again, and upon the defeat of the Rebels Ashore, The Ships Anchored by Signal from the Admiral.

In this Action the Rebels lost in killed wounded & taken Prisoners upwards of 3 thousand Men: among the Latter were Ld Sterling & Mr Sullivan two of their Generals; who were afterwards exchanged for Genl Prescott [Richard Prescott] (who the Rebels had taken in Canada) and for Mr [Montfort] Brown Governor of the Bahama Islands that had been taken from thence by Hopkins's Squadron. The English Army had about 50 Killed & 300 wounded, mostly very slightly and by the accident of mistaking a Party of the Rebels (who were dressed in Blue) for Hessians, an officer & part of a company of Marine Granadiers fell into the Rebels hands.

After this success Genl Howe lost no time in erecting Battery's against the Rebels works, but on News being brought to the Rebel Army, that several Men of War had arrived near Hell-Gate, thro' the Sound, they saved him the trouble of using them; for on the apprehension of being surrounded, a Panick seized them, and in the Night of the 28th, they, to a Man, deserted all their works on Long Island, and crossed over in Boats to the Town; leaving all their Cannon and a great quantity of Provisions behind them.

29th Augst

They still however kept possessn of Governor's Island, where they had two Regiments in Garrison. In the afternoon the General sent to them to surrender, but on their refusal, he imediately opened a Battery against it at Brookland, and two of the *Roebuck's* Guns being by this time placed upon Red Hook, together with the fire from her lower Deck, they were soon obliged to quit the Island, leaving every thing behind them. The Ships imediately moved up, but as night was now come on, and it was uncertain if the Fort was entirely abandoned, we neglected taking possession of it. In the Night the Rebels returned, with a Number of Boats, and carried off their Tents Baggage & Provisions

1. Hamond, No. 5, UVL.

2. Leopold Philipp Freiherr von Heister.

*New-York Journal*, THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1776

New York, August 29.

On Wednesday afternoon last week, about 5 or 6 o'clock, came up from the north, a cloud of an exceeding black and terrible appearance, from which it rained considerably, with some wind and thunder, but not near so much of either as was expected. Soon after, between 7 and 8 o'clock, came up another cloud, which some, who observed, say moved in an opposite

direction, and met another cloud, supposed to be that lately passed, right over the city of New York, and parts adjacent. The effects were terrible; the rain for a long time poured down in torrents, attended with almost incessant broad streams of the fiercest lightning, and most tremendous peals of thunder, resembling in quickness after the flash, the discharges of heavy cannon, but louder, and roaring without intermission. The storm is supposed to have continued near an hour, and the height of it about half that time, exceeding in violence and terrible effects, any thing of the kind that was ever remembered here. In the house of Mr. Joseph Hallet, in Hanover Square, where soldiers were quartered, a soldier named [Abraham] Bartlett was struck dead, and two others terribly wounded by the explosion of a number of charged cartridges, an house adjoining was set on fire, but soon extinguished. One of our Row Gallies in the East-river, was struck, the mast and sprit shattered, and three men struck down, but by proper application, all recovered. A house was struck in Maiden Lane, but whether any person was hurt or not, we have not heard. The old City Hall was struck, and some of the bricks beat down, but no person hurt, Four men were killed on Long Island, and some houses and barns burnt in Toppan.

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

Remarks off Frogs point Long Island Sound

Thursday 29 Augt 1776

8 [A. M.] Fresh Breezes wt Rain at times at 11 the *Brunes* Barge gave Chace to a sloop standing out of Great Bay towards New York at Noon Hurd the Report of Musquetry supposed to be the Rebels firing on the *Brunes* Barge Weighd and Run up to Her Assistance as pr Signal of the *Brune* at 1 took up the *Brunes* Barge the Sloop Having got from Her Fierd Several Shott at a House and Bushes on Frogs point the Rebels having Fird on the Boat from thence at 3 Ancherd wt the Bt Br in Flushing Bay in 5 Fathm Verd to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a Cable Lauren[ce]s point ESE  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Mile

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

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

[Philadelphia] Thursday, August 29, 1776

The Marine Committee having recommended Alpheus Rice to be first lieutenant of marines, on board the brig *Hampden*, commanded by Hoysted Hacker, Esqr,

*Resolved*, That he be accepted, and that a commission be granted to him accordingly.

1. Ford, ed., JCC, V, 715.

JAMES R. MORRIS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

Gentlemen,

Baltimore 29th Augt 1776

I was requested by Capt Nicholson to procure a Vessell to go to James

River, for a load of coal. I have accordingly for that purpose made a Verbal agreement with Capt Johnson of the Schooner *Sally & Polly* – he says she will carry about 2000 Bushells of grain, if so, he is to receive twenty five Shillings per day, he Victualling & Manning her. I have referred him to you for Orders. Capt Nicholson also sent down the 27th Inst two other Small Vessels at 12/6 pr day each with the Schooner *Resolution* I am Gentlemen with the greatest respect [&c.]

James R. Morris

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO CAPTAIN STAIR DOUGLAS,  
H.M.S. *Squirrel*<sup>1</sup>

Copy

Pursuant to my Lords Commissioners of the Admtys direction,

You are carefully to avoid Cruizing off the Ports, or approaching so near the Coasts of the French & Spanish Possessions within the Limits of your Station, as to give any unnecessary umbrage or interruption to the Subjects or Trade of those Nations, or any just cause of Complaint which you are likewise to direct Lieutenant [James] Cotes<sup>2</sup> to pay particular attention to for which this shall be your orders. –

Given under my Hand onboard His Maj Ship *Antelope*  
in Port Royal Harbour Jamaica this 29th August 1776

Clark Gayton

[Endorsed] NB Captain Douglas receiv'd with the above order, the Kings Instructions, relative to such Captures as should be made in consequence of the late Act pass'd for prohibiting all Trade & Commerce with the Rebelious Colonies & directed to pay particular attention thereto.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. Commanding H. M. Schooner *Porcupine*.

WILLIAM BINGHAM TO SILAS DEANE<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[St. Pierre, August 29, 1776]<sup>2</sup>

The *Reprisal*, the Vessel which was appointed to bring me here, sailed a few Days agoe; tis Said that several Vessels of War are laying in Wait for her; I have no reason to believe She will be taken; but if She was, I am confident She would meet with very rough Treatment . . .

The General promised me, that one of the French Frigates should convoy the *Reprisal* beyond the Track of the British Cruizers, but upon Receipt of Admiral Young's Letter, he called a Council, & it was thought adviseable, that it should not be done; Perhaps they were afraid of commencing Hostilities; as the French Navy is very weak in the West Indies

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XXIII, 24–25.

2. The date is approximated. Josiah Bartlett, in reporting the arrival of the *Reprisal* at Philadelphia, wrote that she sailed from St. Pierre on August 26, 1776. As Bingham lists her as sailing "a few Days agoe," it is assumed that "a few" might represent three days.



30 Aug.

BENJAMIN FOSTER, CHAIRMAN OF THE MACHIAS COMMITTEE, TO THE  
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

We being appointed the Committee for Machias, We think our Duty at all Times to Make known to your Honors all & every Transaction against this State – having Lately Seen a Copy of Capt. Jeremh O'Brian's Muster Rolls for the Sloop [*Machias*] *Liberty* & Schooner *Diligent* sworn to by him the 12th February last, We have Examined the same and find that he has much Deceiv'd your Honor's by puting down Men that Never did the duty and after drawing their wages Refusing to pay the same To them – We therefore beg that before your Honor's make any Settlement with him you would Examine into said Rolls, and if your Honor's want any further profe we shall have them procured and ready to send to you when called for . . .

Machias 30 August 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 210, 335.

FRANCIS SHAW TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

[Machias] Augt 30th

since I wrote the foregoing Mr [David] Gardner and several others taken in the Sloop from this place have arrived here – as Mr Gardner takes passage in the *Diligent*, he can Inform you that they have Receiv'd accounts of my coming down, and both Ships being sent to St Johns after us, <sup>2</sup> Concluding it would not be prudent for the *Diligent* to proceed to St Johns, We have thot best for her to Return to your Honors – I just Mention that the Schooners people Complain'd of not being paid for past Services, and was afraid it might be the same for this Trip, therefore I was obliged to promise them that this Muster Roll would be paid Immediately on their Return, and they Expect your Honors will make my promise good – several Bales of goods by accident broak open on board the Schooner & 1 ps Linnen & Several small articles are missing, no doubt the Capt must be accountable as I often Cautiond him against leaving his Cabbin Door open when absent – If the *Diligent* should be sold Capt [John] Lambert has Express'd a Desire to serve your Honors in any other Vessel that may be sent this way, as I dont presume to be a Sutable Judge of the Qualifications Necessary for a Commander, I shant pretend to say any more. . .

Fras Shaw

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 210, 333, 334. Continuation of August 28 letter.

2. H. M. S. *Scarborough* and H. M. Sloop *Viper*. See journal of the *Scarborough*, August 24.NEWBURYPORT COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE, INSPECTION AND  
SAFETY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>

The Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, & Safety for the Town of Newburyport, Would Beg Leave to Represent to your Honrs that a Sub Committee was appointed by them to Inspect all Vessels Arriving att or Departing from this Harbour, that the Regulations of the Honb[le] Congress or of this State might not be Violated, that While On their Duty On

Board the Sloop *two Friends*, (which was Some time past Taken & Brot into this place, by Cpts Obrian & [John] Lambert, And Acquitted by Court of Admiralty, held for this District,) William Hazen Master Bound for St Johns, they Were Informed of two Men, that were Bound to Nova Scotia in said Sloop and of whom it was Suspected, that if not prevented, they would be of Real Damage to this State to Let pass, Upon further Inquiry we were Satisfied as to the Unfitness of their Going and Prevented them, itt appeared they were to be Sent by Mr Epes Sargeant of Cape Ann, (the One being his Son & the Other a Master of a Vessel who had for Sometime past been in his Employ,) down to East passage, where he had a Snow and tis Said a Schr or two Laying, with Considerable Interest, we have Reason to think has for some time past been Employ'd in and Under the protection of that Government, By a Letter from Mr Epes Sargeant, which was Wrote Directly upon his being frustrated in this plan, to Capt [Joseph] Sayw[o]rd Master of his Snow there, and intercepted Just before the sloop Sail'd, fully Convince us of the above Suggestions, <sup>2</sup> – We are Induced to Trouble your Honors with this Information, by a Report, that the said Mr Sargeant, did on his Leaving this Town, Hire a two Mast Boat, in Ipswich, & apply'd to a Friend in Salem, who procured a Commission for sd Boat, that she has Actually Sail'd, it is Supposed, Directly for East passage, and that his Son is gone in her, – Which your Honrs will be pleased to Act upon as Shall in your Wisdom Seem fit, –

In Behalf & p Order of the Committee

Jon<sup>a</sup> Titcomb Char P T

Newbury port, 30th August 1776

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sept 14[th] 1776 On the Representation from the Committee of Newbury Port relative to Epes Sargeant – Read & Ordered that the said Epes Sargent be notified to appear and make Answer in Council on Thursday the 26th Day of September Inst to such Matters as are in said Representation suggested to his Prejudice and that the Secretary be directed to serve him the Said Epes Sargeant with a Copy of Said Representation and this Order thereon and also serve the Committee of the Town of Newbury Port with a Copy of the above Order that they may appear if they think proper.

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 232.

2. *Ibid.*, 233, Sargent's letter to Sayword reads: "Newbury port Augst 16 1776 Capt Joseph Sayword – sir I have only time to tell you that your Family is well and that Heaven must direct you in your movements I cant get down [I] beg you'd keep a Good lookout I cant Say any more Your Fr[ie]nd Epes Sargent."

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

August 1776

Cape Ann No72W. 11 Leagues

Wednesdy 28 AM Handed the Topsails at ½ past 10 sent the Longboat onbd the Prize with Provision <sup>2</sup>

Little Wind and Hazey ½ past 2 parted Company with the Brig sent her to Hallifax at 5 saw a Sail to the Et ward gave Chace at 8 lost Sight of the Chace

- Thursdy 29 at 12 saw our Prize and the Chace Fired 4 Shot and Brought too the Chace, proved to be an American Sloop loaden with Malasses Rum Coffee &c Recd the Prisoners on bd sent a Petty Officer and men to take Charge of her Do Wr made the Signal for the Brigg to join Company
- Friday 30 1/2 past 5 AM made Sail and gave Chace. Do Wr inclinable to Calm at 2 Hoisted out the Boats sent them Man'd & Arm'd after the chace . . . at 6 the Boats with the Prize joined Company, she proved to be an American Schooner load'd with Malasses, Coffee & Cotton at 10 made sail in Company with the Prizes

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.
2. The recaptured brig *Diana*.

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

[Watertown] Friday August 30th 1776.

The Committee of both houses appointed to take into consideration the Representation made by Capt [Richard] Welden respecting the Brig: called the *Rising Empire* have attended that Service – Report as followeth – viz. that the said Welden repair forthwith to the Town of Plymouth, & bring said Brig to a good Wharf in said Town, & there deliver said Brig with all the appurtunances thereunto belonging to one, or more persons, that this Court may appoint to take Charge thereof,<sup>2</sup> and then said Welden is directed to discharge all the Officers and Men under his Command, and make up his Muster Roll for said Officers and Men, and lay it before this Court for payment thereof.

also Report as the opinion of said Committee, that the Cannon now on board said Brig be order'd forthwith to the Town of Swanzey, and there put on board one, or both of the Armed Vessels now fitting out by this State against the Enemies of the united States of America. – all which is humbly Submitted

In Council. Read, & Accepted.

Walter Spooner p order

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 35, 187, 189–90.

2. *Ibid.*, 193, on August 31 the General Court ordered Welden to deliver the *Rising Empire* to William Watson.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Friday 30th of August 1776

- 5 [A. M.] Carried a way a Great deal of our Riggin sprang our bow-sprit we Are a perfect Rack  
Learge sea setting NE our prize in Company  
Lattd in 38d 48m Longd in 63d 56m
- 1 [P. M.] Freash gale, and high sea from S W  
3 fair weather  
12 Cloudy weather and squally

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO JOHN LANGDON <sup>1</sup>

Sir –

Providence Augt 30th 1776 –

I received your Favr of the 12th Inst and have not been able to answer it 'till now, as I cou'd not get the Sentiments of the Ships Committee about lending you The Guns as you propos'd 'till the last post and not having opportunity to Consult Esqr Hopkins (The Manager Of the Furnace) 'till this Morning, Could not Determine the Time we Cou'd Compleat a sett for you 'till now, which through the Loss of Time in the Misfortune Of the Furnace Hearth giving way, Shall not be able to Deliver you a sett here under 55 Days from this. at Five Pounds Lawful Money per hundred at which & much higher we Cou'd now sell Guns – You will please to give us your Definitive answer p Return Of Post, & if you have them, for Somebody to appear & Finish the Contract as mention'd before. as to our Committee Delivering or lending Those for our Ships, refer you to Collo [William] Whipple, Who heard What was said, if you get them, you or the Collo must appear in person, or write Govr Cook[e] as Chairman Of the Committee,– I am Sir [&c.]

Nich<sup>o</sup> Brown for the  
Furnace Owners

Am much Obgd for yr Particular  
Attention Abot the Masts & spars }  
They are not yet Arrived }

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

*Connecticut Gazette*, FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1776

New-London, August 30.

Last Saturday, two Frigates, a Brig, and a small Tender, being part of King George's piratical Fleet from Sandy Hook, came round Montauk-Point into the Sound, and have proceeded as far up as the Narrows: It is supposed their Views are to obstruct the Communication between New-York and New-England. Several Vessels that were ready to sail from this Port with Troops for New-York, are by this Means detained.

We hear that a small Vessel out of Connecticut-River, with Onions, was taken by the above Tender.

Last Tuesday Morning two other Men of War were seen off Montauk-Point.

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF PRIZE SHIPS AND CARGOES AT PROVIDENCE <sup>1</sup>

[New London, August 30]

Notice is hereby given, that on the 6th of September will begin at Providence, the Sale of the following Prizes and Cargoes, viz. The Ship *Jane*, Ship *Star & Garter*, and Ship *Friendship* – Cargoes consisting of Sugars, Rum, Indigo, Cotton, Cocoa, Pimento and Oil. The Sale to begin at 10 o'clock, A.M. and continue till sold.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, August 30, 1776.

LIEUTENANT ELIAS BALDWIN TO SOLOMON PORTER <sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

New York Augt 30. 76.

Dear sir. Last night was a time of the utmost Confusion & hurry Imaginable – Our Troops from long Island retreated into the City last night. The latter part of the night when they finished their retreat was very favorable to the Design a thick fog came on Just at Day break – I believe they came off[f] without any Molestation from the Enemy. The town is now again filled with Soldiers – but all in Confusion, I hope things will be soon reduced to more Order. The Reason of this Retreat I cannot certainly learn. The heavy rains we have had here for several Days past have fatigued the men on that Station, great part of whom were without any Cover, almost to death, I never saw poor creatures look more banged than they do. – Some say the Rains have greatly injured the works there. Doubtless the Generals think them not Tenable or they never would have quitted them. The Retreat was conducted with great prudence, tho' the Measure was unexpected & surprizing to me. . . . I have this moment heard that the last division of our troops were fired upon by the Enemy as they pushed from the Shore & several killed. Tis doubtless the Enemy's design to cross the Sound below hell gate & take possession of Kings bridge. for this purpose they have Carried a Number of Boats a[c]ross the Island. should they effect this they will ruin us. But I trust they will never be able to Effect this we have a large body of Troops at Kings bridge & thereabouts –

1. Baldwin Family Papers, YUL.

NARRATIVE OF ABRAHAM LEGGETT <sup>1</sup>

[July 1 to August 30]

I then with several others [at Poughkeepsie] formed ourselves in a company under the command of Barnardus Swartout all Vollenteers – the times began to appear very Interesting – the British Fleet and large army was at Staten Island – we march'd off in high spirits till we got to the Calder-bar-rack near the Croton River – there we staid but three days for derection – we then had news that the English army was preparing to land on Long Island – that they easy effected under the protection of Shiping – our army was at this Time on Brooklin Hights fortifying as fast as they Could – the Enemy advanced upon Part of our army under the com'd of Lord Stirling and General Sullivan – they faught on the Retreat to Flatbush Hills. There the battle became Very Hot but the Enemy was too powerful – they extended their write wing so as to cut off the retreat of our detachment from the main army, which they succeeded in and they kill'd and captured many, amongst them was several officers and the Two Gen'ls – many was Drownded in the mill Pond. This took place 28th August [sic] 1776 – the next day the 29th, Capt. Swartout crossed with us to the Island and we was placed on the left from the Hill call'd Fort Greene to Wallabout – the two armies close in view of each other, and for three Days the Rain fell in Torrents so that we could not Cook – then was the first Time I was Brought to eat Raw Pork –





*John Sullivan.*



*William Alexander.*

Flag of Truce, to confer with Washington & to procure himself some Necessaries.

Soon afterwards, we were most agreeably surprized to find, that the Rebels had entirely abandoned Long Island, and left every thing of Bulk and Weight behind them; soon after which our People began to fire from Red Hook upon Nutting Island.<sup>2</sup> This hasty Evacuation surprized us the more, as they had constructed Forts, Redoubts and Intrenchments without End. Not a Foot of Ground was unfortified. . . . Before Night they also abandoned Nutting Island, upon which likewise they had spent a great Deal of Labor. Our People harrassed them in this last Retreat by their great Guns from Brookland Ferry, Red Hook, and other Places. In the Evening some of our People, who were sent up to the Town with a Letter, by a Flag of Truce, directed to Sullivan (who is to set out to-morrow morning for the Congress at Philadelphia), observed a great Firing of Musquetry & much noise in the Town, from which they concluded, as our Troops could not possibly be there, that they were all in Confusion among themselves. The Ships of War had weighed Anchor in the Evening, and sailed up towards the Town, which, together with the rapid Progress of the Troops, 'tis imagined has occasioned a Panic. . . . The Ships cast anchor off Nutting Island, the Night coming on apace, and the army and other arrangements not being immediately ready for a great Operation.

. . . Sullivan promised me to mention Mr. Stanhope's<sup>3</sup> Situation, and to do what he could for his Release from Captivity

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 82-83, 84.

2. Now Governors Island.

3. Lieutenant Henry Stanhope, R.N., captured in Newport, November, 1775. See Volume 2.

#### EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN GENERAL SULLIVAN AND LORD HOWE<sup>1</sup>

New York, 30th of August, 1776

My Lord. - agreeable to your Lordships Request I have Conversed with General Washington, who says that he has no power to Treat upon the Subject your Lordship mentioned, but has not the least objection to my going to Philadelphia to Inform Congress of what your Lordship has been pleased to Communicate to me upon the Subject. I shall wait your Lordships further Direction, and am with much esteem, your Lordships most obedient Servant,

Jn<sup>o</sup> Sullivan

The Right Honble Lord Viscount Howe

*His Lordship's Answer:*

*Eagle*, 30 August, 1776

Sir,

Understanding by your Letter That the only Doubt of the propriety of your going to Philadelphia is, by your Conversation with General Washington, Removed, I do not see occasion to give you further Trouble but to Rec-



commend the prosecuting of your Journey, as you were pleased on that Condition to propose. I am Sir, your most obedt Humble Servt,

Howe

General Sullivan.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 730, 731.

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

[Philadelphia] Friday, August 30, 1776

*Resolved*, That three advice boats be established; one to ply between the state of North Carolina, and such port as shall be most convenient to the place at which the Congress shall be sitting; one other between the state of South Carolina and the said port, and one other between the state of Georgia and the same port; that such advice boats be armed, and put under the direction of the Secret Committee, who are empowered to freight them with such merchandise or commodities, as, without retarding their passage, may, together with the usual postage on letters, and other papers transmitted by them, contribute to defray the expences of the said boats.

The convention of New York having represented that, for want of blacksmiths, they are greatly delayed in obstructing the passage of Hudson's river, in the Highlands, which is an object of great importance:

*Resolved*, That the convention of New York be empowered to employ, for the purpose aforesaid, the blacksmiths that are now engaged in building the continenetal frigates at Poughkeepsie.<sup>2</sup>

The committee, to whom the petition of William Bell & Co. was referred, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That Governor [Jonathan] Trumbull be requested to permit the sloop *Freemason*, Epaphros Mygat, master, with her cargo, belonging to the petitioners, to proceed on her voyage to the island of St. Eustatia, so soon as the said master shall judge she may sail without falling into the hands of the enemy on the coast.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 718, 720–21.

2. A copy of this resolve was sent to the New York Convention. Philip Livingston to Abraham Yates, Jr., August 30, NYSL.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO MATTHEW GRISWOLD, ELIPHALET DYER, AND  
WILLIAM PITKIN<sup>1</sup>

[Extract]

Philadelphia 30th August 1776

By a vessel arived here yesterday we are Informed from the Master, who lately Saild from this port for Cape Francois, that on his arrival there under American Colours the curiosity of his flag drew Such numbers on board as almost Sunk his vessel they enquired whence he came, what News &c he told them he carried the flag of the Independant States of America, & gave them the declaration of Independance which they carried on Shore Soon after which the Govr sent his Compliments to the Capt with permission to

hoist his flag in that harbour; the Capt farther Says that three days before he left the Cape, which is thirteen days Since, dispatches arrived from old France acquainting the Governor that Twenty Ships of war with a number of Troops were coming to that port in Consequence of which people were set to work in repairing the barracks there to receive the Troops—

1. William Griswold Lane Memorial Collection, YUL.

### JOURNAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] August 30th, 1776.

Agreeable to a resolve of the Honorable Congress, & by direction of the Board, a Commission was granted for the Privateer Brig'e, called the *General Montgomery*, Commanded by James Montgomery, mounting 12 Carriage Guns, navigated by One Hundred Men.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 705, 706.

### JOHN THOMAS BOUCHER TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER <sup>1</sup>

Sir

Yocommico 30th August 1776

Tomorrow I shall quit this place & proceed down the Bay, with the Tobacco loaded Brigg, on seeing her safe out to Sea, shall return to Wmsburgh, & resign my Commission. — <sup>2</sup> Should Capt Nicholson quit the *Defence*, I will accept the Command, provided my pay is equal to what I have in this Province, & that I shall be permitted to go to Sea with the Ships. — I shall be under the necessity of being at home, at least a fortnight after my return from Wmsburgh. Imediately on my return will pay you a Visit at Annapolis. — I am sorry I had not the pleasure of seeing Capt Nicholson, I hope I shall in a short time I am Sir [&c.]

John Tho<sup>s</sup> Boucher

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. Boucher had resigned as first lieutenant of the Maryland ship *Defence* on March 27, 1776 to accept a post as commodore of the Virginia Potomac fleet and commander of the ship *Congress*.

### JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD <sup>1</sup>

[Williamsburg] Friday 30th August 1776. —

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt Tompkins for the use of the *Henry Galley* five Bolts of Duck and four sides of Leather. —

James Davis personally appeared before the Board and entered into Bond with Isaac Davis & Humphrey Davis his Securities in the Sum of One thousand Pounds Current Money Conditioned for his faithfully performing his Agreement of the 15th Inst in Building a Row-Galley for the use of this Commonwealth. —

Ordered that Stephen Mitchell deliver unto Thomas Gibbs such Iron as he may be in want of for the use of the *Henry Galley*. —

Capt Thomas Lilly of the Brig *Liberty* received Orders to proceed immedi-

ately with his Vessel to Baltimore and there take on Board as much Pig-Iron as may be sufficient to Ballast his Vessel, also to procure such other necessaries as may be requisite for fitting his said Vessel for Cruize and return as soon as possible to York Town and wait on the Board for further Orders. – Robert Elam second Lieut of the *Norfolk Revenge* Galley personally made his appearance before the Board and resigned his Commission on Board the said Galley. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 47, 48, VSL.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT<sup>1</sup>

Augt '76 anchor'd in North River [St. Augustine]  
 Thursday 29 (A M) Got the Sheet Ancher out & hauled her on the Graving place having brought her to 6 feet water, employed scraping the Barnacles from the Bottom which was become a perfect Oyster bank.  
 Fresh Breezes & Cloudy Wr Empd Scrubbing and Cleaning her Bottom at 5 received an Express from Govr Tonyn acquainting the Capt that there was a Rebell Privateer of force off the Barr who had made Prize of a Ship that was at Anchor there Got all hands on board sent a Boat to tow the Flat Bottom Boat down – As soon as the Tide would permit, hove her off – Got the Guns, sails, Casks, Stores &ca on Board – at 1/2 past 9 weighed & came to sail down the River – Left the Sheet Ancher behind, at 11 Anchor'd off the Look out house it bearing S:S:E the Hospitall WbS: the Fort W1/2S: No Point N:E 1/4 of a Mile distance, Fired a Gun as a Signl to the Fort  
 Friday 30 (A M) saw 3 sail off the Barr, md the Signl for a Pilot Boat & repeated it 3 Times, at 9 a Sloop got amongst the Breakers, sent the Boat to assist her, she proved to be from Virginia, at 9 a Schooner run ashore on the same place at 10 a sloop fired several Guns being a Ground sent assistance to her also, she proved to be from St Christophers loaded wt Rum  
 Fresh Breezes & Clear Weather the Boats & people empd assisting the Vessells. Fired 1 Three Pdr as a Signl to send the Launch down to assist the Vessels in distress

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

“A JOURNAL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS ON BOARD OF THE GOOD SLOOP *Warren* A BOLD PRIVATEER FROM DARTMOUTH TO THE LATTD OF 33:”<sup>1</sup>

Fryday August the 30 Day A D 1776

Latter Part after Twelve took in Two R[ee]fs in our Mainsail Blows Heavy A bad sea A Going in the Current Fryday Morning Very squally

Blows Heavy A Bad sea A Going settle Away to it Continalley & Tack  
Lattd in 38:20

First Part these 24 hours the Weather Moderates Drawing out of the  
Current Nothing A Cooking A Large Sea A Going

1. RIHS.

31 Aug.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO CHARLES THOMSON <sup>1</sup>

Sir, -

Portsmouth, Augt. 31st, 1776

On a late Trial of a Brigantine named the *Elizabeth*, retaken from the Enemy on her passage to Halifax - The Jury, were guilty of a Most flagrant error in their Verdict by acquiting the Vessel & Cargo, after I had supported the fact set forth in the Lible, (vizt) that she had been in Possesion of the Enemy more than Ninty six hours, wch will plainly appear by the Masters deposition, - I cou'd not consistant with my Duty as Agent for the Continent, let the matter rest on this Verdict, Therefore have appeal'd to the Honble Continental Congress, and now forward you, the Papers of Appeal, not doubting a very different determination on the next hereof. - The Claimants made an Offer to Compromise with the Captors of £ 1000. Stg about one third of their Just Quota, this was refused. Part of them then offer'd their full share, but considering, the injustice of the Verdict, I cou'd not Consent toe it for the Continent Claim, - The bearer Como Manly was at the recapture, who can Inform you very particularly. - I likewise forward you beside the papers from the Court Maritime, Capt. Ramseys desposition who, was Master of the Brigt when taken, & the Command given him by Admiral Shuldham - also a deposition one of the Claimants desired my forwarding.<sup>2</sup>

In this recapture, there were, a Mr [William] Jackson a Mr [Edward] Keighley & a Mr [Richard] Newton, who claim their Good they had with them in this Vessel, undoubtedly those persons must be deem'd carrieg their Interest for the supply of the Army &c - If it shou'd be thought necessary my attendancè at the Trial, shall be oblig'd you wou'd advise me, & the time appointed. also please to advise me your receipt of those Papers. - Shou'd the Honble Continental Congress, Permit a Compromise with the Claimants, (except those that were in the Vessel wd presume to think they wont allow it with them) shall be further oblig'd by an early direction thereon. - The Mode proposed, (if such a measure was permitted) was to have the Goods Valued, by Three Gentlemen vers'd in Merchandize, & each Claimant to pay his Quota. I mention this for your full Information of what has been agitated since the Trial - I would presume to recommend a decision as soon as may be, for the Interest of the concern'd, as the Good has been a long time in my Care, and I fear they may injure much by laying, as they are cheifly Woolens & Linnens, or rather a greater half of those

Good. – In my Estimation the Vessel & Cargo may Yeild £30,000 Lawfl. My  
at Public Sale. – I am with due respect [&c.]

Josh: Wentworth<sup>s</sup>

The Honble Charles Thomson Esq  
Secretary to The Honble Continental Congress

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, Court of Appeals, 1776–1787, NA.

2. *Ibid.*, the enclosure reads:

The several Papers contained in this File, Number'd from 1 to 57, together with  
the Book containing an Invoice of all the Brigantine *Elizabeth's* Cargo Number'd  
55, contain a true Copy of the whole Case in which Joshua Wentworth Esqr Agent  
for the United States of America in their behalf, and in behalf of the Captors, is  
Libellant, of the sd Brig her Cargo & Appurtenances tried on the 21st day of Aug-  
ust Inst., at Portsmouth New Hampshire, before the Honble Joshua Brackett  
Esqr. Judge of the Maritime Court there, and by said Wentworth Appealed to the  
Honble the Continental Congress – The several Claimants on file being Appellees

Portsmouth 31st August 1776

Attest Jon<sup>a</sup> M Sewall Cler[k] of said Court

3. Congress set aside the decision of the New Hampshire court on October 14, 1776. See  
Journal of the Continental Congress, October 14, 1776.

VALUATION OF MATERIAL LEFT AFTER BUILDING THE CONTINENTAL  
FRIGATE *Raleigh*<sup>1</sup>

Att the Request of John Langdon Esqr We the Subscribers have Surveyed  
all the Stuff left after building the Ship of War *Releigh* & Judge the whole  
to be worth Thirty Six pounds Lawful money – as Witness our Hands –  
Portsmouth August 31st 1776

James Hackett      James Hill      Moses Noble

1. John Langdon Papers, 117, HSP.

RECEIPT OF GEORGE CROWNINSHIELD FOR SHARE IN A PRIVATEER<sup>1</sup>

Recd of Capt william bartlett the Sume of fifty six pounds four shillings in  
full for One Sixteenth Part of A Scho (now fitting for A Privateere) As  
Shee Arived from the Eastward Excluding Her Cargoe of Lumber &c with  
Her Sparrs & plank She Brought upon Deck      Salem August 31 1776  
G<sup>eo</sup> Crowninshield

1. The Revolution, Naval, vol. 1, Privateers, Book 13, BHS.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR CLAIMANTS OF SLOOP *Smiling Molly*<sup>1</sup>

Taken up by the Company stationed at Plimouth for the Defence of the  
Sea Coast, the Hull of the Sloop called the *Smilling Molley*, with her Name  
wrote on her Stern, with white Paint, is almost 90 Tons burthen, appears to  
be about two Years old, was scuttled and drifting along Shore when found,  
the 24th of August current, about 5 Miles to the Northward of the Light  
House on the Gurnet, is painted with green Hants, and green Stern, had her  
Mast carried away by the Deck, and quite empty, not a Chest or Paper on  
board, is now at the Wharf in Plimouth. Any Person claiming Property,  
are desired to apply to Captains William Weston and Jesse Harlow, at Plym-

outh, being the Commander of the Company above-named.  
Plimouth, Aug. 31.

1. *New-England Chronicle*, September 5, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SLOOP *Tyrannicide*, CAPTAIN JOHN FISK <sup>1</sup>

Remks on Satterday 31st of August 1776

At 6 A m saw a ship And schooner to the westward about 2 miles distance they gave us Chase I spake with our prize Order him to Steare to the southward we steard to the Eastward the ship gave Chaise to our prize fird at her & brought her too then gave us Chaise come up with us a Little we Employd in heaveing Over board ballast and starting water

Lattd in 39d 12m Longd in 64d 33m

1 [P. M.] Freash gale and high sea from SW  
the frigat Comes up a Little we lightning Ship by starting our water and heaveing over our ballast  
at 2 P m saw a sail to the Eastward standing to the southward  
at 4 saw a sail to the northward standing to the SE Cloudy weather and squally  
at 6 saw a Learge ship to the Eastward standing to the SW  
at 7 lost sight of the frigat  
At 8 Alterd our Course hald up to the northward

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

*Providence Gazette*, SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1776

Providence, August 31.

Monday last the Captains Grimes and Hill, in the two Gallies belonging to this State, arrived here from New-York.

We learn that two of the Enemy's Ships, and a Brig, are cruizing in the Western Sound.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT <sup>1</sup>

August 1776 At single Anchor in Flushing Bay  
Friday 30 A M Moor'd wth stream Cable sent the Boat on s[h]ore Brought off 2 Head of Cattle sent one on board the *Brune* Light Breezes & Cloudy Wr at 2 PM Took a Pettyauger from N York  
Saturday 31 Light Breezes & Fair Wr at 12 PM sent the Barge Man'd & Arm'd up too Flushing Town took a Sloop <sup>2</sup>

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

2. *Ibid.*, the following day the sloop was manned by a petty officer and six men, apparently to be used as a tender.

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

Remarks off Flushing Bay Long Island Sound

Saturday Augt 31st 1776

- 4 [A. M.] Little wind and Fair Wr  
 6 Calm the *Brune* Made Our Signal for a Lieut  
 8 at 1/2 past Hove short Recd some Marines from the *Brune* and  
*Niger* Weighd and Came to sail  
 10 Came too off White stone point Sent the Boats Mannd &  
 Armd on Shore to take off Cattle &c from [Francis] Lewis's  
 House at White stone <sup>2</sup>  
 4 [P. M.] Light Breezes and Fair Weather Empd taking off the Stock  
 and Cattle, Lewis's House at White stone.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

2. Lewis was a New York delegate in the Continental Congress.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES <sup>1</sup>

Dear General

Buttonmould Bay Augt 31st 1776

The 24th Inst I left Crown Point, the 25th at night Anchored at Willsborough, the Same night came on a Violent Storm at N Et. the Next Day at 2 P M was obliged to weigh Anchor & return to this place, where the whole fleet arived the same evening, except the *Spitfire* Capt Ulmer who could not Clear the Shore & was obliged to come to an Anchor again, & rode out the Storm, tho exposed to the rake of Cumberland Bay. Fifty miles long, the hard gale made an amazeing Sea, & when I expected to hear the Gondola was Foundered, or drove on shore, she Joined us haveing received no Damage. tho a light Batteau, Veered a Stern of her was sunk, with the Sea, breaking Over her. The severe weather prevented my dispatching Lieut Whitcomb before yesterday morning, the first Fair wind, I will follow him. I should have gone this evening but the breeze is so light, night would have come on before we could have reached a safe place of Anchorage - I have had no Advices From St. Johns, or the Isle aux Nois, the earliest Intelligence I receive shall be communicated to you, emediately. I am very Anxious to hear from New York & make no Doubt, when you receive any material, Advices, I shall soon be Acquainted with it. - Inclosed is a return of the Strength of the Fleet, by which you will observe that Seventy four Men are wanting to compleat the Numbers proposed for the Vessells, which Are barely sufficient when compleat. I should be extremely glad, they would be sent to us soon - If you think proper to Send them the bearer Lieut [James] Calderwood, will take charge of them - Mr [James] Gilliland has the only good drawft I know of Lake Champlain, which he says was Delivered Capt [Lewis] Bush for you. It will be of great Service to me as I have no Drawft of the Lake. If a good officer can be procured to Act as Captain of the *Royal Savage*, I think he might be of Service, in Case any Accident should happen to me the present Master is not fit for the Command In Chief, tho a good Man in his present Station.

I suppose by this time General Schuyler has paid you a Visit, please to make My respectful Compliments to him if arrived – & let him know I will write him very particularly as soon as I arrive at the other end of the Lake – I am with real Affection & Esteem Dear General [&c.]

B Arnold

1. Gates Papers, NYHS.

COLONEL ISRAEL HUTCHINSON TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH<sup>1</sup>

I am to inform your Honor that Capt Cooke sunk a Cheveaux D Fries which is now floating down the River He has been with me this Mornng and tells me that it is His Opinion that the current is so rapid that all Endeavours of the Kind will not stop the River; I should be glad to Receive your Orders upon the Matter in the Meanwhile I subscribe myself yours to Command

Israel Hutchinson—

Mount Washington Augst 31st 1776

1. Heath Papers, MassHS. Hutchinson was in command of the 27th Continental Infantry.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN, R.N.<sup>1</sup>

[On board H.M.S. *Eagle* off Staten Island]

On Thursday, 29th [August 1776], General Sullivan and Lord Stirling both dined with the admiral, and were rather impudent than otherwise in talking of yesterday's engagement.<sup>2</sup> This day, we with several of the men-of-war moved up nearer the town; the army had got within musket shot of the rebel's works on Brookland Heights, and General Grant in the bay opposite to Red Hook.

30th, Friday. — This morning Sullivan breakfasted with us, and was afterwards sent with a flag of truce to New York and was left there. The admiral was going on shore, and was met in his barge by Colonel Sheriff, who informed him, to the surprise of the army, the rebels had quitted all their strong posts on Long Island, and deserted it entirely. Our people took possession of them, and found them strong and might easily have been defended for a considerable time. Some of the rebels, not knowing the precipitate flight of the others, were overtaken by our people by the time they got to the boats, and received a heavy fire from them, which the general believed did considerable execution.<sup>3</sup> This evening, we, with several of the ships, moved up within random shot of the town. The rebels quitted Governor's Island. On Saturday morning, the 31st, some few men returned to it.

1. *Duncan's Journals*, XX, 125–26.

2. Both generals were taken prisoner at the battle of Long Island.

3. This seems to be the British version of Washington's evacuation of Long Island. The few men left behind, and who were fired at from the shore, had been a rear guard.



VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Number 5.  
Sir

*Eagle* off Bedlow's Island, New York  
August the 31st 1776.

A Proposition having been made to me by the Commander of the Rebel Forces for an Exchange of Prisoners, Number for Number and Rank for Rank, I have thought it for His Majesty's Service to concur therein.

I have in Consequence directed that some American Prisoners taken by the *Milford* in an Armed Vessel from Boston <sup>2</sup> should be conveyed in the *Rainbow* to Halifax; and have desired Commissioner Arbuthnot to take the necessary Measures for effecting a suitable Exchange, with the Assistance of Sir George Collier, whom I have ordered to remain at Halifax for the better Protection and Security of that port.

Observing that the King's Service has received great Prejudice in the Decrease of the Ships' Complements by the re-capture of Vessels the property of His Majesty's disaffected Subjects, taken and manned by the Cruizers of the Squadron; I have recommended to the several Captains when making Prize of such Vessels, to take out the Crews with the most valuable parts of their Cargoes, and destroy the Vessels: Until the constitutional Authority of Government is so far restored in some part of the Colonies, that the Benefit intended by the restraining Act of the last Session of Parliament, may be better secured to the Captors than the present disordered State of the Colonies will admit. I am Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487..

2. The Massachusetts privateer brig *Yankee Hero* taken by H. M. S. *Milford*, June 6, 1776. See Volume 5.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS <sup>1</sup>

Number 6.  
Sir,

*Eagle* off Bedlow's Island, New York,  
August the 31st 1776.

By the *Hyde* packet, which the General sends with his Dispatches to make known the successful Progress of the Army in its first Operations, I transmit for their Lordships Information, Duplicates of my Letters of the 28th of July, and 8th and 14th of August sent by the *Sandwich Packet*, No 2. 3 & 4; with Copies of such of the Papers referred to therein, as seemed to be of any Moment.

I have now to add in respect to the Changes made in the Disposition of the Ships since the Date of the last Return, that on the 19th Captain Parker in the *Phoenix*, with the *Rose* Captain Wallace, and *Tryal* Armed Schooner, Lieutenant [John] Brown, taking Advantage of a fresh Easterly Wind, returned from the North River thro' the Fire from the Enemy's several Batteries and joined the Fleet off Staten Island without any Loss.

The Spirit and perseverance of this small Squadron will be best explained to their Lordships by Captain Parker's Journal enclosed <sup>2</sup>

General Howe giving me Notice of his Intention to make a Descent in

Gravesend Bay on Long Island on the Morning of the 22d, the necessary Disposition was made, and seventy five Flat Boats with eleven Batteaux and two Gallies built for the Occasion, were prepared for that Service.

The Command of the Whole remained with Commodore Hotham. The Captains Parker, Wallace and [Archibald] Dickson in the *Phoenix*, *Rose* and *Greyhound*, with the *Thunder* and *Carcass* Bombs under the Direction of Colonel [Thomas] James, were appointed to cover the Landing.

The Flat Boats Gallies and three Batteaux manned from the Ships of War, were formed into Divisions commanded respectively by the Captains [George] Vandeput, [Christopher] Mason, [Roger] Curtis, [Benjamin] Caldwell, [Charles] Phipps, [Toby] Caulfield, [Samuel] Uppleby and [Henry] Duncan; and Lieutenant [Samuel] Reeve of the *Eagle*. The rest of the Batteaux making a tenth Division, manned from the Transports, were under the conduct of Lieutenant Bristow, an Assistant Agent.

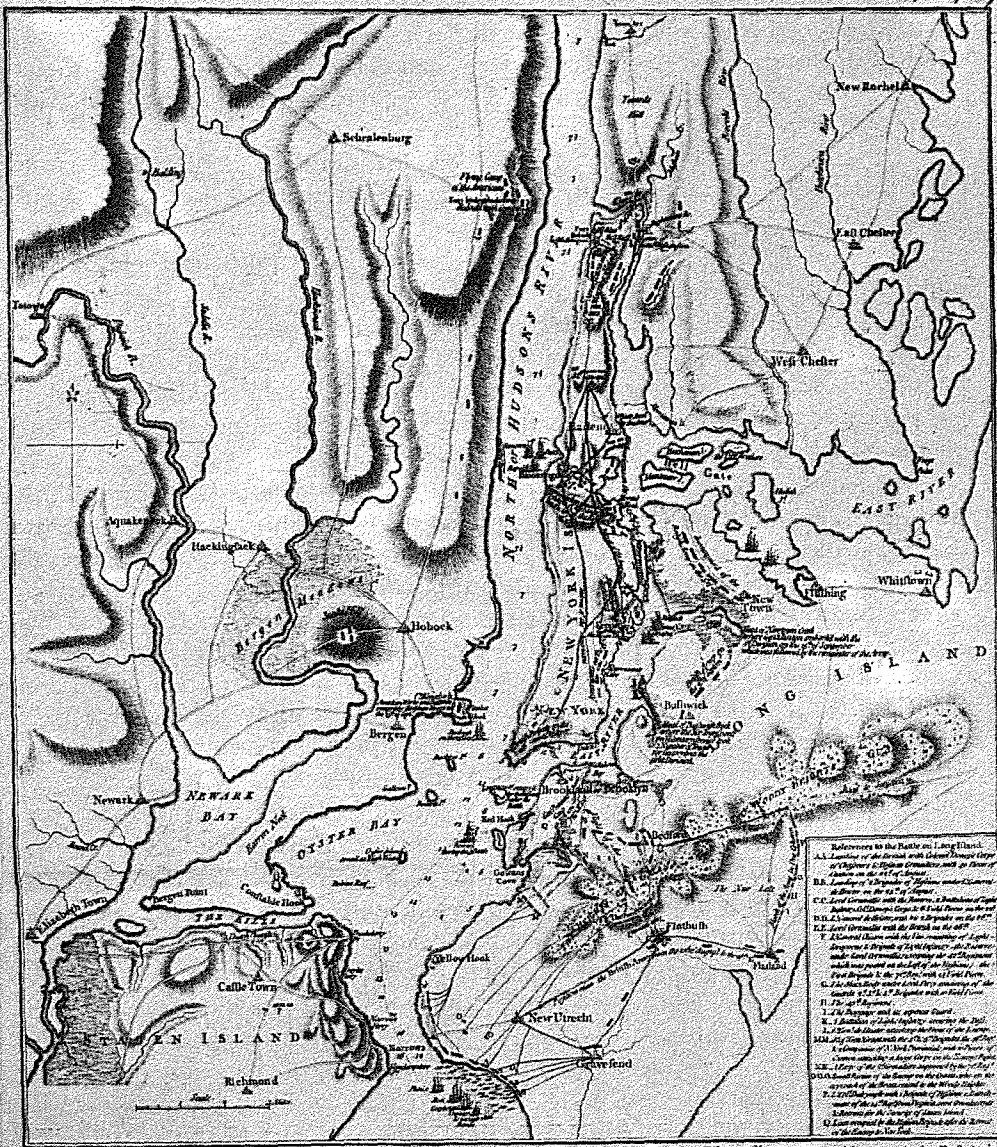
Early in the Morning of the 22d the covering Ships took their Stations in Gravesend Bay. The Light Infantry with the Reserve to be first landed, forming a Corps together of four thousand Men, entered the Boats at Staten Island at the same Time.

The Transports in which the Several Brigades composing the second Debarkation (about five thousand Men) had been before embarked, were moved down and suitably arranged without the covering Ships by eight o'Clock. The first Debarkation not meeting with any opposition, the Second succeeded immediately after. And the other Transports carrying the rest of the Troops following the former in proper Succession, the whole Force then destined for this Service, consisting of about fifteen thousand Men, was landed before Noon.

On the Diligence and Utility of Captain [John] Bourmaster and the other Agents of the Transports on that Occasion, too much Commendation cannot be bestowed.

On the 25th an additional Corps of Hessian Troops under General [Leopold von] Heister, with their Field Artillery and Baggage, were conveyed over to Gravesend Bay.

Being informed the next Day by General Howe, of his Intentions to advance with the Army that Night to the Enemy's Lines; and of his Wishes that some Diversion might be attempted by the Ships on this Side; I gave Direction to Sir Peter Parker for proceeding higher up in the Channel towards the Town of New York next Morning, with the *Asia*, *Renown*, *Preston*, (Commodore Hotham embarked in the *Phoenix* having been left to carry on the Service in Gravesend Bay) *Roebuck* and *Repulse*: And to keep those Ships in readiness for being employed as Occasion might require. But the Wind veering to the Northward soon after the Break of Day, the Ships could not be moved up to the Distance proposed. Therefore when the Corps under General [James] Grant, forming the left Column of the Army were seen to be engaged with the Enemy in the Morning, the *Roebuck* Captain Hamond leading the detached Squadron, was the only Ship that could fetch high enough to the Northward to exchange a few random



References to the battle on Long Island  
 A.A. Location of the British and the American Artillery  
 B.B. Location of the British and the American Barracks  
 C.C. Location of the British and the American Cavalry  
 D.D. Location of the British and the American Dragoons  
 E.E. Location of the British and the American Infantry  
 F.F. Location of the British and the American Marines  
 G.G. Location of the British and the American Militia  
 H.H. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 I.I. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 J.J. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 K.K. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 L.L. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 M.M. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 N.N. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 O.O. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 P.P. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 Q.Q. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 R.R. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 S.S. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 T.T. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 U.U. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 V.V. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 W.W. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 X.X. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 Y.Y. Location of the British and the American Privateers  
 Z.Z. Location of the British and the American Privateers

**PLAN of NEW YORK ISLAND, with part of LONG ISLAND, STATEN ISLAND & EAST NEW JERSEY, with a particular description of the ENGAGEMENT on the Woody Heights of Long Island between FLATBUCH and BROOKLYN, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 1776, between HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES Commanded by General HOWE, and the AMERICANS under Major General PUTNAM, showing also the Landing of the BATTLES on New York Island, and the Taking of the City of New York on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September following, with the Subsequent Surrender of Both the Armies.**

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Shot with the Battery on Red Hook. And the Ebb making strongly down the River soon after, I ordered the Signal to be shewn for the Squadron to anchor.

It was observed, that as soon as the Centre Column of the Army was seen to have turned the Flank of the Enemy's Line opposed to General Grant, they immediately attempted to make their Retreat within their Works; But that they suffered great Loss, both in the Number killed and made Prisoners.

On the Night of the 29th the Rebels abandoned all their Posts and Works on Long Island, and retired with great Precipitation across the East River to the Town of New York.

Captain Bishop arrived in the *Lively* from St Augustine the 22d Instant, with Letters from Governor Tonyn.

The Governor expresses therein his Apprehensions of an Invasion of the Province under his Government on the Side of Georgia. And before the *Lively* sailed to give any Assistance the Captain might be able to render on that part, Advice was received that the Rebels had plundered the Settlements on Amelia Island.

I have directed Captain Bishop to return with a Supply of Provisions and Stores of such Natures as could be spared for the Ships stationed in East Florida; And to make the best Disposition of them with the Concurrence of the Governor that their State and the Supplies Captain Bishop is enabled to afford them will admit: Not having others in this port that are of the Classes, and in Condition to replace them. Captain Bishop is to call off the Capes of Virginia in his passage along the Coast to deliver Instructions to the Commander of the *Otter* (the *Fowey* being daily expected here for Water) and to the Captains of the Ships left in Cape Fear Harbour, to join me in this Port. The *Cruizer* is represented to be incapable of putting to Sea. And Captain [Anthony] Hunt is directed in that Case to provide for the Removal of the Company and Stores, and to evacuate and destroy the Sloop.

The *Swan* and *Tamer* are also not in a State for present Service; But the first Opportunity will be taken to give them the Repairs which it is hoped may be sufficient for enabling them to return to Europe.

Commissioner Arbuthnot having disembarked all the Naval Stores from the *Britannia* Store-Ship at Halifax, as I am informed by Captain [George] Montagu of the *Mercury* lately arrived from thence, the cruising Ships here will be greatly distressed for that Article. I have ordered the *Rainbow* to proceed to and remain at Halifax for the farther Security of the Port. And by that Conveyance I shall desire the Commissioner to prepare an Assortment of Naval Stores to be embarked again in the *Britannia*, ready to be transported here, as soon as an Opportunity offers for conducting the Store-Ship to the Fleet.

Finding the Defects of the *Bristol* such as cannot be conveniently repaired abroad, I propose sending her to Plymouth as soon as the Nature of the Service upon which the Squadron is now employed will admit. And in

consequence of an Application made upon my Arrival here by Vice Admiral Shuldham for Leave to return to England (a Copy of which with my Answer are enclosed) I have assigned that Ship for his Conveyance.

I informed their Lordships in a former Letter that the *Dispatch* Schooner was separated from the *Renown* in the passage from Halifax; I have since learnt that the Schooner was taken soon after by an Armed Vessel of the Rebels of much superior Force; Lieutenant [John] Goodridge being killed in the Action. <sup>3</sup>

I send enclosed an Account of the State and Condition of the Squadron. And am Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
2. The period covered was from July 13 to August 18, 1776.
3. Taken by the Massachusetts state sloop *Tyrannicide*.

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

August 1776                      Tenedy's Isld NbW 1½ mile  
 Friday 30th                    A M at 9 Weighed and made sail & sent 2 Six Pounders on shore to Red hook with Ammunition which our Troops was in Possession of ½ past 11 Anchor'd in 7½ fath. Red hook EbN ½ a mile & the middle of Governors Island NE¼N 1 mile –  
    First part Modt and Rain Latter fair Wr P. M. at 3 saw the Rebels retreating from Governours Island & begun to fire upon them at 4 cease'd firing Weigh'd & turn'd up a Breast of the Island and Anchor'd in 7½ fath The Flagstaff at New York NE½E & the middle of Governors Island NEbN ¼ of a mile Kennedy's Island WbN  
 Saturday 31st                A M Recd some Water and wash'd between Decks  
    First and Latter parts Modt & fair, P. M The Enemy from Governors Island fire'd upon us which we return'd with several Broad sides, weigh'd and dropped farther down

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Solebay*, CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS <sup>1</sup>

August 1776                      Sandy Hook N74:10Wt 305 Lgs  
 Saturday 31                    Mod: & Cloudy with Showers of Rain ½ past 1 p m saw a Sl ahead fired 2 3prs Shotted at the Chace a Sloop from Philadelphia to Surinam laden with flour, Tar & Lumber <sup>2</sup>  
    Latt: in 35°40' N Long: in: 19:49 Et

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/909.
2. Sloop *Hope*, from Egg Harbor for Surinam, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE <sup>1</sup>

- August 1776                      Anchor'd off Red Hook Long Island
- Thursday 29th    a great firing from the Army on Long Island    at Noon 7  
Flat Boats full of Rebel Prisoners Pas'd  
First part little Wind and Cloudy, with hard Showr's of  
Rain, Mide light Airs and foggy.    PM at ½ past 6 An-  
swer'd the Parole Sigl
- Friday 30th            AM at ½ past 9 Weigh'd and came to Sail turning up for  
Red Hook as did the *Roebuck*, saw our Troops take Posses-  
sion of Red Hook    at 11 came too in 3 fm low Water  
Red Hook NE¼ Et and Bedlows Island NBWt½ Wt    Do  
Anchor'd the *Roebuck*  
First part little Wind and Cloudy with Rain at times Midl  
light Airs, latter do and Clear, PM at ½ past 5 weigh'd  
and came to Sail as did the *Roebuck*, Turning up the  
River    at 6 the Adml and part of the Fleet under way  
Do Anchd in 3 fm low Water the Flag Staff on Gov-  
erners Island NBE½E and Red Hook SEBE, the Rebels  
leaving Governors Island
- Saturday 31st            AM    at 9 the Adml made our Sigl for a Lieut    some of  
the Men of War dropping higher up, saw 2 Brig's and 2  
Sloops (fire Vessels) Off the Town.  
Light Breezes & Clear    at 5 PM the *Rénown* and *Roebuck*  
fir'd several Shot at some Rebels passing from the Town to  
Governers Island,    at 6 Answer'd the Parole Sigl

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Greyhound*, CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD DICKSON <sup>1</sup>

- August 1776                      Moor'd at Graves End Bay -
- Satury 31st            at 9 AM weigh'd & Drop'd Nearer Bedlows Island & An-  
chor'd wt the best Br in 4 fathm Water    Bedlows Island  
NbW Governors Island NE & the West Steeple of New York  
NNE    at Noon the *Eagle*, *Preston*, *Renown*, *Asia*, *Phoenix*,  
*Rowbuck*, *Repulse* & *Emerald* in Compy    at Anchor about 1  
Mile from Governors Island and about the same Distance  
from Bedlows Island.  
Light breezes & Cloudy    Variously Empd    P M sent a boat  
wt an Officer to Row Guard    Read the Articles of War &  
&c to the Ships Compy

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/420.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN <sup>1</sup>

- Augst 1776                      Sandy Hook N76.32Wt    105 Leagues
- Saturday 31st            at 5 AM Saw a Ship & a Sloop to the Eastwd    Gave Chace,  
the Sloop haul'd to the Eastwd    the Ship to the Soward    ½

past 9 Fired 2 Shot & brot too the *Rachel* from Antigua bound to London who had been taken by the Sloop being a privateer belonging to Salam Sent the Lieut with 7 Men and took possession of her left the Cutter and made Sail after the privateer, at Noon the privateer Sloop Bore EBS 12 Miles

First part fresh breezes, Middle & Latter Modt & Cloudy, Continueing the Chace, Started 6 Tons Salt water in the fore hold in order to Trim the Ship at 6 PM the Chace Dist about 7 Miles at 7 lost sight of the Chace

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

### JOURNAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY <sup>1</sup>

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] August 31, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Wm. Farley, Michael Purviance, Arthur Canaday, & Edward Riely, belonging to our Fleet, be allowed leave of absence from the Vessels they belong to for four weeks from this date, for the only purpose of working at Mr. James Wharton's Rope Walk on cordage for the Continental Frigates, to be at all times subject to Mr. Wharton's orders, and, in case of any alarm, that they do Immediately repair on Board their Respective Boats or Vessels.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 707.

### VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN JAMES COCKE <sup>1</sup>

Sir,

Williamsburg August 31st 1776 -

You are desir'd to get your Vessel ready by Thursday the twelfth day of September and to proceed immediately to James Town and apply for further Orders. I am for the Board [&c.]

Thomas Whiting 1st Commr

To Capt James Cock of the Brigg *Rawleigh*

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

### JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Active*, CAPTAIN ANTHONY HUNT <sup>1</sup>

Augt 1776

Charles Town Light house NbW, 1  $\frac{2}{3}$  Leagues

Saturday 31st Mode and Clear Wr at 3 AM saw a Sail in the Wear Qr Do come up with the Sail, and every person concluded by the Behaviour that she was a Rebel Privateer, we haild him to Lower down his Sails on his not complying we fird into him which killd one Man & Wounded another, she proved to be a Tender belonging to His Maj's Sloop *Otter*, Comd by Lieut Jno Wright took the Wounded man on board in order that he may have all Possible Assistance

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/5. Captain Hunt superseded Captain William Williams on July 2, 1776, the latter having been assigned to the *Experiment*. Hunt relinquished the command to Captain Williams at New York on November 4, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Seaford*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS<sup>1</sup>

August 1776

At Sea

Friday 30

First & Middle Pts Moder & fair, Latter Pt Squally with rain, At 5 A M hoisted a boat out & sent her on board a Schooner from Surinam bound to Newberry. Sent a Petty Officer & Six hands on board her took her hands Out, At 10 A M made Sail, parted Company with the Prize.

Saturday 31st

Light breez & fair Wr at 6 P M Saw a sail to the N E At 5 A M Saw a Sail to the No Wd gave chace, at 12 A M hoisted a boat out & sent her on board the chace proved to be a Sloop from Newburry to St Cruiz Put an Officer and 5 Men on board & took her hands out.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/880.

